

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

December 2007



THE
ANTI-CRUELTY
SOCIETY

A Commitment to Caring *Since 1899*

The Volunteer Fund and Bake Sales

Volunteer Fund—Starting in 2008, the ACS volunteers will have their own fund! Proceeds from any fundraising events that are 100% volunteer driven (i.e., Rummage Sale, Holiday book wrapping, Santa Pet Pictures, etc) will be used at the discretion of the volunteer program. To help best use the funds for the shelter, I have assembled a steering committee comprised of six volunteers to assist in directing the funds to certain projects. If you have any suggestions for using the money, please pass them along to me. Of course, I will send periodic updates to all volunteers on the fund, and how the money is being distributed.

Bake Sales—Mark your calendars for the first Saturday of every month! Starting **January 5**, we will be hosting bake sales in the 510 LaSalle lobby to generate money for the volunteer fund. The bake sale will open at 12pm, and will include baked goodies and refreshments. We will need volunteer bakers (brownies, cookies, pastries, fruit trays, etc), and a few volunteers on hand to work the sale.

In addition, to prepare for my temporary absence tentatively scheduled for April, May, and June, I will need a volunteer (or two) to head the sales for those months.

Please sign up to:

- **Bake** for the January sale (will need to drop off the items between 10am-12pm)
- **Work** the January bake sale table 10am-3pm (3-4 vols)
- **Train** to run the sales in my absence



Holiday Hours at ACS

The shelter will be closed for adoptions on the following days, but volunteers are encouraged to come in and help out from 8am-6pm:

December 24

December 25

December 31

January 1

There will be no physical exams or surgeries on these days

Spare Change Collection Tally for November:

\$22.07

Thank you all!

November Shelter Stats:

- Intake: 573
 - Cat: 449
 - Dog: 124
- Adoptions: 447
 - Cat: 295
 - Dog: 152
- Fosters Placed: 35
- Spay/Neuter: 1,183
- Volunteers: 153
- Volunteer Hours: 1635

Clean and Preen Room Update

The clean and preen room has had a facelift! In addition to some bright new paint on the walls, there are additional smocks to keep everyone dry, new towel and supply racks, and a longer shower hose to wash larger dogs on the floor. Thank you to volunteer Jan Kolar for designing the dog and cat posters, they really add to the cheeriness of the room. As a friendly reminder, please tidy up the room after use each and let me know if any supplies run low, or additional improvements can be made.



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We must never relinquish the
vision of a humane society
and a humane world.

—Kjell Magne Bondevik

Hope everyone can make
it to the holiday party this
year!

- Tuesday, December 11,
ACS Auditorium, 6-9pm
- Dinner will be provided by
ACS (Burrito Beach!)
- Please bring a dessert to
share with everyone
- Towel and toy drive for the
animals—prizes for the most
creative and most brought
in!
- Bring a \$10-\$15 wrapped
present for the gift exchange

Employee Spotlight: Brena McFarlin

How long have you been working at ACS?

I started in May of 2006, so 1.5 years.

What is a typical workday like for you around the shelter?

It all depends...I train the new staff members for two weeks (I basically try not to lose my voice over all the barking!). If I don't have a training group then I am doing screens for adoptions and counseling for shot records and basic care. Other times I am cleaning. I wear many hats and enjoy them all!

What is the best part about your job? The most challenging?

Educating people about animal care and helping people start a new career. I enjoy seeing new trainees work their way up in the shelter. I love learning new things about the animals we work with on a daily basis. It's most challenging for me to keep my emotions in my pocket when I am doing an interview for people who don't see eye to eye with our shelter policies. The other challenge is to go through the day without an injury as I am very accident prone!

How do volunteers impact the work you do?

Many times, volunteers are the brightest part of the day. Seeing the dedication to the shelter and animals is inspiring. Smiling faces are always a plus in my eyes!

What do you like to do when you are not working at ACS?

I enjoy my animals at home! I have two cats and two dogs. They keep me on my toes bright and early every morning. I am about to set up my fish tank after a recent move left me with no fish. I can't wait to get settled in so I can start fostering more kittens. When all that is done, I enjoy making jewelry and sewing dog clothes. It's the little things that make me happy like watching four tired animal sleep on our couch!

If you could change anything about the shelter, what would it be?

This is a hard one as I am always thinking about different things that go on here during the course of the day. Overall, we run very smoothly—people get educated, and we touch so many areas of the city with what we provide. I would make dog isolation a "bigger, better" place to be...maybe it's already in the works! I think we are growing already and I wouldn't change that!



Coats for Cubs

Have you heard about the Humane Society's (HSUS) **Coats for Cubs** program? You can donate fur coats to the HSUS and they will then use the coats to comfort and warm orphaned and rehabilitated wildlife. The Buffalo Exchange stores in Chicago are collecting the coats now through Earth Day, April 22, 2008. For more info, check out the Buffalo Exchange website, www.buffaloexchange.com and the HSUS website, <http://www.hsus.org/furfree/campaigns/c4c/>.

Online Scheduler Update

Volunteers can now **delete your own volunteering schedules on the online scheduler**. Once you sign up for a session, there will be a delete button next to your name. Provide the email address you used to sign up for the session, and it will remove you from the list. Remember, the online scheduler is accessed via the ACS website, www.anticruelty.org and the password is: [ilovepets](http://www.anticruelty.org).

