



Potter League
Enriching Lives

www.PotterLeague.org

Summer 2017

Paw-Print PRESS

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Located at
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Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 7pm
Friday - Sunday 10am - 5pm

www.potterleague.org

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A Long Journey to a New Beginning

Chloe arrived at the Potter League through Animal Control, very fearful of people, sounds and too much activity. She would cling to walls when you tried to walk her and the shelter environment was proving to be very overwhelming for Chloe. But you could see it in her eyes, she wanted to be friends, she wanted so badly to trust us, but she just needed some time and patience.

We hoped that by giving her a quiet space upstairs in the office area would do the trick. Slowly, but surely the office became Chloe's new safe space. We gave her a bed, which she let us know was best situated under staff member Kara's desk so that she could see everything going on in front of her and we simply let her adjust at her own pace.

As days turned into weeks, Chloe blossomed! She started taking treats and would nudge Kara for petting and began to walk with confidence throughout the shelter. She was soon play-bowing, jumping and running around in the outside pen.

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*"Chloe's Desk Bed"**Chloe & Kara**Chloe in her new home*

Courageous Chloe (continued from page 1)

Chloe finally felt comfortable enough to be the lively, happy dog she was meant to be. This meant that Chloe was ready for a home, so on to the adoption floor she went.

That is when May (Chloe's new mom) visited. She had experience adopting an older dog who had major fear issues and she was immediately smitten with Chloe. And recognizing that Chloe had some trust issues, May visited her and sat with her every day for two weeks, gradually gaining her trust instead of taking her home immediately.

When May took Chloe home (and renamed her Gracie), she settled in beautifully. She was still shy around new people, sights and sounds, but they worked together on building her confidence and sense of security. They celebrated all the firsts: the first time she rolled over to get her belly scratched, the first time she greeted May at the door, the first time she jumped right into the car to go for a ride, the first time she really played with a friend's dog.

May has been careful to introduce Gracie into situations that challenge her a little without overwhelming her.

Today Gracie is doing great and has gotten even more playful.

She loves going for walks at Mt. Hope Farm in Bristol, a popular walking place for families.

"I am very grateful to the Potter League for all the work they did and for giving us so much get-to-know-you time so the transition to this next part of her life would be as easy as possible," May says. "Having Gracie is a reminder that change is a process, and that it's important to celebrate small signs of progress along the way. She has already stolen everyone's heart."

Thanks to Potter League supporters, we are able to take the time to work with dogs like Chloe so they can find new homes.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Yappy Hour

Sunday, July 16

Forever Friends Society Recognition Evening

Thursday, August 10

Annual Meeting

October 2017

Potter Pet University

Wednesday, September 13

*Presentation by Lee Greenwood, Esq.,
Best Friends Animal Society*

Wednesday, October 11

*Presentation by Amy Karls, DVM,
Hill's Pet Food*

Wednesday, November 8

*Presentation by Christine Fain, DVM,
Acupuncture for Animals*



ADOPTION TAILS CORNER

Never give up on Baby

The Potter League is not afraid to take on special needs cases, and Baby, believed to be 14 years old, was a tough one. A black and white domestic shorthair, she arrived severely overweight, diabetic, and suffering from a parasite. We treated her for all of that, plus a bout of diarrhea, with a comprehensive program of medication, a weight control diet, and increased exercise. She struggled with her diabetes, going in and out of remission, and Glipizide helped stimulate her body's insulin release.

We moved Baby from a cat condo to an office so she had more opportunity and reason to move around. She quickly became an office favorite and she even adopted a bag of shredded paper as her bed. She lost a total of four pounds and two ounces since her arrival and her blood sugar readings began to drop on a consistent basis. With another diet switch and blood work to rule out insulinoma, Baby was ready for adoption!

Within a few weeks, a gentleman with experience in diabetic cats adopted her - it was a perfect match. Baby went home with her bag of shred and quickly claimed other soft cushy areas to sleep in and continues to thrive.

Guy's heart of gold

Guy, a sweet Chihuahua, was another tough case and a transport from a rescue partner in California. A veterinary exam found that Guy had a 6 out of 6 heart murmur and an ultrasound confirmed his heart chambers had not closed correctly at birth.

A consult at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston revealed good news: Guy was an excellent candidate for life-saving surgery to repair his heart! The operation was a success, thanks to the efforts of our transport partner in California who provided the funds for the operation, the experts at Angell who performed the surgery, and our two volunteers who gave up their time to transport him for his many appointments. As soon as he recovered, he was adopted by a very happy family and they have reported that he now has his very own two-year-old little girl who sleeps with him every night and tucks him in 100 times to make sure he stays warm. Aww!

Our generous supporters, like *you*, make our medical rehabilitation program possible.



2016 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: MARK VENTURA, SR.

The Volunteer Appreciation Celebration was held at the Rotunda Ballroom at Easton's Beach in April. The celebration was held in honor of Potter League volunteers who logged 50 hours or more during the 2016 calendar year.

Every year a volunteer is honored for outstanding service to the Potter League. This year, the Potter League had the pleasure of awarding Mark Ventura, Sr. as the Volunteer of the Year. Mark is a HeadStart Trainer and has donated over 700 hours just since 2016. Mark does EVERYTHING; from events; long distance transports, dog training, dog baths, you name it, he does it! Mark is always gracious, always kind, and has helped many, many difficult-to-place dogs find a home and we could not be more grateful. Mark is a hero to the dogs and to the staff. Thank you Mark for all you do!

2016 JUNIOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: SOFIA WATSON



Youth are the future of animal welfare and we believe it is important to honor those that are making a difference, not only in the animal welfare community, but in the world. And this year our new Junior Volunteer of the Year Award honored Sofia Watson for her outstanding service to the Potter League.

Sofia began volunteering at the Potter League three years ago when she was 15 years old. She became a HeadStart Trainer within six months and is still the youngest to date. She is extremely dedicated and has donated over 865 hours. She is an aspiring veterinarian and we know she will make an excellent one. Sofia is much loved by staff, volunteers, and of course all the animals she helps. We are going to miss her terribly when she heads off to college this fall, but we could not be more proud. Thank you, Sofia, for all you do!



BETSY LESLIE RECEIVES THE 2016 LORE OWENS AWARD

The Lore Owens Award was established in 2000 in honor of longtime volunteer, Lore, who died tragically in 1999. Betsy Leslie was presented with the Lore Owens Award this year.

Betsy has been a volunteer since 2008 and is a member of Team Dog, Head Start Team, Foster Care, and the Microchip Clinic Team. She is also a member of our Board of Directors, as well as an integral part of the Advocacy and Public Policy Committee. Betsy's personal commitment to the Potter League mission is clearly and consistently demonstrated. Her intelligence, clarity, decency, and goodness define how she is regarded by those around her. She is never one to seek the spotlight or expect to be recognized in any way. The Potter League is eternally grateful to Betsy!



Animals: The Heart & Sole of the Community

You walked, competed, raised funds, supported the life-saving work of the Potter League and it was glorious. On Sunday, June 4th, hundreds of dogs and their humans turned out for a fantastic day to celebrate and support the Potter League.

We thank everyone involved in making the 28th Annual Heart & Sole Walk for Animals a huge success raising nearly \$80,000 for the Potter League!

We are amazed and humbled for our enthusiastic fundraisers, sponsors, vendors, donors, attendees, staff and amazing volunteers. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are so grateful for the support and love our community gives to the Potter League. Thank you!

Our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who helped us execute a fantastic Walk.

Funds raised at the Walk go directly to helping, healing and finding loving homes for the animals in our care and to support the families in the communities we serve.

Congratulations to our top fundraisers and teams for their extraordinary efforts. We are inspired by the loyalty and dedication of our fundraisers in addition to the generations of families who continue to help homeless animals of our community every year.

The 2017 Heart & Sole Walk for Animals was presented by Hill's Science Diet, Bayer & William Raveis Real Estate. We also thank our Corporate Community Humane Heroes, media sponsors, our event day and in-kind sponsors for their support.

We can't wait to see you all next year!





Welcome Brad Shear!

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Brad Shear, the new Executive Director to the Potter League. We here are all very excited as we embark on this change in leadership, and the fresh, innovative ideas Brad brings from his many years of experience in animal welfare.

Brad has spent his entire career devoted to animal welfare. His most recent tenure was as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, the oldest and largest animal protection organization in New York's Capital Region, for the last 10 years. During his time there, he created many new programs that made a tremendous impact on the community and expanded the Society's reach by opening five adoption facilities across the Capital Region. Prior to his time in Albany, Brad was the Director of Operations for the Atlanta Humane Society, programs manager in Colorado at Humane Society of Boulder Valley, director of the Boulder County Animal Response Team, as well as manager of the Brooklyn Shelter for New York City Animal Care and Control, one of the largest animal shelters in the United States.

After the Potter League's nationwide search landed on Brad, Board President, Mary Edwards stated that, "Brad's list of accomplishments in the animal welfare industry is impressive and I am confident that he has the expertise and vision to lead the Potter League forward in our mission, which is to help as many animals as we possibly can."

Brad began on June 1st and has been getting to know the organization as well as the community and encourages supporters to please stop by and introduce themselves.



**Forever
Friends**
Society

Create a Legacy. Become a Forever Friends Society Member

The Forever Friends Society is a unique group of investors in the Potter League for Animals who have created a legacy of hope by making the Potter League a part of their estate plans. Their farsighted support guarantees the League's long-term financial security and enables us to continue to respond to ever changing animal and community needs.

We are thankful for the support of our endearing Forever Friends Society members. If you have an interest in leaving a legacy and naming the shelter in your estate plans or would like information on becoming a Forever Friend of the Potter League, please contact Erin O'Gara Dollard in the Development Office at 846.0592 ext. 116. Each member's gift exemplifies their values and their commitment to our mission.



To view our full wishlist, visit **amazon.com**, hover over wishlist in the top right corner, choose find and type in Potter League for Animals.

Sweet Summertime Wishes

For the dogs

- Easy Walk Harnesses
- Freedom Harnesses
- Halti Head Collars
- Hot Dogs
- Treats & Treat Dispensers
- Bullysticks & Pigs Ears

For the cats

- Tuna
- Clumping Clay Litter
- Cat Treats
- Cat Toys
- Hidey Beds
- Yarn

For the Rabbits

- Craisins
- Play Tunnel Toy Tents
- All Natural Rabbit Toys

For the shelter

- Laundry Detergent
- Clorox Wipes
- Laundry Wash Bags Padded Mesh Bags

For the Veterinary Clinic

- Surgical Anti-Fatigue Mat
- Hand soap
- Warming pads

For questions about the items on this list or other in-kind gift inquiries, please contact Kara at karam@potterleague.org or 401.846.0592 ext 114.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please help us continue to provide world-class care to homeless cats and dogs in need. A gift in any amount will make a difference in the lives of homeless cats and dogs.

Donate: Help purchase items from our Wish List and provide the support we need to help homeless animals and treat the sick and injured pets.

Give Monthly: Join Friends Enriching Lives, our Monthly Giving Program to help us save more homeless animals.

Foster: Foster an animal in need and help more animals make the journey to a loving home.

Volunteer: Join our network of volunteers and continue to save lives and expand our life-saving services.

Visit potterleague.org today!