



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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You Made It Possible!

Due to an overwhelming response to our WAEB Radiothon, we were **able to set a new record of \$235,826 as our final total for 2024**. The outpouring of support and good wishes from all of our friends and all of the WAEB listeners who donated was overwhelming. Some unexpected larger donations helped us achieve a new record total,

Given the economic challenges these days, we are extremely grateful for the support of so many people and businesses.

The words *thank you* just don't seem enough to convey our deep and heartfelt gratitude. So many people not only send whatever they can afford to donate, but also send the kindest and most encouraging notes. Many of them bless us for the work that we do to help the animals. We would like to say that we are blessed because we have such wonderful friends and supporters. Without you, we cannot do the life-saving work that we do every day of the year.

The Radiothon is our single biggest fundraiser of the year and raises approximately 20 to 25% of the money we need to do our rescue and life saving work every year. We like to remind people that money we receive is freely given by people who care. We do not ask for and never have received one dollar of tax or public money. Taxpayers are forced to turn over their funds to others, who then decide what those funds will be used for. But the people who support our work freely, and with heartfelt kindness towards those without a voice, offer our organization the money we need to save lives.

We are so happy to be able to share good news at a time when we hear daily reports about all the sad and tragic events in the world, and some even in our own local community. However, this newsletter celebrates some of the good news that we **together** made possible. Hundreds of dedicated supporters and volunteers and Kennel staff make what we do possible. But never, ever forget: **we cannot do this work without you.**

We never take your support for granted. We must never take kindness for granted. We must never take generosity for granted. We want you to know that you are the wind beneath our wings. You are the reason we have existed for over 47 years. You are the reason we have been able to save tens of thousands of animals who would've had no hope without us.

So, as you read this newsletter, you will see lots of pictures and information about events, business donors, special moments, and lots of incredible generosity. ***Never forget: this message that you are reading now is intended specifically for you. It comes from the heart. If our animals could talk, it is what they would say to you. Thank you for caring. Bless you and those you love.***

The Back Story for the Radiothon that Might not Have Happened

Despite the success and overall wonderful response to our Radiothon, we wanted to share a little background information. A couple of weeks before the Radiothon started, Bobby Gunther Walsh, who is the voice of our Radiothon and so many other charities for a major fundraiser each year, suffered a broken leg due to a car accident. The break was serious, and Bobby needed surgery to fix it.

Despite that injury, Bobby was determined to go ahead with his commitment to the Radiothon. Special arrangements were made to allow him to run his show from home. We wanted to tell you a little bit about the mechanics behind the success of the Radiothon broadcast during the week and even on Saturday and Sunday.

First of all, Bobby was set up in his home with a connection to the studio. Dan Holzman was in the studio doing a fabulous job of coordinating all of the call ins, Weather, and News updates, and countless other things. He was amazing. Although the phone calls went to a number in the studio, they were being forwarded to Animals in Distress, where a group of volunteers answered the phones.

Bobby was kept updated on the number of pledges coming in and other timely information via phone, text, and email.

Phone calls after the Shelter group left were forwarded to Kelly Hartnett, who did the after hours phone calls. A similar arrangement was done on Saturday when Bobby was live and talking about the Radiothon.

And then on Sunday, assisted by Archie, the engineer, Jeff, and others, he broadcasted from the Shelter. He was there early in the morning and stayed till after 6:30. Back at the station, the staff kept everything moving smoothly. Then Bobby was back on air again Monday morning, with Dan Holzman and the other WAEB staff at the studio, making everything work.

And of course, all of those people who responded to our newsletter and to Bobby's appeals over the air (some people called from as far away as Florida, New Mexico, and Minnesota), **together**, made our 40th WAEB Radiothon a success. *We wanted you to know that this event, this year, is really a triumph of determination and love and dedication. We honor all the people who made it happen, and we especially honor*

Bobby for 40 years of a job well done.

In appreciation for his 40 years of service to the community, we presented him with special gifts and a celebratory cake on Radiothon Sunday. As usual, Bobby didn't want a fuss made. But we weren't listening to him. We wanted him to hear again how much his efforts meant to so many. We presented him with a book full of messages of appreciation from volunteers, friends, and others. We also presented him with a basket full of items that have a starfish theme, because we wanted him to see, every day, reminders of the thousands of people he has helped, animals he has helped, and children he has helped. We also presented him with a plaque of the Starfish Story, which describes an old man walking down the beach, throwing starfish that had washed up on the beach back into the ocean. They were dying. A young man watches him for a while, and finally says a bit sarcastically, "Why are you doing that? There are hundreds! You can't possibly save them all. You can't possibly make a difference."

The old man bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the ocean. Then he turned to the young man, saying "*well, it made a difference to this one.*" Bobby and the listeners of WAEB and all of our friends and supporters have made a difference to this one, and the next one, and the next one... And all the events on Sunday were surrounded by hundreds of animals now living in our sanctuary—living witnesses to the value of the work that we do, with the help of people who believe in making a kind difference in a world that is often cruel and indifferent to suffering.

Also, we want to explain a couple of the pictures that were included in this newsletter. This picture is Bobby trying to make friends with a little terrier mix we named Dexter.



Dexter was discarded along the road, left in a cage with a handful of dry food thrown on the floor. And he was just left. If no one had seen him in the weeds, he would've just stayed there and slowly died.

Dexter clearly has been through a hell of his own, and as Bobby was trying to connect with him, Dexter was shaking like a leaf in the arms of one of our staff, Diana. We could see the sympathy that Bobby showed for this little dog, so afraid and so abused and so neglected. We reassured Bobby that it was only a matter of time and kindness before little Dexter started to become more relaxed and trusting.

The other picture shows Bobby interacting with a young Shepherd pup we rescued. We named him Chance, because we were his last chance. We will tell you more about both dogs later, but briefly, Chance was found huddled in the dark corner of a dingy and cold basement. His people had moved away, and his family had thrown him down the rickety steps, and left him to die. No food. No water, nothing. A workman who was hired to go in and clean the place up was checking the basement, but didn't see the dog. As he was climbing the rickety steps, he glanced back. He thought he saw something in the dark corner and climbed back down to check. He was shocked to find a pathetic and terrified dog huddled in the corner. We will show you those pictures at another time when we have more space, but now we want to focus on Chance taken a week after being rescued from certain death. In the picture, Chance is so happy to be out and about saying hello to everybody. Although he had a broken leg from being thrown down the steps, and needed surgery to repair it, he did very well and was on various painkillers to make him feel better until the orthopedic surgeon could fit him in. We will report on his surgery in the next newsletter.



We can't think of pictures that better embody what the Radiothon is all about. And what it means to the animals that we rescue. Animals who would not have had a chance without us.

Animals, like those starfish dying on the beach: They just needed someone to help them.

And it makes a difference, a huge difference, to each one of them.





Photos compliments of Lowell Linde, Marla Burke, and Lois Gadek

Many Thanks... So many people were part of this Radiothon and helped in so many ways.

Denny Repsher maintains the digital records of every pledge, while Bev Repsher coordinates the phone answering during the week, assisted by Barb Groff, Cheryl Schneider, Cindy Deutsch, Cheryl Miller, Sally Saeger, and Sherrie Hay. Kelly Hartnett covered calls after hours. Rose Yanger, Cindy Deutsch, Nancy Mihalko, and Denise Schaffer (and her AID dog Eli) manned the weekend phone calls. Rose also coordinated the challenge and matching money, as well as the prizes and thank you's.

Mail processing for several weeks was handled by AID Treasurer Sharon Werner. Lois Gadek called in to Bobby's show twice hourly to tell stories of the many rescues done since the last Radiothon, was live on air with Bobby on Sunday, and wrote the newsletters.

Coordinating the set-up of tables and food at the kennel was an army of volunteers, coordinated by Kelly Hartnett, Linda Hoffert, and Bob Johnson. Mike Bonstein and Bob Taylor cooked the hamburgers, Sherri Hillborn worked the kitchens, Cheryl Schneider, Tracie Klingaman Auray and Robin Ruch and many other volunteers performed countless tasks, which would take this whole newsletter to list, including making incredible baskets for the Basket Social, cleaning & arranging everything.....we couldn't have such an event without everyone! Special thanks to DJ Tony Bronico for his great music. We all loved it.

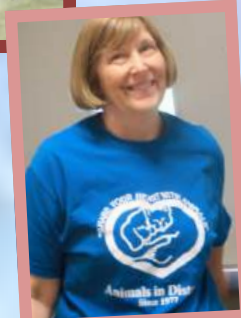
Joining Bobby at **Allentown Farmer's Market** on Saturday were volunteers Sandy Seng, Sherrie Hay and Deb Purdy.

Sincere thanks to all who helped in any way. Events like these take a lot of work and countless hours. Because of the generosity of our volunteers and supporters, 100% of the money raised goes directly to help animals.

Does it matter? Hundreds of cats and dogs now at our sanctuary, or adopted into loving, forever homes, would say that your support means life or death for them and so many others. **Thanks and thanks again for making this year's Radiothon a success ... and for saving lives.**



Radiothon Sunday
July 14, 2024



Winners of Incentive Prizes will be announced in the September newsletter.

Thanks to Our Business Sponsors and Wonderful Donors

Many thanks to the generous businesses and people who make it possible for 100% of the money raised to go directly to the animals.



Radio station **WAEB** and its team (Craig Stevens, Dan Holzman, Archie the tech, Jeff, and many others) and **Bobby Gunther Walsh** were generous in their continuing support.

Ironton Telephone again provided the phone system so we could answer phones from our shelter. **The Pet Friendly Vinart Dealerships** were again the underwriting sponsor of the Radiothon and for Sunday's food, which was an assortment of prepared items like **Yocco's** hotdogs, **Jersey Mike's** hoagies, assorted baked good from the **Amish Village Bake Shop**, munchies from **Herr's**, and many homemade goodies from our volunteers.

A special thank you to Allentown Farmer's Market and Merchants (Mr. Bill's Poultry Market, Johnny's Fresh Meats, Amish Village Bake Shop, Lucy & Lolli's All Natural Pit Stop, Adams Seafood, Foods of the Mediterranean, Ritz Barbeque, Fairgrounds Farmers Market, Beechdale Deli, Red Barn Family Produce, among others). Thanks to the Allentown Farmer's Market for hosting live remotes all day Saturday and to the vendors who allowed us to place donation cans throughout the market. The hospitality and true support for our work, shown by all of these businesses, exceeded all expectations. What a wonderful way to have fun, meet some great people, and raise much needed funds!!



Special thanks to **Res-Q Natural Supplements** for generously donating 2 baskets of their products (won by John Aleszczyk and Rodney Slota) and 1-3 Sunday air time, and to **the Jon Campbell Team brokered by Real Realty** for donating live air time and an exciting challenge from 4-5 pm.



Thanks also to the businesses and individuals who donated money for Challenge Hours to inspire people to give and match the challenge:

Nestles Purina PetCare, Perkiomen Animal Hospital, For Cats Only Veterinary Hospital, Kiffle Kitchen Bakery, Vinart Auto Dealerships, Jon Campbell and Real Realty, More Than Money, & many individuals who donated in honor or memory of pets or people, or through RMDs.

Please support the businesses who make our Radiothon possible!

Also, send thank you's to Bobby at:

Bobby Gunther Walsh, WAEB,

1541 Alta Drive,

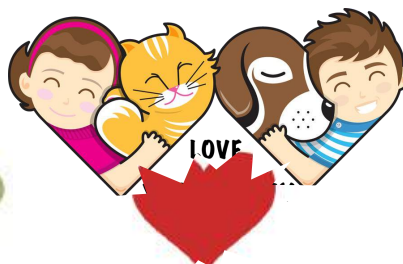
Whitehall, PA

18052.

More than Money

with Gene Dickison

 Nestlé PURINA



.....Please detach this coupon and mail it to: Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ so that the neediest pets like Dexter , Chance, and others like them can get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances. Thank you for caring.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check box if you prefer that we don't send you a receipt.

Please mark "Pledge" on the envelope and check this box if this in payment of a pledge you already called in.

Check is Enclosed **or** Charge my Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card (print) _____

Signature _____

I can't attend the Blessing of the Animals but want my pets blessed:



List names:

Thank You for Lending Many Friendly Paws a Helping Hand!



Blessing of the Animals Our annual Blessing of the Animals Ceremony will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday, October 6, at our shelter. This very special day will include a memorable service highlighted by live music and thoughtful readings and reflections on the joy pets bring into our lives. Each pet that is blessed will receive a St. Francis medal. **Also, if you can't attend the Blessing, you may send in the name of your pet(s) on the donation coupon on page 7, and those pets will be included in a special blessing at the event.**

Wag Walk Walkathon Sunday, October 13 (rain date Oct. 20) at beautiful Lake Nockamixon, Quakertown—the full brochure will be included in our next newsletter, but you can access it now online at our website: animalsindistresspa.org. The event is fun and great exercise, plus it raises much needed funds for our sanctuary. And people can come without pets too. *Cat owners are also welcome, even if the cats prefer to lounge at home! Various games will entertain pets and people until the actual Walk begins.*

Coopersburg Community Day, September 16 downtown Coopersburg

Lower Milford Township Festival, September 23 from 11 to 5—enjoy a true country festival, with food, music, local vendors, craftsmen, —a family event for young and old! Held at the municipal building, 7606 Chestnut Hill Church Rd. off of Limeport Pike, Coopersburg

Nominations for the Board:

*The Nominating Committee invites members in good standing to nominate candidates for service on the shelter's Board of Trustees for 2025. Board members are unpaid, are expected to donate at least 10 hours per week, and participate in various areas of administration and fund raising. To nominate someone, including yourself, send the candidate's resume, a letter specifying what area(s) the candidate is prepared to serve in, and a letter from the candidate expressing ability to serve, and mail the nomination to:
Nominating Committee,
Animals in Distress,
P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036.
Nominations must be received by Oct. 10*



ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

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Lehigh Valley, PA
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Current Resident



Thanks to all our friends, our 2024 WAEB Radiothon was a success. Hundreds of cats and dogs here at the Kennel of Hope wanted to give you a PAWS UP for your help.

You can read all the details in this newsletter, but we cats and dogs wanted to personally thank you for caring.

We don't have families of our own, but we do have a family here at Animals in Distress. And YOU are part of that family.

We love you.