

The Prez Sez

Life is Precious

As I reflect on 2017 in rescue, I am amazed and inspired by the accomplishments of our volunteers and supporters. Hurricane Harvey was a larger than life event that showed us all how much we have to lose and how much we have to help others.

Rescue has always been about saving lives. During normal times, when there are no natural disasters, we are able to pick and choose the limits of rescue in the way of time, effort and finances. A natural disaster, like Hurricane Harvey, screams at us to stretch the fabric we are made of and to find a new limit. In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina came through, I worked with The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and was deployed as veterinary staff to help care for over 1,200 animals that were being housed at the Forest County Multipurpose Center in Hattiesburg, MS. While I was there, Hurricane Rita came through. What an experience that was! Twelve years later Harvey hits closer to home, and I found ground zero in my backyard. There was some good news this time. As a result of Katrina, the federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act was passed. PETS directs the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop emergency preparedness plans and ensure that state and local emergency plans take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals during a major disaster.

SEE PREZ, PAGE 2

The official newsletter for friends, volunteers, and supporters.



chihuahua-rescue.org

CRT Steps Up to Save Hurricane Harvey Rescues

BY: ROXANNE SCHWARTZ

Mother Nature is sometimes very harsh. Hurricane Harvey was one of the worst hurricanes in U.S. history. The flooding was far worse than expected and the city of Houston and surrounding areas sustained significant damage. Thousands of people were forced to evacuate and many returned to homes that were destroyed. The damage created a high number of displaced and abandoned dogs.



SEE HURRICANE HARVEY, PAGE 3

Prez (cont. Page 1)

It is my belief that this helped tremendously in reducing the number of pets dying and being abandoned as a result of Harvey. Although there were no laws requiring hold times, many major organizations such as the SPCA of Houston, held pets for 30 days to give owners time to reclaim their pets before shipping them off across the country to various shelters. As a result, more lives were saved from immediate danger but not from euthanasia due to overflowing shelters.

Chihuahua Rescue & Transport took the challenges presented and worked some miracles. We partnered with the SPCA of Houston and were able to put into our group – Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes from the Houston area. First we agreed to take 16 Chi mixes from a cruelty seizure case that needed out asap due to all the hurricane survivors. When my husband and I arrived to transport them to Dallas, we had a surprise. The number had risen to 21 as one of the ladies delivered five puppies the night before. Blessings? Of course. Two weeks later, it was time to pick up the dogs displaced by the Hurricane. This time a large van was rented so that two other dedicated volunteers and I could drive back to the SPCA for almost 45 dogs. October was the month of sheer determination to get these “lives” to safety.

Our entire rescue force was involved in helping these dogs. Our Midwest and Southeast Regions played a huge role in these efforts as well. So many dogs couldn't possibly be handled in just the DFW Region. In times like this, the good in people really help us with our mission. We took in these precious lives regardless of age, medical condition, behavior issues, etc. We will do everything in our power to improve their lives and give them a safe place to land.

Thank you for volunteering, adopting and donating. These dogs are all safe because of you.

*Karen Hales
President*

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Board of Directors

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Hurricane Harvey *(cont. Page 1)*

After the storm, CRT was contacted by the SPCA of Houston to assist in finding new homes for these dogs. As with most natural disasters, there was very little direction or detail at the beginning. CRT offered help and waited for details. The SPCA put a 30 day hold on all dogs to assist in reuniting dogs with their owners. By the end of September, CRT was provided a list of potential dogs needing to be re-homed. Our volunteers in all regions stepped up to put an action plan in place. We knew there were many Chihuahuas and Chi-mixes that needed our help.



While we were waiting on the final number and release date of the hurricane dogs, the Dallas region received two urgent pleas for assistance. The first was from a shelter in the Waco TX area. Volunteers drove 3 hours each way to pick up 8 dogs. The following week, a call came from the Houston SPCA regarding a cruelty case. Volunteers made the 10 hour round trip to pick up 16 adult dogs and 5 newborn puppies. Let's just say we had our hands full. Most of the dogs needed vetting and spay and neuter. In addition, we had to wash all the dogs and clean up after them. Most dogs had intestinal distress and were not feeling well. Two of the dogs were heartworm positive and have been treated.

With a total of 16 adult dogs and 5 puppies, the Dallas group was extremely busy prior to the pickup of the Houston Hurricane dogs. Then, in early October, our team made another ten hour round trip to Houston to pick up 45 Hurricane Harvey displaced Chihuahuas. When the dogs arrived back in Dallas, they were celebrities! A local news station came out to capture the story. This gave us such great exposure; so much so, that our website crashed with people wanting to foster and adopt our dogs. The dogs were so happy to be out of the shelter and we bathed them all and let them play outside. They slept hard the first night and many rested up for the next segment of their journey to forever homes. The Midwest and Southeast regions volunteered to come down and help. Volunteers from both regions made a two day round trip drive to Dallas to take over 20 dogs each back to their region of the country. The teamwork and desire to help these dogs was inspirational.



SEE HURRICANE HARVEY, PAGE 4

Hurricane Harvey (cont. Page 3)



One of the many great things about being a national rescue is the support we can offer in a time of need. We were lucky to have volunteers that helped with Hurricane Katrina rescue in 2005 and were instrumental in coordinating our efforts with Hurricane Harvey. With supporters around the U.S, we were able to raise funds to help with this large rescue. Transportation, vetting, supplies and long-term treatments are very costly and we appreciate the outpouring of donations.

Most of our Hurricane Harvey rescued Chihuahuas have already found forever homes, and we are looking forward to helping the rest complete their journey to great homes in 2018.

Thanks to all our supporters around the country for helping CRT save these sweet Chihuahuas!!



How to Help CRT in 2018

We often get asked: "How can I help you?" Here are 10 ways you can help:

1. Become a CRT Foster Family
2. Adopt a dog from CRT
3. Volunteer at CRT Meet & Greet Events
4. Donate to CRT
5. Help Transport CRT pets to the vet or a photo shoot
6. Join our Facebook pages and "share" our posts
7. Organize a fundraising event for us (Example: A Yappy Hour)
8. Ask your local radio and television stations to air CRT public service announcements
9. Make a memorial gift to CRT in honor of a friend or animal companion
10. Include CRT in your will

The Five Bottle Baby Chihuahuas

BY: DIANA HIGHTOWER

Meet our 5 "bottle baby puppies." We want to share their story and celebrate their successful journey with you.

On August 7th, CRT received an emergency call from Dallas Animal Services. They informed us that a family had just turned in 5 Chihuahua puppies that were only a week old. They were very tiny and all their eyes were shut. They needed someone to take them immediately and bottle feed them to keep them alive. CRT immediately drove down to get them. Thanks to the amazing dedication of a few CRT volunteers, these little ones started rounds of bottle feeding every two hours. You heard us right - bottle feeding puppies every two hours! Our volunteers were able to keep these little ones alive and helped them to grow into thriving puppies.



Noreen

BY: CARLA JOHNSON

Noreen was found on the side of the road and was initially thought to have been hit by a car. Her age was estimated to be around 14 years and she arrived extremely emaciated. After examination by our vet, it was determined that Noreen had bilateral grade 4/4 luxating patella and her shoulder had been previously damaged and was beyond repair. Then the question was, "Did her damaged front leg need to be amputated or not and which knee needed to be fixed first?"



Noreen was sent to several specialists who all agreed that her knees needed to be fixed but there was still some indecision about what to do about her damaged front leg. The costs from the specialist in the Raleigh area were \$2500 per surgery and they recommended 3 surgeries. Noreen accompanied CRT to the Pawz in the Park event at the NC Battleship in Wilmington where people fell in love with her sweet disposition. Several rescues at the event suggested we contact Dr. Sam Smith with Paws and Claws Animal Hospital in Wilmington for another opinion. A referral was made and x-rays were sent to Dr. Smith and he agreed to help CRT get Noreen back on her feet.



CRT Southeastern region ran a \$1.00 donation campaign on their FB page and were able to raise enough \$\$ to pay for both Noreen's knee surgeries as well as her major dental. A BIG



THANK YOU to all of Noreen's Best Friends!!!

Her first surgery was on 7/12/17 and when it came time for me to go and pick her up, Dr. Smith suggested that CRT allow her to stay at the clinic so that daily rehab could be performed. I told him that I'd have to run this by the board, due to the cost, and he told me that if CRT would pay for the surgery costs, there would be no additional charge for her boarding or rehabilitation. Thank you, Dr. Smith!

Noreen had been gone for some time at this point. I was missing her and thought that she was probably feeling abandoned, so I asked Glenda Pryor, who lives in Wilmington and had been with Noreen and I at the initial visit, to go and visit Noreen. Glenda reported that Noreen was doing well but that it broke her heart when she left because Noreen just cried and cried. Glenda continued to visit and after a few visits, one of the kennel techs at the hospital introduced herself and said that she had fallen in love with Noreen and had bought her a nice comfy bed. She reported that she was taking Noreen around the hospital with her as she worked so Noreen didn't have to stay in her kennel all day when she wasn't in rehab.

Noreen continued to make progress and was finally able to put weight on her "fixed" leg. Several months later, it was reported that Noreen was trying to run around the hospital so her 2nd surgery was scheduled.

SEE NOREEN, PAGE 7

Noreen (cont. Page 6)

CRT had another event in Wilmington and the kennel tech brought Noreen so everyone could see how well she had done after her first surgery. During this event, the kennel tech asked Glenda if she could have permission to take Noreen home during the weekends so that she didn't have to stay by herself at the hospital. Permission was given and the next thing I found in my email was an adoption application from the kennel tech.

Noreen had her 2nd knee surgery and underwent rehabilitation on this leg. Dr. Smith didn't feel that her damaged front leg needed to be removed because she was able to balance by putting it down when she walked.

Thanks to everyone's prayers and donations, Noreen went from being found in a ditch to a wonderful new life where she can actually walk and run and be loved. Noreen was officially adopted by her wonderful kennel tech and is the Queen of the house. She has been renamed Brayleigh which means "ray of hope". Another happy ending for a CRT dog.



Midwest Region Report

BY: THOM LANGE

On October 3, 2017, after driving from Chicago to Dayton to transport a foster Chihuahua to her forever home, I connected with Chris Mesker, CRT Board Member. Our mission was to drive to Dallas to transport an SUV filled with Chihuahuas that had been rescued following Hurricane Harvey back to the Midwest. Chris and I began our 30 hour round trip the following morning. The trip was well worth the effort as we transported 10 adult Chi's, including one momma, and five two week old puppies to new foster homes throughout Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and Wisconsin.

The following day, the Midwest Chihuahuas were separated from the ones going to the Southeast Region and those staying in Dallas. People often say that a difficult task is 'like herding cats' but herding Chihuahuas isn't easy either. The return trip to Dayton was remarkably quiet and uneventful with the exception of Chris and I asking each other, "Are we there yet?" approximately 147 times each. The Chi's must have been exhausted from their ordeal because they barely made a peep as they traveled 1,000 miles through five states and a time zone.



SEE HARVEY MIDWEST , PAGE 8

Harvey Midwest (cont. Page 7)

There was one short stop in Louisville, Kentucky to drop off a foster for Midwest Coordinator, Heather Long, and then back to Chris’ house to ‘let the dogs out’ for some water, food and exercise. Finally, Chris and I got to have some well-earned sleep.

On October 5th, while Chris worked with volunteers in Ohio and Michigan to get some of the remaining dogs to their foster homes, I drove back to Chicago, dropping one Chihuahua off with foster mom, Michelle in Indiana before meeting with volunteer, Amy, to send two fosters into Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

More than 2,800 miles and 44 hours of driving through eight states was an ordeal, but there are 15 little survivors that are safe and happy due to the efforts of many volunteers for Chihuahua Rescue and Transport.

We would like to send out a giant ‘Thank You’ to everyone who pitched in to make this rescue and transport a success.



Southeast Region Report

BY: CARLA JOHNSON

The year 2017 has been an outstanding year for CRT Southeast (SE). We attended 32 events, adopting out over 100 dogs, and gained many new volunteers and fosters. Several volunteers traveled down to Dallas to assist in the rescue of over 65 dogs rescued from Hurricane Harvey. The SE brought back 30 dogs and 3 that we didn’t know were tagging along (Mavis ended up being pregnant and giving birth to 3 puppies). Among the dogs rescued this year, some had severe injuries or medical needs but we felt they deserved a chance.

We have grown so much in the SE this year that our volunteers stepped up and have taken on many of the tasks that I used to do. The SE now has volunteers that register our microchips, write all of CRT’s thank you notes, check application references, set up and monitor home visits, keep track of our volunteers, manage our Facebook page, write entries for our Facebook page and keep a very busy spreadsheet current. We have lead volunteers in New Bern, Wilmington and the Raleigh/Cary areas of NC. We also have a volunteer that can fly at no cost, so she was able to return one of the Harvey dogs to her owners down in Houston, TX. She also flew one of our dogs to Martha’s Vineyard for adoption.



Southwest Region Report

BY: DIANA HIGHTOWER

WOW: 2017 was an amazing year for the CRT Southwest Region. Our region helped over 90 Chihuahuas find forever homes last year. We participated in some unique events such as the Hurricane Harvey Rescue Event, saving a set of 5-one-week old Chihuahua puppies, and a few large hoarder/ surrender situations. You can read about these events in related articles in this newsletter.

How did we do this? It has definitely been a team effort! We added so many new volunteers and foster families. Because our team has grown significantly, we were able to help many more dogs last year. Many individuals brought their talents into our organization. We have an amazing Facebook coordinator who created great stories and graphics. She grew our DFW Area Facebook page to over 7,000 followers, and many new adoptions came from these efforts. We certainly couldn't have processed all of the applications that came in last year without our application processor who turned applications around in record time. We have one volunteer who kept all of our dogs' microchip information updated in a national database and others who coordinated all our monthly events. Our volunteer transport people were ready, at the drop of a hat, to get a dog or dogs from point A to point B, making our dogs available to people outside the areas where they were being fostered.



We also had amazing foster families who had saved life after life after life. A salute to all of you and the legacy you are building.

In 2017, our volunteers spent countless hours introducing our Chihuahuas to the public. We held 25 meet-and-greets at Hollywood Feed and Pet Supplies Plus. We also attended the North Texas LifeWalk, the Texas Veggie Fair, and the Park Cities Rotary Club Tree Lighting. We held special fundraising events, including our participation in North Texas Giving Day. Our team

logged many hours and miles transporting dogs from kill shelters through



out North Texas safely into our CRT program.

We still need more foster volunteers so, if you've been thinking about fostering, take that leap and become a foster for one of the many Chihuahuas that need help. CRT will pay for all vet costs and you just pay for food and any treats that you may want to give them. Your role as a foster is to make the dog part of your family, potty train them and teach them to walk on a leash. Unfortunately, we have to turn away numerous dogs EACH DAY due to lack of foster homes. We would welcome your participation in 2018.

A big thank you to all of our donors as we couldn't do what we do with the Chihuahuas without your monetary support! Happy New Year everyone! We are looking forward to a great 2018. The best is yet to come!

CRT Benefits from “You Buy, We Give” Campaign



A huge thank you Hollywood Feed (in Dallas, TX) and Holistic Select for choosing Chihuahua Rescue & Transport - DFW Region to be a recipient in the "You Buy, We Give" campaign! The campaign ran during August. For every 12 pound bag of food purchased, Holistic Select donated a bag to CRT. Our CRT President, Karen, and her husband, "Super" Tony, picked up the food in early November -- 1,100 pounds of it! All of our fosters are going to have some yummy Holistic Select dog food to enjoy!! Hooray!!



North Texas Giving Day

BY: WENDY GOLMAN

On September 14, 2017, Chihuahua Rescue & Transport participated for the second year in North Texas Giving Day. Communities Foundation of Texas' **annual 18-hour online giving extravaganza** for North Texas nonprofits is powered by creative nonprofits, social media activism and area wide collaboration. North Texas Giving Day's goal is **to help build awareness and support** for nonprofits in the North Texas region.

Our day began at 4:00 a.m. with other nonprofits at the "Party on the Plaza" at the studios of WFAA, our local ABC television station, where we had an on air interview! After a power nap and a big cup of coffee, we headed to the North Texas Giving Day event at NorthPark Mall, where there were performances by local arts nonprofits and information and activity booths set up by many other nonprofits. We walked around with two of our fosters, met lots of great people and handed out a lot of CRT business cards. The rest of the day we monitored the donation leader board and posted updates. At midnight, 20 hours after our day began, the final total was in -- over \$8,000! More than triple the donations raised in 2016!

Since 2009, Communities Foundation of Texas' North Texas Giving Day has pumped more than \$195 million, for more than 2,700 local nonprofits, into the North Texas Community. In 2017, \$39 million was raised through more than 137,000 gifts benefiting 2,723 nonprofits.



Donations: In Memory Of...

Fiona and the Austin Family	Christine Holleyman
Sandi Atkinson	My daughter's long-hair Chihuahua, Guichon's Bazl.
Beth Turner, Melissa, Jason, & Jordan Axline, and Michelle & Timothy Norton	Grace Meredith Pooley Lisk
Bill and Veronica Kaiser	Our Chihuahua, Wanita, who passed away in July at 15 yrs
Suzette Strong	Our Beloved Friend and Companion Tico "Daddy's Boy" Strong
Michelle Richardson	Dixie Lee Santos and her beloved Baby, a rescued Chihuahua
Jeff & Pat Chesson	Max, beloved pet of Jeff & Shelley Jones
Oliver & Colleen Dold	Raisin, Coco & Cricket
Kim and Jason Cragg	Princess, loved by Janie
Dr. Mary Kay Moskal	Brownie, beloved Chihuahua of the Michael Lorenc Family
Bus drivers and friends of her daughter, Peggy Beach, Jo, Carol, Liz, Debbie & Monica, 1st United Methodist Church of Oronogo, Deloris Behymer, Bert Potter, Sharon Owen, Charles & Andrea Ziulkowski, Mathis Family, and Bob & Sylvia Beach.	Bedah Wilson
Victoria L. Rish	Joel McElwee
Betty M. Salsgiver	Marian Laws
Tamara Stakunas	Spike and Chico
Joan Mitchell	Pop Tart Sims
Gina & Scott Frye	Olive "Our permanent foster" for Noreen
Oliver & Colleen Dold	Raisin & Coco
Bonnie K. Harne & Angela M. Culp	Bubby Lynn, Bambi & Gracie Allen
Phyllis Coglianes	Amber and Haley
Barbara Sudweeks	My precious Bo. I will love you forever, my sweet boy.
June Osborne	Mrs. Marian Laws, Lemons Springs, NC
Gregory & Judith Meek	Oreo
Jeantz Martin	PETEY, adopted from CRT in 2006, Passed away Aug 6, 2016
John & Deb Zilman	Beano, Stella & Birdie
Richie & Debbie Hughes	Chaco, adopted from CRT 10 yrs ago
Patricia Nath	Debra Wallace and her babies Daisy and Katy.
Susan Zimmerman	Debra Wallace, mother of Daisy & Katy.
Simms Showers LLP	Erma A. Meier (1925-2017)
Fumie May & June Harp	Sue Carter
Sherry Bond	Hercules
Mrs. Roy Kruse	Sheila Carter
Scott & Gina Frye	Olive "Our permanent foster"
Maggie Leiby McCurdy	My babies Spike & Daisy
Richard & Diana Hightower	GiGi and Bella - our two sweet CRT chi's
Michelle LaCost	My baby Nike :)
Sylvia Almaguer	My boys, Sox, Rocco, and Stretch
Lacy M. Knutson	Roscoe
Laurie Hoppe	Ben Goldenburg and his much-loved little Mouse
Ron Laws, Jo Dale, Elsa Grable, Nina Hawk, Betty Salsgiver, Cheryl Ergott, and Rene Blazel	Hannah

Donations: In Honor Of...

Amy Karnehm	Chris Mesker, the Grand Master Chi Momma.
Amy Karnehm	Candi, My sweet, little girl. My foster fail.
Linda Geremina	Cathy Crane, Happy's and Teensy's foster mom
Carolyn & Marty Betts	Shannon Foreman
Martha Miller-Varisco	Nancy Stier
Nathaniel & Nicole Mucha	Hannah & Harper (Cotton & Chloe)
Nancy Harmon	Riker
Christian Upschulte	Mike and Jake Muldoon

Please, "Like" Us on Facebook



Social media has become a powerful tool for CRT. Each of our CRT Regions has a regional Facebook page. We are able to market our events and our dogs through these pages. We have

seen our adoptions dramatically rise as our social presence becomes stronger. Won't you help us by "liking" our regional pages, then "sharing" our posts? Let's save some dogs together!!



Follow Each Region on Facebook:

DFW: www.facebook.com/CuteChihuahuas/

Midwest: www.facebook.com/ChihuahuaRescueAndTransportIncMidwestRegion

Southeast: www.facebook.com/CRTSoutheasternRegion/

Also, follow us on Instagram: "chirescue"



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