

**On the Positive Side: Local Corporations and Customer Show Concern  
Frank Bryce, President, Humane Society of Southern New Mexico  
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Every now and again there is a small but truly bright spot that lightens our day as we face the ups and downs of issues we share. The story of two corporations and a concerned customer's combined efforts that resulted in the rescue of a one pound, four week old kitten is a bright spot in our community fabric. Somehow trapped under an eight thousand pound forty feet long mobile storage unit located behind the Walgreen's store at 2300 E. Lohman, the little kitten was apparently abandoned by its mother as early as Tuesday when Walgreen staff first began seeking help for the kitten. Despite Walgreen managers Oscar Armenta's and Doug Jones' initial efforts, little seemed to be able to be done for this kitten by animal control or even the fire department. This was due to the size of the storage unit and the assumption that the missing mother cat may have been able to help the kitten from its predicament.

On Friday morning, Pam Emmerson, a Walgreen customer, when passing through the store drive-thru heard the little kitten's cries for help. Concerned the little kitten may not survive its essential entombment much longer, these folks asked the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico (HSSNM) for assistance. Bill Smith, who serves on the HSSNM board of directors and who monitors the HSSNM Pet Helpline, facilitated communication with HSSNM and those involved. Subsequent further evaluation by HSSNM and animal control did determine it was a young kitten apparently very distressed beneath the unit. Without adequate special handling equipment and concerned about possible injury to kitten and rescuers or damage to the unit, HSSNM decided to contact the storage unit corporation, Mobile Mini Storage, in Tempe, Arizona. Corporate customer service representative, Carmine Bautista, literally set the wheels in motion for the El Paso Mobile Mini Storage branch manager, Peter Porras, and one of his drivers to be dispatched to Las Cruces from El Paso early Saturday morning, the next day. In the meantime, food and water were provided to the kitten through a small gap between the pavement and the steel beam at the bottom of the unit. Everyone involved held their breath until the special equipment could arrive.

At about seven a.m., a huge special truck unit rolled into the Walgreen's parking lot where a half dozen cold folks awaited its arrival. With the deftness of experience and confidence, Mobile Mini employees quickly and safely lifted the huge unit just high enough to allow the kitten to be pulled to safety. Although obviously dehydrated and a bit thin, the kitten appeared to be in good condition and quickly lapped up a breakfast of chicken broth offered by one of the rescuers. Due its small size and its predicament, this little kitten was quickly named "Mini".

After several days of observation to determine its health, Mini has already been adopted by Nadine Meavin, a Walgreen employee, and arrangements have been made for vaccinations and spaying as the kitten becomes age appropriate. HSSNM wants to thank Pam, Oscar, Doug, Nadine, Peter, Carmine and, in particular, Walgreen and Mobile Mini Storage Corporations for their efforts to save this little kitten which might just as easily been forgotten in the big frame of issues we all face. However small, this was a bright spot in our community story and we are sure it was a bright spot for Mini.

Frank Bryce is President of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Interested authors for "On The Positive Side" can contact HSSNM at (575) 523-8020.