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2012 July Newsletter

Volunteer of the Month

MARY ANDERSON

Before the new Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter opened, Mary Anderson has given her time to do all that she can to help animals. Mary also worked at the old shelter on Wilderness Avenue. Since 2008, she has donated more than 1,000 hours which earned her the Presidential Award. Like many experienced volunteers here, Mary had retired from her job at Anheuser Busch and wanted to do something to occupy her time. Mary has worked in all parts of the shelter, from cat and dog adoptions, to the kiosk and office work. What Mary loves most of all is working with the Volunteer Program keeping track of the thousand of hours worked by our selfless volunteers.

Her main job here is working on Volgistics, the volunteer database which tracks all of the volunteer's hours and areas they work in. Mary also manages all in-coming volunteer applications. At home she has three dogs; two black Terriers who were adopted and Bridget, who Mary first fostered, and then adopted from the shelter. From all her time being here, her most memorable experience would have to be the Adopt-a-thon. You can catch Mary every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the office. To all the other volunteers here, she says, "We greatly appreciate you."

Employee of the Month

ANTHONY RUSSELLO

Anthony Russello began working at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter as an Animal Care Technician nearly one year ago. He graduated from Santiago High School in Corona and later attended RCC for general education and is still continuing his education. His passion for animals fueled his drive to become an ACT and by doing so he is able to help save animal lives. His favorite thing about working at the shelter is seeing the animals go to good families, which is why he loves working with adoptions. So far his most memorable moment has been seeing Gretchen, an elderly German Shepherd, get adopted by a young couple.

Anthony has seven animals including: Sprocket, a Chihuahua mix, Twitch, a cat, Stitch, a kitten, Sam, a hypo red tail boa snake, Squirtol and Hobo, red eared slider turtles, and Bobo a small dog mix.

In his free time, Anthony enjoys dirt bike riding and playing baseball with his friends. He would like to say to the volunteers, "Thank you for all of your help."

Welcome To Our New Volunteer Services Coordinator!

Joel Youngberg, Volunteer Services Coordinator at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shel-

The Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter is pleased to welcome Joel Youngberg as our new Volunteer Services Coordinator. Before Joel joined the shelter he worked at Frazee Paint. Joel attended the University of Redlands where he earned his Bachelor's degree in graphic design in 2008 and his Masters degree in business administration in 2011. Joel volunteered here at the shelter as part of his education.

Joel's ultimate goal is to enhance the volunteer program, all the while helping the animals. He believes that volunteers deserve recognition for their service and one of the things he will be working on is putting together a volunteer recognition program.

At home, Joel has one pet, a male Pac-man frog named Yoda. Amongst his favorite kind of animals are reptiles and amphibians. We think that his number of pets will probably grow now that he is working here at the shelter! In his spare time Joel likes to work on the computer in programs such as Maya, an animation program.

To our volunteers Joel would like to say, "I hope I can be of great service to you and help you fulfill all of your volunteer dreams. I want to make your service meaningful." Welcome aboard, Joel! We are very excited you are here.

New Volunteers!

From left to right: Samantha Roman , Alyssa Penn, Elizabeth Greer, Kasumi Tsai, Monserratt Miranda, Eli Rivera, Melissa Gutierrez, new Volunteers at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter.

Just recently, the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter held an orientation June 19th for their Pet Life Saverz Youth Program. The youth program volunteers were ready to begin their volunteer work as soon as possible and have since made an impact on the lives of all the animals here. Above are a few of the many new teen volunteers who are dedicating their time to saving and improving the lives of all the shelter animals.
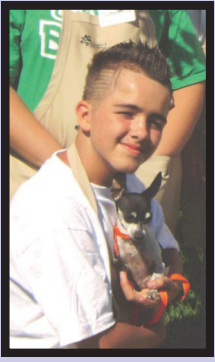
Alyssa Penn, age 14, found out about the Pet Life Saverz Volunteer Program from the internet. She always wanted to volunteer because of her love for animals. She volunteers in the clinic, for the most part, to gain more knowledge in that field because she aspires to become a veterinarian. On her first day here she helped get a Chihuahua mix adopted and stated, "It warmed my heart." Her free time includes playing soccer and piano which she has had plenty of experience in for the past four years. Alyssa has two animals which both have come from the shelter. One day while she was out driving, she found a dog, Noodles, a black lab, and brought him to the shelter. It didn't take her too much time to figure out that she needed to go back to the shelter and adopt him. He has been a part of her family since. Alyssa's cat, Lilly, came from a shelter in Corona. She plans to adopt another animal if all works out well! Her favorite animals are tigers and polar bears.

Melissa Gutierrez, 13, is one of our youngest volunteers here. "I like it here. I come every Monday and Wednesday and hope to continue even when school starts. So far I've only worked with dogs but as time progresses, I would like to try a little bit of everything." Her favorite dog breed is German Shepherds although she has a Chihuahua Poodle mix at home. Sometime in the near future she plans to adopt a lucky dog and take him home. She would like to be a vet and while here "hopes to obtain more knowledge and experience in that field as well. What I hope to accomplish in being here is to get as many of these animals adopted. Seeing these dogs makes me want to do more to get them going to good homes."

Elizabeth Greer, otherwise known as Lizzie, spent her first day volunteering at the shelter working in dog adoptions. She became interested in volunteering because she likes working with pets and needed something to do during her summer. She recently moved to California from Florida and volunteering gives her the perfect opportunity to meet new people. She hopes that while spending time here she is able to make friends and play with the animals. On her first day she had the opportunity to help with German Shepherd dog adoption and found the experience to be rewarding and touching. At home, Lizzie spends time with Sasha and Max who are rather hyper Pitbulls. In her free time Lizzie likes to dance and rap.

Eli Rivera joined the teen volunteer program in hopes of utilizing his time to do something positive. He had been to the shelter prior to volunteering and thought it would be a great opportunity to gain work experience and build up his resume. His first day of volunteering was quite eventful in which Eli was able to adopt out a male German Shepherd and tend to another Shepherd who was in distress. Eli has had plenty of past experience with animals because he owns 4 dogs himself. Mattie, a female Chihuahua, is his favorite, however, because she is always happy. In the future, Eli plans to continue working with dog adoptions.

Like some of our other volunteers, **Samantha Roman** became interested in volunteering because it gives teens something productive and rewarding to do during the summer. What Samantha enjoyed most about her first day was being able to see and interact with the puppies. By volunteering her time Samantha hopes to gain more knowledge and experience in handling animals, as well as build up her resume. Having had the opportunity to explore both dog and cat adoptions Samantha intends to continue working primarily with dogs because she can interact with them more freely. In the futures Samantha hopes to adopt a husky and eventually become and architect. In her free time she enjoys to draw.

Kasumi Tsai, Left,and Monserratt,

Monserratt Miranda, age 16, had always wanted to volunteer. She figured if she was going to donate her time, she wanted it to be towards something she enjoyed doing and didn't mind spending long hours doing it. The process to obtain a volunteer position here was, "a lot with the recommendation letters and interview but it was worth it." Hoping to one day become a vet, she has already started looking into colleges to suit her career path. "I would like to go to UC Davis because of their great veterinary program. Cal Poly is a possibility too." Despite her busy schedule when school starts, she intends to continue coming for as long as possible. "I like interacting with the dogs and to be able to get a dog or any animal adopted is my goal. I want them to go home with someone so they don't have to be alone here."

As a UC Riverside student for the past three years, **Kasumi Tsai** doesn't have much time to spare. Despite her busy college life, she still manages to make time to volunteer at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter any chance she can. She has worked with both cats and dogs as well as gained experience in the clinic and helped work a few shot clinics too. Kasumi is here for the experience and to get that heart warming feeling inside when you help an animal get adopted. Right now she is studying for her biology major but she is still exploring some options. Painting and drawing are her favorite activities which she plans to keep up as the years go on.

2012 Save The Date

- **July 30, 2012: Volunteer/Employee Picnic Committee Meeting: 5:30—6:30pm**

- **"Summer Solstice" Adoption Special—all dogs $20 until August 11th, 2012**

- **August 1st: Shot Clinic, 6pm—9pm**

- **August 18th: Shot Clinic, 10am—1pm**

- **August 26th: Volunteer/Employee Picnic, Noon—4pm**

- **August 28th: Volunteer Team Meeting, 4pm—5pm**

2012 Reminders

- All volunteers must report to their team leader upon arrival to the shelter to check in and receive assignments or instruction on where they are needed. If you are requested to help in other areas of the shelter by an employee, you must first check in with your team leader. Please respect your assigned leaders as this will keep us all better organized.

- On July 24th, the Volunteer Department had their first meeting with all of the Volunteers. A lot of information was shared and there was time for you, the Volunteers, to ask questions and get feed back from Candace and Flora. It was well attended with 34 Volunteers. The next meeting is scheduled for August 28th, from 4pm—5pm. Please come and bring your thoughts and questions.

- The Work Release Program is here to complete specific work. Volunteers and Employees of the Shelter are not to talk with the Work Release Program participants. If you have a question about this, please talk to Candace, Joel or Gile.

- Disease Prevention: We have been advised by our Clinic that we must wash our hands with soap and water after handling dogs to help keep down the amount of diseases that are here at the shelter. The antibacterial product helps, but does not kill the Parvo virus.

- Kennel Keys: To obtain kennel keys, we will only ask for Driver Licenses and School ID's. Cell phones and car keys will no longer be required to obtain kennel keys. You will need to hand in either your Driver Licenses or School ID.

July 2012 Volunteer Birthdays

Rene Braun, July 2

Maria Terri Centella, July 26

Vincent Chen, July 6

Caitlin Clark, July 7

Marilyn Clary, July 3

Robert Gammon, July 12

Christopher Hall, July 13

Shelby Karrer, July 16

Brian Lisheness, July 28

Helen Mattias, July 29

Colby McCall, July 6

Rob Murphy, July 15

Hannah Philpott, July 22

Amber Rivas, July 25

Gloria Rivera, July 15

Steveie Marie Robb, July 31

Kim Rogers, July 23

Samantha Roman, July 27

Nicole Sprowls, July 18

Evelyn Torres, July 24

David Urrutia, July 5

We hope you all had a wonderful Birthday!