

THE GUARDIAN



True love stories have no ending – Lieutenant Hilton's daughter Sarah visits Patty/Angel in her new home 2011.

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL FUND

The Guardian Angel Fund was created in honor of a very special relationship that developed between humane law enforcement (HLE) Lieutenant Nick Hilton and a severely abused puppy rescued in 2010. In a domestic violence related dispute, a 28 year old Schenectady man killed toy poodle Carmella's two animal companions by forcibly drowning Bear and beating Fudge (both dachshunds) to death with a pool cue. Despite being brutally scalded with boiling water and despite having her fur ripped from her skin in strips, Carmella survived. Attempts to find a shelter to house Carmella while she recovered failed, so she was fostered by Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA Humane Law Enforcement Officer Lieutenant Nick Hilton, who changed her name to Patty. "I wanted to give her a fresh start and a second name seemed representational of a second chance at life," Lieutenant Hilton reports. He also revealed that the fostering experience was one of the most evocative of his career, "Patty was so terrorized that she would literally cry if I left the room," Lieutenant Hilton remembers. His solution was to simply bring her everywhere with him. Finally, after weeks of physical care and social rehabilitation, Lieutenant Hilton handpicked Patty's new adoptive owner and surrendered her to a new life full of new possibilities and one more new name, Angel.

Lieutenant Hilton says that what impacted him the most about his experience with Angel was witnessing her capacity for

trust. He says, "Despite the horrendous abuse that Angel suffered, her unwavering faith and her love of companionship and people prevailed and that inspires me every day."

The Guardian Angel Fund provides funds for emergency veterinary care and shelter for animals rescued by the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA's Law Enforcement program. A crucial element of humane law enforcement is the ability to remove, treat and shelter animals during abuse investigations. While we make every attempt to secure low cost or reduced rate veterinarian care and shelter, medications, equipment and overhead require reimbursement. Lack of available shelter and funding unfortunately becomes a factor in our response decision making process. Donations to the Guardian Angel Fund will allow us to take immediate action when we receive neglect and abuse complaints. Contribute to the Guardian Angel Fund today and your dollars will directly alleviate pain and end suffering.

Donate online or mail your contribution to:

The Guardian Angel Fund
Schenectady, Schoharie and
Saratoga County SPCA
PO Box 9516
Niskayuna, NY 12309

THE NINE LIVES LEAGUE

Roger Kessler adopted Furdinand, a gorgeous Maine Coon cat after he was found abandoned in Greenfield. Reportedly, Furry has gained five pounds since arriving at his new home!



A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

Grand dreams precede great achievement.

Throughout my legal and military career I have developed annual visions for where I want my leadership to take my team. These visions are not meant to be a detailed plan of action but a general concept with the specifics developed by the respective administrators of our programs. However, the visions have always been supported by the sincerity and strength of my conviction. I am excited about what 2011 holds for the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and I hope to inspire our volunteers and our community to join me as we progress toward expansion and transformation and continue to seek collaborative and effective ways to address abuse and its impact on our community.

Shortly, the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA (formerly Schenectady SPCA) plans to expand the services it provides to the adjacent counties of Saratoga and Schoharie. We are gearing up for our 2011 Humane Law Enforcement Academy and will be conducting numerous training courses beginning in April. Our goal is to expand our volunteer law enforcement department by at least ten officers so we can successfully support our expansion plans. We are currently seeking both applicants and sponsors for the academy.

We will also be expanding our humane education programs in 2011. We will continue to develop youth focused programming that emphasizes prevention and intervention and work on increasing our presence in the community. In June, we will launch a Boy Scouts Explorer program in Humane Law Enforcement and Education for youth aged 14 – 21 who are interested in exploring a career in animal law enforcement.



Another development of note is the creation of the Guardian Angel's Fund. This fund will help finance necessary emergency veterinarian care and shelter for rescued animals. In May we will be holding our first annual Kids Who Care About Animals Art Exhibit and Competition and in July, we are anticipating that our 2nd Annual Wags and Whiskers Family Fundraiser will be bigger and better than last year's fantastic event.

Despite an uncertain economy, the outpouring of support that we have received from community members and business members has been heartening. In 2010, we were able to forge relationships with new allies and significantly improve our effectiveness. Please stay involved throughout the year and encourage those you know to also consider getting involved. The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA is 100 percent volunteer driven and each of you is an integral part of this organization. We are proud and grateful to be a part of this community and we look forward to sharing our progress with you. On behalf of the Board and the individuals and animals that we serve, thank you all for all of your support!

Mathew B. Tully
Chief Humane Law Enforcement Officer



MISSION STATEMENT

The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA strives to prevent animal cruelty by enforcing existing laws and advocating for animal welfare. We collaborate with local law enforcement to respond to all animal neglect and abuse complaints, initiate and complete thorough investigations, and arrest and prosecute violators of any animal welfare related laws. We endeavor to prevent and detect abuse by increasing public awareness through our Humane Education programs.

PROGRAMS

SPCA Law Enforcement

SPCA Peace Officers are sworn law enforcement officers with full police powers while performing their duties. Our law enforcement officers maintain and operate an animal neglect and abuse hotline and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist local law enforcement organizations complete thorough investigations, and arrest and prosecute violators of any animal welfare related laws.



Humane Education

The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA Humane Education Program promotes empathy and compassion for all species and examines the impact that our personal and cultural choices have on other people, animals and the earth. Humane Educators are available for lectures, seminars and presentations on a variety of topics. Investigators are also available to train law enforcement agencies on animal cruelty and animal fighting laws.



Comprehensive Solutions

More recently, we have begun to consider animal abuse within the larger context of community welfare. Because animal abuse often co-occurs with the commission of other types of interpersonal violence, we are committed to seeking and sustaining collaborative solutions. The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga SPCA participates in the Schenectady County Domestic Violence Task Force and offers programs that target high-risk youth populations.



An important goal for 2011 is the formation of a comprehensive Animal Hoarding Task Force that will offer humane solutions and resources for animals and owners.

HLE SPOTLIGHT By Rose LeBarron

"One of my more memorable days as an SPCA officer came on a blistering summer afternoon when Lieutenant Matthew Johnson and I received a call for assistance from Animal Control. We responded to a house in Schenectady and arrived to find the residence empty aside from a gorgeous Rottweiler that had been locked in a cage on the back porch. Apparently the dog's owner had moved and decided to abandon the animal instead of bringing it along or searching for a new home. I don't know how long the Rottweiler had been in the cage, but it was lying in feces and had been left without food or water despite daytime temperatures nearing triple digits. The dog was scared as we approached but moved little and breathed rapidly as its dry tongue hung from its mouth. I'm not sure how much longer he would have survived in the summer time heat. We treated the dog for dehydration and coordinated his transition to a new and safer home, but something about that beautiful dog has stayed with me."



OUR OFFICERS NEED A LIFT

Shortly after the organization was established in 2008, the City of Schenectady Police Department donated a used vehicle to the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA. While the vehicle is still operational, high mileage and mechanical problems necessitate replacing it as soon as possible. At this point, the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA has secured \$13,000 in funding that is contingent on the organization's ability to raise the remainder of necessary funding by December 1, 2011. This means we are halfway to our goal!

2010 FRIENDRAISING

A special thank you to the volunteers who helped organize the event and to all the area business who donated their time and services. Mark your calendar for our 2011 event: **July 9, 2011**



Over 500 people attended the 2010 first Annual Wags and Whiskers pet friendly Family Fun Fair. The event featured incredible vendors, fabulous food, animal interaction, games, competition, live entertainment, music and more!

OUR THANKS TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND PARTNERS

The Carlilian Foundation contributed \$5,000 toward the purchase of a new law enforcement vehicle.

The Macerich Company committed their support to our 2011 Be Kind to Animals Week Public Awareness event.

Steamboat Data donated inkind services and software to our law enforcement program.

Kevin Schinnerer donated hours of inkind graphic design work and website updates.

Deirdre Wechsler, Cherie Bovair, Kathy Raymond, Madeline LeBarron lent their generous support.

Jesse Naftel spent hours entering data into our new Donor database.

The Town of Princetown for providing us with a Bottle Drive location month after month.

Girl Scout Troop 2460, led by Wendy Skoda and Katie Manning Hilton donated proceeds from their offsite fundraising efforts.

Amy from Waggin Tails Pet Rescue donated promotional space.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Brayton Graphics

The Bonadio Group

Wheats & Sweets
Hometown Bakery

Capital Region Living
Magazine

Albany.com

Head to Tail Pet
Wellness Center

Diamond Graphics

Daurizios Pizza

Coupon Cart

T-Cards

Agile Dogs, Event
Demonstrations

Reptile Adventures

David Elias
Photography

Heather Madeleine
Photography

I GIVE

It's SO Easy!

All you need to do is visit www.iGive.com and a percentage of your total purchase will be automatically donated to the SPCA. Please share this opportunity with family and friends.

The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga SPCA is entirely volunteer driven. Volunteers make up 100% of our workforce. We know that we could not be successful without the support of our community and we appreciate you all.

ON THE HORIZON

Be Kind to Animals Week

An Art Exhibit for Kids Who Are Kind to Animals

To commemorate Be Kind to Animals Week, the oldest celebrated week in the nation, the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA is holding this poster competition to heighten awareness about animal abuse in our community. The competition is open to all children enrolled in Grades 1 – 6 in Schenectady, Schoharie or Saratoga County. Top entries will be displayed in the Wilton and Rotterdam malls during Be Kind to Animals week (May 1 – 7) courtesy of Macerich. The public will be invited to “vote” for their favorite entry for a \$1 donation. The winning entry will be printed and displayed throughout the community to advertise the SPCA Wags and Whisker’s Family Fun Fair. The winner will also be invited to the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA Wags and Whiskers Family Fun Fair as a guest of honor and will receive an incredible prize from the poster competition’s title sponsor Tully Rinckey PLLC. Entry forms are available from the website, www.countyspca.org.



Photo Courtesy of Heather Madeline

The 2nd Annual Wags and Whiskers Family Fun Fair Fundraiser

The 2nd Annual Wags and Whiskers Family Fun Fair Fundraiser will be held at beautiful Mabee Farm on July 9, 2011 from 11am to 4pm. The event will feature incredible vendors, fabulous food, animal interaction, games, competition, live entertainment, music and more! We are currently seeking corporate sponsors, contributors and committee members.

For more information on how you can volunteer or contribute to the Schenectady, Schoharie, and Saratoga County SPCA please call Windy Wyczawski at (518) 640-3537

To file an animal abuse report or neglect complaint, please call our Hotline: 518-755-9517



Board of Directors Openings and Volunteer Opportunities

We are also currently seeking Advisory Board members, special event coordinators and humane education and administrative volunteers. Internship, work study and high school community service opportunities are also available. Please contact the administration office for more information. Volunteer applications are also available online at www.countyspca.org.

Bottle Drive Dates

MARCH 19 - Princetown Town Hall 10am to 2pm

APRIL 16 - Princetown Town Hall 10am to 2pm

MAY 21 - Princetown Town Hall 10am to 2pm

JUNE 18 - Princetown Town Hall 10am to 2pm

JULY 16 - Princetown Town Hall 10am to 2pm





SCHENECTADY, SCHOHARIE
AND SARATOGA COUNTY



Interested in Law Enforcement and Animal Law? Find out if Humane Law Enforcement is right for you.



- Conflict Resolution
- Defensive Tactics
- Firearms/OC Spray
- Animal Law
- Dogfighting
- Animal Hoarding
- Abuse Prevention and Education
- Animal Abuse as a Gateway Crime
- Cyclical and Correlated Abuse – The connection between animal abuse, domestic violence and child abuse.

THE EXPLORER EXPERIENCE

Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and become responsible and concerned adults. Explorer programs emphasize career opportunities, life skills, citizenship, character education and leadership. Participating in the Explorer program can help you determine whether a career in law enforcement is right for you and give you a head start on the competition.

The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA is currently accepting applications for the position of Humane Law Enforcement Explorer. Classroom instruction and field training is provided at low or no cost. Explorers will serve as members of the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA Law Enforcement Program and will train in multiple areas and situations including:

- Evidence, Search and Seizures
- Arrests, Miranda and Article 35
- Witnesses, Interviews and Crime Scenes

EXPECTATIONS

In order to remain in good standing with the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA Explorer Post, members are expected to meet the following requirements:

Attend classes or field training two times per month. Classes are held at 441 New Karner Road, Albany NY.

Participate in at least one community outreach or fundraising event per month such as Rabies Clinics or the SPCA annual Wags and Whiskers Family Fun Fair.

Correctly wear program uniform and comply with the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA code of conduct.



To apply or for additional information, please contact info@countyspca.org or call the Schenectady, Schoharie and Schenectady County SPCA Development Office at (518) 640-3513

Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA



ABOUT THE SPCA

The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA is a non-profit law enforcement organization that independently maintains and operates an animal abuse and neglect hotline and to conduct criminal investigations, execute search warrants, and make arrests for misdemeanor and felony violations of New York State's Animal Cruelty Laws. Our services are intended to supplement existing law enforcement agencies that do not have the manpower or the resources to prioritize animal cruelty cases. We work closely with Police agencies within these counties to not only bring

perpetrators of animal cruelty to justice, but to also educate the public regarding the State animal cruelty laws. Most recently, we have begun to consider animal abuse within the larger context of community welfare and to pursue innovative and effective ways to comprehensively address the cause and effects of correlative abuse.



HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should contact
Post Committee Chair Greg Rinckey at info@countyspca.com
or call the Administrative office: (518) 640-3537 to secure an application.
Interviews will be scheduled upon receipt of applications.

Eligibility

The Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA Explorer program is open to young adults ages 14 and graduated from eighth grade through 20 or age 15 through 20 years old.

Applicants must pass a criminal background check and undergo a complete character assessment.

Applicants must possess and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and remain in good academic standing for the duration of participation.

Additional Benefits

Scholarship programs for those interested in law enforcement careers.

Participation in Explorer conferences.

Participation in community events as Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA volunteers.



To apply or for additional information, please contact info@countyspca.org
or call the Schenectady, Schoharie and Schenectady County SPCA Development Office at (518) 640-3513



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 Development: 518-640-3537
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- Nicholas Hilton
- Matthew Johnson
- Rose LeBarron
- Anthony Massaro
- Candace Smith
- Jason Hogan
- Steven Redmond
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THEY NEED YOUR HELP

To make a donation,
 please return the
 attached envelope
 or visit our website,
www.countyspca.org

You may also donate
 by calling our
 Administration Office:
 518.640.3537

