

# FOREVER*Tails*

FEBRUARY 2022

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**As we start a new year**, we are dedicated to moving forward and saving even more lives! It has been a difficult two years dealing with COVID 19, but we won't let it get us down. Our volunteers have continued to work hard to care for abused, unwanted, abandoned, and neglected puppies and dogs.

Our current focus is on purchasing a new transport van. We started raising money to purchase one late last year. We are happy to report that we are almost at our goal of \$50,000 thanks to your generous support! You can see our progress at [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org). If you can help us by making a donation, please visit <https://to-afh.org/Donate> to donate or mail a check (note that it is for a new van) to **AFH, PO Box 222801, Chantilly, VA 20153**. Our rescued puppies and dogs will soon have a brand new, comfortable ride!

In this issue we will be highlighting two dogs who have been with us for a little while. We're not sure why because they are great dogs, so we decided to highlight them to give them a little bit more exposure. We are hoping that someone will fall in love. These dogs are fully vetted and have been living in foster homes so they are well adjusted to living as part of a family.

We are also announcing a partnership with **City Renewables**, a company that cares about the environment and homeless pups.

As always, we appreciate your support. You encourage us to work harder every day to rescue dogs who have no hope. Your generosity changes lives. ●

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*Looking to* **ADOPT?**

Are you looking for a new furry family member? We have many wonderful dogs waiting for forever homes. Once you've fallen in love, the next step is to fill out an adoption application to get the ball rolling.

Go to [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org) to see our available pets.



## PANELS FOR PUPPIES

**Editor's Note:** *AFH is partnering with City Renewables to save dogs and the environment! Jake and Rebecca from City Renewables are AFH adopters and wanted to give back to the group that rescued their dog Luna.*

**City Renewables' team members** were personally affected by the great job that **AFH** does. Our little solar pup Luna was adopted through the rescue and has quickly become our company's Director of Emotional Support! She is such a good girl and now we want to give back so more dogs like her can find forever homes. That is why we have partnered with **AFH** for our **Panels for Puppies** fundraiser. Our goal is to help **AFH** rescue more dogs through helping people save money and the environment by going solar! For every solar project, **AFH** will receive at least \$500! The money raised through this initiative will help AFH with monthly vet bills.

City Renewables is dedicated to educating and guiding the community to understand how residential solar works. This means that we won't move forward with a project unless it saves the client money and the client understands exactly how it works! We believe that protecting and preserving the environment that our dogs need to thrive in is very important. This is one way you can do that.

**Here are the incentives that City Renewables uses to save you money with no upfront costs:**

### **SRECs (Solar Renewable Energy Credits)**

In Virginia, Maryland, several other states, and the District of Columbia, you get PAID per 1000 kWh you produce with solar. SRECs are the most powerful incentive to save homeowners money on electricity. You actually get paid just for having solar!

### **26% FEDERAL TAX CREDIT**

The federal government gives a 26% tax credit to anyone that transitions to solar. If your system costs \$20,000, you'll be paying \$5,200 less in taxes—not to mention you can wrap a new roof into that 26% credit!

### **NET METERING**

Most utility companies in Virginia, Maryland, a few other states, and the District of Columbia offer full 1:1 Net Metering. This means that when you over produce electricity, you get a credit. This credit is worth the same as the electricity you would buy from your utility company (1:1). This addresses the concerns for having power in the colder months when there is snow. These credits can be used all year round! At the end of the year, you get paid for the remaining credits. Net metering replaces the need for a battery!

To schedule a free educational consultation that includes a design and analysis of your potential solar project, use this link:

<https://calendly.com/rhollis-/puppies-and-panels>

This fundraiser will run from March 15-May 31. A solar contract must be signed with City Renewables using the code "puppypanels" for you to take part in the fundraising efforts. ●

**For every solar project, A Forever Home will receive at least \$500**





THANKS  
to the  
HAPPY  
COUPLE



**Jon & Kelsey Kofmehl** got married in October 2021. They adopted their dog Zoe through **AFH** and told us that we hold a special place in their hearts. This couple is beautiful on the outside and the inside—they made a donation for each guest who attended their wedding in lieu of favors!

Thanks to this special couple for their generosity—we wish you a long and happy marriage! ●



### ELLIE AND HER KIDS

We adopted Ellie from **AFH** in October 2020. She and our daughter (now 4.5 years old) have been best friends since day one. We welcomed our second daughter on January 7 and while we weren't sure what to expect with such an energetic dog, we were hopeful that the maternal instinct she showed with her puppies would kick right in. While still our happy dog, Ellie has adopted our new baby as her own—she licks her from head to toe, does tummy time with her, and checks on her anytime she makes a peep. We love our girls and our **AFH** girl! Of course, we always supervise her with the kids and believe that children and pets should always be monitored even with the best tempered animals. *Erika Flux* ●



**Balaji and Harini Sugantharaman**  
adopted Jake two years ago.

As part of a family birthday celebration, they encouraged friends to make donations to **AFH** instead of giving gifts!

# Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

## RANDY NEPPL

I first volunteered with AFH in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck. I drove to Mississippi with other AFH volunteers and rescued dogs as FEMA rescued (and sadly, identified) people. We were responsible for not only saving dogs, but also reuniting some with their families who already lost so much. After that, I fostered about a dozen dogs (one at a time) over the next few years. I also helped with interviews and home checks.

Fast forward and I got married myself and had children. We adopted our dog through AFH, but otherwise I took a few years off. As my kids got older, I realized that fostering was not just great for the dogs, but also for my kids. They love it. Last year, we fostered five litters of puppies (one at a time). To watch my then 10-year old daughter Ridgely independently administer multiple medicines to 9 puppies and my then 11-year old son Haughton take charge of walking the adult dogs was rewarding for so many reasons. In addition to our fosters, we now live with our three AFH dogs and couldn't be happier with the energy, companionship, and love they bring to each of us. ●



## MELISSA MUNIZ

I began volunteering with AFH right after Hurricane Katrina. I have volunteered my time by running errands, bringing in donated items, providing my own donations, and by temporarily fostering a couple of special cases. For many years, my free time was spent with my own dogs training them and going to competitions and seminars most weekends and weeknights. Recently, I found I had more time and ability to take on temporary fosters while their regular fosters went on vacations and for other reasons. I have had several temporary foster dogs over the last year which allowed me to meet and interact with so many other wonderful volunteers who care for and love their fosters as they love their own dogs. A few temporary fosters went to their forever homes while with me and it was a rewarding experience to see how the work AFH does benefits both the dogs and the new owners. My new AFH pup has been such a good representative of rescue dogs. I say his superpower is that he's good with other dogs. If the other dog wants space, he will not intrude; if the other dog wants to be friends and play, he will interact or play with them in the style they like. I think this has been a rewarding experience for him as well. ●



## IN MEMORY

### BOLT

Our beloved Bolt has crossed over the rainbow bridge. He had an aggressive cancer that took all of us by surprise.

Bolt was tough as nails all the way till the end; even the Vet's staff remarked on his stability and strength in the face of such a horrible diagnosis. He feared nothing in this world (except getting his nails trimmed) and he regarded garbage trucks as mere chew toys. Bolt started his life in a hard place and fortunately an amazing organization, **AFH**, found him and delivered him to our family as a rescue dog. Bolt loved his people and his eyes always told us so.

We love you baby boy; you were an absolute one of a kind. There will never be another like you, and the void in our hearts simply will not ever be filled. Until we meet again...#GoodJobBolt ●



### HOLLY *Tom, Cathy, Barrett and Griffin Cosgrove, Georgetown DE*

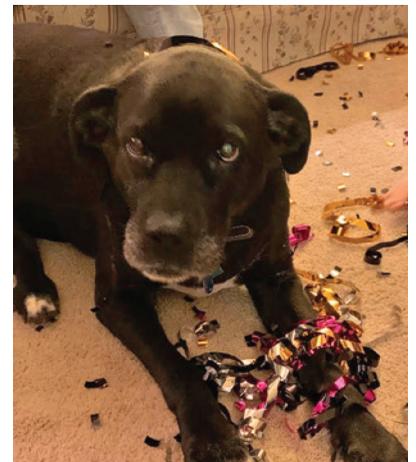
After 16 years with our beloved Holly, we have come to believe that the name "A Forever Home" should really say something about what our pets have become to us rather than what we signed up to give them; something more along the lines of "Forever in Our Hearts". Holly came into our lives in 2005 and immediately became one with our family.

Growing up with our two sons, Holly became the third wheel with everything they did except watersports—far too risky behavior for this proper lady. When 34 guinea hens made their way into our life in 2013, Holly's Border Collie instincts kicked in and she was determined to set the boundaries for their free-ranging activities and wouldn't take no for an answer until they flew to treetops, waiting for the coast to be clear of that strong-willed dog.

Thank you to **AFH** for not only the opportunity to give Holly a forever home, but for the opportunity to have Holly in our family and memories forever. ●

### CAROLINE *Submitted by Tammy Sankner*

We adopted Caroline from **AFH** in Feb 2012 when she was 10 weeks old. Our daughter Tara (7 at that time) picked her out of the litter. Caroline quickly had us wrapped around her paw and became the ruler of the house. Shortly after we adopted her, our daughter became ill and we found out she had brain cancer. Caroline would be right there with her when she wasn't feeling well. She let Tara use her as her pillow and stayed by her side throughout it all. We later added another dog to our family and Caroline quickly took over the mother role and taught Annie the ropes. Shortly before Caroline turned 10 (11/20/2011) her back hips gave out and she was no longer able to move on her own. With heavy hearts we had to let her cross the rainbow bridge on 11/22/2021. We miss her very much but know she is no longer in pain. Thank you **AFH** for bringing Caroline into our family. ●



### NUGGET *Submitted by Meli Mansfield*

It's with the deepest pain imaginable that I notify you of the passing of my only son, best friend, and companion. There are no words to express my sadness and desolation. I miss him every second of every day.

I adopted Nugget from **AFH** March 8, 2010. He was the alpha of the 12 puppies named after the California Gold Rush litter fostered by Marilyn Christensen.

Thanks again for allowing me to take care of wonderful Nugget!!!●

## IN MEMORY



### COCO

**Editor's Note:** *If you have been reading our newsletter for a while, you may remember Coco. We have highlighted her in our newsletter several times over the years.*

*Coco is the poster child for everything that is wrong with people who neglect dogs. AFH became aware of her and immediately jumped in to save her. She was living outdoors, emaciated, and living in a pile of garbage. Her "before" picture is haunting; her "after" pictures are inspirational. They show a dog who rose above horrific living conditions to become a much loved family member.*

**RIP Coco** - *we will continue to work hard to save lives in your honor.*

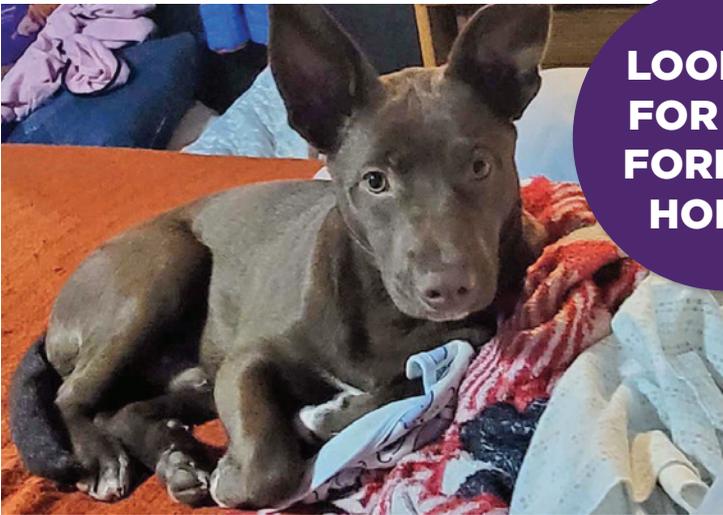
**IN NOVEMBER** we said goodbye to our sweet Coco. She was rescued from awful conditions in Kentucky, neglected by her owners except to breed puppies to sell. Despite her past, Coco loved people and life, and really lived her life with us to the fullest. She was always happy and loving, and we spoiled her because she deserved it. Based on the age the owners told AFH, we thought we would have no more than three years together, but we were so lucky to have her with us for seven wonderful years. She was the perfect companion and the best sister to Pepper, and then to Nacho. We are happy that she and Pepper are together now, and we know that we will all be together again one day. Coco, we love you so much and we miss you every day. *Duc and Wendy Nguyen* •



**You can donate to AFH at no cost to you!**

Shop at Amazon through our website. Simply go to [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org), scroll down to "Go to Amazon Smile" and click the link. You have just generated a donation for AFH at no cost to you!

**If you are not already signed up for Smile, you can do it then!**



**LOOKING FOR OUR FOREVER HOMES**



**CENTER PARK SIMBA** Age: 6 months  
Breed: Chihuahua / Labrador Retriever Mix  
Gender: Male (Neutered)

Hi, I am Simba. I am told I am part Chihuahua and part Labrador Retriever. I am crate trained and house trained and do pretty well on a leash. I am a fun-loving active boy who is waiting patiently for my forever home. I get along with other dogs and love kids. I like a ton of attention and would be happy with a big family or as the only pet. Love is all I need. ●

**HWY 146 CHUCK** Age: 6 months  
Breed: Labrador Retriever Mix  
Gender: Male (Neutered)

Chuck is pitch black with a patch of white on his chest. He brightens our household with his sweet enthusiasm. When he comes out of his crate in the morning, he stretches in a downward facing dog pose and then comes running to greet us wagging his tail at mach speed. He uses his whole body to jump into your arms and then pushes his hind legs to kiss you. Chuck was found living under a house in Mississippi with the rest of his five siblings (all girls). He loves to play with other dogs and is great with everyone he meets. He would enjoy being with kids, dog(s), and any other creatures. He will provide lots of love and smiles to his forever home family! ●

If you would like to join the AFH team as a foster parent, please email [info@foreverhome.org](mailto:info@foreverhome.org)



**BLAKE IS LIVING HIS BEST LIFE!**

We adopted Blake from **A Forever Home** in June 2011. In March 2022, he will be 11 years old. He has been an amazing dog and companion for the past decade. About two weeks after adopting Blake, we adopted another dog, Clay. My friend from high school found him running on the interstate. They have grown up together and remain the best of friends. In 2014, we adopted Dixon and he completed the trio. Unfortunately, Dixon had to be put down in May 2021 due to non-treatable health issues. Blake and Clay have adapted well and continue to live very active and social lifestyles. *Submitted by Crystal Armes* ●



## WREATH FUNDRAISER

**I'm Shannon and I love dogs!** I volunteered as a foster and fundraising coordinator for a rescue in Michigan before moving to Virginia. Due to time constraints, I wasn't able to volunteer here but needed to do something to help the pets in need, so I decided to make holiday wreaths and sell them to raise money for **AFH**. We rescued our dog Niko from them after losing the-love-of-my-life-dog, Joey. I was heartbroken and Niko was a broken spirit. Together we healed each other, and I'm so thankful for him. I am so thankful for all of you who have helped me donate \$3,000 over two fundraising campaigns! ●

**Editor's Note:** *Shannon donated all proceeds from wreath sales to AFH. She has a few left; please email [shannonharbert99@gmail.com](mailto:shannonharbert99@gmail.com) for pictures and prices. There are a few samples above.*



## TROOP 98 TO THE RESCUE!

**Editor's Note:** *AFH wants to thank Sammy, the rest of his troop, and everyone who donated. There were so many donations that a trailer was needed to bring them all to meet our transport driver (on a bitterly cold day). These much needed supplies will be put to good use by our southern rescue partners.*

**Hello, my name is Sammy Craypoff** from Troop 158 Herndon and I decided to do my Boy Scout Eagle project to support A Forever Home (**AFH**). In 2016, my family adopted our rescue Bessie through **AFH**. She's a big part of our family and a great doggie. As part of my Eagle project, I collected toys, treats, food, and other supplies that will support some of **AFH's** rescue partners. I gathered supplies with the help of my troop around my local neighborhood and through online donations. I also reached out to the local Chantilly Weber's to help collect donations as well. The community support was amazing even with the weather working against us. ●

