



Keep New Year's Resolutions, Make a Difference Volunteer with Operation Kindness

CARROLLTON, TEXAS (January 3, 2013)...When a New Year begins, thoughts start turning to resolutions. Operation Kindness, the oldest and largest no-kill shelter in North Texas, says if people make a New Year's resolution to volunteer there, it will make a real difference in their lives and in the lives of thousands of animals. In addition, it can help people keep their other resolutions – whether it's losing weight or more quality time with family.

"When you make a resolution to volunteer at Operation Kindness, you're making a commitment that doesn't take much time, is worth keeping and is fun. Among other things, we need people to come and spend time with the animals," says Tomi Tucker, volunteer manager at Operation Kindness.

People who make a New Year's resolution to exercise more or lose weight can do so by walking the dogs. Need to reduce stress, find inner peace or build stronger ties with family? Volunteering at Operation Kindness can help with that too.

"Many people lose their inner peace at work," notes Tucker. "When you come out here, you can let go of the stress. You just sit with an animal and enjoy the time. A lot of people volunteer here for that reason, and many bring their families. It's a great way to spend quality time together."

Marge Madigan echoes this thought. She says volunteering at Operation Kindness has become a family tradition for herself, her husband, Tom, and their grandchildren: eleven-year-old Brooke, twelve-year-old Becky, and seventeen-year-old Haley. Some of the work they do separately – Marge likes to walk the small dogs and Tom likes to socialize the cats. The grandchildren join in the fun when they can, and as a family, they clean cages, bathe animals, answer phones, and whatever else is needed. But the thing the children like best is spending time with the animals.

"Brooke and Haley especially like playing with the animals because their dad is allergic, so they can't have a bunch of pets at home," says Marge. "They like to come to Operation Kindness to hold and cuddle with the dogs and cats."

Marge also participates in the Operation Kindness education program both on- and off-site. Through the program, people can learn what Operation Kindness does, as well as how to approach a strange dog, how to provide proper care for pets and similar topics.

"There are so many ways that people can get involved," adds Amy McMillen, volunteer coordinator of ACTS of Kindness, the shelter's retirement home program. "For example, we take our own dogs and cats to one of two retirement homes every other week. I love putting smiles on the seniors' faces and I love



volunteering for Operation Kindness. They give you an opportunity to follow your passions and use your talents in the best possible ways.”

Other Operation Kindness volunteer opportunities include adoption counselors, greeters, animal foster families, painters, landscapers, office assistants and committee workers. Volunteers are required to devote at least six hours a month to Operation Kindness, and ages six and up are welcome.

Anyone interested in volunteering should visit www.operationkindness.org and fill out the application. There is a one-time fee of \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. Volunteers will receive an Operation Kindness name badge, T-shirt and volunteer manual. All fees help benefit the animals.

“Volunteering for Operation Kindness feels good,” says Laura Gorecki, Operation Kindness’ volunteer of the year. “You know that you’ve really made a difference, and that makes your day.”

Founded in 1976, **Operation Kindness** is the oldest and largest no-kill shelter in North Texas. Its mission is to care for homeless cats and dogs in a no-kill environment until each is adopted into responsible homes and to advocate humane values and behavior. **Operation Kindness** has saved nearly 70,000 animals since its inception. **Operation Kindness** cares for an average of 200-250 animals on a day-to-day basis, with another 60-80 animals in foster homes. More than 3,000 dogs and cats are assisted by **Operation Kindness** each year. Learn more about **Operation Kindness** at <http://www.operationkindness.org> or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/Operation-Kindness/30251945822).

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