Spring 2025



In this issue

- **1 -** They are Blind, Deaf...
- **2 -** Where There is Hope
- **3 -** Missy Hope, Our Hospice Foster
- **4 -** Volunteer Spotlight & Cat Volunteer Opportunities
- 5 Wish Lists
- **6 -** We Need You & How to Donate
- 7 -Events



Angel Ridge Animal
Rescue
390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd
Washington PA 15301
Dogs and general office



Bailey's Cat Haven 2650 Brownsville Rd South Park PA 15129 Cat Adoption Facility



Angel Ridge Animal Rescue PO Box 94 Meadowlands PA 15347 Mailing Address

They are Blind, Deaf, and Missing Eyes, Ears and LegsBut "God Sees" Them by Nancy C. Shannon

On a busy Saturday before Christmas, a group of Girl Scouts came to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue to learn about what we do to help animals. At about the same time, a kind lady from West Virginia brought us a blind lab pup that she found posted on Facebook. The pup and her littermates, she discovered, had been born and were attempting to survive in the frigid temperatures.

Volunteer, Anne, introduced the pup to the group of Girl Scouts, and the lesson took a meaningful and unexpected turn. This was a pup that was blind, born without eyes. The girls marveled at how happy she appeared to be, and how well she got around. Anne gave them an assignment- to work together to name this pup. The scouts worked diligently on their task and finally announced the agreed upon name for the pup. Her name would be Hazel, which means "God Sees."



Hazel with her toys

Staff person and volunteer, Linda, fostered Hazel in her home. Hazel quickly learned the layout of Linda's 1st floor and backyard. Linda's Newfoundland took Hazel "under her wing" and treated her as if she were her own pup. By Christmas, Hazel had mastered all of her lessons and could do anything almost as well as a pup with sight. Early in January, Hazel was adopted by the veterinarian that had examined her.

Caring for deaf dog, Lily, last fall prepared our volunteers for the even greater challenge of caring for a dog that was both deaf and blind. Indeed, God does "see" and helps us to care for the many handicapped animals that come to us. Last fall, a West Virginia rescuer saved a white shepherd that was thrown out on a busy road with some food. Surviving in these conditions would be impossible for any dog. But God looked out for this both blind and deaf dog, until a rescuer could take her to a safe place. Ivy Rose was transferred to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue. Through her keen sense of smell and tactile prowess. Ivy Rose navigates through her world at Angel Ridge like a pro. She delights in having a toy to toss and catch again in our play yard. Our volunteers get so much happiness out of watching Ivy play. She lives in a silent and dark world, but the joy that she



Rigby

finds in what she can do is a blessing and an inspiration.

Kitten Rigby was rescued from a neglectful situation on a farm. An untreated respiratory infection affected his right eye so severely that it had to be removed. Rigby was adopted by a loving family who watch in delight as he entertains them with his playful antics.

Dog Alex and puppy Hutch both had to have an eye removed, termed an enucleation, while at Angel Ridge. Hatch

sustained an eye injury while crammed into a small crate with two other puppies. He was living in his own feces and was severely malnourished. Hutch's surgery came with a long and painful recovery because of his malnourishment. His tiny body just did not have the antibodies that it needed to quickly fight the infection. Hutch was adopted by a lovely family with small children and his world is beautiful.



Hutch with his family

Rottie Alex came to us from a bad situation. It appears that Alex had congenital eye issues in both eyes, but the illness emerged one eye at a time. We were able to save his right eye with daily meds that he would need for a lifetime, but the left eye had to be removed. With the enucleation and the meds, his problems are over.

Alexa, named as such because she reminds us of Alex, was brought to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue by a local animal control officer. It appears that her ears

have been cut off with kitchen scissors. It is impossible to comprehend the pain and fright that she endured at the hands of this monster. The top of her little head is scabbed and scarred. Despite this horror, she is undeniably one of the sweetest and happiest dogs that we have ever admitted to our rescue. Throughout the more than 20 years of our existence, Angel Ridge Animal Rescue has admitted many animals that were missing a limb, either front or rear. I became very close to some of these dogs and brought them into my home on the property. I watched them navigate around the grounds and teach their other limbs to compensate for for the one that was gone. They never focused on what was lost to them, but what they could do with the limbs that remained.



Alexa

Currently we have one "tripod", in foster, out of our Bailey's Cat Haven. Kitty Toby was found lying in the street after being hit by a car. Toby's leg was amputated, and he is completing his recovery in a foster home. He will soon be ready for a family of his own.

We have found that the animals that have undergone such torture or must deal with lack of hearing, sight, or limb are incredibly resilient. They recognize that they are in loving hands, where humans provide love and care, and "God Sees." Rather than become angry or isolated about what they lack, they are exuberant about what they can still do, and they look forward to every coming day.

Where There is Hope, There is Love

by Nancy C. Shannon

The plight of unwanted dogs in our southern states is a cruel reality. One such dog, in particular, pulled at animal lover Krista's heartstrings so tightly that she sent out a plea to dozens of animal rescue groups in an effort to save her. Angel Ridge Animal Rescue was the only rescue that responded. It seems that a small brown pittie mix, living on the streets of south Florida, had taken up residence outside of a landscaping business in Krista's neighborhood. Krista took food and water to her each day. She noticed that she was emaciated and had several tumors on her underbelly. This pup needed help.



Hope

We met Krista and her husband, Rich, at a town in Georgia. Krista had named this little girl Hope. I kept her in my home until I could get her transport to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue. At Angel Ridge, Hope was fitted with a T-shirt wrapped around her belly so that the lowest hanging tumor did not drag on the ground as she walked. Hope delighted in her many walks around the property and was mesmerized by the horses standing in their fields. Her favorite spot, hands down, was volunteer lounge. Buddy's. She nestled in the soft blankets on the sofa and had sweet dreams. Her life on the cruel streets was over.

The report from our veterinarian was not what we wanted to hear. The tumors were most likely malignant and had begun to make their way into her lungs and

other organs. Hope did not have long to live. Dr. S prescribed steroids to help with discomfort and her breathing.

We wanted Hope to know the love of a home of her own for the time that she had left to live. Foster homes are difficult to find, especially when the foster family knows that they will have the heartache of losing their foster dog to a terminal illness. But unbelievably, an experienced foster couple found out about Hope's plight and welcomed her into their loving home.

Hope, renamed Missy, was spoiled beyond belief. In the breakfast frying pan, there always was a meal for Missy/Hope, and she stood at Bill's feet and watched anxiously as her ham and eggs were prepared. Missy/Hope became the Princess of her Bethel Park neighborhood, and made it her duty to get to know all of the inhabitants, both human and canine. Foster parent, Bill, recalls how gentle Missy/Hope was with everyone, and the neighbors' surprise and delight that this sweet dog was really a Pitbull.

Just five weeks had passed and Missy/Hope's dream world came to a sudden end. Her breathing was more difficult, and the tumors had grown in size. Bill stroked her fur gently as Dr. S helped her to cross the Rainbow Bridge peacefully.

in the short time that she was in our lives, she brought us joy. Every day brought special meaning to the people who were fortunate to be in her life. This dog that had been cast out to live and die in the streets, had become a Princess. She crossed into Heaven knowing that she mattered and was loved, and her footprints are forever on our hearts.

Missy Hope, Our Hospice Foster

by Bill Van Patten

Early last summer, Wayne and I knew we'd be in one place for a few months. So, I reached out in several directions about fostering a dog. Our expectation was that we could enjoy the companionship of a canine friend for a few months, while they were waiting for their forever home. We were thinking that this might be a dog who needed a little TLC to get over losing their people, or a pup who needed to gain some weight or recover from surgery, before being ready for adoption.

Through a wonderful series of connections, Wayne and I were led to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue. I spoke with volunteer Faye, who said that fostering was not the usual arrangement for Angel Ridge rescues, but



Wayne and Bill with Missy Hope

that she would keep us in mind if the need arose. Some weeks later, I received a call from Faye, asking if we were still interested-and telling me the story of Hope. Thirty minutes later, we were in the car headed to Angel Ridge.

During the call with Faye, I heard Hope's story and looked at her pictures online. Wayne and I spend a few months every winter in South Florida for his work. Our dog, Buddy, who passed away two years ago, had belonged to a homeless man in Fort Lauderdale before his rescue. Hearing that Hope was from the streets of Miami made us feel that fostering her was destined to be. But there were concerns, too. A Pitbull? We've had several bad

encounters with Pitbulls in Florida. Providing hospice care for a dying dog? We weren't sure how we felt about taking in a dog whose life expectancy was very short.

Two days later, Hope came into our home, and the next 5 weeks were wonderful for all for all of us. Though riddled with tumors, she seemed not to be in pain and was always looking for food or affection. After about a week, she was comfortable and at ease, totally settled into her new life and routine. It was around that time that Hope got the new name of Missy. The resilient, street- smart parts of her personality had shown themselves, and we found ourselves saying things like, "That's enough, Missy!", at times such as when her eager barking for food overwhelmed both of us.

While we were happy to see Missy gaining weight, become even more herself, and make friends with our neighbors and their dogs, we could also see her tumors growing. But her sweet loving nature always remained the same. Her final decline was remarkably and mercifully swift. One morning after having the same energy on her walk and the same eagerness for breakfast, suddenly, she had great difficulty breathing and was trembling in either fear or pain. While her breathing stabilized, she remained in a poor state. It was clear that the end was near. Phone calls were made; a vet appointment for the next day was scheduled.

As had been the case every step of the way, an Angel Ridge Animal Rescue volunteer was at the vet appointment and provided both Missy and me with the support we needed as she crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

Wayne and I learned a lot from our short weeks with Missy. One thing was that Pitbulls are not inherently anything at all except love bugs and goofballs! She also showed us that even if you are blemished by disease, you can still be beautiful. Missy was also an ambassador in the neighborhood for fostering. But more than anything else, Missy reminded us that there is no love like the love of a dog who has come into your home.

Cat Volunteer Spotlight

My name is Carly Hogya and I am one of the socializers at Bailey's Cat Haven. I've been volunteering at the rescue since it first opened. Many people may think, "Oh, so you just play with cats all day?" While this definitely has some truth to it, there is so much more to being a socializer.

Many of the cats, unfortunately, come from less-than-ideal situations. They simply either don't trust humans or are confused as to why they're here in the first place. Therefore, they are often shy, frightened, and withdrawn. As you can imagine, this doesn't make for a very adoptable cat. This is why socializers are essential.

I personally like to work with the toughest cats; the ones that have zero trust in humans and are terrified of the slightest touch. Of course, this may not be for everyone. But for me, it is one of the greatest feelings watching a shy, frightened



Volunteer Carly with Gage

cat blossom into a trusting and loving companion. When those cats get adopted, that is when it all becomes worth it.

Lastly, being a socializer is also not just for the cats' benefit. No matter what kind of day I'm having, I always leave Bailey's happier and a little more relaxed. "This is my therapy", I always say. Cats are not judgmental. They're not aware of what occurs in our personal lives. They simply want love, trust and understanding.

If you are interested in becoming a socializer, please contact Barb Brown at jacob75293@aol.com.

Volunteer Opportunities at Bailey's Cat Haven

Volunteers make a tremendous difference in the lives of cats and kittens awaiting adoption. Here are some ways that you can help:

Cat care at Baileys: we provide cat care AM and PM. That includes feeding, scooping, giving some basic medicines as needed, assessing the cat's demeanor, and interacting with the cats. This is done in a team setting.

Socializers: interact with the cats at Baileys one-on-one to help them become adoption ready. Each cat has different needs and so the interaction is tailored to them. AM and PM hours are needed..

Reading to the cats: over the years we have found that reading to the cats- one on one- making eye contact- is a great way to form trust, especially with the shy cats. This can be a group activity- such as Girl Scouts, etc., or individual families.

Help at events: Baileys has many events planned for 2025 and always needs volunteers to help. This could be setting up or taking down tables or helping during the event.

Pet Supplies Plus: we have a volunteer team that provides once a day cat care at Pet Supplies Plus, McMurray. We have two cages designated for our felines in the back of the store.

Projects at Baileys: we are open to having groups scheduled to do various projects that need to be done. We have worked with Girl Scouts for hours and awards and are open to other groups, too.

Fostering: we are always looking for additional fosters. Generally, kittens go into foster homes for better socialization. This can be an up to three-month commitment. We recommend that you have a separate room, if possible, for fostering. We will provide supplies. The goal is to prepare the kittens for a forever home, so they will be leaving their foster home when they are ready to be adopted.

We welcome groups. We welcome children accompanied by a parent. All volunteers need to complete a volunteer application, and most need to attend a volunteer orientation. Training is provided. If interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please e-mail Barb at jacob.75293@aol.com or Sandy at sandya22@comcast.net.

Cat Wish List

Our needs are great for the volume of animals we care for at Angel Ridge. The Angel Ridge Amazon wish list is on our website at <u>angelridgeanimalrescue.org</u>. Please note that donations for the kitties should be delivered to:



Michael wants to meet vou

Bailey's Cat Haven 2650 Brownsville Rd South Park. PA 15129

Fancy Feast Canned Adult Food – no fish
Delectables Broths
Delectables Stews
Delectables Bisques
Fancy Feast Canned Kitten Food
Purina Kitten chow - yellow bag
Inaba Churu Cat Treats
Frontline Plus for cats
Nitrate Gloves, Medium or Large



Gracie looking for love

Dog & General Needs Wish List

Our needs are great for the volume of animals we care for at Angel Ridge. The Angel Ridge Amazon wish list is on our website at <u>angelridgeanimalrescue.org</u>. Please note that donations for the dogs or general office supplies should be delivered to:



Leo has lots of love to give

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue 390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd Washington. PA 15301

Purina One Dog Food – canned and dry
Frontline Plus for dogs
Greenies Dental Chews
Martingale collar/quick snap buckle
Medicated pet shampoo
Wet Swiffer pads
Odoban or general-purpose cleaners
Clorox spray and wipes
Clorox
Paper towels
Trash bags
Copy paper

Postage stamps



Ivy looking for a new best friend

Our Rescued Dogs and Cats Need You!!

Help an animal in need and have some fun at the same time as an Angel Ridge Animal Rescue volunteer! Here are some ways you can help:

- Volunteering with the dogs: We need dog walkers, off-site and adoption help, transport to the vet, office help, and handyman/woman help at the 390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd Washington location.
- Volunteering with the cats: We need cat care assistance, greeters, office help/organizing, and handyman/woman help at our 2650 Brownsville Rd South Park location.
- To help all of our animals, we need volunteers for fundraising planning and involvement, website update assistance, and picking up donated items from stores and the public.

We have a great volunteer group in place, so you will be welcomed and helped along the way!



To help with the dogs, contact Anne at mrsfred@verizon.net
To help with the cats, contact Barb at jacob75293@aol.com
You can also visit our website at www.angelridgeanimalrescue.org
to print an application.

Cat and Kitten Fosters Needed!!



Fosters are especially needed for the rescue kittens. Kittens must live in a foster home until they are 12 weeks old.

We provide supplies, expertise and support. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Susan at susanbeil@verizon.net.

DONATE

You can donate via PayPal, using email <u>aranres@yahoo.com</u>. You can also complete the form below and mail your donation to the address shown.

Angel Ridge	PLEASE HELP OUR ANGELS AT ANGEL RIDGE ANIMAL RESCUE Mail this form and your donation to P.O. BOX 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347	Angel Ridge
	NAME ADDRESS PHONE EMAIL	
-	I would like to contribute \$ to: (please choose one of these categories) General Emergency Gathering of Guardian Angels Program Contribution Vet Care (\$200 Annually or \$50 quarterly) You can also donate through PayPal, aranres@yahoo.com	

BINGO!!



3 Early Bird Bingo Games | \$5 for all 3 games 10 Regular Bingo Games | Packet Price: \$15/3, \$25/6, \$30/9, \$35/12

BING C	Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 1:30 pm.		
Cover All • Admission: \$35 at t	he door / \$30 in advance.		
Pays \$500 Includes: Regular B	Includes: Regular Bingo Games, and Specials.		
Winnings on	Additional cards available for purchase.		
negulai biligo \$ 100			
ni	Huge Chinese Auction, 50/50 and Pull Tabs.		
• Food and Beverage	Food and Beverages Available for Sale.		
Sunday, May Bethel Park Community Cer	18th		
Tickets available at Bailey's Cat Haven, 2650 Brownsville Rd. South Park, 15129 or at Angel Ridge, 390 Old Hickory Ridge Road, Washington, PA 15301. Tickets can be purchased in person at these locations or by mail, please indicate number of tickets and add \$2 postage and handling for any number of tickets.	Bethel Park, PA 15102 Proceeds Benefit Angel Ridge		
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER IN CASE WE HAVE A QUESTION			
Name	# Tickets Ordered: x \$30.00		
Address	Please add \$2.00 for S/H:		
City / State / Zip Home Phone Alternate Phone	Amount Enclosed:		
O Cash O Check Enclosed O Credit Card (VISA / MC / AMEX)	Fill out application and mail to:		
Credit Card No. Exp. Date /	Angel Ridge Animal Rescue P.O. Box 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347 Make checks payable to: ARAR		
Name on Card Security Code (3-digit)			
Signature	Questions? Call: 724-229-7053		
Email (for credit card orders)			

SAVE THE DATES!

Join us for cat and kitten adoptions, fun and handmade items for sale. More events to be added in the coming months.

Pet Supplies Plus, South Park Shops

February 15: Valentine's Day March 15: St. Paw-tys Day

April 12: Pictures with Easter Bunny

May 3: Cinco De Meow June 14: Summer Splash

July 20: Ice Cream Social

August 17: National Black Cat Day

September 6: Tailgate Time

October 19: Howl-O-Ween Costume Contest

December 6: Pictures with Santa Paws

Pet Supplies Plus, Rt. 19 McMurray

April 5: 12-2 Pictures with the Easter Bunny June 1: 12-3 Adoption Event and Kitten Shower December 20: 12-3 Pictures with Santa Paws

Bailey's Cat Haven, South Park

April 19: Open House and Supplies Collection Event June date TBD: Girl Scout Food and Supplies Drive

South Park Community Center

May date TBD: Rummage Sale "No Fleas" Market August date TBD: Adoption Event

PetSmart, Washington

First Saturday of every month, 12-3

Petco, Washington

Third Saturday of every month, 12-3

Be sure to check our website for updated events! angelridgeanimalrescue.org



CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Our Gathering of Guardian Angels

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue has rescued, restored and rehomed animals in need for over two decades. We have never refused an animal because of its injury, illness or handicap. Rescuers in our area and surrounding states call upon us to take these dogs, cats and kittens into our shelter.

Our philosophy is that an injury or sickness that can be healed is no reason to end an animal's life. We have a special program of caring contributors named the Gathering of Guardian Angels. These Guardian Angels contribute \$50 quarterly, or \$200 per year to this program. The program is there to provide the funds for needed medicines or surgeries for the dogs, cats and kittens who come to us with extraordinary veterinary needs. Please consider joining this elite group of contributors, Angels, who provide the needed extra financial help for our little "angels." Last fall, three of our dogs needed emergency care at a cost of \$12,000. The Guardian Angels Fund helped to pay those bills.

To join, mark the Gathering of Guardian Angels box on the donation form on page 6.

Thank you and God bless.