



Sheryl Mann
PHOTOGRAPHY

When You Think HOPE is Lost...

Abandoned, pregnant, heartworm positive, and alone in a house when her original family moved away, this dog had been to three other shelters before we pulled her from Henderson County Animal Services and brought her to our Adoption Center. Sweet, stinky and always asking for belly rubs, the staff named her Hope and she quickly became a favorite to all. She had charisma to spare that helped her in getting two stints in a home, but she was returned both times because she had severe separation anxiety.

While she waited patiently for her forever home, Hope started her heartworm treatment at Apple Valley Animal Hospital worth close to \$1000, but thankfully Apple Valley discounted the cost. Hope also was suffering from an ear infection and intestinal parasites.

But "hope springs eternal:" On her 65th day with us, Hope found her forever home with Lynne and Jim Greenawalt who called interested specifically in her. They had pitbull-type dogs in the past and really enjoy the breed. So our adoption counselors spoke to them at length about her separation anxiety which their former dog had suffered from, as well. They had the knowledge and experience to make it work, but it was just a matter of their meeting Hope to make sure there was that spark. They fell head over heels for her immediately and we all knew it was a perfect match!

"Finding Hope after losing one of our two furry babies was exactly what was meant to be," says Lynne Greenawalt. "Our 13-year-old Izzy gained a new sister and playmate. But most importantly, Hope filled a void in our family that only she could fill. We love her and we think she knows that she's found her forever home."



Teach an Old Dog New Tricks? YES You Can!

to her beloved 14-year-old sheltie. Heartbroken, Ruthie volunteered to walk our shelter dogs to work through her grief and she met a sheltie-mix, Reese. She was asked to possibly foster Reese. Ruthie said she'd try if he could get along with her cat, Louie. Happily, in a month's time, after much patience, Reese and Louie became buddies.

That's the Old Dog part of the story. Here's the New Tricks part. At age 11, not only has Reese been through obedience training and earned the title "K-9 Good Citizen," but he's also earned Therapy Dog Certification. For the past two years, Reese and Ruthie have visited senior centers all over Henderson County where he is loved and loves everybody in turn.

The moral to the story: If only given a chance--with time, training, and love-- shelter dogs, even seniors like Reese, are capable of great things. His achievements are a tribute to him, of course, but also to the dedication of his adopters, Wes and Ruthie Brittan. In the past, the Brittans had purchased pedigreed shelties from breeders. But the jewel they found in our Adoption Center has made them firm believers in the emblem on their car that reads, "RESCUED DOGS ROCK."



Skippy and Amy

Our Adoption Center has more than doubled the number of animals transferred to us from our local Henderson County Animal Services. From January to June 2017, BRHS received 176 animals from the County. During January to June 2018, BRHS received 403. What this means is that the Adoption Center successfully found homes for that many more local animals to make space for these increased numbers. These exceptional results are made possible by coordination between the County, BRHS and local community support through our outstanding outreach programs. Another notable accomplishment is the average number of days animals now stay at the Adoption Center has been incrementally reduced over the past five years from 47 days to 11 days. Our longest term dog Skippy finally found his forever home after being transferred from the County shelter to BRHS where he stayed a little over three months. By contrast, Vienna was recently adopted out after only eight days.

Double the Numbers -- Double the Lives Saved!

Keeping SPIRIT Alive



At 9 years of age, Spirit was taken to a vet's office to be euthanized because he was relieving himself in the house. When the vet refused, Spirit found his way to our Adoption Center. A quick exam revealed a urinary tract infection requiring antibiotics. Senior animals are more difficult to place but Spirit found an amazing home the very next day! Kristine Lowe had an older dog and she was looking for another dog that would fit in with her household. She brought her dog in to do a "meet and greet" and it was a great match! Kristine's story follows:

"I have a beloved 12-year-old corgi-lab mix, Shadow, who has been with me since he was 4 months old. Shadow grew up with lots of pals: a cat as well as Shadow's "father" in our home, plus his "mother" belonged to our neighbor—all together for 10 years. During the last two years, losses sadly occurred with Shadow's buddies, and it became clear that the lack of four-legged companionship resulted in Shadow becoming lonely and depressed. We decided Shadow needed an older dog companion, and we think rescues just seem to know that they've been rescued--they're hungry for love and try so hard to please their new owners. I sensed this in Spirit (aka Buddy)! After two months together now, Shadow and Buddy really are pals with a unique bond between them. Shadow seems to be the brains and brawn, while Buddy is the quick, agile instigator! In short, Buddy has brought my older dog back to his lively self. (And for the record, Buddy has never had an "accident" in the house despite his past and his age.) I think Buddy adopted Shadow and me before we actually adopted him. Older dogs just need a chance to show how deep their love is and their unique personalities will come out, bringing such joy to their owners."—Kris Lowe



Vienna and Lee Family





Got Milk? Got Kittens!

If you're a cat lover, you probably love a Cat Man. How about a Kitten Man? Meet Mike Wall. Mike has been fostering kittens for the past two years for BRHS and he is truly indispensable. Give you an idea why: Phone rings at the Adoption Center--the Hendersonville Police got a call from a vet's office that they have two newborn kittens that need foster care, plus the Henderson County Animal Services Center has 6 more. BRHS calls Mike, "Can you take 5 kittens?" (Two from the vet; 3 of the 6 from HCAS, the other 3 went to a different foster.) Mike's answer to calls like this one has been a YES ever since he started fostering kittens about 10 years ago for a shelter in Louisiana.

Mike had training with bottle feeding, tube feeding, administering meds, and giving sub-Q fluids, so after he moved here he continued with BRHS. The process goes like this: As newborns, kittens have to be bottle fed every 2 hours, plus have bathroom opportunities. After about a week, when their eyes open and their ears begin to unfold, they can sleep longer so the feedings

move to every 3 hours or so. That goes on for about 15-16 days. The time between feedings steps up gradually until the kittens are weaned anytime between 4 to 8 weeks, depending on the kitten.

Who DOES this? Mike has a fulltime 40-hour-a-week job, so the kittens are helped during the day by his able assistant Morgan, then Mike takes over after work, and they share nighttime feedings. This goes on for weeks until the kittens are weaned. It's hard to turn them back in for adoption, but it's the most rewarding thing he has ever done, Mike says. "I've always felt the need to look out for the underdog, the hard luck case, or the special needs one who just needs a chance." Mike and Morgan (and the resident 3-year-old male cat Bubba, who tolerates the kitten invasions), YOU -- yes YOU -- are the special ones.



Morning, Noon, Night

[Friends, please note that Mike and all our foster families provide an incredibly important service. The medical care these animals may need and the food and materials BRHS provides to the foster families for the care of these animals are supported ONLY by your donations. Please give generously toward these efforts.]



"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE..."

...is a well-deserved phrase of gratitude. All of us at the Blue Ridge Humane Society dedicate this newsletter to our community who have served--served BRHS with their time and talents in ways that are truly remarkable in their generosity and devotion. Join me in saluting these kind folks. And as always, know that we deeply appreciate your continued financial support for us to be able to save lives and find homes for the animals who so desperately need our assistance. Thanks for YOUR service, too.

Lutrelle O'Cain, Executive Director



Thrift Store Expansion Complete

Have you seen our new digs? The dust has settled, construction crews are gone, our Thrift Store renovation is complete! We celebrated all of the fabulous improvements in a ribbon-cutting celebration with the Chamber of Commerce in June. BRHS Board members, volunteers, community friends, customers, and staff were all in attendance. Harris Teeter generously donated all of the water, ice, and a huge cake to help us celebrate. Amazing Pizza Company had their food truck there as well, with 10% of their proceeds being donated to BRHS.

Thanks to Dunlap Construction for the renovations; to Prudhomme Design and Interiors; to Hunter Marks of Water Mark Land Design; to Trace and Co.; and to Snow Creek Landscaping -- all for helping with the project. And last but not least, we thank our donors and loyal volunteers. Without the support of our community, this project would never have materialized.





1214 Greenville Highway
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*Providing second chances
since 1950*

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BLUE RIDGE HUMANE SOCIETY



Save the Date
October 6, 2018

A night to benefit the animals in our Adoption Center.

HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB 6:30PM- 10:30PM
LOCALLY SOURCED VEGETARIAN DINNER
COMPLIMENTARY BEER & WINE
DANCING & FABULOUS SILENT AUCTION

Sponsorships & tickets available. For more information, please contact Laura at Blue Ridge Humane Society (828) 692-2639, ext. 301 or lrice@blueridgehumane.org

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