

JOIN US AT THE WALK N' WAG!

Ahimsa House will hold its second-annual Walk N' Wag Fun Festival and Pet Parade from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 23, 2010 at the blue lot in Chastain Park. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The event is presented by UPS and hosted by Holly Firfer.

Attendees can participate in a one-mile Pet Parade, a silent auction, pet talent contests with celebrity judges, and more. Paws, Whiskers, and Wags; Nature Scapes, Pace Law, CityDog Market and Red Bandanna are Walk N Wag sponsors.



Pre-event registration online is \$25 per adult and \$10 for children ages 12 and under, or \$30 for adults and children at the door. The registration fee covers the Pet Parade, 2010 Walk N' Wag T-shirt and doggie bandana, goodie bag, door prize ticket, and doggie contests.

Walk N' Wag will feature:

- Live Entertainment: Listen to cool tunes from indie rock band Henry Porter.
- Gifts: Start holiday shopping at vendor booths, the silent auction, and the Christmas sale.
- Talented Dogs Contests: Pooches and owners compete for the titles of "Best Costume," "Best Dog and Owner Look-alike" and "Best Trick." Celebrity judges include Atlanta Magazine columnist Richard Eldredge, TV executive Jan Hickle, and E. Vincent Martinez, fashion blogger and founder of Urban-Couture at Grady High.
- Doggie massages
- Vendors with goodies for your pet and you.
- Doggie Massage – Victoria Kramer LMP, NMT and Patti Crimens LMP, NMT
- Pet Communicator – Tim Link, author of "Wagging Tales"



- Doggie Demonstrations – Smart Critters
- Kissing Booth – Georgia English Bulldog Rescue
- Vet Services– Dr. Kelly Trogdon and Dr. Annie Price
- Pet Photographer - Leesia Teh
- Face Painting
- Elton John Impersonator - John Sheffield
- Bake Sale

Walk N' Wag also extends open paws to businesses that want to offer sponsorships or set up a booth. For more information about this event, visit www.AhimsaHouse.org or email walknwag@ahimsahouse.org.



ABOUT AHIMSA HOUSE

Our Mission:

Perpetrators of domestic violence often hurt family pets to control and intimidate their victims. Ahimsa House is Georgia's first and only 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the human and animal victims of domestic violence reach safety together. Ahimsa is the Sanskrit word for nonviolence.

Board Of Directors:

- **President: Gina Dougherty, CPA,** James Wilson Consulting
- **Secretary: Erin Fortney**
- **Treasurer: Rachel Knowles**
- **Carole Baker,** Community Volunteer
- **Lisa Bugni, Esq.,** Alston & Bird LLP
- **Christy Cardina,** Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Cheri Fulginiti,** UPS
- **Tiffany Hoffine, CPA,** The Sundance Co.
- **Ana Lenoir,** KPMG LLP
- **Robin Crawford,** Dogma Dog Care
- **Morieka V. Johnson,** Atlanta Public Schools

Staff:

- **Maya Gupta, MS, PhD,** Executive Director
- **Myra Rasnick,** Program Services Coordinator

Newsletter Volunteers:

- **Cheryl Culling**
- **Barbara Fuller**
- **Morieka Johnson**
- **Jennifer Taylor**
- **Stephen Walker**

**If you'd like the option to receive the newsletter electronically, go to www.ahimsahouse.org and click on Newsletter.



H · O · U · S · E

helping the human and animal victims of domestic violence reach safety together



A HAPPY ENDING *By Joanna Pera, Ahimsa House Board Alumna*



I volunteered to transport a client's dog from his temporary boarding facility to his new foster home. It's a logistical task that I embrace because it really goes to the heart of what we do as an organization. When we care for a client's pet, we remove an important barrier so the client can focus on escaping domestic violence.

When I arrived at the boarding facility, it was clear that the client's dog would be better off in a home environment. "Huey" was so anxious and he hated being crated. After our long drive together, Huey's foster parents greeted him with open arms and a female companion decked out in pink ribbons. The two hit it off immediately, and I knew Huey was in good hands. His foster parents even asked if Huey could join them on vacation over the holidays.

After a difficult few weeks, Huey's mom was ready to reunite with her fur kid. Once again, I offered to handle the pet transport. It was my way of completing the circle with Huey and his mom.

Huey was so excited when he saw his mom that I could have sworn he had Mexican jumping beans in his feet! Our client also was overjoyed. She was settling into a new place — free from the abuse she had suffered in the past. It meant so much to be able to help her make a fresh start.

When I interview volunteers who want to foster our clients' pets, I share Huey's story with them. I tell them

that opening their home to a pet in need can make a huge difference in the life of that animal. This one seemingly small task really does set people free to escape violence — and that's so powerful!

~ *As told to Morieka Johnson*

Note: If you would like to transport or foster a pet, please email volunteer@ahimsahouse.org today.

Success Story

Sally Leath learned about Ahimsa House from a brochure in the courthouse where she filed a temporary restraining order. "It is such a confusing and emotional time that I just picked up the brochure," she recalls. "I knew I had to get out of my house quickly and did not have a place to go that would allow me to bring my cats. Ahimsa House provided me the perfect solution."

Sally's three cats were fostered for nearly six weeks. "During that time, I got great feedback and reassurances that they were doing well," she says. With that knowledge, she was able to focus on moving forward with her life with the assurance that her pets were safe. "This enabled me to sort out my own life and provide a new and safe home for them. This help during that time was invaluable."

Sally's recent reunion with Felix, six months, Smoky two, and Amelie, two and a half, was a joyful one. "I arranged to pick them up at the same facility where I dropped them off," she says. "I could immediately tell they were well taken care of. They really benefited from being together in the same foster home during the turmoil. I think that made a big difference.

After just a few days, they were totally back to normal and ruling the new house! They bring nothing but love to the equation."



VOLUNTEERS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR AHIMSA HOUSE



Hosting a yard sale is no small task. Fortunately, Ahimsa House has dedicated volunteers like Paula Alexander (left) and Jacqueline Durant who coordinated the event, which featured more than 1,000 items such as crock pots, vintage cameras, designer clothing, books and artwork.

"For one week, we flyered the entire area: restaurants, vets, retail stores, car windshields, etc. Then dragged everything from storage to the yard sale site, setting it up at 5 am on Friday and getting there at 6 am on Saturday. Sitting in the heat until 5-6pm selling items, drinking water, and preparing for the next day," said Ahimsa House board member and fundraising chairwoman Carole Baker.

Most people recognize Paula as 'the dog wash lady.' As event coordinator of our dog wash fundraisers, Alexander coordinates four sudsy sessions each summer at Red Bandanna locations.

Of course, volunteer work can be its own challenge at times. "Jackie drove one hour to Hiram, GA to pick up a canopy from another volunteer the night before the sale started, and had a flat tire on the way home," Baker said. "I could go on and on about what these two women did. Suffice it to say that this event could not have been a success without them."

Together, Alexander and Durant helped Ahimsa House raise \$2,700 from the yard sale, while also helping the organization further its mission of helping people and pets escape domestic violence together. Leftover items were donated to The Step Up Society, which rehabilitates the homeless. Ahimsa House volunteer Tanya Mahrous also received yard sale items for use in her thrift shop, which will benefit animal causes.

"Ahimsa House has become stronger as a rescue organization," said Alexander, who shares her home with four cats and two dogs. "People are very impressed with our cause and are coming forward to help us. I can certainly speak for an enthusiastic group of dog wash volunteers!"

— If you know a volunteer we should feature, please email pr@ahimsahouse.org.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Paula Alexander, Anne Bowen-Long, Cheri Fulginiti, Tiffany Marshall, Robin Raflo and Jennifer Demonbreun, winners of our volunteer appreciation award. Each volunteer will receive an Ahimsa House Sigg Water Bottle as a small token of our enormous thanks for their work.

Mary Wright has worked tirelessly as our volunteer coordinator, responding to volunteer inquiries and helping new volunteers go through the online orientation process.

Jennifer Demonbreun tackled projects both large and small for the organization, but always maintained a smile and a strong work ethic.

While we honor these individuals for their hard work, we sincerely appreciate all of our volunteers. Without your time and dedication, Ahimsa House would not be able to help people and pets escape domestic violence together. Of course, you can always purchase a Sigg bottle of your own at <http://www.cafepress.com/AhimsaHouse>.



2010 SUPPORTERS

Ahimsa House would like to thank the following:

- CityDog Market
- Paws, Whiskers & Wags
- UPS
- Banfield Charitable Trust
- Nature Scapes
- Red Bandanna
- Pace Law

Ask your company about sponsoring Ahimsa House.

TRIBUTES

Honor or remember your friends and family who love our furry friends. Send your tribute donations to Ahimsa House, PO Box 8181, Atlanta, GA 31106.

Friends of Ahimsa House made the following tributes:

- Susan Muntzing in memory of Magic
- Janet Weisman in memory of Foster
- Michael Gillman in memory of Sonja De Katz
- Carole Walker in memory of Michael Brumfit
- Cathey Capp in memory of her mother, Polly Jones
- Kathryn Trabert in memory of Peppy the Smiling Jack
- Henry Wright in honor of BeachPlace Runaway Center
- Marion Loftis in honor of Sophie on the anniversary of her crossing the Rainbow Bridge
- Kathy Baggs in honor of Bambi and Noogie
- Ingrid Larson in memory of Helga Fox
- Deborah Evans in honor of Kiersten Dilling
- Darrell Condit in memory of Malson Golden, a good friend to my fiance
- Shawn Arndt in memory of Dusty Rose Arndt [Feline BFF]
- J B Carr in honor of Zoe the Gecko
- Diane Hines in honor of Carolyn Hines
- Todd Eisinger in honor of Deidre Robe's birthday
- Mark Robison in honor of Deidre Robe's birthday
- Jeff Deutch in memory of Cleo Bunny
- Teresa Radke in memory of Nanuk, Cassandra, Miesha
- B J Gindlesperger in memory of Eugene 'Geno' Marrelli
- Cheryl Woodruff in memory of Sheba, the best white german shepherd who ever lived
- Cheryl Williams in memory of her beloved Greyhound Isis who died Feb. 24
- Casey Lawing in honor of Gina Dougherty's birthday
- Elizabeth Barnard in honor of Dr. Gupta for speaking at Take Back the Night at UGA
- Regina Dougherty to Melissa Stevens in memory of Dextuh
- Susan Muntzing to the Moales Family in memory of Max
- Hope Schutte in honor of Carole Baker's birthday
- Lance Rice in honor of Big Daddy's birthday
- Rebecca Schwartz in honor of Ronna Paul for making a wonderful Seder
- Elaine Binion in honor of Jenifer Hardee's 50th birthday
- Andy Hilbun in honor of Janice Carey, a great pet-sitting client
- Meg Drake in honor of the Ahimsa House volunteers who are treating dogs to spa day at the Red Bandanna today.
- Chris Oys to Bill Mercure in memory of Martha Mercure

WISH LIST

Supplies:

- Gift cards to pet supply and general retailers such as Petsmart, PETCO, Target, Wal-Mart
- Dog crates
- Chew toys (plastic, like Nylabone)
- Flea/tick prevention for dogs and cats ("top spot" applicator kind, like Frontline/Advantage)
- Cat litter (clumping scoopable kind only, please)
- Office phones
- Hand truck
- Purple, green, or black cloth rectangular

tablecloth to fit a 5-6' table

- Printer paper
- Stamps
- Portable retractable banner with stand
- Personal postage meter
- Tent canopy and/or table drape with our logo on it for our outreach events
- 8 1/2 x 11 Lucite Stand Alone Frames
- Lucite Brochure Holders

Services:

- Boarding & Veterinary Services
- Financial Planning Services
- Office Space

- Storage Space
- Printing
- Writing

To donate any of these items (in any quantity), please email us at director@ahimsahouse.org. You can make a tax-deductible contribution to Ahimsa House, P.O. Box 8181, Atlanta, GA 31106-0181. You also can make a donation online. For more information, visit ahimsahouse.org.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Interview with Advisory Council Member Stephen Walker, owner of S. R. Walker Designs

1. How long have you been an Ahimsa House volunteer?
Since the summer of 05. I was originally a board member then moved to the Advisory Council.

2. What are your primary duties for the organization?
Graphic design and brand identity.

3. Why did you join this cause?
I believe in the mission of this organization. It fulfills two great purposes at the same time, which no other animal rescue organization does.

4. Do you have any pets?
I have one cat named Waffle and a tank full of fish. The king of the tank is Walter.

5. What's the biggest improvement you've seen in the organization?
Public awareness has been so greatly improved by the current board's efforts, not to mention Ahimsa House Executive Director Maya Gupta's dedication and passion.



Support Ahimsa House

- \$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25

\$400 Provides shelter and veterinary care for the pets of ONE domestic violence victim.

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

(Get all the latest Ahimsa House news by email!)

Name as to be published: _____

DO NOT publish my name.

My gift is In Memory In Honor of: _____

Please notify: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please mail completed form to:
Ahimsa House, P.O. Box 8181, Atlanta, GA 31106

