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SECOND CHANCE PRESENTS AWARDS FOR MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS

Shaftsbury, VT, - May 7, 2010 - On a cold December day last winter Timothy Pinsonneault, Jr. was at his job at the Bennington Transfer Station when he noticed a plastic bag moving. When he investigated he discovered a tiny kitten inside the bag -- thrown away as garbage to die.

He rescued the cat and called him Lucky and gave him a home.

At the Second Chance Animal Center's 41st Annual Meeting, Board of Trustee President Judy Murphy presented Mr. Pinsonneault with a Humanitarian Award for this act of kindness. Mr. Pinsonneault resides in Bennington.

The President's Award was given to Joan LaVigne of North Bennington, the longest serving Board Member and President of the Board from 2002-2004. Since the early '90s, Mrs. LaVigne has been active helping animals.

It was Ms. LaVigne who set up the Sunday surgery days at Mt. Anthony Veterinary Hospital, where up to 50 cats were spayed or neutered by Dr. Peter Geanellis and his staff. It was Joan who publicized these events, often going door to door to encourage people to participate.

She and her husband Bruce have taken many shelter animals to Albany to be on Steve Caporizzo's show on Channel 10. She has provided a foster home for cats and has housed a feral cat colony at her home. Although she is stepping down from the Board, she will stay active as a goodwill ambassador and volunteer for the shelter.

A Special Achievement Award went to 10-year-old Morgan Flynn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Flynn of Bennington. This fourth grader at Bennington Elementary School mounted a one person campaign to help the animals at Second Chance. Morgan Flynn has made a difference in his community.

He organized his classmates. He organized people at his school. He organized people through his church. He reached out even further by making appeals to the community on CAT-TV. As a result of his efforts, bags and bags and bags of bedding, towels, kitty litter, and all of the many things that the animals need began to flow into the shelter.

The Staff Recognition Award was presented by Director of Shelter Operations Tina Wheeldon to Kayla Wilson for her outstanding job performance and initiative assisting with spay and neuter surgeries and her work with temperament testing dogs.

Volunteer of the Year Award went to Meg Oceanna, known at Second Chance as the "Cat Whisperer." Ms. Oceanna has spent many hours at the shelter working with the cats. She has a colony of feral cats and has been very successful at coaxing many of these wild cats into being tame enough to be house pets.

The Annual Meeting was held April 23rd in Bennington.

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