



Armonk resident John Iannuzzi receives Volunteer of the Year award in June from Adopt-A-Dog's Executive Director Michele Rinaldi, left, and President Donna Nives. (Contributed photo by Greg Reilly)

Animal Shelter Blessed, Training House Dedicated and Volunteers Honored at Adopt-A-Dog in Armonk

Adopt-A-Dog animal shelter and adoption organization of Armonk, NY and Greenwich, Conn. is 26 years old, but it is hardly resting on its laurels of rescuing and finding homes for hundreds of dogs and cats each year.

In recent years the non-profit organization has upgraded its kennel and offices in Armonk, grown its annual "Puttin On The Dog" show in Greenwich to attract 6,000 people, increased its network of supportive veterinarians and businesses, and hired a new executive director with broad veterinary, training and administrative certifications. In addition, Adopt-A-Dog has just become an official partner for the Town of North Castle's sheltering plan during emergencies.

To mark some of its recent growth and successes, Adopt-A-Dog board members and staff gathered with Town officials, area religious leaders and local business people in June to dedicate its Homeward Bound House training facility for adoptable dogs and cats and to bless the recently renovated shelter.

Progressive Training for Sheltered Animals

The Homeward Bound House at Adopt-A-Dog is a whole-house, real world training environment where dogs and cats become accustomed to living with the sights, sounds and smells of a typical house, so they can more readily adjust to their future adoptive homes. This progressive method of sheltering and training dogs and cats was brought to Adopt-A-Dog by Executive Director Michele Rinaldi, who joined the organization in 2006, and is unique in this region.

Blessing of Renovated Shelter

The Cox Avenue facility includes a modernized kennel and shelter, a dog park and administrative offices. Renovations just completed include new siding on the buildings, a new cat kennel room, new fire prevention capability, new landscaping and gardens, electrical upgrades and additional generators, and new security fencing.

Officiating for the ecumenical blessing of the shelter were Rev. Tom Titus of Hillside Church in Armonk, Rev. Hikari Chang of Armonk Methodist Church, Rev. David James of Clergy On Call for pets and Hartsdale Pet Cemetery, and Seminarian Anthony Mizzi-Gili of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Armonk.

The group prayed together "that all of life is honored and that animals are honored as friends and family members...and that God continues to save, rescue and bless the animals, and that the animals find a home."

Partnership with Town North Castle Announced

At the dedication and blessing ceremonies North Castle Town Supervisor Reese Berman announced a new official partnership between the Town and Adopt-A-Dog, which will ensure that residents of North Castle who have pets will be able to utilize the Adopt-A-Dog shelter as a safe haven for the animals during local emergencies such as fires or power outages.

Supervisor Berman told the gathering, "This relationship is further example of the Town's efforts to ensure its residents have the best possible sheltering options during emergencies. And it is a visible and important statement of Adopt-A-Dog's commitment to the Town of North Castle and its residents. Armonk is privileged to have this rare shelter in our Town."

Businesses and Volunteers Honored

Mrs. Nives took the opportunity also to recognize Adopt-A-Dog staff and volunteers, and Ms. Rinaldi presented humanitarian awards to many area veterinarians and businesses that offer support and care to the animals.

Among those who received awards from Adopt-A-Dog were Jeff Israel of Bedford Village Animal Hospital, Dr. Zimra Gordon, Dr. Kathleen Meenan and Dr. Gary Lazarus of Rippowan Animal Hospital, Dr. Patrice Whittington of Armonk Animal Clinic, Dr. Steve Immerblum and Dr. Betty Nussbaum of Golden Bridge Veterinary Care Clinic, Dennis and Marie Buonocore of Armonk Hardware, Ted and Stu Zuckerman of Pleasant Grooming in Armonk, and Dr. Edward Mayland and Mary Mayland of Cross River Animal Hospital.

Armonk resident John Iannuzzi, an Adopt-A-Dog volunteer who was instrumental in arranging the new official emergency shelter partnership with the Town of North Castle, was named Volunteer of the Year. Executive Director Rinaldi told the group, "John Iannuzzi is one of those people who has left an impression on my life. He has a singular conviction, and he is a man who puts everything aside for the welfare of animals."

For more information please visit:

www.adoptadog.org

To list an upcoming event please contact:

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