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Indiana Proactive Animal Welfare, Inc.
Media Contact: Amy Van Ostrand, Esq., Founder & Executive Director
(317) 345-6773; amy@indiana-paw.com
Website: www.indiana-paw.com



“Volunteers Of The Year” Named By Indiana-PAW

Indiana-PAW Recognizes Volunteer & Foster Parents Of The Year

Indiana (February 13, 2006) – Indiana-PAW, the State’s fastest-growing animal welfare education league, recently named its “Volunteer Of The Year” and co-“Foster Parent Of The Year” recipients. Indiana-PAW handed out the awards at a recent volunteer and foster family appreciation party held in Fishers, Indiana.

Indiana-PAW’s Board of Directors selected the three award recipients, each of whom was determined to have made significant contributions to Indiana animal rescue efforts. “The tireless efforts and uncommon dedication of these generous volunteers and foster families serves as inspiration to all of us who are working towards a day when there will be no more homeless animals in Indiana,” says Amy Van Ostrand, Esq., Indiana-PAW’s Founder & Executive Director.



Indiana-PAW volunteers and foster parents at the agency’s recent volunteer appreciation party.

Indiana-PAW recognized the following volunteers:



Indiana-PAW Founder Amy Van Ostrand, Esq. presents Karen & Ron Spikes with the “Indiana-PAW Foster Parents Of The Year” award.

Co-Foster Parent Of The Year: Karen Spikes. Karen Spikes and her husband, Ron, of Lafayette, Indiana, have opened their home and hearts as foster parents to countless homeless animals over the years, including close to a dozen animals in their first year as Indiana-PAW foster parents. Through Indiana-PAW, the Spikes have fostered animals for many local shelters, including Indianapolis Animal Care & Control and the Morgan County Humane Society. Karen says her family finds fostering to be a richly rewarding experience: “I’ve learned more than you can imagine about determination, perseverance, and unconditional love.”

Co-Foster Parent Of The Year: Dianne James. Dianne James of Wabash, Indiana, is one of Indiana-PAW’s most active and experienced foster parents. When Indiana-PAW is contacted by shelters needing help placing special-needs animals into temporary homes, Dianne James is the first volunteer Indiana-PAW contacts, due to her experience socializing hard-to-place animals. Through Indiana-PAW, Dianne has fostered animals for many local shelters and rescue groups, including the Marion-Grant County Humane Society

and Love of Labs, IN. In addition to her work with Indiana-PAW, Dianne also runs the Midwest Prairie Dog Rescue, one of the few groups in the nation dedicated to helping prairie dogs.

Volunteer Of The Year: Sandy Wiley. Sandy Wiley of Trafalgar, Indiana is, according to Indiana-PAW Founder, Amy Van Ostrand, Esq., “the quintessential hero to Hoosier homeless pets.” Sandy and her family have given hundreds of hours of their time over the past year to animal rescue efforts. As an Indiana-PAW volunteer and foster parent, Sandy has attended Indiana-PAW community outreach events, fostered animals facing euthanasia at overcrowded shelters as part of Indiana-PAW’s foster program, transported animals from shelters to rescue groups, and much more. When asked what prompted her to volunteer with Indiana-PAW, Sandy responded: “I wanted to spread the word about fostering and spaying and neutering animals. I also wanted a place to have people pull their forces together and work as a team, a place for support for all rescues, foster care providers and concerned citizens.”

Indiana-PAW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all-volunteer organization dedicated to Indiana animal welfare education. Its mission is to use education and advocacy to reduce the number of companion animals who are euthanized in Indiana, and to cultivate in the community a sense of respect for the needs of those animals with whom we share our world. For more information, visit www.indiana-paw.com.

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