



Georgia SPCA

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Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for everything you do to help the animals. Whether you're an adopter, a foster, a volunteer, or a donor, your support on behalf of these dear creatures is so important. We are so thankful that you have a heart to help.

Often people say, "I don't know how you do the work that you do. It hurts to see so many animals in cages; so much pain, suffering, and abuse." Our work can be tiring and thankless. We are faced with heartbreaking situations every day. **But every act of kindness matters.**

If you've ever felt that the problems seem insurmountable, and thought - "***I'm only one person. How can my efforts possibly make a difference?***" then I'd like to share one of my favorite inspirational stories:

The Starfish Story

Original Story by: Loren Eiseley

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean.

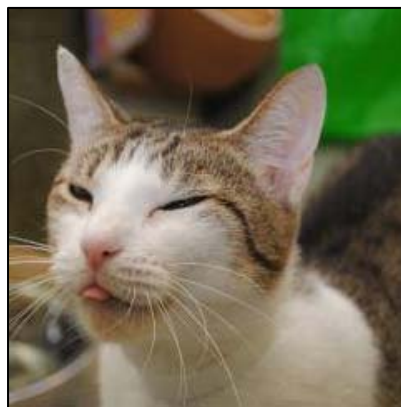
The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son", the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't possibly make a difference!"

The boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and tossed it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said,

"I made a difference for that one."

Because you choose to adopt, you make a huge difference in the life of that one sweet pup or kitty, who had been abandoned, abused, or neglected.



Because you choose to volunteer, you provide the helping hands that keep the shelter doors open. You offer your valuable time and do the hard, dirty work - day in and day out - cleaning cages, washing dishes, sweeping floors, laundering hundreds of towels, staffing our offsite adoption events. Work that could never be done without you.

Because you choose to foster, you make a difference to a dog like Sunshine, a beautiful Retriever mix, and her 12 puppies, who faced certain death at a county animal control facility. They were literally minutes away from being euthanized, when our shelter staff rescued them. Because you open your hearts and homes, animals like Sunshine and her pups, and - as of today - nearly 100 kittens have a loving temporary home where they are nurtured for a few weeks until they are old enough for adoption.



Because you choose to donate, we can continue to provide care, comfort and medical attention to our shelter babies while they await adoption. You dig deep and you give generously. Your children are a huge inspiration – putting their allowance, their birthday money, or their proceeds from a lemonade stand, a car wash, a bake sale – into the donation jar.

Because you care, you make a difference to more than 1,000 Georgia SPCA shelter cats and dogs every year.

And that's a big difference.

We have undergone tremendous change over the last six months:

- Thanks to the generous support of businesses in our community, we have nearly **doubled our shelter space** to better care for and assist the companion animals in Georgia.
- We opened ***Sadie's Place Thrift Store*** in our facility. Proceeds from the sale of items donated to ***Sadie's Place*** directly support the adoption center.
- With the help of our volunteers and supporters, we held our first annual ***"Run for the Rescues 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run."*** When this event was in the planning stages, we were told that the first year of an event of this kind, you could expect 100 runners and 20 vendors. It quickly grew to almost 700 runners and 50 vendors.

We're making great progress, but we cannot rest in the effort to assist the homeless animals in our state. Every day, hundreds of healthy, adoptable animals are needlessly euthanized. Pets just like your own and those we bring to safety at the shelter. We at the Georgia SPCA are working overtime to try to stop the needless deaths, but we cannot do it without you.

We operate solely through donations, adoption fees, and small grants. We need your assistance to keep saving lives. Every dollar that is given stays right here in Georgia, to help with the animal issues in our state. By supporting the Georgia SPCA you help us educate the public on the need for spay/neuter. You help us stand up against dog fighting, puppy mills and other forms of animal abuse. Please close your eyes for a minute and consider the animals that need you. No amount is too small to make a difference. Please care enough to give what you can afford. You are an amazing group of supporters, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

For the Animals,

Jane Stewart
Executive Director, Georgia SPCA