



Potter League  
*Enriching Lives*

# Paw-Print Press *Summer* 14

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**85th Anniversary**

The Robert Potter League for Animals, Inc.  
P.O. Box 412, Newport, RI 02840

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## A Note from Potter League Alum "Kenna"



Dear Potter League Staff,

Thought I would let you know that it's almost been a year since I was adopted. I am happy and loved so much by my family. My mom says that I'm the best girl ever. I was house trained within a matter of 2 weeks, I've never been destructive in my house and I love my family so much and try very hard to please them. I'm a happy little girl, very energetic, actually I have a friend, named Liam who takes my canine friends and myself for a 4 hour walk (trek, if you will) three days a week so I get my exercise along with 20 or so other dogs. It's a blast! He picks me up and takes me home and I look forward to going. My parents thought I needed it because my breed requires

it. I have my own bed and lots of toys and a big back yard to play in. My Dad is my best friend and my play mate, he has taught me a lot of things. My Mom wanted me to send you and all the staff at Potter's a thank you for all you did for us and we hope every little adoptee has the same opportunities I have had. My life started out a little difficult and I had to travel far to find a home but I did. Thank you for waiting and matching me and my Mom up, it was perfect.

Kisses,  
Kenna and Family

# Be Kind to Animals Poster Contest Winners

The Potter League for Animals hosted its 7th annual "Be Kind to Animals Week" Poster Contest. The competition was open to students in grades 2 through 12 as part of Be Kind to Animals Week, May 4 - 10. An awards ceremony took place at the Potter League on May 6. Anastacia Southland, Humane Educator at the Potter League, presented awards to the following:

## "Don't Shop. Adopt!" Theme Winners:

Grades 2-4

1st Place: Ignacio Burgos, Hathaway

2nd Place: Kylie Cole, Gaudet

3rd Place: Caraline, Gaudet

Honorable Mention: Mia Finn, Prell and Andrea Halpin, Gaudet

Grades 5-8

1st Place: May Whelan, St. Philomena's

2nd Place: Tatiana Zeigler, Cluny and Arshiya Khattak, Gaudet

3rd Place: Maia Waldron, St. Philomena's

Honorable Mention: Ryan Pianka, St. Philomena's

Grades 9-12

1st Place: Hannah Simas, Warwick Career and Technical Center

2nd Place: Franco Pezoa-Sir, Warwick Career and Technical Center

3rd Place: Caitlyn McNeil, Warwick Career and Technical Center

Honorable Mention: Debbie Jessop and Mike Depardo, Warwick Career and Technical Center

## "Save A Critter. Don't Litter!" Theme Winners:

Grades 2-4

1st Place: Gigi Shaver, Gaudet

2nd Place: Angela Zhang, Gaudet

3rd Place: Alyssa Cecilio, Pell

Honorable Mention: Amanda Murray, Gaudet and Katherine Rey, Pell

Grades 5-8

1st Place: Sydney Crotteau, Portsmouth Middle

2nd Place: Ian Gannon, Gaudet

3rd Place: Victoria Travassos, St. Philomena's

Honorable Mention: Regan Reilly, Gaudet and Marilyn Green

Grades 9-12

1st Place: Aidan Mitchell and Lyan Pacheco, Warwick Career and Technical Center

2nd Place: Michael Tracy, Warwick Career and Technical Center

3rd Place: Hermes Villar, Warwick Career and Technical Center

Honorable Mention: Joshua Capaldi, Warwick Career and Technical Center



# Camp Happy Tails Offers All Day Camps and Extended Day

Camp Happy Tails introduces kids to the wonders and wows of the animal kingdom while learning compassion and respect for the world around them. Our hands-on educational programs allow kids to explore behind the scenes at the Potter League and unleash a love for making a difference in animals' lives.



Campers enjoy hands on experiences with homeless animals at the shelter

The Potter League for Animals is happy to announce the offering of full day camp programs as well as an extended day care option (for an additional fee) allowing time for more projects, animals, fun, games and in-depth hands-on learning experience. Sessions are held at the Potter League. There is also a program in conjunction with the Newport County YMCA in Middletown with half day at both the Potter League and the YMCA.

Each session is packed with educational activities, fun animal-themed games and crafts, as well as the opportunity to meet and interact with the animals at our shelter.

Enrollment is \$240 per child for all day sessions and \$225 per child for the Potter League /YMCA camps. To register, go to [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org), download a registration form, return the form with payment to reserve a space. Limit 16 campers per session.

Email [AnastaciaS@PotterLeague.org](mailto:AnastaciaS@PotterLeague.org), or call Anastacia at 401.846.0592 ext.120 for more information.

**camp  
HAPPY  
TAILS**



**Enroll today!**

For more information  
[www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org)

## WEEK

## THEME

### 2nd & 3rd Graders

July 14 - 18\*

Animals in Art

July 21 - 25

Yes, No, RPO!

July 28 - August 1\*

Creature Features

### 4th, 5th & 6th Graders

July 7 - 11

Home Sweet Home

July 14 - 18\*

Animal Heroes

July 28 - August 1\*

Wild to Mild

August 4 - 8

Myths & Misunderstandings

August 11 - 15

Beastly Behavior

\*Potter League/YMCA camp week

## 2013 Volunteer of the Year: Debbie St. John

The Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held at Wanumetonomy Golf Club in March. The dinner was held in honor of Potter League volunteers who logged 50 hours or more during the 2013 calendar year.

Each year a volunteer is honored for outstanding service to the Potter League. This year, the Potter League had the pleasure of awarding Debbie St. John as the Volunteer of the Year. Debbie has been volunteering at the Potter League since December 2011 and has logged over 525 hours during the 2 years since she started. She can be seen at the front desk greeting potential adopters, at fundraising events, assisting at microchip clinics and rabies clinics. Debbie's dedication does not stop with the administrative side of the organization. She is a member of the Headstart Dog Walking Team, socializes cats and spends hours cleaning cat rooms and endless litter boxes!

Thank you, Debbie, for all you do!



*Debbie St. John*

## Volunteer Photographer Al Tetreault receives Lore Owens Award



*Al Tetreault*

The Lore Owens Award was established in 2000 in honor of longtime volunteer, Lore, who died tragically in 1999. Al Tetreault was presented with the Lore Owens Award by Executive Director Christie Smith.

Al has been volunteering at the Potter League for over 8 years and averages 150 hours a year. His talent for photography has resulted in thousands of animal adoptions. Al is the genius behind the camera. He brings out the personality of the cats and small mammals waiting to be adopted. Al often comes

in eight times a month not only for "photoshoots" but he also makes time to socialize cats.

The Potter League is eternally grateful to Al for sharing his time and talent with us. Thank you Al!

## Save the Date

### Potter Pet University

Wednesday, July 16

Wednesday, August 20

Wednesday, September 17

Presentation by Sweet Binks Rabbit  
Rescue

Wednesday, October 15

Presentation by Dr. Gary O'Neal,  
of Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic

### Annual Meeting

October 2014

## Contact our Free Behavior Helpline!

One of the most common reasons people relinquish animals is because they are experiencing a behavior problem with their pet. Sound familiar? The Potter League can help. Our Behavior Helpline offers advice so dog and cat owners can work through a variety of behaviors with their pet from house soiling to food aggression. Problems are often easily solved by implementing simple changes to a daily routine or through additional training.

Contact our  
**Behavior Helpline**  
at

**401.846.8276 ext. 119**

or

**helpline@PotterLeague.org**



*Newport Life Magazine awards  
Best of Newport Favorite Gala to the Potter League's*



*Have A Heart Cocktail Party & Auction*

Our Have a Heart Ball Gala Fundraiser was voted the "Best of Newport County" by the readers of Newport Life Magazine. We are proud to be known as a great place to play and celebrate! And best of all, proceeds from this event enable us to remain mission focused and allow us to evaluate, train, rehabilitate, love and find loving homes for homeless animals.



*photos by Kim Johnson*

# Puppy Play is More Than Fun and Games

All work and no play makes "Buddy" a dull boy! Our newest beginner training class is called Puppy One and Playtime. It incorporates a standard puppy kindergarten class with structured playtime at the end....truly the best of both worlds! Our previous clients asked and we



listened, adding playtime to the end of a class allowing the puppies to burn off steam and get the benefits of socializing with other puppies their own age. Dr. Brenda Griffin of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) explains the benefits of

early socialization best: "For puppies, the single most important part of a behavioral wellness program is proper socialization during their critical developmental period, which ends by 16 weeks. Owners must begin socialization the day they bring their new puppies home, and the clock is ticking."

Proper socialization combined with positive reinforcement-based training in the context of a group puppy class helps puppies grow into well-adjusted pets. Classes provide critical socialization time with a variety of people and other puppies. The experience helps owners develop a strong bond with their pets as well as establish realistic expectations of their pets' behavior while learning proper techniques to shape it. And it's fun.

The Potter League holds puppy training classes for all ages on a regular basis, as well as separate playgroups for puppies on a weekly basis. We also have classes for older beginners, intermediates and advanced levels so there is truly something for everyone. Please check our website for the most current schedule for Puppy One & Playtime and our other class offerings. Classes are enrolling now so don't delay!

## Mark Your Calendar for Dog Day of Summer

August 2014



Join us for a morning of summer fun for you and your dog at the Potter League! Frisbee games, sand digging, photos with your dog, agility course, door prizes and more! Watch our Facebook page and website for more information about this fun and sun filled day!

## Potter League offers support during difficult times



Sadly when we bring animals into our hearts and lives, we know that one day we will have to say goodbye to that special companion and member of our family. We

understand the strength of the bond between you and your animal companion and are dedicated to help you find closure at this difficult time.

The Potter League's cremation services are provided with compassion and respect. Our private cremation packages offer a variety of options including urns, eco-Friendly Scattering Tubes for distribution of ashes and bio-degradable Earth Urns for both earth and water burial. Being prepared and knowing your options well ahead of time will ease your mind and allow you to choose the options that fit your needs. We believe you and the animals who have touched your life deserve the greatest dignity and attention...we are here to help. Please visit our website or contact us with any questions or to request a brochure.

The Potter League also offers a Pet Loss Support Group one Sunday a month. The free meetings are facilitated by a licensed psychotherapist who specializes in trauma and loss and has over 15 years of experience. Sessions are held at the shelter on Oliphant Lane. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Jill at [JillH@PotterLeague.org](mailto:JillH@PotterLeague.org) or 401.846.0592

## Join Our Monthly Giving Program



*Friends Enriching Lives* is an easy and efficient way for you to make a monthly gift and provide reliable support that is so vital to the animals and programs at the Potter League.

Visit [PotterLeague.org](http://PotterLeague.org) or call Susan at 401.846.0592 ext.125 to enroll today.



# Love for animals brings community together

## at the Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals



The Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals is the best place to see the Potter League's mission in action! In a true testament to the human-animal bond, more than 500 people, 225 dogs, 100 volunteers, sponsors and pet professionals gathered on

June 1 at Glen Park in Portsmouth

to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Heart & Sole Walk. It was a day of barkingly good fun and many wonderful and touching moments.

Animals play such a pivotal role in our lives and at the Walk you see those relationships at their finest. The King and Queen of the Walk stole the show because they represented the good lives that Potter League animals are able to have due to the support of those who helped us raise nearly \$90,000 this year. Events like the walk raise not just money, but also raise awareness of the need to help homeless animals. THANK YOU for supporting the vital community programs and services of the Potter League.

With the valuable support coming from this event, more can be accomplished: more animals will be rescued from abusive or poor circumstances; saving lives and providing unconditional love and support to new families that will cherish them. More children will experience our summer



photos by Al Tetreault, Billy Black, Carol Chabot and Meri Keller

camp and education programs to learn about animals, helping to contribute to a more caring and compassionate society. More people in need of financial assistance can get the help they deserve to care for their pets.

In the past 25 years the lives of over 50,000 animals have been saved through the funds raised at the Heart & Sole Walk for Animals. The Potter League is grateful to each and every walker, both two legged and four legged, for making the Walk a tremendous success. Fundraising for the Walk continues through August 31 as we strive to raise \$125,000. Donations can be made at [PotterLeague.org](http://PotterLeague.org) or call the Development Office to discuss a unique major gift opportunity.

Long-time supporter Emlen Drayton emceed the event and was proud to offer congratulations and prizes to our top fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who celebrates the love they share with their companion animal by helping those at the Potter League who are not quite so lucky. YOU enable us to change and enrich lives.

### Top Adult Fundraisers

Lisa Martland-Neitzey	\$3,415
Christie Smith	\$3,250
Roe O'Brien	\$3,075
Howie Naugle	\$2,389
Judith Enstone	\$1,860
Lisa Perrault	\$1,325
Carol Chabot	\$1,300

*Honorable Mention:* Pem Attaway, Christine Tellefsen, Laura Murray, Margo Waite, LuAnn Levasseur, Harry Violet



### Top Youth Fundraisers

Annie Marshall	\$555
Nikki Merrill	\$367
Kristie Lee	\$340

*Honorable Mention:* Jenna Carruba



### Top Adult Teams

Volunteers Impact Pets	\$8,270
Potter Trotters Staff Team	\$5,845
Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic	\$3,449

*Honorable Mention:* People's Credit Union, All Starr, Team Emmit, Bellas Buddies, Wag Nation, Harbor Hounds, Team Tiny Trouble

### Top Youth Team

Flip 4 Animals	\$640
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The 2014 Heart & Sole Walk was presented by Hill's Science Diet, Heartgard Plus and Frontline Plus. Special thanks to all our participating sponsors and exhibitors: Petco Foundation, Moriarity's Fence Company, People's Credit Union, Bank Rhode Island, Home Again Microchips, The Landings, WPRI 12, FOX Providence and The Newport Daily News.

# Hands That Help

Annabelle looks like the ideal kitten – cute, cute, cute! But when she arrived at the Potter League she certainly was not adorable. She and her four littermates were found dehydrated, infested with ticks and fleas, anemic, and scrounging for food – all very serious medical conditions for five week old kittens. The litter was immediately given supportive care but even with quick veterinary intervention, one of the littermates died two days later. The other kittens were stabilized and put into a foster home to gain weight and strength for adoption.



After a month of tender, loving care Annabelle and her siblings were all adopted and doing great despite a very rough start.

This is not an uncommon story. Many animals arrive at the Potter League for sanctuary and

need extensive medical attention before they can begin their journey to a new home. Their future is in the hands of our Foster Volunteers who take animals into their homes to provide extra attention, medication, a chance to thrive, and hope for a healthy future.

In 2013, 150 cats, kittens, dogs, and puppies were placed into foster homes. Many were moms and their newborn kittens. Some - kittens without a mom - require round the clock feeding and care. Dogs often need time to recover from surgery or heartworm treatment. Sometimes the shelter is just too crowded and a short 'vacation' in a temporary home allows the animal to return to a quieter shelter and a much better chance for adoption.

Our Foster Volunteers donated over 5,000 hours of special animal care in 2013. Lives are saved because the animals are given time to heal and grow. The Foster Volunteers are our heroes for all they do to help the neediest of our animals.

You can help us with special cases by becoming a Foster Care Volunteer. Animals like Annabelle need you to help them with:

- Ongoing medical treatment
- A place to recover from surgery
- Growing strong and big enough for adoption
- Gaining comfort around people

Get involved and you can help too. If you are unable to provide hands-on care, please donate to the Animal Care Fund which enables so many miracles to happen.

## *With sadness...*

The Potter League mourns the loss of two wonderful Potter League supporters whose love for animals was a life-long passion and commitment.

John A. van Beuren (Archie) and Nuala Pell touched the hearts of our community and left a hole at the Potter League.

Archie's grandmother was a founder of the Potter League in 1929 and passed a grand devotion to animals to her offspring and future generations. Archie and his family have supported the Potter

League in critical ways for decades. It was touching to always see Archie with a dog by his side as his lessons in common sense and business sense helped us become a stronger and more vital nonprofit organization.



*Archie van Beuren*

Nuala Pell opened her home to many homeless dogs and cats throughout her life. As a member of the Potter



*Nuala Pell*

League's Board of Directors, Nuala provided wit and wisdom while always ensuring that the animals came first in major decisions and planning. Libby, adopted from us in 2011, was her devoted companion.

Archie and Nuala both possessed great compassion for animals and goodness of character. Their life's passion and inspiration has

made a difference in the lives of people and animals. We thank them for all they have done for the Potter League and miss them dearly.



# Unique Donors at the Potter League

Country western star Miranda Lambert makes no secret of her love for animals. The singer-songwriter often takes in random strays that she and her husband Blake Shelton find in need. In 2009 Miranda put that passion to work by founding MuttNation Foundation, "a donation-supported organization working to end pet suffering and homelessness in the U.S. and abroad."

The foundation's 2013 effort was the Mutts Across America: 50 States/50 Shelters initiative. A total of \$253,660 was donated to shelters in each of the 50



states. The Potter League was selected as the Mutts Across America Shelter for Rhode Island. Miranda Lambert said, "We are thrilled to be able to reach out to every state and recognize shelters and organizations working at a grassroots level to help

animals. It's those people on the ground, day in and day out, who really make a huge difference."

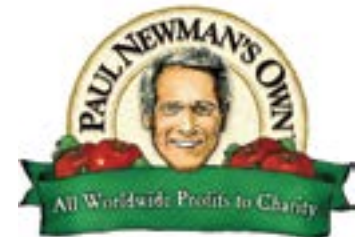
Some of the criteria used in the foundation's decision to grant funds were a high adoption per intake rate (at

least 90% successful adoption rate), a low euthanasia rate (10%), high volunteerism, fiscal responsibility, strength of fundraising, and a presence in the community.

The Foundation explained, "We believe these criteria enabled us to find those shelters standing as examples in the fight to end animal homelessness, abuse and neglect as well as those that encourage adoption, spay and neuter programs and avoid needless euthanasia."

Another new investor to the Potter League is Paul Newman and his Newman's Own Foundation. This foundation uses

the power of philanthropy to transform lives and supporting people doing great things. They give away all profits from the sale of Newman's Own



products to charities around the world. The Potter League was invited to submit a proposal and surprised to now be supported by Newman's Own Foundation.

Newman's Own Foundation celebrates the organizations working to make our world a better place. They encourage individuals to learn more by going to the Potter League and other websites, and be inspired to volunteer, to make a donation, or to take action in some way, big or small. They believe in the power of philanthropy to help transform lives and nourish the common good.

The Potter League is proud to be honored for our work by these unique and very committed foundations.



## Tile & Paver Legacy

Our animal care and education center is an exceptional facility for sheltering animals and providing essential programs to the community. These services and programs enrich and save the lives of so many animals. Here is an opportunity to make a commemorative gift by reserving a tile or paver.

Price	Product
\$500	outdoor 6" x 9" Paver
\$1,000	indoor 4" x 4" Black Marble Wall Tile
\$2,500	indoor 8 1/2" x 11" Black Marble Wall Tile

Touch an animal's life by leaving your mark.....

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
MacDowell  
The Best Dog Ever

ACR From The Jones Family  
Tile & Paver

**Potter League**  
Enriching Lives

For an order form, contact the Development Department at [Development@PotterLeague.org](mailto:Development@PotterLeague.org) or 401.846.0592 or visit our website

The Potter League 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown, RI 02842 • [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org)

FSC Logo here





# *The Potter League Celebrates 85 Years: A Walk Down Memory Lane*

The Potter League is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year. Originally named The Newport County League for Animals, we were founded in 1929 by a special act of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. The visionary women whose goal was “to take charge of any abandoned, sick, lame, overworked or cruelly treated animals” were Virginia Potter, Mary van Beuren, and Emma Normon.



*15 Harrington Street, Newport - 1931*

To house homeless animals, the League in mid-summer 1931 purchased and converted a stable at 15 Harrington Street in downtown Newport. This was largely made possible by the generosity of Mrs. George Cerio who gave \$1,000 and Mrs. E.V. Hartford who gave \$500 toward the purchase price. The League made an arrangement with Veterinarian Dr. H. F. Ferguson by which he would

take care of stray animals and also those animals whose owners could not afford to pay for medical care in exchange for rent for his office which was located in the shelter. For many years the League remained on this site, successfully working toward its goal.



*1978. Reviewing plans for initial construction at 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown. L to R: Bob Silva, Bill Harvey (President), two mail carriers who raised money for the new shelter in the Postman's March for the Animals, Bobbie Watts (shelter manager), Lynne Merrill (Board Member), Christie Smith (Treasurer), Jack Ellis (Contractor)*

Prior to the founding of the League, strays and homeless pets were destroyed immediately after their capture by the dog constable. The League was able to obtain a written Agreement with the city and the dog constable which stated that strays would be kept for five days as required by law. This cooperation had a significant effect on the humane treatment of animals in

Newport. The growing number of abandoned animals, due to the severe depression, presented many problems which the League helped resolve.

During these early years, supporters of the League read like a Who's Who in Newport. Mrs. Virginia Potter served as President with Mrs. Michael Van Beuren as Vice President. The position

*continued on back*

of Secretary-Treasurer was held variously by Mrs. Maximillian Agassiz, Mrs. Gustave J.S. White, and Mrs. Pierce. By 1950 the membership included Mrs. Maxim Karolik, Mr. Perry Belmont, Mrs. James Van Alen, Mrs.

William Whitehouse, Mrs. Harvey Firestone, Mr. Frazier Jelke, Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt, Miss Julia Berwind, and Mrs. Harvey Wheeler plus many Newporters and Aquidneck Island residents. In 1958, Mrs. Virginia Potter died and left a bequest in her will with the condition that the shelter



*87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown - 1978*

be renamed in memory of her husband. The Board of Directors of the Newport County League for Animals officially changed its name to the Robert Potter League for Animals on September 14, 1959.



*87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown - 1988*

The old shelter on Harrington Street, despite being renovated and despite the unceasing hard work of the managers,

continued to have problems ranging from the complaints of noise and odor to the need for constant repairs. In 1978 a new shelter was built at 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown.

As programs and activities grew, the Potter League has continually evolved to meet the needs of the animals and community. The incredible devotion of the founders and early shelter workers cannot be measured by ordinary standards. They approached their top priority - the welfare of homeless animals - with plenty of love, perseverance, personal sacrifice, and dedication. The Newport County League for Animals and later the Robert Potter League for Animals can be truly proud that its existence is of great importance to the welfare and quality of life of those in Newport County and their animals. For 85 years we have celebrated and protected those animal companions who enrich our lives.



*87 Oliphant Lane - 2009*