

**Potter League Board Meeting – March 2021**  
**Development Activities Report**  
**Submitted by Erin O’Gara Dollard**

**No Bash for Animals**

View items and register to bid; <https://lovebashforanimals.com>

As of 4/5 we have raised \$42,357. This includes proceeds from the photo contest \$14,986, underwriters \$11,000, and general donations \$16,371. We have 111 registered bidders of which half are currently bidding, the other half waiting for the excitement to build as we approach the close on 4/14 at 4pm. We are increasing our social media presence and email in the week ahead as well as using the broadcast tool within Handbid to alert bidders about the close and any special closing deals we may have to promote items with no bids. Currently we are seeking two donors and their pets to be featured on our Walk Cover and the LoveBash cover for 2022. If you know anyone who would enjoy this unique opportunity, please jet them an email or better yet a phone call and encourage them to bid. If you have not already, please join in the fun as we enter our final week in the auction. A full report of income and expenses will be submitted in next month’s report.

**Grant & Foundation Update**

Upcoming grants include Prince Charitable Trusts (\$20k general operations), The Gruben Charitable Foundation (\$15k general operations, new funding opportunity), The Rhode Island Foundation (\$40k and \$10k Coyote Smarts) and Pet Smart Charities (\$10k Pet Safe)

**Third Party Fundraisers**

*Stoneacre Dog Show*

*Saturday, May 22 Rain Date: Sunday, May 23.*

*Stoneacre Outdoor Terrace, 151 Swinburne Row, Newport, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

A public dog show on the terrace at Stoneacre. Please visit their website at

<https://Stoneacrebrasserie.com>. All are welcome to participate and enter your dog. The fee is \$25 and limited to 30 dogs. This is a public event and COVID19 social distance protocols will be in place. Three judges will be on hand to determine who wins one of 10 categories. The organizers are looking for a board member to be a judge. Interested parties can contact Susan or Erin for more information. Proceeds to benefit the Potter League.

**Portsmouth High School Donation Drive**

*Portsmouth High School, April 24<sup>th</sup> during school hours*

A senior at the high school is doing a pet food donation drive for her National Honor Society project. She will be also sharing our donation page and “Wish List” with her classmates and encouraging donations of our most needed items as well as monetary donation.

**Planned Giving Update / Forever Friends Society**

We received a sizable bequest from the estate of Deborah A. Owen in the amount of \$283,770.66. Ms. Owens did not have a strong giving history but was a possible adopter of ours and loved

her dogs “Pebbles and Bam-bam”. We are currently working with the executor of her estate to gain some more information on her for our files. She will be added to the Forever Friends Society list in memory of her late son, husband and herself posthumously.

We have received notification that eight people have named us in their Will. Four of the new Forever Friend Society member indicated that they utilized Free Will and it was very user-friendly. Two others said they didn’t use the tool but saw the email and it reminded them to “get their Will together”. We will be sending quarterly emails to donors. The next email is scheduled for early May and will be included in the May Paw Print Press.

### **Board Commitments & Giving Statements**

On-going process. Letters are mailed weekly to board members. We have had success in both calls and scheduled meetings. Thank you for the first few board members who have replied and made their commitments known. We will continue to plan for either Zoom calls or personal visit or calls through the spring. As you recall, this initiative is a direct outcome of our participation in the VBCF Cohort in which we have been advised to secure multi-year commitments from our closest and strongest supporters. All commitments will be kept confidential and payments can be made in installments over the course of the year.

These meetings will also serve as a ‘one-time ask’ of board members barring any unforeseen emergencies similar to the pandemic or National Grid outage of 2019.