



## WALLOWA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2019



### *WCHS ON THE MOVE!*

**Permanent Sanctuary Feasibility Study** As we reported in our last newsletter, we have been working closely with Sara Miller of Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD). Sara has helped us understand the process of ascertaining the feasibility of a project as significant as a WCHS Sanctuary. We have established a focus group comprised of community supporters and WCHS Board members. In this current phase of the project, members of the focus group are interviewing stakeholders using a standardized set of questions. The answers and insights we're receiving in this process will inform our next steps and even the future of the project. We are learning much we didn't know about community perceptions, potential support, and have received surprising insights that will help us immeasurably as we define our path forward. Thank you to all who've participated; your input and wisdom are always welcomed. If you would like to become involved, or have a special expertise that would be helpful to us in reaching our goal, please contact WCHS President Carol Vencill at (541) 263-0336.

**Volunteer Appreciation** The Wallowa County Humane Society wishes to express its deep appreciation to Jacqueline Valli. In her two years with WCHS, Jacqueline has shown herself to be creative, enthusiastic, energetic and organized. But nowhere have her talents shone more brightly than her work on our Harry Potter Themed Haunted House last Halloween. Jacqueline created a magical Forbidden Forest and Great Hall of Hogwarts, followed by the Feast of Treats. The extravaganza was enjoyed by over 250 guests of all ages over two nights. Our fundraising goal for the event was \$500, but the final tally was \$1,100! Jacqueline, your efforts on behalf of WCHS have been invaluable; you are **greatly** appreciated!



**Thanks to Our Local Merchants** In December, our valued merchant partners – Wallowa County Grain Growers, Dollar Stretcher, Market Place Fresh Foods, Safeway (and even the U.S. Forest Service) – placed barrels on their premises to collect pet food items to support our work. We collected over 250 pounds of pet food and cat litter! Thank you to those who continue to participate in this important program each year.

**Dog Treat Class a Success** WCHS received over \$300 in donations at the dog treat baking class held at The Place late last year. Thank you to volunteers Sherry Murphy and Ellen Bishop for organizing the class; to Amy and Arian from The Dog Spot for teaching those who attended how to make delicious treats for their canine friends; to Denise Clevenger for her impromptu and informative message about WCHS while the treats baked; and, to The Place for offering their wonderful facility to us free of charge. Our community partners are vital to our work and we can't say thank you often enough.

**Volunteers Needed for Eagle Cap Extreme** The Wallowa County Humane Society has agreed to provide volunteers for the Eagle Cap Extreme. For those of you wishing to help, there will be an orientation at The Place, behind the United Methodist Church in Joseph, 301 S. Lake Street on Tuesday, January 22 at 2 pm. The races start on January 23. Please call Sherry Murphy at (503) 621-7352 for more information and to find out how you can help.

**Wallowa Memorial Hospital Aids Camp Fire Victims** Wallowa County Humane Society wishes to thank Wallowa Memorial Hospital for its donation of dozens of clean blankets, sheets, towels and receiving blankets. With the help and coordination of Denise Clevenger, the items were packaged and shipped to volunteers coordinating relief to victims of the devastating Camp Fire in northern California. The Hospital has been providing these items to WCHS for many years, but we are proud to have passed them along to our friends in need.

**Carol's Corner** If you have been touched by the Humane Society, or admire the work we do in our community, consider writing a letter of praise to the Wallowa County Chieftain or the LaGrande Observer (or both!). We are always looking for ways to raise awareness of this all-volunteer organization that works tirelessly to promote the humane treatment of animals in the Wallowa valley. A letter of commendation would reach many people and remind them of the value of our presence here in the County.

**Pet Therapy Days in February & March** We will be visiting Wallowa Valley Senior Living on February 14 at 2 pm and March 14 at 1:30 pm. We will be at Wallowa River House on February 28 and March 28 at 2:00 pm. And, we'll be at Alpine House in Joseph on February 21 and March 21 at 2 pm. We are looking for volunteers with well-behaved pets who would like to participate in this important and much appreciated program. Please contact Sue at 541-432-3907 if you're interested.



**Remember WCHS in Your Estate Plan** It's easy to leave a gift to the Wallowa County Humane Society in your will or living trust. WCHS is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and our tax ID number is 93-077384. You may consider leaving a specific monetary amount (e.g., \$500) or the residual part of your estate that is left after all of your bequest wishes are met (e.g., assets left to your children). Talk with your estate planning professional for expert guidance.