



Humane Society of Morgan County, WVa

The Animals' Voice

FOURTH QUARTER ISSUE

FALL-WINTER 2010

Spotlight on Tina Byers

A local animal advocate whose love of dogs begins with a blast from the HSMC past
by Susan Kemenyas, HSMC Volunteer Community Liaison

This feature story on Tina Byers has been particularly difficult to write as an entire edition of *The Animals' Voice* could be dedicated to the many things she has done and is doing for the animals but it would still only be just scratching the surface. It is this writer's wish that Ms. Byers one day write her memoirs to share her story fully. Meanwhile, this story, for as brief as it must be to fit the space available in this edition of *The Animals' Voice*, seeks to be a faithful portrayal of one of our local heroes and her work on behalf of the animals.

If we went back to 1977, we'd find HSMC at its humble beginnings when Anna Jo Crosby and the others who founded the organization were just a handful of people who turned their concern about the plight of homeless cats and dogs in Morgan County into action. Among citizens in the community who joined in the effort, you'd find Tina Ann Byers getting her first experience in animal welfare work as a high school junior socializing dogs



Tina Byers and Muffin

and helping with adoption events. Until then Tina had only had cats as pets, but it's safe to say that she was wowed (maybe "bow-wow'd" is more accurate) by the dogs she helped socialize. That experience began a lifelong love of dogs that led to her mission of animal

advocacy with an emphasis on personally caring for and advocating adoption of special needs dogs and dogs dealing with end of life issues.

When Tina Byers graduated from Berkeley Springs High School with her eye on making her mark

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on the world, it wasn't originally in Morgan County or as an attorney at law. The major turn in the road that led her to law, to animal advocacy and also eventually back to Morgan County came at a time in her career in broadcasting when during a corporate reorganization she was asked to serve as a liaison between a television network production group and their legal department. Her facility in that role revealed that

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New Cattery Building Planned For 2011

At the annual dinner it was announced that a new cattery building is planned by the HSMC for 2011. Kelvin Langley, outgoing treasurer, outlined the plans which include a two story 3,000 square foot building to replace the current cattery.

The building would include enough space for up to

seventy cats, much larger than the 28 cages currently in use. There would be space for examination rooms, a meeting room, storage space, a big cat playroom and a large enclosed outdoor porch for the cats. It would allow for larger cages, more play space and an outdoor environment for the cats without them leaving the

building.

The entire cost would be \$45,000. Already \$12,000 has been raised through grants, contributions and pledges. HSMC is in the process of applying for additional grants for the project. If anyone wants to make a contribution, in either money, building supplies or labor please contact the

shelter at 304-258-5592. If sufficient funds can be raised construction could start as early as May 2011.



Year End Message From The President

As President of the Humane Society of Morgan County I am proud of our organization and how much “bang we get for the buck”. We are a small shelter with a limited budget but I am continually amazed at how much we accomplish each year. We were able to adopt out 200 animals this past year. In addition, HSMC serves the community in many other areas from spaying and neutering animals, educational services and answering and assisting with hundreds of calls for information.

Our staff, volunteers and Board of Directors do a wonderful job in making all this happen. But as we near the end of the year, our money is limited at a time when our expenses are greatly increasing. Winter always brings higher utility bills and a lower adoption rate.

I am again turning to our supporters to help us through the lean times. Please consider making a year end tax deductible contribution to HSMC to help us get through the winter months. We remain optimistic for the long term with many plans for a new cattery and other capital improvements on the board for 2011 and beyond. Please send your contribution to HSMC PO Box 705 Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

Thanks for all your past support and your continued support in the future.

Sincerely,
Pam Farnham
HSMC President

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she had a gift for the law. Following encouragement to go to law school, she obtained her JD degree from the New York Law School in 1997 and her specialty degree in courtroom law from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1999. Her first professional involvement as legal counsel for an animal welfare group was in 2000 fielding inquiries for no-kill organizations in New England which soon led to dealing with ongoing cruelty cases and eventually to negotiating release of animals trapped in puppy mills. During the time she was living in New Jersey and practicing law there, Tina got her first Yorkshire Terrier who she named Chancery Collette (C.C. for short). C.C. lived 13 ½ years and made a huge impact despite her small size. She was responsible for Tina becoming involved in Yorkie

Rescue. In addition to caring for as many as 6 special needs Yorkies at a time, Tina is a transport coordinator for Yorkie Rescue and a transport driver both for Yorkie Rescue and for medical need of all breeds. Tina also fields requests for wheelchairs for dogs in need of wheels for mobility and makes referrals for dogs with other special needs with the goal of helping keep special needs dogs in their homes.

Making the most of every opportunity to combine callings, Tina is associated with HSMC as its pro-bono legal counsel. This was a role she specifically made part of the terms upon which she joined Harmison and Associates in 2003 when she returned to Morgan County as well as one that she took with her when she opened her own law office here in 2010. The Humane Society of Morgan County is particu-

HSMC Annual Dinner A Success

On September 21st HSMC held its annual dinner at the Cacapon State Park with nearly 100 people in attendance. A silent auction was held with over 30 items donated by local businesses and individuals.

The keynote speaker was Summer Wyatt. She is the West Virginia State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. Her speech was inspirational and was well received by the attendees. Wyatt gave an overview of the state lobbying efforts for animal rights.

HSMC is very appreciative of her taking the time to travel from Charleston to speak to our members. She visited the shelter the following day and was very impressed with our operation, particularly for a small county with a limited budget.

Perhaps the highlight of the dinner was the appearance of Princess Fiona. She is the dog who was dragged behind a vehicle last summer and was formerly known as Boo Boo. The dog was adopted by Megan Risinger, a vet tech student in Fairmont, West Virginia. Risinger worked for Dr. Mark Roberts, the local veterinarian

who saved the dog from her horrendous injuries. The dog has made an impressive recovery and walks with only a slight limp. She stayed for nearly the entire dinner and almost everyone there got a chance to play with and meet Princess Fiona. Dr. Roberts has said the recovery was “miraculous” and attributed it to the spirit of the dog. HSMC knows it was also the incredible care of Dr. Roberts and his staff that was primarily responsible for her recovery.

HSMC gave out four awards at the dinner. Dr. Roberts and his staff at Berkeley Springs Animal Hospital were honored for everything they did in the care of Princess Fiona. Gary Brock of Unchain Morgan County was recognized for his work in getting the dog ordinance passed by the Morgan County Commissioners. The Rag Shop and owner Trish Shunney were honored as business of the year. Brenda Hutchinson, president of the Morgan County Commissioners, was honored as Person of the Year for her continued long time support of HSMC.

larly pleased and especially grateful to have Tina Byers as the person we turn to for our legal needs.

When recognized as Volunteer of the Year at the 2009 Yorkie Ball, Tina modestly accepted the well-deserved honor but deflected attention to her special Yorkies, Dylan and Muffin, for winning best in show with this self-effacing statement “I’m just their ride. They’re the stars of the show.” That honor certainly couldn’t have been conferred on a more worthy family especially for one whose mission is to spread the message about the joy of special needs adoption and end of life adoption.

Treadmill Needed For Dogs

How much dust has collected on your unused treadmill in the basement? Are you using your treadmill for a clothes hanger? Please consider donating your treadmill to the Humane Society. It will be used to help us exercise dogs in the upcoming months of inclement weather. Please call us at 304-258-5592, we can arrange to pick it up if it located nearby.

Caperton Birthday Wish

Eliza, Katie and Evie Caperton celebrated their joint birthdays with a party at the Star Theatre. Instead of asking for presents they requested that people donate supplies to the Humane Society. An impressive number of items were collected as seen by the photo of the girls. The girls are the daughters of Gat and Susan Caperton. He is the owner and CEO of Caperton Furniture Works located next door to HSMC. HSMC greatly appreciates the support from some of our younger members.



Eliza, Katie and Evie Caperton with their birthday wish donations

Spread the Word: HSMC Benefit @ Warm Springs Café on Wednesday December 8

Please spread the word, forward to local area friends, colleagues and email contacts, cross-post on all area bulletin boards to help us ensure a grrrrreat big turnout and profitable results from this fundraiser.

Wednesday, Dec. 8th from 7am - 8pm **Warm Springs Café** at 395 South Washington Street in Berkeley Springs is hosting a benefit for the Humane Society of Morgan County - our 2nd Annual Meowy Christmas/Happy Howlidays event.

Whether you come in that day for their wonderful donuts made fresh to your order or one of their great homemade pies, breakfast all day, their variety of delicious regular menu items or one of the special pet-themed menu items like "hush puppies and catfish", you'll be supporting the homeless cats & dogs housed at the Humane Society of Morgan County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center.



HSMC 2010 Holiday Happenings

There are several holiday related ways you can celebrate this year and benefit HSMC. You can get your pet's photo taken with Santa, buy raffle tickets to our holiday raffle, attend the HSMC benefit at Warm Springs Café or make a donation to HSMC as a gift to honor or to remember someone special to you (a person or a pet). Here's how it works:

Pet Photos with Santa

When you get your pets photos taken with Santa at PetSmart you're supporting homeless pets at the Humane Society of Morgan County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center. Here are dates and locations:

PetSmart in Hagerstown on Saturday December 4, from 10am to 4pm

PetSmart in Martinsburg on Saturday December 18, from 10am to 4pm

Having your pet's photo with Santa "Claws" makes a purrrfect holiday memory maker.



Holiday HodgePodge Raffle Runs

The Raffle runs from November 22 - December 21. Drawing will be held on December 22. Winners will be contacted by phone. Grand Prize: Droll Yankee Squirrel Proof FLIPPER Feeder (retail value \$140.00) donated by Nature Niche. Other great prizes include, gift certificates to local businesses in Berkeley Springs and Hancock plus a few surprise items - each valued at \$30 or more.

Tickets are available at these locations: Nature Niche, HSMC Adoption Center, Treasure Troves, Hancock Pet Salon, and Morgan County Commission office in the Court House. Tickets are just \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or 13 for \$10. Come take a chance - you may win the perfect gift for someone this holiday season.

Memorials

"In Honor of" or "In Memory of" donations to the Humane Society of Morgan County are always the right size and never have to be returned or exchanged. A card acknowledging the donation is sent to the person of your choice. Bring your donation to our Adoption Center on Valley Road or mail it to: HSMC, PO Box 705, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

HSMC Important People

Board Members:

Pam Farnham, President
Andrea Anderson, Shelter Mgr
Ed Duncan, Director
Kelvin Langley, Director
Ed Vogel, Director
George Farnham, Director
John MacGranahan, Director
Barbie Ginck, Asst Shelter Mgr
Ellie Gomez, Website Design
Clare Phillips, Newsletter Design

In addition, there are too many staff members, volunteers and supporters to list individually but HSMC could not be as successful an organization as we are without their constant support. Thank you everyone.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF
MORGAN COUNTY, WVA

Visit us at:
5366 Valley Road
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Phone: 304-258-5592

Visit us on the Web:
www.hsmc-wv.org

Shelter Hours
Tues. through Sat.
11am to 4:30pm
Closed Sun. and Mon.
E-mail: hsmc-wv@peoplepc.com

Pet Food Bank

Pet Food Bank Info. Anyone having trouble feeding their pets due to poor economic times can contact Feed the Petz, Inc. The contact person is Shelia Stuart 304-754-9336.

Website is: <http://www.feedthepetz.org> This is a 501c3 non-profit pet food bank providing food to pet owners in need of assistance.



P.O. Box 705
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411



DONATION AND VOLUNTEER FORM

I would like to contribute \$_____ to support the following:

- The feral and homeless cat spay/neuter program
- Make Improvements to the cattery
- Make improvements to the intake facility
- Everyday Operating Expenses

I would like to volunteer at HSMC

- I would like to be considered for the Board of Directors
- I would like to volunteer at offsite adoption events
- I would like to volunteer walking and exercising the dogs
- I would like to volunteer to play with the cats
- I would like to volunteer in the office

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to HSMC
Please return this form to Humane Society of Morgan County
Post Office Box 705
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

