

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On the Positive Side: McConnel estate benefits animals

By Phyllis Blazer

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On Sept. 12 the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico (HSSNM) took advantage of the opportunity to recycle and transform some personal treasures from the estate of Louise McConnel into greatly appreciated help for area dogs and cats.

These personal treasures of McConnel were generously donated by her sister to use for a HSSNM fundraiser. Money raised will assist with homeless companion animal adoptions, spaying and neutering to reduce the pet overpopulation, new homes for companion animals whose families are forced to find alternative homes for them and humane education programs conducted by HSSNM.

It was pretty much a labor of love for the HSSNM members, who performed the tedious task of sorting through and organizing the vast number of boxes holding these estate items, pricing them and repacking boxes for transport to the sale site.

Still with enthusiasm at 5:30 a.m., a number of HSSNM members gathered Sept. 12 to set up their tables and wares on the parking area of RTD Hardware across from East Picacho Elementary School on Valley Drive. By 7 a.m., when buyers began to show up, coins began to ding in the cash box and the adding machine tape began to record the quarters, half dollars and dollars, it became obvious this was well worth the effort.

There were the usual items of kitchenware such as knives, pots, pans, glasses, bowls and assorted culinary utensils, including the occasional mystery items. There was also clothing, linens, crafts material and pet items, which were in high demand by buyers to supplement their needs at home in a tough economy.

McConnel also had acquired an extensive library and collection of tea pots and creamers, attracting many of the browsers doing comparison shopping as they traveled around town to the multitude of garage sales and similar events that day. These were supplemented with artwork, tools, appliances, furniture and bric-a-brac from HSSNM members and supporters.

By midday, when the sale ended, it had garnered almost \$800 and many of the items were gone. The remaining items were transported to Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary's Thrift store where those items were given another chance to become useful or adored items in area homes while supporting Safe Haven's animal programs.

This was a generous action on the part of community residents from the donor, the HSSNM members and volunteers, and the shoppers who took the extra time to find something they could use and help HSSNM animal welfare goals. HSSNM truly appreciates the help of everyone involved.

An extended positive aspect of the estate donation is the wonderful doll collection, the exceptional Christmas decorations and some interesting collectibles that will be offered at later sales events by HSSNM. HSSNM is looking forward to announcing these events during October and November to help provide for a brighter Christmas during this economic recovery and especially to help raise funds for HSSNM animal programs.

For information about projects, events and fundraising, please go to HSSNM's Web site at www.hssnm.com.

Phyllis Blazer, Ph.D, is a member of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico.