

# Paw Prints

Fall/Winter 2021



AN ADOPTER'S STORY  
OF FINDING THE  
PERFECT PUP  
HOW GIVING TUESDAY  
CHANGES LIVES

GIVING TUESDAY  
**\$100,000 MATCH!**  
NOVEMBER 30TH

HELPING OUR  
COMMUNITY'S PETS  
A WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICES

SPOTLIGHT STORIES  
INSPIRATIONAL  
ADOPTIONS

VOLUNTEER PROFILE  
DONNA & JASON RUBY

DEDICATIONS  
MEMORIAL & HONORARY  
DONATIONS



HUMANE SOCIETY  
of TRUCKEE-TAHOE

# The Season of Giving is Here

by Stephanie Nistler, HSTT Chief Executive Officer

As the Holidays approach we set our sights on giving. We think about all the ways we can brighten someone's day with a gift of home-baked goods, a nice card or something they've been wanting for some time. Fortunately, for non-profit organizations like HSTT, we also think about giving to charities we care about so they can continue to make a positive impact in our communities.

Giving Tuesday officially kicks off the giving season for HSTT and we hope you will join us that special day to help raise much needed funds to continue our many wonderful programs and services. It will also be a very special adoption day with several dogs, cats, kittens and puppies looking for their forever homes. What could be better than having a new best friend at home for the holidays?

And we can't think of a better way to illustrate the importance of our annual Giving Tuesday campaign than a story of the enormous amount of love, joy and happiness one small puppy brought a new family. So we'd like to share the story of Maggie, one of last year's Giving Tuesday pets, as told by her lucky adopter, Courtney Royce.

*In 2020 everything began falling into place - my husband Ryan and I eloped and bought a home in Truckee and we knew the next step was to find a dog to join our family.*

*Ryan kept telling me we needed to wait until after the ski season, so we could spend the most time with our new puppy. But then, the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe started posting one photo per day of the most adorable little, fluffy, puppies I've ever seen. I fell in love with each puppy that was part of their Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign, saving the photos to my phone and showing all my friends and coworkers. I needed to adopt one. I patiently waited for the photos of the females, as that's what I had my heart set on. There were only two.*

*Then we saw it - a goofy photo of "Shirley", sitting on her hip, looking away from the camera. Despite not knowing her breed or getting to meet her ahead of time due to COVID, we had to have her. The date came to apply, and I frantically typed our information into the application in hopes of being*

*the first one. After impatiently waiting for what felt like hours, we got the call, "you got Shirley!"*

*We had no idea in that moment how big our hearts would grow and what the perfect addition Shirley, now Maggie, would be for us. From the second we saw her outside of the humane society as an Adoption Specialist handed her over until now, almost a year later, we still can't believe we found our dream puppy.*

*We like to think Maggie's transition to her new home was quite easy, with a big yard to play in, a creek to get her paws wet and two obsessive parents making sure she had plenty of treats and pets and went on plenty of walks. Early on, she spent lots of time around kids and other dogs, which we think helped her to be such a friendly, easy-going dog.*

*It's been so fun to watch Maggie go through the seasons of Truckee, from swimming laps in the lakes and ponds in the summer, to rolling in the snow for hours in the winter.*

*We now know Maggie is a Great Pyrenees. If you look up traits of these dogs online, it will perfectly*



*Giving Tuesday keeps giving! - Financial support from previous Giving Tuesday fundraising campaigns made it possible for HSTT to rescue Maggie's pregnant mom, Sloan, from an overcrowded shelter. Sloan gave birth to and nurtured her pups in one of our loving foster homes until they were all available for adoption on last year's Giving Tuesday.*

# Giving Tuesday cont'd

describe Maggie. They are calm, well-mannered, trustworthy, affectionate and gentle, including with kids and other dogs, but also quite stubborn. They are livestock guard dogs and know their job is to protect their family and their territory, which means they bark. Sometimes Maggie even wakes up barking, just in case she missed something going on, or she wakes us up in the middle of the night, scaring the bears out of our yard.

Shortly after bringing Maggie home, we joined the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe Alumni Group on Facebook. There, we connected with most of Maggie's siblings and her mother, almost all of whom stayed within an hour of us. We started a group chat, sharing countless photos, advice, quirks and planned several meet-ups. Quickly, we all became friends. Early on, we realized the dogs are all so similar, but have their own little oddities. I know I can speak for all of us - we feel so incredibly lucky that we were able to bring these dogs into our lives.

If you ever want to meet Maggie, on most days you can find her lazily lying on the floor inside Paco's Bike Shop on Donner Pass Rd, where she will gladly accept pets and treats from everyone.

Thanks for bringing us together,  
Courtney, Ryan and Maggie

“We had no idea in that moment how big our hearts would grow and what the perfect addition Shirley, now Maggie, would be for us.”

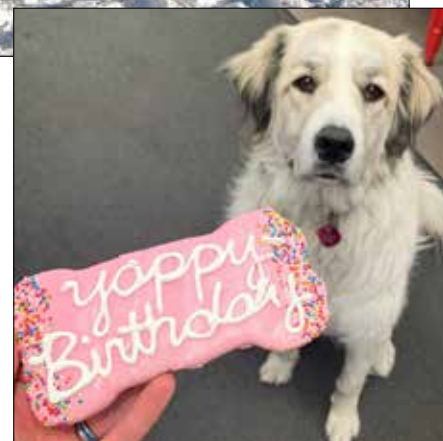
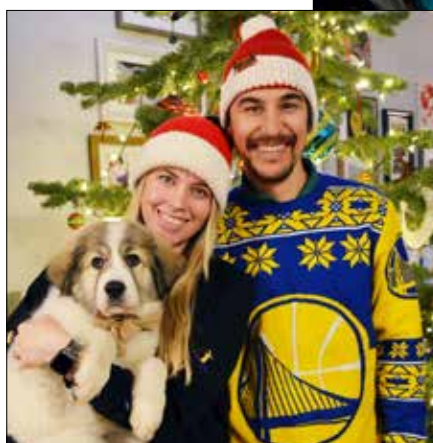
— Courtney Royce

Continued on pg. 4 - Learn how to **DOUBLE YOUR DONATION** on Tuesday, November 30th and help more pets like Maggie find their forever homes.



Thanks to wonderful adopters like Courtney and Ryan, having fun, making friends and snuggling with family fills Maggie's days.

Maggie's family extends beyond Courtney and Ryan as she has lots of siblings in the area who get together for playdates and birthday celebrations.



# Giving Tuesday cont'd

We remain deeply committed to finding forever families for homeless pets, but that's just a portion of what we do. We work just as hard to keep owned pets with the people who love them, and out of the shelter system. Our outreach programs are there for people who have fallen on hard times and can use a helping hand. We offer free pet food, veterinary medical services, vaccines, microchips, spay/neuter surgeries and other support to people and pets in need...sometimes a little help is all it takes to keep a family together.

Needless to say, the past couple years have been a challenge in many ways. There have also been many silver linings and opportunities to learn and grow. Here at HSTT, we have worked hard to find creative ways to meet the rising demand for our services. We are now looking to 2022 to further those efforts and continue to support our pet loving community in every way possible.

It would be impossible to do our work without the support of our donors, volunteers, foster families and adopters and it's difficult to convey in words how much we appreciate you. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the pets and people who need us.

Please join us on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to help us kick off giving season by raising much needed funds AND finding forever homes for a whole lot of adorable pets! We will have a significant matching gift so your donation will have twice the lifesaving impact.

Here's how you can get involved in HSTT's Giving Tuesday celebration...

## ADOPT

Our 2021 selection of Giving Tuesday pets will be available November 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. Keep an eye out for email and social media communications to see who will be available.

## DONATE

To ensure HSTT's 2021 Giving Tuesday is the best day ever, we have \$100,000 (the most we've ever had!) in matching funds available... meaning every donation made starting Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 will be matched DOLLAR-for-DOLLAR up to \$100,000! Donate at [hstt.org](https://hstt.org).



Over the course of nine Giving Tuesdays, we've not only rehomed puppies, but found loving homes for cats, kittens and dogs, including many gray-faced seniors like Mable and Vernon pictured here. With your contribution, which will have twice the impact, November 30<sup>th</sup> will be another joyous, lifesaving day!

## CELEBRATE

Make a one-time donation of \$150 or more OR sign up to donate \$20 or more per month and you'll be entered to win a \$500.00 VISA Gift Card!

## FEEL THE LOVE

HSTT's intention on Giving Tuesday, and every other day of the year, is to make the world a better place for pets and for people. The only way we're able to accomplish this lofty goal is through the generosity of our donors, the kindness of our adopters and volunteers and the support of our animal-loving community.

*Thank you for your continued support of our lifesaving work. We hope you'll take advantage of our incredible donation match starting on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Nistler".

Stephanie Nistler,  
Chief Executive Officer

## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Simply write "Giving Tuesday" on the memo line of your check, drop it in the mail before Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and we'll put it toward our match. Mail to HSTT at:  
10961 Stevens Lane, Truckee, CA 96161

# Giving Tuesday is COMING!



## Meet Rubicon!

This beautiful floof is just one of our 2021 Giving Tuesday adoptable pups. He and many more pets will help us celebrate the gorgeous place we are fortunate to call home - Lake Tahoe.

To make this Giving Tuesday even more festive, we have the largest matching gift we've ever had -

**\$100,000.00!**

# Helping Our Community's Pets

Having a pet is a very fulfilling experience but it can also be very expensive. That's why the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe (HSTT) offers a wide range of services to help keep pets in their loving homes whenever possible. But we also work to help all animals, even those without an owner. For example, did you know we provide trap-neuter-return services to unowned cats living outdoors in many parts of our region? Did you know we offer free vaccines and free pet food?

Here's a full breakdown of the important programs sponsored by HSTT, and supported by donors and volunteers. If the public is also feeling a need that is not covered by these services, we welcome suggestions and ideas for better ways to assist the pet population in the region.

## Community Spay/Neuter (CSN)

We offer low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and vouchers for dogs and cats, to income-qualifying community members in our coverage area. Through the spay/neuter clinic at the shelter and partnerships with Veterinarians in our region,



*The pandemic halted Wellness Clinics in early 2020, increasing demand for these services in 2021. So far we've treated 136 pets through our clinics this year.*

HSTT is able to help stop unwanted litters from adding to the homeless pet population. Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 HSTT has provided 468 low-cost or free surgeries to pets belonging to community members in the area.



*Quarantines, loss of wages and lack of inventory/access to essential items are having huge impacts on our community members and their pets. With that in mind, we are operating an expanded version of our Pet Pantry program, providing pet food and supplies.*

## Community Vaccine and Microchip Clinics

HSTT hosts quarterly free vaccine and microchip clinics for dogs and cats in our coverage area. The primary goals are to reach and support community pet populations facing barriers to veterinary care. Additionally, clinics help raise awareness for the services offered through the Truckee Animal Shelter and South Lake Tahoe office, in particular our community spay/neuter services and adoption program, designed to save lives and help reduce pet homelessness. Community members are also encouraged to license their dogs with a rabies license once vaccinated. Since inception, HSTT's free clinics have assisted just under 600 owned pets in the region with over 1500 vaccines and microchips. The clinics were unsafe to operate during the height of the pandemic, but have since resumed with COVID-19 health and safety precautions in place.

## Community Pet Pantry Services

We believe it is in an animal's best interest to stay in their loving, responsible home rather than enter the shelter system, whenever possible. To help guardians keep their companion animals where they belong - at home with them, we offer

# Helping Pets cont'd



Foundational support, like this generous grant from Martis Camp Foundation, makes it possible for HSTTT to provide free and low-cost surgeries, pet food and Wellness Clinics to our animal-loving community.

pet food and supplies to maintain their care. HSTTT partners with local social service groups to provide distribution locations for community members receiving food assistance. Food delivery services to homebound community members in the North Lake Tahoe area, is also an option and can be found through an easy sign-up process on HSTTT's website. For members of the community who are not enrolled in social service food assistance programs, we welcome you to stop by one of our pickup locations. The Pet Pantry Program has been operating since the recession in 2010 in an effort to keep pets with their owners despite financial hardships. Since expanding the Pet Pantry Service at the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, we've distributed over 17,966 pounds of pet food and over 2,000 pounds of cat litter.

HSTTT accepts unopened, unexpired, non-prescription pet food donations. The Community Pet Pantry donation wish lists are available on Chewy and Amazon. Or, donate through Nature's Select of Northern California.

## Community Pet Care Assistance

The Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe is here to help guardians keep their companion animals through difficult times, by offering financial and support service assistance to residents of our coverage area with the cost of necessary, yet

financially unattainable veterinary care. The goal is to fill the gap in funding to low-income, elderly and disabled pet caretakers that is keeping an animal from receiving necessary/urgent care. Since the beginning of 2020 HSTTT has assisted 32 clients with over \$4,600 in medical bills.

## Neighborhood Cat Assistance: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

Trap-Neuter-Return services drastically improve the lives of cats living outdoors in our region's neighborhoods and support their compassionate caretakers. If you see a cat outdoors, it doesn't always mean the same thing. Please call HSTTT for assistance with creating the best plan of action when you find a cat or a kitten outdoors. Since

TNR services have been made available, HSTTT has provided over 200 cats and kittens with spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines and supplies to live out their lives outdoors - monitored by their caretakers, and without the risk of continuous breeding and suffering.

## Thank you to the following foundations for supporting these vital programs:

- Helen Close Charitable Foundation
- Thelma Doelger Trust for Animals
- The Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation
- El Dorado Community Foundation
- Mary Jo & Hank Greenberg Animal Welfare Foundation
- Lahontan Community Foundation Fund at Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation
- Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, Inc.
- The Latrobe Fund
- Martis Camp Foundation
- Queen of Hearts Women's Fund at Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
- Tahoe Donner Giving Fund
- Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation
- Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation

# Spotlight Stories

## Raphael (now Dobby)

by Liz Alstott, HSTT Adoption Specialist

Raphael came to HSTT in 2020 with a few of his littermates. They were all adorable little guys, named after the Ninja Turtles. However, Raphael was a bit different from his brothers because he was born blind in his left eye. His eye was obviously underdeveloped and much smaller than his right eye. At 4 months old, and only 9 pounds, this little puppy desperately wanted love and safety.

I searched for years, trying to find the right dog to add to my little family. My son, Luke, and I had been going through life, just the two of us, since he was born and I knew a dog would be the perfect addition. Luke was also born blind in his left eye and that eye is noticeably different from his right. I have spent many sleepless nights worrying about how this difference would affect his self esteem and confidence. I wanted to find a pup that Luke could bond with and find comfort in after a hard day.

When I saw Raphael on the HSTT Facebook page, with his one blind eye perfectly matching Luke's, I knew instantly that he was meant for us. We brought him home,



*Sometimes a pup comes along that couldn't be more perfect. That couldn't be more true when it comes to Dobby - the thing that makes him unique is the thing that brought he and Luke together and has bonded them like brothers.*



*Being smaller and vision-impaired didn't stop spunky little Dobby from finding the ultimate companion in Luke.*

renamed him Dobby, and have been obsessed ever since. I am still overwhelmed with how perfect Dobby has blended into our lives. Luke refers to Dobby as his "brother in a dog costume" and finds so much comfort in their shared visual impairment. They wrestle on the couch every morning, chase each other around the house after school and snuggle in bed at night.

I now have the pleasure of working for the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe. I get to dedicate my time to finding the perfect human companion for our homeless animals. The feeling of connecting an animal with the right person never gets old. Every pet deserves love and every family deserves to find their own Dobby.





# Spotlight Stories cont'd

## Felix & Oscar

by Mckenna Purdy, HSTT Adoption Specialist

Felix and Oscar were adopted from HSTT when they were adolescent-age cats. They enjoyed living with their family and especially loved being together. When their family was forced to surrender them due to an unavoidable personal situation, Felix and Oscar found themselves back at HSTT. Because of their very chill nature, they adapted to life at the shelter; enjoying lounging in the sun, watching television and generally relaxing.

Despite being well-behaved, easy cats, Felix and Oscar lingered at the shelter because they needed to be adopted together. You see, a lot of people looking to add a pet to their homes only have one in mind, not a package deal of two, and these two were really bonded.

Then, one sunny day, a family came in and instantly fell in love with the boys. We started to talk and soon learned they had been looking for cats, plural, for quite some time. That's when we knew a match had been made and happily completed their adoption.

Felix and Oscar's new family have set up a jungle gym for the cats in their home. Their philosophy was "bringing the outdoors indoors". With climbing structures on the walls throughout the home, Oscar and Felix have countless hours of playing tag with each other. They love to watch the days pass by each other's side.



*Bonded pairs, like Felix & Oscar, are often easier to adopt as they have a built in play partner to keep them from getting bored and a snuggle buddy to keep them company.*



*Oscar and Felix love to cuddle with their humans on the couch and always be the center of attention!*



# Spotlight Stories cont'd

## Kodi

by Bethany Haspel, HSTT Adoption Specialist

Kodi waddled into the Humane Society back in August of 2021. He spent his first few years lounging around on a porch and being the laziest, happiest ranch dog you'd ever met. As their lives got busier and their son went off to college, his family had to make the extremely difficult decision to surrender him, as they felt like they were no longer able to give him the attention he deserved.

After coming to us, Kodi was never anything less than a giant sweetheart to every person he met. He quickly became a volunteer favorite, and approached everyone with a playful attitude and an open heart. It was wonderful to see him be welcoming and unafraid, even in such an intimidating situation. He began going on regular walks, playing fetch for as long as we would let him, and meeting the other dogs at the shelter.

Once he was available for adoption, interest came pouring in. Soon, Kodi had an appointment to meet his potential new family and new fur brother, Sammy. Sammy's parents were a young, active couple who were looking to add a new



*From day one, Kodi's sweet-natured spirit shined through, making him a favorite of staff and volunteers alike.*

companion to their family. Kodi, of course, met them with that brilliant smile on his face and his tail wagging as fast as it could go! After a slow introduction, Sammy and Kodi were quickly jogging around, playfully chasing after each other and playing fetch. Kodi went home with them that day.

Today, Kodi continues to go on hikes with his family and is showing major progress in his weight loss journey. He is taking his friendly attitude out into the world and is so excited about all of the new sights and smells he is getting to experience. Congrats to him, his new mom and dad, and his brother Sammy.



*Kodi's life really turned around once he came to HSTT. He found a loving family who takes him on lots of adventures and he's become healthier and happier with their support. We're so happy Kodi finally has the life he deserves.*

# Spotlight Stories cont'd

## Tons of Cats and Kittens Adopted from South Lake Tahoe

by Mariel Berei, South Lake Tahoe Programs Manager

As HSTT approaches the two year anniversary of opening our location in South Lake Tahoe, it's hard not to realize how time does fly. What a two years it has been! We've all had to endure some major hurdles over the last few years, but that hasn't stopped people from offering up some of the little time they do have to come support us in our mission. Our incredible volunteers have been the cornerstone to everything HSTT has accomplished so far in South Lake, like our 40 cat adoptions!

Being a one-staff-member-show, there is no way we would be able to properly care for and socialize all the feline tenants without their help. Now not all the cats and kittens that come into the shelter are always ready to happily meet-and-greet adopters with their best face forward. They can sometimes be shy, timid, and not quite trusting of humans. But none of that ever lasts long after spending a little time with our wonderful cat care volunteers. It is amazing to watch how much these pets change for the better

after some quality time with our patient volunteers,



*Talk about an adorable cuddle puddle! All of these kittens, and many more, were socialized, cared-for and loved by our dedicated cat care volunteers in South Lake Tahoe.*

and even better to see them find their forever homes because of it! With amazing dedication like our volunteers have the number of adoptions can only rise from here.

With a volunteer support system like HSTT's the sky is the limit. Thank you for always showering our pets with the same love, patience, and concern that you do for your own pets at home. The difference it makes to these animals is beyond definable, as our gratitude for each one of our volunteers spending their time to help.



*Feeding and cleaning up after six kittens takes some time, not to mention the time spent playing and cuddling over 40 cats and kittens over the last two years!*

*We couldn't have done it without our cadre of wonderful South Lake Tahoe volunteers.*

# Spotlight Stories cont'd

## Wilbur

by Alexa Gross, HSTT Adoption Specialist

Wilbur, previously known as Buster, came to HSTT back in late July from our rescue partner, Colusa County, where he was found without a collar. After he was transferred to HSTT, his personality started to shine through. Wilbur loved to show off his fetch skills to staff and volunteers, and enjoyed his nightly kong - he loves peanut butter! As he captured the hearts of many staff members and volunteers, he was also capturing the heart of his new mom. She said that she spent her nights looking at him on our website and realized she was in love. She loved Wilbur's squishy face and gentle demeanor while visiting him, and decided to make him part of the family. His adoption day became an adoption that everyone remembers.

Wilbur's days now consist of begging for food, taking naps (in his awesome pajamas), playing with his fur sister Rizzo, and cuddling his mom and human brother. He is learning new commands like "lay down," and is also learning new tricks such as spinning around.



*Being found as a stray and transferred to HSTT changed Wilbur's life forever! Now he gets dressed in cuddly pajamas, naps, plays, and has even learned some new tricks.*

According to his mom, "Wilbur doesn't freak out at strangers, my son running around being weird doesn't phase him, loud noises don't matter, and he could care less if you pet him while he eats or pull on his tail or ears. We have covered him in blankets, clipped his nails, played with cap guns, played loud music and he is rock solid." Apparently the only thing he doesn't like is the fly swatter!

His mom is in love with all things Wilbur. Regardless of his excessive amounts of drool and his loud snoring, his mom still knows that he is the best dog in the world and a perfect fit for her family. She knows he may look sad on the outside, but he truly is the happiest dog in his new home!



*Wilbur's new mom pointed out he's the saddest looking happy dog she's ever known. As you can see from these photos, he's just not the smiling type.*



# Events Make a Comeback!

We were so excited to have a summer that felt almost normal and filled with events! Things may have looked a little different, but thanks to all of our event sponsors and volunteers, we were able to safely raise some serious life-saving funds this year!

## Leg Lifter Launch Party - July 22nd

Thanks to our partners and long-standing supporters, **Fifty Fifty Brewing Company**, we were able to kick-off summer in style with our Leg Lifter Launch event for our 9th season of Leg Lifter Ale! The courtyard merch sales, outdoor beer bar and live music from the talented Jonathan Henion made for a wonderful evening with friends and pups. If you missed out on this event, you can still purchase the delicious Leg Lifter ale at the pub through the end of summer and \$1.00 from every pint purchased is donated to the HSTT. We are truly grateful for all of the support we have received from the folks at Fifty Fifty over the years and especially in the midst of COVID.

## Brews, Jazz & Funk Fest – August 14th & 15th

This weekend event hosted by the **Village at Squaw Valley** and presented by **Fifty Fifty Brewing Company** was truly one to remember! It was so successful, tickets were sold-out for Saturday's event and we almost filled the village again on Sunday with people sipping delicious brews and jamming to a groovy selection of live bands between the two days. The dogs truly enjoyed themselves in the Canine Chill Out Zone sponsored by **Truckee Tahoe Pet Lodge**. A huge thanks to all of the breweries and alcohol booths that attended both days, as well as to our Liquor Sponsor, **South Fork Vodka** and Wine Sponsor, **Mutt Lynch Winery**.

## 6th Annual Balls in the Ruff Golf Tournament – September 13th

We are so grateful to have had another fun and successful year at our 6th Annual Balls in the Ruff Golf Tournament presented by **Schaffer's Mill Golf and Lake Club**! This was our second year at Schaffer's Mill and it really felt like a hole-in-one

being able to return to a shotgun start and awards dinner. This year was another sold-out event with prizes galore and our best-ever online auction! We wish to thank all of our golfers, donors, bidders, all of the folks at Schaffer's Mill and our wonderful volunteers, especially our dedicated Golf Committee. Keep an eye out for our 2022 Save the Date, you won't want to miss registration next year.



Canines are the "Guests of Honor" at our Black Tie & Tails Fundraising Gala and we can't wait to see them all again!

## What's coming up...

### 12th Annual Black Tie & Tails Fundraising Gala on Saturday, May 14th 2022 at the Ritz Carlton, Lake Tahoe

Tickets will go on sale early next year for the highly anticipated return of the Black Tie & Tails Fundraising Gala. Sponsorship opportunities are open and available. If interested, please reach out to Katrina Johnson at [katrina@hstt.org](mailto:katrina@hstt.org).

### Flatstick Pub Fundraiser - Every Sunday in November

South Lake Tahoe's first indoor mini-golf course, **Flatstick Pub**, will be teaming up with HSTT! Each Sunday in November from 11am-12am, Flatstick Pub will donate \$1 for every beer and \$1 for every round of mini-golf purchased. between 2-5 pm.

# Volunteer Profile

## The Ruby Family

What started with a cat adoption, blossomed into fostering numerous pets, spending time socializing cats and dogs at the shelter, helping out at events and now, volunteering for HSTT's Disaster Response Team. And the whole Ruby Family is involved!

To learn how a cat adoption evolved into a growing list of volunteer activities, we asked the Ruby's what got them interested in HSTT and what keeps them doing more and more on behalf of pets. We hope you enjoy the read!

### How long have you been volunteering for the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe (HSTT)?

*We have been volunteering since early 2018. Donna and the kids started first and then Jason joined along a little later after we fostered a few pups.*

### Tell us how you first got involved with HSTT?

*Jason was on the website and found a special cat named Wrigley who was giving high fives for treats in a video. We met Jill, who worked at the front desk at the time, and she patiently answered all of our*



*Cal & Maya Ruby are seasoned puppy fosters with tons of great experience. They love seeing a group of puppies grow bigger, learn about the world and find their forever homes.*



*Donna & Jason Ruby attended special training so they are prepared to assist HSTT and Truckee Animal Services in the event of a disaster. Having dedicated people like them ready and willing to help is going to make a big impact for our community.*

*questions about him. We adopted him as a senior cat in early 2017 and had almost four wonderful years with him. Because of Wrigley, we were introduced to HSTT and felt an immediate connection with the shelter.*

### What's your first memory of volunteering/fostering?

*We started as volunteers and fostered later.*

*For Jason, it was fostering the "J" puppies (January, Jessica and Jeff) and enjoying puppy time for a few days. He immediately signed up for shelter training afterward and has volunteered ever since.*

*For Donna, it was first seeing our children smiles when they got to hang out with the animals knowing they were getting a sense of joy helping them. And quickly thereafter, it was quiet time with a dog named Quinn who had just given birth to three puppies she had recently weened. She was in the shelter for quite a long time and majorly pulled at the heartstrings - she was such a sweet dog. It was wonderful spending time with her and seeing her go to her forever home.*

# Volunteer Profile cont'd

## What has surprised you most about working with HSTT?

What surprised us most are the many opportunities, big and small, to volunteer within HSTT. As a volunteer, you can care for the animals with walks and quiet time or you can spend the day at the Brews Jazz and Funk festival checking people in for the event or serving drinks - ANY LITTLE BIT HELPS! Plus the staff is so knowledgeable, it makes the volunteering easy and fun. And we would be remiss if we didn't mention how rewarding it is to see or hear of an animal we've spent time with finding their forever home.

## What's the best thing to happen since you started volunteering with HSTT?

Oh my gosh, where to start? Adopting Wrigley is at the top of the list along with being a foster fail with our pup Jake and finding our newest family member Lily the cat when we happened upon her after a disaster response training at the shelter. From a volunteering perspective, it has been a place where we feel a sense of community to help for a single cause - the well being of the animals that come into the shelter. Volunteering has also helped us create a unique kind of family time allowing us to bring our kids in to help and grow their empathy for all living creatures.

## What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering for HSTT?

Do it - 100%! You will be along side amazing people including the staff, other volunteers, and the wonderful animals that come through the shelter.

## What do you do when you aren't volunteering?

We are the basic family of four, six including Jake and Lily. Aside from work and school, we love to enjoy everything Tahoe has to offer including hiking, water activities and skiing. The family hikes with Jake are our favorite. We recently purchased a kitty backpack and leash and will experiment having Lily come along on the hikes. So keep a look out for a hiking kitty on the trails.

## What else can you tell us about volunteering for HSTT?

Volunteering has been an amazing experience for us individually and as a family. At first, it was about our children wanting to visit the shelter to pet the dogs and cats but it has grown into so much more. We've learned a great deal over the past few years and it has been a wonderful, full family experience. We cannot thank HSTT enough for giving us the opportunity to help and learn about such an amazing organization.

We love to hear how much volunteering as a family means to the Ruby Family and can't thank them enough for everything they've done to help our community's pets feel safe, cared for and loved.



What better way for a family of animal-lovers to spend time together - doing something meaningful, rewarding and fun!

# Tribute Gifts from June 16th to Nov. 9th, 2021

## Memorial donations

In memory of **Alek Adomshick.**

From: Sue Beauchamp  
Carolyn Ferlin  
Steve & Donna Marshman  
Mark & Laurie Persons  
Jennifer Smith

In memory of **Amore.** From Dalton Leech.

In memory of **Archer.** From Linda Davis.

In memory of **Baxter.** From Stefanie Olivieri.

In memory of **Bella.** From Kevin & Robin Ward.

In memory of **Bella & Bentley Tirman.**

From J Michael Watt.

In memory of **Bernie.** From Michael Ousley.

In memory of **Brody.** From Stephanie Fountain.

In memory of **Dante Christen.**

From Kevin & Robin Ward.

In memory of **Cooper.** From Roxanne Williams.

In memory of **Dan & His Tribe.**

From David & Katherine Hockett.

In memory of **Dasher.**

From Katie & Kevin Pruski/Crosby.

In memory of **Axl Daw.** From Caren Florence.

In memory of **Dotory.** From Gary & Yoonhwa Kim.

In memory of **Emma the Puss.** From Susan Otolski.

In memory of **Eddie.** From Marilyn Crang.

In memory of **Finnegan.** From Joanne & Dave Wetzel.

In memory of **Frosty.** From Allison Brook.

In memory of **Hula Girl.** From Cynthia Cendreda.

In memory of **Peach Jaffe.** From Dana Anderson.

In memory of **Jake.** From Craig & Judy Price.

In memory of **Jibber.** From Renee Pinand.

In memory of **Kahli.** From Brita Tryggvi & Art Takaki.

In memory of **Kalley.** From Ann McBride.

In memory of **Katie.** From Barbara Debaun.

In memory of **Licorice.** From David Sorokach.

In memory of **Marti Doggie.** From Ellie Hyatt.

In memory of **Martie Doggie.**

From Caren Christen & Jananne Windburg.

In memory of **Maybe.** From Megan Lacy.

In memory of **Millie.** From Jerry.

In memory of **O'Berra.** From Susan Kezich.

In memory of **Piper.** From Linda & Ron Carson.

In memory of **Raja.** From Cassidy Collin.

In memory of **Marie Rotz.** From Pete & Elaine Geffen.

In memory of **Roxy.** From Jules Drew.

In memory of **Gary Spohr.**

From: Anne Libbin

The Cannon Libbin Family Fund

In memory of **Sophia.** From Kim Bateman.

In memory of **Sophie.** From Eileen Riodo.

In memory of **Sophie Doggie.** From Ellie Hyatt.

In memory of **Sophie Jane.** From Julie Love.

In memory of **Sprite.** From Janis & Christopher Welsh.

In memory of **Sprite.** From Steven Hoch.

In memory of **Tatum.** From Rachel Delacul.

In memory of **Thor.** From Teresa Minikin.

In memory of **Trouble.** From Naomi Wager.

In memory of **Dash Waddington.**

From Pamela Waddington.



A donation in memory or in honor of a person or pet is a wonderful way to show you care while making a difference in the lives of animals. A letter will be sent to the recipient notifying them of your contribution and your gift will be noted in the next issue of our Paw Prints newsletter.

Making a memorial/honorary donation is simple. Visit <http://bit.ly/2DwE3Fa> or call Dale Lawrence at (530) 582-2468 to make a donation and discuss notification arrangements.



# Tribute Gifts cont'd

In memory of **Diane Warken**. From Ellie Hyatt.

In memory of **Randy Wedertz**.  
From Drew & Cathy Sutter.

In memory of **Wilbur**. From Angela Kopetsky.

In memory of **Wrecks**. From Susan Mukaeda.

In memory of **Zoey**. From James Driscoll.

## Honorary donations

In honor of **Bing**. From Jeff Hurd.

In honor of **Binty**. From James Esplen.

In honor of **Chris & Brenda Dittmore**.  
From Jennifer Anderson.

In honor of **Heather at Pass It On Thrift Store**.  
From Linda Inscoe.

In honor of **The Jensen Family**. From Patty Williams.

In honor of **Kathi & Manie's Wedding!**  
From Steve & Liz Heinen.

In honor of **Jean McManus**. From Hunter Bailey.

In honor of **Riley McNenny**. From Kelsey Phillips.

In honor of HSTT's cat, **Olive**. From Monika Elliott.

In honor of **Posey**. From Rachel Garner.

In honor of **Jan Specht**. From Elizabeth Specht.

## Gift donations

As a holiday gift for **Gertrude Rablin**.  
From Earl, Betty & Melinda Smith.

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# HSTT's Pet Loss Support Group

## We're here to help in good times and sad times.

We all know how much a pet can change our lives and we all know the hurt it causes when they pass. The death of a pet can be devastating, and for some people, the grief can be more intense than human loss.

HSTT's Pet Loss Support Group helps grieving pet parents cope with the anticipated loss or the death of their furry friend. In a supportive, understanding format, participants can share and explore their difficult and sad feelings, in the comfort and safety of a private group. It has been shown that group support can aid in the healing of loss, as pet parents learn coping strategies to manage and tolerate their grief.

The group is intended for pet parents who are coping with the following:

- The recent loss of a pet
- Those still mourning their loss beyond six months
- The anticipation of their pet's death

The groups are facilitated by our local grief counselor, Bonnie Goodman, MA, CT. They are free of charge, and will be limited to six

people. Reservations are required, as is a 24-hour cancellation policy. Donations to HSTT are welcomed and appreciated. Meetings are 1.5 hours long, offered twice a month.

Meetings will take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 - 8:30pm. To reserve a spot, please email: Erin Ellis, Community Engagement Director, at [erin@hstt.org](mailto:erin@hstt.org).

### Bonnie Goodman's Background:

Bonnie has over 25 years of counseling experience, and is professionally trained and certified in Pet Loss and Bereavement. She is also nationally Board Certified as a Thanatologist-Grief Counselor/Educator. For further information about Bonnie, you can view her website: [goodmancounseling.com](http://goodmancounseling.com)

Please let Erin Ellis know if you would like to attend the Nov 18th meeting and please feel free to share this email with those you know who could use the support. Here is the link to the information on our website, <https://hstt.org/pet-loss-support-group>

## INFORMATION

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M. Hannah Sullivan - Treasurer  
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Traci Baldwin  
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Fundraising & Special Events  
Coordinator

Adoption & Customer Service  
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Emme Gangle  
Alexa Gross  
Bethany Haspel  
Mckenna Purdy

### Locations & Contact Information

Truckee:  
10961 Stevens Lane  
Truckee CA, 96161  
530.587.5948

South Lake Tahoe:  
3438 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
530.542.2857

[hstt.org](http://hstt.org) • [info@hstt.org](mailto:info@hstt.org)

TAX ID# 68-0366788

# Giving Tuesday is Coming!



## And there's more where these came from...

**These adorable pups, and many more pets, will be available for adoption on Giving Tuesday coming up on Tuesday, November 30th.**

All adoptions will be completed via our safe and secure virtual adoption process, so keep an eye out for an email and posts to social media on November 30th at 8:00 am, including a link to our online Adoption Questionnaire.

To learn more about each of our Giving Tuesday puppies and be the first to know when the Adoption Questionnaire link becomes live, follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram and sign up for our email list by clicking the icons below. We'll be featuring a new puppy post each day starting Nov. 16th leading up to the big day!



*Please keep in mind that not everyone who applies will be able to adopt one of these particular puppies. We regularly rescue puppies and kittens throughout the year, so future opportunities to adopt will be available.*

*Email [givingtuesday@hstt.org](mailto:givingtuesday@hstt.org) with questions.*