

VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



August 2015

We're on the web at www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer



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Record-setting Father's Day at Animal Services

By Season Groves, Volunteer Site Coordinator, PCAS

For some, Father's Day is a time to get together, head out to lunch or dinner and share some good times with dear old Dad. We hug, we laugh and we create memories to place in the family photo album.

This year Pinellas County Animal Services (PCAS), with the help of its extended volunteer network, put a spin on Father's Day. They asked the community to come out and share their Father's Day with homeless, adoptable cats and dogs.

The community answered the call in droves. Hundreds of people showed up for the event as citizens poured in to find that extraordinary new family member for Dad's special day. It was a record setting day: PCAS adopted out 47 precious pooches and kitties.

To pull off such a feat PCAS opened on Sunday, June 21, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and waived adoption fees on all dogs. The extra operating hours required a collaboration of employees, volunteers and media outlets to spread the word quickly and efficiently.

We were humbled by the outpouring of support from our extended network and could not have pulled off this event without them. **From spreading the word to doing meet-and-greets between potential adopters and dogs, our volunteers shined through.** Their efforts did not go unnoticed

as 47 animals now lay their heads on fluffy pillows curled up close to their new family members.

Thank you for all you do PACK Team Members!



Picture of the line 15 minutes prior to opening.



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Volunteer Voice

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How to participate: Send questions, article submissions, upcoming events, photos, or story ideas to mkvam@pinellascounty.org.

Treasured Volunteer, Dottie Vitrone, Reaches a Milestone

Volunteer Program Coordinators Jonathan Skinner and Sandy Wilson (Parks) helped Dottie Vitrone celebrate her 90th birthday. They tell us she is a treasure.

“This special volunteer’s efforts support many of our other volunteers. We don’t know what we’d do without her!”



Skinner and Wilson helping Dottie celebrate her birthday.

VIP Richard Samay Earns Florida Association of Museums 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Award

Richard Samay, longtime volunteer with Heritage Village, will receive the 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Florida Association of Museums on September 10 during a ceremony at the Dali Museum.



Museum Operations Manager Ellen Babb said “Richard embodies all of those traits that make our Pinellas County volunteers so special and we know you will want to join us in congratulating him.”

We do! Congratulations Richard and thank you!

PINELLAS PAWS CAUSE

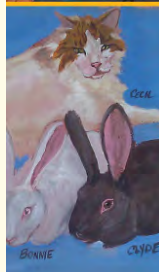
A Pinellas County Animal Services and Murals for Mutts Partnership

Murals for Mutts artist Anna Hamilton Fields wants to paint YOUR pet ... on the wall at Animal Services. Your \$100 donation includes the pet portrait while 25% goes to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund which helps support a higher quality of care for the dogs and cats at the shelter.

Simply contact Murals for Mutts at muralsformutts@gmail.com or call (727) 204-5515.

You can view some of the completed work at www.muralsformutts.com.

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Our Volunteers Are Winners

It has only been two years since volunteers have been eligible to participate in the Colors of Pinellas Art Show and yet each year 10 percent of the major prizes awarded have been to volunteers. That is amazing considering the number of entries each year. Our volunteers have talent!

the
Colors
of PINELLAS

We’re happy to announce that *NEW* for 2016, immediate family members and domestic partners of volunteers may participate and enter their art as well.

Next year will mark the *10th year jubilee* of the Colors of Pinellas Art Show. We want to make it the best show ever.

So go ahead! Consider entering and showing off your creative side. Categories include craft, mixed media, photography, works on paper, and painting. Registration deadline is May 20, 2016. Believe it or not, it will be here before you know it. Start planning (and creating) now! See you in 2016.

Pinellas County Recognizes Our Stars

As a volunteer for Pinellas County, you may not realize how valuable your time and talents are. Pinellas County does! We want to show our appreciation for your hard work by recognizing you.



Beginning in FY 2016, a new award program called the President's Volunteer "Stars" Award will be given to youth, teens, young adults, individuals, families, and groups who achieve different levels of service hours. Depending on the total number of volunteer hours, you may receive either a bronze, silver or gold award.

What makes these awards even more unique and special is that the recognition for completing service hours comes directly from the President of the United States. Each awardee will receive a personalized certificate and letter from the President.

We know you do not volunteer for such recognition, but you deserve it! This new program is a small gesture we can give to those of you who continue to provide the citizens of Pinellas County with services that otherwise may not be provided.

Your site coordinator will have more information on the program. Thank you for all you do.

Gone but not Forgotten

The Volunteer Voice is saddened to report the passing of the following volunteer, as reported by Theresa Badurek (Extension):

It is with great sadness that I share some news about one of our devoted gardeners Dorothy Hall. She passed away on Thursday, August 13th.

Dorothy had such a kindhearted, gentle nature to her. She contributed so much to our gardens. We noticed her absence immediately when her health started to fail. Please remember her and her family in your prayers and thoughts.

Some may wish to remember Dorothy in some way at the gardens. In lieu of sending flowers, consider sending a donation (care of Theresa Badurek at Extension) toward the purchase of something special such as a bench for the gardens in memory of Dorothy.



Beautiful Courthouse Display

Come on down to be dazzled by the newest display at the courthouse on Court Street in Clearwater. It was put together by Florida Botanical Gardens volunteers **Terry Berube and Liz Pearson** and staff member Stacey Zidi. Stacey also recycled, re-imagined, and re-tooled the cloth butterfly out of one of the Holiday Lights display butterflies.



Volunteer **Liz Pearson**, a professional photographer who took many of the photos on display, and her husband, Ken Gomes, are responsible for the newly expanded butterfly garden at the FBG. They are there several days a week ensuring that the butterflies are supported with the proper plants to sustain their lifespan.



Teens Invited to Join The PACK This School Year



By Season Groves, Volunteer Site Coordinator, PCAS

During its second year, this past summer's teen program was a blast at Pinellas County Animal Service (PCAS). Twenty-five "pups" (teens) came in ready to take on the world and gave up a good chunk of their summer vacation to walk their four-legged pals, socialize fluffy felines and fill many different roles caring for our adoptable animals.

Staff and volunteers alike praised the teens' professionalism and teamwork. No task was too big or too small – they took it all in stride. Through sun, rain and sweat they each made their mark both in the hearts of the staff and in the transition of our adoptable animals.

Now, as the school year

begins their absence is painfully felt. In response, PCAS is starting a new program – the School Year Program.

The School Year Program is designed to prepare teens for future leadership roles, create a sense of motivation, and teach valuable skills that will enable them to grow into responsible young adults. In addition, volunteer hours completed at PCAS fulfill requirements for many community service projects.

Each teen receives training to complete their assigned volunteer position, has the opportunity to attend additional trainings and, upon completing their required hours will receive a certificate of appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication.

The program period runs Monday, September 28 to Tuesday, June 7 and is limited to juniors or seniors in high school. Teens may commit to the entire school year or part of it depending on their requirements and the needs of PCAS. They must

commit to a minimum of two hours per week.

Pinellas County Animal Services partners with its volunteer force to fulfill its mission of public safety, public health and animal welfare. The School Year Program allows teens to take part in fulfilling this mission while also learning what it takes to be a leader. Our summer program was such a hit thanks to great volunteers and staff. We are looking for teens that can do this again this school year. If that's you please [fill out an application](#).

Applications must be received by Friday, Sept. 25. Space in the program is limited. Applicants must be able to attend a volunteer orientation on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the shelter. The first order of business for our new group will be to rename this program.

Join THE PACK!!!

For additional information, call (727) 582-2636 or email sgroves@pinellascounty.org.

