



Together WE Can Grow a Better Community

DancingTrees is a proud member of www.iSearchiGive.com
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Visit us on the web at: www.dancing-trees.org
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Committed to

- Families
- Animals
- Environment



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HAPPY NEW YEAR	

Assessment of the 2011 Christmas is for Everyone Program

Christmas is For Everyone...Our Holiday program promoting "Staying Warm", "Being Fed" and family interaction began on November 1st and ran through December 22nd.

Referrals came to DancingTrees from:

- Case Managers
- Ministers
- School Teachers
- Physician Offices
- Town Officials
- Fellow Non-Profit Organizations



During the intake process, we are frequently asked, "What area do you serve?"

This year, our "community" involved almost 700 people from 30 neighboring towns.



Strategic planning for the holiday program (carried out by our all volunteer staff) begins in early Summer. Multiple clothing racks keep coats and boots organized and easily accessible. Shelves store: cleaning products, bathroom and infant care necessities, books, games, hats, gloves, scarves, under garments, and socks. Stacks of large totes allow separate sizing for boys', girls', men's and women's clothing. Requests for unique necessities (like can openers, pillows, bedding, and window insulation kits) are furnished at the mercy of donations.

This year, as we analyzed the efficiency and effectiveness of the program, we were pleased to see our "Pay It Forward" philosophy taking hold with recipients. As recipients came to claim their holiday gifts, some recipients donated bags of outgrown clothing; gently used toys, books, and household items for us to pass on to other community members in need.

Although the holidays are over, temperatures remain cold and warm clothing, food and necessities are still needed. Throughout the year, Dancing Trees will continue to fill requests of the community whenever possible.



If you wish to unsubscribe to this e-newsletter, email us at dt@dancing-trees.org or call 207-539-2670.

DancingTrees is “Freezin’ for a Reason”

Join Team DancingTrees as they plunge into the **icy** waters of Highland Lake in Bridgton again to Support [Harvest Hills Animal Shelter’s](#) annual fundraiser, “**Freezin’ for a Reason**”. 2011’s event raised \$17,000!



This event is part of [Maine Lakes Musers Bowl](#). Check out their site for a listing of events and enjoy the great family fun!

Being their 10th year running, they hope to raise more awareness and funds for our four-legged friends in need.

- **Date:** **Saturday, January 21, 2012**
- **Place:** **Highland Lake, Bridgton, Maine**
- **Registration:** **Begins at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Plunge Time:** **1:00 p.m.**

FMI: Please email [Harvest Hills Animal Shelter](#) or call the shelter at (207)-935-4358

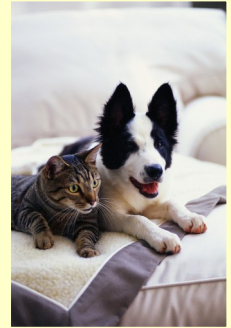
Thanks to the Businesses and Individuals Within Our Community Who Helped Make the 2011 Christmas is for Everyone Program a Success!

A Special Thank You Businesses in Our Community: Maine Marines Toys for Tots Program; Henry's Concrete Construction, Inc.; Turn Key Homes of Maine; Watson & Son Building Movers, Inc.; Mt. Mann Jewelers; Flowerbed Farm Antiques; Down East, Inc.; Maine Machine Products Company; Oxford Fireman's Association; Café DiCocoa; Dr. Anita Knopp; Customer Service Department at C.N. Brown Company; The Maine Bookhouse; Magic Lantern, LLC; Dollar Tree Stores, Inc.; Jones & Matthews, P.A.; and Lake Region Middle School.

A Special Thank You to Individuals in Our Community: Amanda Cummings, Gail & Edward McBride, Andrea Ayer, Melissa Record, Ali Kiger, In Memory of George Tracy, Doug & Juanita Smith, Mike & Dene Libby, Wilberta Kierchner, Sandi Wyman, Heather & Ryan Paradis, Peter & Julie Cook, Kris Snell, Becky Richardson, Justin Kiger, Christopher & Paula Easton, Joseph Dobbins, Nicole & Travis Gilbert, Tamera Dobbins, Jenny Record, Tammy Komulainen, Patti Murphy, Christine Gagne, Diane Boucher, Mary Hariju, Yolanda Brooks, Dave & Kim Farrar, Bill & Roberta Melbye, Peter Morton, Raven Merrill, Bruce & Nancy Fox, Geraldine Shorey, Sue & Dwayne Durgin, Erika Douglas, Jerry & Lorraine Simpkins, , Darrin & Jennifer Nowlin, Patricia Tibbetts, Steven & Diane Fisher, Tom Backland, Ena Derenburger, Marisol & Tim Witham, Jim Davis, Brandy Ring, Genevieve Chalout, Jay & Lynn Cross, Janet Lathrop, Barry Kilgore, Paul Chamberlain, and Dianne & Shane Slicer.

Adopting a Pet

Things to Consider Before Adopting



• **Shelters such as ours are often filled with highly adoptable dogs and cats.** Many people have the impression that shelters are filled with destructive, aggressive, or hard to train animals. In reality, many dogs wind up here after their owners die, move away, or when families separate.

• **Do Your Homework.** Think about the kind of life you lead: Gone all day? Kids always underfoot? Quiet and mostly indoors? Do you have other animals? What are your usual activities? Will your new pet be involved in these activities?

• **Think Long Term.** A dog is a 10 to 15 year commitment, cats are 15 to 20. Don't go into this relationship lightly.

• **Plan Ahead.** It is a great idea to print our application at home and fill it out before you come to the shelter. You can fax it over or send it as an email attachment. This way, if we have any further questions which may delay the adoption process, we can take care of them before you come.

• **Be Honest On the Application.** We ask many thought provoking questions. These questions are meant to guide adoptive families into making the right choice for their lifestyle and living situation, as well as for the safety of the new pet.

Making The Right Choice

- **Choose personality over beauty.** Experts agree that picking a dog on looks alone can be a recipe for unhappiness. There is nothing wrong with wanting a certain type of dog or breed range, but don't get so stuck on it that you overlook an animal that may fit better with your life.
- **The past does not predict the future.** The animals you see at the shelter (especially some dogs) may not have the best manners, but they can be trained. They may have been abused or neglected, but they can form new relationships and are usually more than willing to learn.
- **Look past the stress.** Shelters are high anxiety places for animals, so it might be difficult to get an ideal picture of their personality at first. Take the time to search for clues. Does she pay attention after time? If so, that's a good sign. If not, spend a bit more time, the longer you spend with them, the more they will calm down and focus.
- **Ask many questions.** This seems obvious, but it's surprising how many people walk through the kennels looking to adopt and never bother to ask our staff any questions. We are here every day, so chances are we know a little about a dog or cats personality. Some dogs, for instance don't seem very nice when you first walk by, but may be the perfect match for you. We are happy to relay any information on our animals to prospective families. With just a couple questions from us, we can help you make a better informed decision.