

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

This was definitely a week of ‘Smiles and Thank You’s’. First of all, a big Thank You to Andy Iseine, owner of the Family Restaurant on Highway 27 South. Andy has a Northwoods Humane Society donation house on his counter. He and his staff shared their tips on several occasions with NHS. They work hard for those tips!!!! BJ and Randy Schwartzhoff collect the house money for NHS. They have about 20 houses in area businesses. Thank you to each business that shares their valuable counter space to help the animals at the shelter. If you would like to have a coin house at your business, give BJ a call at 715-699-3517.

Our shelter is 25 years old. Over the winter we have been challenged with mechanical failures – hot water heater, furnace, washer and dryers. We also had three furnace failures at the thrift shop. Although we budget for some building needs, it was more than we had hoped for. But as these needs are a challenge, we have been blessed with gifts. Thank you to Nancy Douglas for her purchase of a commercial grade washer and dryer for the shelter. These two appliances are used every day by the staff and volunteers.

It is almost spring – really it is going to show up any day! NHS Board member Gil Zych and his wife Marty, a Thrift Shop volunteer, are giving NHS a new John Deere Zero Turn Commercial Mower. Gil volunteers at the Shelter in the office on Saturdays and knows the struggle that volunteers and staff go through in keeping the trails, grounds and dog parks groomed.

Thank you to Shane Kryer for keeping our driveways and major paths cleared of snow at the shelter. Also for his generous donation. Thank you to Bernie Kozitza for volunteering and to Jim Carson for their collective efforts to keep the walks and unplowable paths open. They were put to the test this winter.

The Thrift Shop volunteers continue to keep the shop running and a delightful place to shop and/or volunteer. Today, as I write this, Dick Langton and Sue Hudson are the cashiers for the day. Linnea Forsell and Susanne Kalla are cleaning and pricing donated items, Jeanne Hornak is researching collectible items that have been donated. During the week, boutique coordinators Sharon Goodacre, Pat Brummel and Patty VanLandshoot reset the boutique area at the shop along with Shop Coordinators Linda Graham, Judy Berard and Eva Fjerstad. Thanks also to Tom and Amy Nigbor for thinking of NHS as they move into a new home. Donations may be taken to the shop up until 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. If you need assistance with your donations, please give me a call at 715-634-4543.

Thank you to Powell’s on Round Lake. Powell’ hosted four nights of bingo for NHS during March and April. The staff was great, the food was perfect, drinks as they should be and bingo was fun and profitable. Our Bingo Queen, Donna Dreczko, along with her husband Eric, board members Shirley Armstrong, Michelle Forrester, Lori Butala and myself had as much fun as those playing bingo! Over the four evenings NHS raised \$4,000. I had to laugh when Donna was introducing the workers that evening she commented that when she volunteers for anything, Eric always gets sucked in. Yeah Eric!

Thank you to Cherie Arzola. Cherie has assumed the responsibility of maintaining our mailing list and data base and she will be responsible for on-line donations. Cherie also volunteers on Monday’s at the

desk at the NHS shelter. Now here is some more good news! Charmaine Metzinger is back! Charmaine has sent out her beautifully handwritten thank you notes for the past 20 plus years. In November, she, her husband Frank and daughter Dawn were in a horrible car accident. Charmaine was the most injured of the group. Her journey was a very tough one. Determination is her middle name. She is back and is going to start writing the thank you notes again and help at the Thrift Shop.

Thank You to Sherrie Shelton for 30 years of service as the Animal Control Officer for Sawyer County. Even though our mission and purposes are different our goals have always been the same – to help animals in need. Over the many years NHS and Sawyer County Animal Control Officer have worked hand in hand to just that end. Sherrie's work and her relationship with NHS was sighted by the State Veterinarian as an being an exemplary blueprint for success in partnership. Over the years, Sherrie has worked to find the owners of lost dogs – she has about a 90% return rate. This does not happen by waiting for people to come looking for their dog. Dogs that are not claimed come to the NHS shelter. Sherrie was always willing to take that extra step. An example was forming a team to look for a lost, elderly dog of a blind individual or the time she was trying to trap a frightened lost dog during the winter and showed up at night with blankets and cover for the trap. Sherrie saw the worst of the worst when it came to animal treatment and care. She did not shy away from problem solving and reached out often to NHS in the problem solving. Sherrie's position has not been filled, it is advertised. It is my understanding that the position has included some new responsibilities - other than just animal control. We are looking forward to another productive relationship with the new animal control officer. Sherrie will really be missed by NHS but we know we will see her pretty face around town. Thank you Sherrie!

Our area animals are blessed with so many supportive and caring people. Thank you to all!

Date to Save: May 27 – Dining for Cats and Dogs – Lynn's Custom Meats and Catering – 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.