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City of
SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter

June 2014

Volunteers

focus

TEAM FRONT STREET: WORKING TOGETHER
TO SAVE LIVES!

June is Volunteer-a-thon month!

Our second annual Volunteer-a-thon has started. This is your chance to get your friends and family involved with the cause you are passionate about - volunteering at Front Street! It's easy to participate and raise money to support all of our volunteer efforts like offsite event supplies, vaccination clinics, special events, workdays, projects, and much more!! It's easy to do:



- ◆ Set a goal for the number of volunteer hours you would like to see yourself work during the month of June- stretch and see how many you can do!
- ◆ Get pledges from your friends and family to support your volunteer work. Pledges can be flat amounts (example: \$10) or per hour amounts (example: \$1 per hour). Pledge forms will be available by June 1st
- ◆ At the end of the month, report the number of hours you worked and collect your pledges. (Don't forget to log your hours on your volunteer profile!) Please return all money collected by July 10th.
- ◆ Thank your friends and family members for supporting your volunteer work!

All volunteers who participate in the Volunteer-a-thon and collect pledges of \$20 or more will receive for free one of our Front Street Shelter volunteer tee shirts! The top hours earner and the top fundraiser will also receive special prizes.

Let's get volunteering!! Our goal: 5,000 hours and \$5,000!! Let's get volunteering!!



Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

Front Street Animal Shelter

May 31- June 30th
(all day)

Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen

1735 Arden Way Sacramento CA 95815
916-568-0932



california
PIZZA KITCHEN



Front Street's Photo Fun Contest!

Win Prizes, Raise Awareness, Save lives!

Entry Dates: June 1st - June 30th

Contest Dates: July 1st - July 31st

City of
SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter



Enter online at www.sacpetsearch.com

STRAY PRIDE!



Please join us for Stray Pride! at the Sacto Pride Parade on

Saturday, June 14th. We will need help with:

- Parade walkers
- Experienced Dog Handlers to walk dogs in the parade
- Adoption Counselors for the Information Booth
- Shelter Ambassadors for the Information Booth

Sign up today under the Special Events category!

Share your ideas - and praise!!

Use the Team Front Street Solution Box

Your ideas are important! Please share your ideas with the rest of the team by taking a minute to jot them down on a suggestion form in the Volunteer Area.

Did a staff member or volunteer do something you thought was great? Let the whole team know by dropping your praise into the Solution Box!

This month's suggestions:

- ◆ Training for puppies - can volunteers help with housetraining?
- ◆ Brian Lee was awesome & patched our water cooler - thanks Brian!



Shelter Life Productions



On June 7th we had our inaugural meeting for the new Shelter Life Production team. This team is working hard on producing a series called Shelter Life talking about different aspects of the shelter and pet ownership in the community. We are so excited to be moving this project forward! There are still opportunities to help—you can learn camera work, sound work, editing, and much more—all to help make this exciting new series to air on Channel 17, Access Sacramento.

This is a fun and unique opportunity to help! Our next meeting is scheduled for June 13th at 5:30pm. If you are interested in joining the team, please sign up online and come to the meeting!

WORLD PREMIERE
A FILM BY NATHAN WINOGRAD
REDEMPTION
THE NO KILL REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
ADMIT ONE
Thursday - July 10, 2014
Sierra II Center
Sacramento, CA

Redemption Screening at Sierra II Center, Thursday, July 10th

Join the Front Street Animal Shelter at the Sierra II Community Center theater on Thursday, July 10th for a special screening of Nathan Winograd's Redemption. The doors open at 6:30pm and the film will start at 7:00pm. Nathan will be available for Q&A after the film.

Seating is limited - so hurry and get your tickets today! All proceeds will go to benefit the animals at the Front Street Shelter. Tickets are only \$10 and are selling quickly. This is a great way to support the shelter and learn more about the No-Kill movement in America. Get your ticket on our website www.sacpetsearch.com on the events tab. Don't miss out!

Happy Beginnings—Tails of True Love!

This is what it's all about! ADOPTIONS, Rescues, and "Fur-ever Homes!"

Jokum's Story - (Jane Almon, Front Street Volunteer) Jokum was adopted from Front St Animal Shelter 1 year ago (Jan 2013) and came back to the shelter as a "stray" a year later (January 2014) Calls and letters to the registered owner went unanswered. Jokum sat in the shelter. He sat and sat and sat. He had initially passed his behavior evaluation and was deemed "adoptable" but the more time he spent at the shelter the more stressed he became. He had participated in the Chako Pit bull U program and many volunteers worked hard and long to give him the attention he needed. Yet he continued to decline due to the stress of being kenneled.

It came time to make a hard decision about Jokum....only able to be housed by himself (due to dog to dog aggressive tendencies), the shelter was filled to the brim and couldn't afford to keep dogs in single kennels while so many kept coming through the doors. We arranged for Jokum to go to Kings Kastle Rehabilitation in Windsor where he could de-stress and be a "dog" again! After a month's stay at Kings Kastle he had made great progress but it was not recommended he go back to the kennel environment. We worked and worked to find a foster for this sweet boy but had no one in sight on the afternoon he arrived back to the shelter from Kings Kastle.

A wonderful volunteer met a man in the parking lot and started talking to him about Jokum...pretty soon the man wanted to meet Jokum. It was love at first sight but David wasn't ready to adopt. He had just lost his dog quite suddenly and was dealing with some personal issues and couldn't commit to having a dog (for life). He wouldn't leave though, he kept looking back at Jokum. We approached him about foster and he said he would think about it...again he didn't leave, he kept looking at Jokum through the window as he proceeded to his car. He came back the next day to complete the foster process and home Jokum went.

It took a few months but finally the call came and David said he was ready to adopt him. Again, weeks went by and David didn't come to the shelter to complete the adoption.

Then, just a few weeks ago, Jokum got out of David's house, was missing for hours. David was frantic, walking the streets and calling the shelter. Later that afternoon a good Samaritan brought Jokum to the shelter (they knew he belonged at Front St because of his tag) The manager on duty called David with the wonderful news and she said David came to the shelter in record time..all adoption paperwork was completed and David and Jokum are now an "official" family!

A lot of people helped Jokum on his journey...a journey that would have been cut short had David not stepped up to Foster him. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this love story.



Shelter Stats:

	May 2014	May 2013
Cats Adopted	79	81
Cats to Rescue or Transfer	53	104
Cats Returned to Owner	4	4
Dogs Adopted	126	111
Dogs to Rescue or Transfer	47	52
Dogs Returned to Owner	77	80
# of Volunteers who logged hours	257	169
Volunteer Hours	3667	2962



Key Crisis!

We have had several days lately where we did not have enough volunteer keys to efficiently do our work. PLEASE return the shelter keys before you leave!!

Here are some KEY concepts:

- ◆ The Quarantine (Heart) Keys are now located in Janice's office
- ◆ Only Shelter Greeters should need the Quarantine Keys - for those of you who have been using them for dog training, the back of the M building is being re-keyed to the regular Blue Bone keys

If you have inadvertently taken the keys home—please return them ASAP. Thank you!!



The Importance of Speaking Kindly

It happens everywhere that people gather. It happens at school, it happens at work, it happens at clubs, it happens at church, it happens everywhere! What is it? GOSSIP! We talk about other volunteers, we talk about staff, we talk about each other - but... we get really upset when others talk about us!



There seems to be an increase in unkind gossip floating around the shelter. Some volunteers feel there are cliques and they don't feel welcomed. That is not the team spirit we want here at Front Street - everyone is welcome, quirks and all. Let's all make a commitment to treat each other as we would want to be treated. That being said, no one should ever be subjected to verbal abuse by a volunteer or a staff member. If you have an issue with a volunteer or staff member, please take your concern directly to me, Janice. It's my job to investigate issues and find a resolution. Let's work together to make Team Front Street the best, most welcoming volunteer team around!

Mentors Needed!



Mentoring is the number one requested help from our volunteer program - everyone from

our brand new volunteers, to our new-to-dog-handling volunteers, to volunteers who are learning any other skill or job - they all need mentors!

If you have completed your 20 hours of basic shelter service, you can join our mentor team. Our next mentor training session is scheduled for Thursday, June 26th at 5:30pm. Please sign up online through your MyVolunteerPage profile. Welcome to the team!!

Are you SMART material?

- ◆ Do you have a computer?
- ◆ Do you have a passion for helping dogs find their way home to their owners?
- ◆ Can you print out lost dog posters and tape them up in the neighborhoods where the dog was found?
- ◆ Then you are SMART material!!

Our SMART team needs many more members to make this a truly successful program. There are many posters created, but only a few that actually get posted in the neighborhoods. We need coverage all across the City, so no matter where you live, you can help.

If you are interested in being SMART, please contact Janice at jwagaman@cityofsacramento.org ASAP!



To Schedule or Not to Schedule - Survey Results

The issue: there are many days here at Front Street where we do not have enough volunteers to get the work done, while there are other days where we have too many volunteers and people are frustrated.

Solution under consideration: Switch from a self-scheduling system (what we currently use) to assigning volunteers the days and shifts they should work.

Survey results:

- ◆ Do you prefer a flexible or set schedule? Results:

90.16% of volunteers prefer a flexible schedule

- ◆ Do you sign up online to schedule the shifts that you volunteer? Results:

72.13% of respondents sign up every time they come in

14.75% sign up once in a while, but still come in sometimes without signing up

13.11% Never bother to sign up

- ◆ Why or Why Not? Results:

The number one reason why volunteers don't sign up before coming in has to do with their own personal schedule—they don't always know in advance when they are available, so come in as they can.

- ◆ Which types of activities do you sign up for online? Results:

75.41% Training Classes

51.64% Special Events

69.67% Routine Chores

9.84% Don't sign up

- ◆ On my volunteer profile I have requested to have my schedule emailed to me weekly so I know when I am scheduled: Results:

28.69% Yes

41.80% No - I didn't know about this feature

29.51% No - this doesn't meet my needs

- ◆ On my volunteer profile I use the calendar feature to add my volunteer shifts to my electronic calendar: Results:

10.66% Yes

64.75% No

5.74% Sometimes

18.85% I didn't know I could do that

- ◆ How comfortable are you with the online system? Results:

81.15% Very comfortable & proficient

13.93% Use as best I can

4.92% Never use it



◆ I would like to have more training on the volunteer system:

13.11% Yes

86.89% No

◆ Do you think that scheduling shifts is important:

81.15% Yes

18.85% No



powered by [myVolunteerPage.COM](http://myVolunteerPage.com)

Based on the results of this survey and the suggestions made by you - our volunteer team - this is what we propose to solve the scheduling issue and to ensure we always have enough volunteer coverage to achieve our mission of saving lives:

1. **Everyone is expected to use their volunteer profile to sign up for shifts and to log your hours.** We must know when you are expected in and whether or not we have the shift covered. For those whose schedule varies, the lock-out time for most of the shifts have been adjusted to 1 hour so you can sign up with only one hour's notice. Training sessions still require a little more notice.
2. **If you need assistance with the MyVolunteerPage program, simply ask for help!** I will sit down with you and go over exactly how to do things so you are comfortable and also print you the user's guide for your reference.
3. **In order to ensure we have enough coverage for each day, we are asking each volunteer to sign up for a MINIMUM of one day of basic shelter chores per month - even if you have completed your 20 hours,** and a MINIMUM of one shift per month for any specialty position for which you have received training (Cattery work, shelter greeter, adoption counselor, etc.) We have put a lot of effort into your volunteer training, and we would like the return commitment from you. (Dog handlers—you already have committed to working at least two hours a week with our dogs in return for the training you have received. Please make sure you are following through with that commitment!)
4. **We absolutely welcome and encourage you to you sign up for multiple shifts— sign up for as many days as you want!**
5. **If you are physically unable to work the basic shelter chores, that is OK—**there are many other ways to help, just let me know! Volunteering should never be physically painful for someone. We just want you to be involved and engaged and to ensure that all of our shifts are covered.
6. **For those of you who have the flexibility to work during the week, please make it a point to sign up for weekday shifts as those are the days we need the most help!**
7. **For those of you who prefer a set schedule, please sign up for your days and shifts online so we always know whether or not you are coming.** You have the power to assign yourself to the days that you want to work.
8. If all of the basic chores are done when you arrive - there are a 1001 other things to do here at the shelter - take a good look around you and jump in and help! Sweep a sidewalk, wipe down benches, wash windows, pick up trash, etc.!!

Let's all work together to save lives - that's what volunteering here is all about! We simply cannot function without our volunteer team. We need everyone working together toward our mission and we should never have days where we have no volunteer help with the basic shelter chores. Can I count on your commitment to Team Front Street?

Meet the Staff:

Samantha Burgin

Animal Care Technician extraordinaire!

Meet Animal Care Technician extraordinaire, Samantha Burgin! In addition to working hard in the kennels with our animals, Sam assists with the Foster Rescue program for both dogs and cats.

How long have you worked at Front Street? *I have been here for 1 1/2 years*

What did you do before you came here? *I worked for a private practice veterinarian for 8 years, and then I work for an exotic animal rescue for a year before I came to Front Street.*

Where did you go to school? *I went to Bella Vista High School, and I am about to graduate from the University of Phoenix.*

What do you like to do when not at the shelter? *I enjoy going to the movies and hanging out with my younger siblings and my mom.*

What is your favorite hobby? *Reading and Scrapbooking*

Tell us about your family? *I am not married, but have a pretty big family. I have 6 siblings, 2 step siblings, Mom, Step Dad, Step*

Mom, 1 nephew and about 32 cousins between both sides of my family.

What kind of pets do you have? *I have 1 dog (Choski-Border Terrier), 3 cats (Nemo, Jacques, Zahara) 2 corn snakes (Hercules &*



Zeus), and a Russian Tortoise (George)

What have you liked best about your job? *I enjoy feeding and taking care of bottle baby kittens.*

What would you change if you could? *I wish I had enough foster homes for every single litter of kittens that comes into the shelter.*

Thank you Sam for all of your hard work!!



- ◆ **Volunteer Orientations:**
 - ◆ 2nd & 3rd Wed. each month
- ◆ **Shelter I01:**
 - ◆ Every Saturday at 8:30am (except June 15th!)
- ◆ **Cattery Class:**
 - ◆ Sat. 6/21 at 10:00am
- ◆ **Dog Training:**
 - ◆ The Language of Dogs 6/12 & 6/28
 - ◆ Dog Training starts in June
- ◆ **Special Training Classes:**
 - ◆ Cat Foster Class 6/21
 - ◆ Mentor Training 6/26
 - ◆ Dog Adoption Counseling 6/28
 - ◆ Cat Adoption Counseling 6/29
 - ◆ Bunny Class 6/29
- ◆ **Offsite Outreach Events:**
 - ◆ Every weekend! Sign up online!
- ◆ **Special Opportunities:**
 - ◆ Shelter Life Production Meeting 6/13
 - ◆ Pride Parade 6/14
 - ◆ Quarterly Volunteer Team Meeting 6/19

Your hard work really does pay off, we could not do this job without the help of our AMAZING volunteers!

Volunteer Spotlight:

Sue Huscroft

I started volunteering at Front Street two years ago, after taking early retirement from my job at Hewlett-Packard; I was very happy to trade in my financial spreadsheet models for a purple apron! I've been married for 31 years. Carey and I live in Davis, and we have two beautiful Manx kitties that we adopted from the Yolo County shelter. Both kitties were diagnosed with serious congenital heart disease when they were young. But with the help of the UC Davis vet school cardiologists, and twice-daily medicine, our babies are now nearly 8 years old and are still hanging in there.

So why do I come in to work at the shelter 3-4 times per week? Certainly, I love spending time with the cats and helping to keep the cattery clean. But I also really enjoy working alongside the Front Street staff and the other volunteers -- these folks clearly care a lot about the animals and work tirelessly to help them. The variety of jobs keeps things interesting too. There's always something to do, ranging from adoption counseling to cage cleaning to untangling that nasty ball of clean aprons (lol).

Front Street is a very special place and I feel fortunate to be a part of it! Sue



Wish List

We would be most grateful if you could help us with these:

- ◆ Dryer Sheets
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ Foster care supplies



Follow us on Facebook at City of Sacramento Front Street Animal Shelter to keep up with more fun activities & animal stories!