



## “DEAR SANTA”—A Letter from the Homeless Rescue Dogs

**D**ear Santa,  
We can't believe it has been almost a year since we last wrote you. We want to thank you again for all the wonderful presents we received last year. Unfortunately, once again, many of us didn't get our biggest wish—yep, those wonderful forever homes. We really try to understand why no one wants us but sometimes it is hard. As you are well aware there are many more homeless dogs here at the Rescue this year. According to Grandma there were more phone calls to dump dogs this year than ever before.



GRACIE

We do hope that this year our **first and most plentiful gift** will be forever loving homes but we will try hard to understand why you cannot deliver this gift.

Our **second gift** we ask for is that you do not give people puppies for Christmas—we all know that most will end up in rescue anyway!

Our **third gift** we ask for this holiday season is help with individual requests. We hope you can help each of us listed here in a small way.

**Alicia, Christine, Colt, Joe, and Tommy** want to be given the courage to trust when people come here to look at them. People do not understand that they were abused and are afraid to trust many humans. If they would only look at how much they love and trust Grandma they would see that in a short time they would love and trust them just as much if given half a chance.



ANNABELLE

**Dawn and Thadius** want to have people who own a six-foot fence come to look at *them*, and not look at dogs that do not need that high a fence.

**Annabelle, Chase, Harvey, Jax, JB, Jerret, Joey, Madison, Perry, Rhett, Scarlett, Xena, and Zoe** want to be given the fountain of youth. They all have so much to give if only people would open up their eyes and see “That is a great dog!” Heck none of them even act old! Besides none of us know when it will be our time to cross the Rainbow Bridge!



JAYCE

Continued on page 2

### Inside this issue:



Letter to Santa	1
Mozart's Opening	1
For the Love of Justice	3
Volunteer News	4
Rainbow Bridge & New Adoptions	5
Donor & Sponsor News	6
eBay Update	8

The Rescue will be closed  
for the winter holidays  
December 16–January 4

**HHGDR is a non-profit  
501(c)(3) all-volunteer-  
run organization.  
Donations are tax-  
deductible!**

## MOZART'S ART OPENING



Mozart, HHGDR spokesdog and resident artist, will kick off a month-long exhibition of his paw paintings on canvas with an opening celebration on Saturday, December 1, 4–8 PM, at the Mac Worthington Galerie, 749 N. High Street. The gallery is in the heart of Columbus' Short North Arts District; the opening will be held during the District's monthly Gallery Hop. Please come and show your support for the Rescue and Mozart's mission of No More Puppy Mills! All proceeds benefit the Rescue dogs.



Pawmpei, acrylic on canvas, 11 x 14". By Mozart.



### “DEAR SANTA” continued from page 1

See “How to Help” on the HHGDR site to contribute to the care and welfare of the homeless dogs.  
<http://www.hhdane.org/>

happy Hanukkah



GRACIE

**Amber, Hope, Sandy, and Sasha** want you to give them height! No one wants them because they are too little. They also would appreciate you giving them spots or stripes so that they would not be the plain old “black with white markings!”

**Patsy and Shania** also want height but they need a family who would love to have a *pair* of Danes to love.

**Atlas** would like the courage to be left at home all day; his separation anxiety has kept him from getting his forever home.

**Faith** would like to have her tail back because everyone thinks she is a Doberman with her docked tail and cropped ears.

**Leila and Susie** would also like to change their looks—no one wants to adopt them because they look “different.”

**Callie, Lonny, Lucy, Matt, Sneak, and Sonny** would like for you to make them purebreds so that people would consider adopting them. The mixes get so excited every week when people come for appointments only to have their little hearts broken because no one ever wants to see them.

**Barney, Barry, Betty, Gracie, Odie, Rosie, and Tina** would like you to give them each a set of clippers so they could shave their hair off weekly since all that contact the Rescue wanting a Saint always complain about the long hair! We keep telling the Saints that it is only an excuse—that if it was not the hair people would find another reason to not want them.

Our **fourth wish** is, as always, to help us shut down the puppy mills supplying pet stores with puppies. Please continue to help us educate the people on the endless suffering of the poor dogs and puppies at the mills and pet stores. Mozart is continuing his work but he needs your help!

We have asked for a lot again this year, but please don't forget to bring toys, so while we are at the Rescue we can play and be happy!



MADISON

**Thanks again Santa**, for reading our letter—we know you are very busy and we greatly appreciate all you have done for us in the past.

Love,

*The Homeless Rescue Dogs*

**Help Mozart advocate for Spay & Neuter!**

We can make a difference in pet over-population with your help!

The Harlequin Haven Great Dane Rescue Newsletter is published four times a year by the Rescue.

Submit items of interest to Newsletter Editor Janet Carleton at [hhdane.mom@gmail.com](mailto:hhdane.mom@gmail.com).

Current and back issues are available from the Web site and by request.  
<http://www.hhdane.org/>



SNEAK is a homeless Great Dane-Catahoula mix.



REBECCA is a homeless Great Dane.



KATIE is a homeless Great Dane.



## FOR THE LOVE OF JUSTICE by Victory Dorrian

**Y**ou're thinking about a Great Dane addition to your home, or maybe a Saint Bernard. You like the idea of adopting a rescue dog, but you're not sure if it's the best idea. After all, a rescue dog probably has all kinds of emotional baggage, right? You read how rough it has been for some of these dogs and conclude you don't need "damaged goods."

I recognize that thinking very well. After all, I like to have the best I can have in every situation and circumstance. Nice home, cool car, witty friends, successful spouse, smart kids, flawless personal appearance—it's all part of the picture-perfect package we've all been groomed to project in our "nothing but the best" culture. So the "best dog" would be healthy, both physically and emotionally, free from an imperfect past, ready to hit the ground running. Instant success.

Let me tell you about Justice. You might have read his sad story on the Harlequin Haven Web site, and it started out as anything but just. You look at the pictures of his emaciated, shaking frame, the permanent scars on his back and sides and you shudder at their testament to how ugly life can be. But if you could look behind the pictures you would experience a completely different story; one as rewarding and joyful and fulfilling as life can possibly be.

Justice had been starved in every possible sense of that ugly word. Starved for food and water. Starved for shelter and basic protection. Starved for a place to belong, a home. Starved for warmth and safety and affection. Starved for fun and exuberant play. Starved for love. You would figure he would grow up to be a snapping, snarling, scared, and food-aggressive example of the breed. You would be wrong.

Justice was gentle and obedient, affectionate and playful, patient and predictable. He did not demand his way or throw his weight around, although he would lean his giant frame in a full-body affectionate display of his devotion. Despite his former food deprivation, he was well-mannered when it came to waiting for his food bowl to be filled and soft-mouthed when he accepted treats from even the tiniest hand. He seemed not to remember his woeful past, for the most part. I say for the most part, because try as he always did, he sometimes unwittingly disclosed a shadow, a hint of his dark past. Before you jump to any fearful conclusions, let me hurry to explain.

Sometimes we would go for a ride in the car. Sometimes the rides were long ones (like the one home from the Rescue). Sometimes we went to an unfamiliar place together. Sometimes I disappeared into our basement for a short while, or retreated beyond the back fence gate momentar-

ily. At these times, Justice became even more highly attentive, watching me carefully for clues. If I looked closely, I could see a small furrow in his brow, a tiny question on his face, a swift glimpse of fear. I came to understand what Justice was doing. He was wondering if he was going back to a shelter, or to be led away to a dark place for endless hours, or tied outside to a lonely post.



JUSTICE

Jun. 2004–Nov. 6, 2007

Mind you, he was always well-behaved; dignified as any Dane could be even at these incredibly intense moments. He listened and complied willingly with my commands. He obeyed without question. A keen observer might discern a slight hesitancy in his step, but no more. It was only when the "danger" was past that he returned to his boundlessly sunny disposition. As we turned into our street, I could hear his tail thump on the back seat. As I continued to keep him close, he relaxed and enjoyed his new surroundings a bit more. I would come up the basement steps to see his open-mouthed, sparkly-eyed smile. I opened the fence gate and watched him turn and whirl and run in joyous relief.

I came to understand an important paradox, something you would not likely predict about formerly-abused dogs like Justice. Yes, they know where they came from. They remember their past miseries. And they love you all the more because of it. Their gratefulness is almost unimaginable. Their capacity to love is deeper; their ability to give back is relentless. It is amazingly, incredibly hard to believe; to accept that such severe wounding would give birth to such willingness to love unconditionally and without reserve. Such love does not seem to be possible, let alone to be justifiable. It goes against the grain. In our imperfect, dog-eat-dog world, it is simply not justice.

And lest you think that Justice was an exceptional case, let me tell you a tiny bit about my other two rescue Danes...both from Harlequin Haven. Opus had Addison's disease. Daphne is deaf. These magnificent Danes had suffered more than most. Emotional and physical pain was their common denominator.



## VOLUNTEERS—our most sincere thanks!

- |                                    |                                  |                          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dori Baker                         | Jennifer Kisker                  | Erin Stiffler            |
| Andy & Wendi Beauseau              | Kevin Kremer                     | Jim Tomaszewski          |
| Karin Bergquist, Over the Rhine    | Jillian Lenczicki                | Whitney Townsend         |
| Daniel Blankenship                 | Nancy Marconett                  | Sonja Venzin             |
| Meredith & Karen Callinan          | Thomas Mattingly                 | Melinda Villao           |
| Janet Carleton                     | Christe McGarry                  | John & Melodie Whitacre  |
| Don Corsmeier                      | Susan Meyer                      | Jeff & Betty Whittington |
| Mame & Craig Corson                | Carla & Ben Mingus               | Jonathan Williams        |
| Sharon, Chelsea, & Evan Dearwester | Trevor Mingus                    | Craig Yacks              |
| Linford Detweiler, Over the Rhine  | Marianne & John Moots            | Judy & Tom Yacks         |
| Beth Dotson                        | Brian & Kelly Owens              | <i>Attorney</i>          |
| Dale Francis                       | Danette Patrick                  | Greg Ruehlmann           |
| Mary Beth Gettins                  | Pam Paul                         |                          |
| Timothy Goings                     | Pandy Pridemore                  | <i>Veterinarians</i>     |
| Thelma Goris                       | Polly Pyles                      | Dan Meakin               |
| Kenny Honaker                      | Jenni Reinhart                   | Lee Schrader             |
| Lisa Huelskamp                     | Sandra Seidman                   | Steve Schrader           |
| Dayna Ingram                       | Lauren Seither                   |                          |
| Jonathan Jennings                  | Betty Shonebarger                |                          |
| Jennifer Jones                     | Chris & Sherrie Simms and family |                          |
|                                    | Charlie Smith                    |                          |

**HHGDR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all-volunteer-run organization. Donations are tax-deductible!**



# Thank You!

**CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR UPCOMING AWARENESS EVENTS IN YOUR AREA!**



## VOLUNTEERS at work!

Volunteers performed many essential tasks, from creating and selling crafts to staffing awareness events to transporting dogs to assisting with publicizing Mozart's art show to cleaning the facility and grooming dogs.

They worked awareness events around Ohio including those in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo. Others came to the Rescue and worked one on one with the dogs giving them extra attention and the opportunity to meet new people.

*Check the Web site for events in your area!*



*Beth Dotson (above), discusses pedicures with PERRY while Dayna Ingram (right) discusses the merits of fleece toys vs Nylabones with ROSIE during Grooming Day at the Rescue.*



## RAINBOW BRIDGE—our deepest sympathy

Amber and Carley—Jennifer & Tony Greth  
Babe—Mark, Anji, Lance, & Matthew Erickson  
Barkley—Randy & Becky Adams  
Brandy and Vinnie—Tom & Dale Bath  
Cleo—Nikol Marsh  
Clyde—Thelma Goris  
Duke—Ray & Kenzie Chesnick  
Jake—Christe McGarry  
Justice—Victory & Frank Dorrian  
Skippy—Russell Grigg



Paw-lanet, acrylic on canvas, 16 x 20". By Mozart.

## RECENT ADOPTIONS—congratulations!

Brody—Christe McGarry  
Guinness II—Jeff Gaylor  
Jeffrey—George & Shirley Bays  
Martin—Nick & Lynne Cherolis  
Nikki—Casey & Daryl Hayslip  
Patty—Melissa & Lenard Adams  
Ricky—Jill & Jeff Shawley  
Stephanie—Shawn Burroughs & William Rood



GUINNESS II



JEFFREY



STEPHANIE



NIKKI





## DONORS AND SPONSORS—A huge thank you!

Randy & Becky Adams, in memory of Brittany M. and Barkley C. Adams	Pellegrino Ciccarello, in memory of Luke Jeffrey Clark	Bennie Funderburg Megan Gaylor
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Bryan Anderson, for the love of all Great Danes	Robert & Margaret Cloud	Erik A. Gilleland
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Anonymous, in honor of the Danes at the Rescue	Jack Corsmeier	Sherrie Gowins-Sims
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Anonymous stock donations	Mame & Craig Corson	Russell Grigg
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Karin Bergquist, Over the Rhine	Brittany Dunlop, in honor of Jack	Patricia Hoyer
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Samantha Blevins	Patty & Evans, in memory of Willie	Karen & James Hunter, in honor of Freckles
Donald & Patricia Blum	Rita Evanshine	Alba & Rachel Hurlbut
Kimberly Borhardt-Hammer, in honor of Jim Spiro's birthday	Laurie Facsina, in honor of Colin Charles Sasala Nelson	Jean & Chuck Inwood
Nancy Brennan	Donna & Wayne Fanta	Robert & Lara Jagielski
Marcia Burns	Ed Firth	Edward Jekot, in memory of my beloved Sam
Jim Calciano	Mike, Ben, & Tony Firth	Jon & Tracy Jennings
Paul D. Call	Jill Fitch	Greg Johnson
Meridith & Karen Callinan	Jennifer Flannery	Fredrick & Kathryn Jones
Janet Carleton	Amanda Fox	Jennifer Jones
Lucy Carleton	Dale Francis	Bronda Kalat, in honor of Rebecca Miller
Ray Chesnick, in memory of Duke	James & Karalyn Frenelle	Pam & Terry Kassner
	Ruth Friscoe	Sandra Kemerer
	Geoffrey Fuller	Eamonn & Stefvanie Kerrigan
		James King



## DONORS AND SPONSORS—continued

Melanie King	Cindy Parker	Sandia Sommer, in memory of Blue
Jennifer Kisker	Danette Patrick	Jesse Sowards
Pookie Kostuk	Pam Paul	Sharron Springer
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Kevin Kremer	Louise Peterson	Erin Stiffler
Michelle Kris, in honor of Dori & Dale and all the dogs at the Rescue	Katie Pfierman	Valerie Taylor
Erin Kurtz	William & Margaret Ports	Anthony Telinda
Steve and Betty Lane, in memory of Harley D. Lane	Jessica Potts	Jim Tomaszewski
Sabrina Lefever, in honor of our Dane and best friend Anoki	Gregory & Laura Prisco	Mara Tomaszewski
Jillian Lenczicki	Polly Pyles	Christina Toth
Ryan Liersemann	Amy Rader	Whitney & Brian Townsend
Scott Long, friend from Kat5	David Receveur	Sonja & Gabriel Venzin
Susan Manuel	Ershel Redd III, in honor of Jim Tomaszewski	Melinda Villao
Nancy Marconett, in memory of Clyde	Alexandra Reed	Christine Vrooman, in memory of Luke
James E. Martinec	Jenni Reinhart	Kathy Walsmley
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Linda McGarry, in memory of Sweet Coco	Larry Roberts	Jonathan Williams
Annette McGee	Ruth Robinson	Wayne Williamson
Robin McKell	Julie Rockey	James Winberg
Mark McNamee	Rylee-Ann Romero, in memory of Jack	Rachel Woodworth
Mojo Meyer	Sams Club, Eastgate	Alex & Brenna Wright
Susan Meyer	Jennifer Schroeter	Jennifer Yackley
Amy & Steven Miller	Carole Schwarz	Craig Yacks
Rebecca Miller	Thadd Scott	Jennifer & Tim Yacks
Lisa Minklei	Sheri Seeley	Judy & Tom Yacks
Michelle Minnich	Sandra & Gabriel Seidman	<i>Your financial support is what keeps us going.</i>
Marianne & John Moots, in memory of Samantha	Lauren Seither	<i>Without you, we would not be able to save them.</i>
Kent Mulliner & Lian The-Mulliner	Lauren Seither	<i>Thank you one and all, and if we have omitted anyone from our lists, we sincerely apologize.</i>
Kathryn Murphy	Steve & Elizabeth Shi, friends from Kat5	
Stephen & Sandra Nichols	Betty Shonebarger	
Nickerson's Office Supplies	Betty Skinner	
Dan Nusbaum	Thomas & Cathy Skinner	
Cindy Orlasky	Timothy Skinner	
Andrea Orshell	Elena Skov	
Brian & Kelly Owens	Mark Slaughter, in honor of Zed	
	Charlie Smith	





Visit our Web site often—your next best friend may be waiting there for you!

Harlequin Haven Great Dane Rescue  
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Bethel, Ohio 45106-8634

937-379-2231  
[info@hhdane.com](mailto:info@hhdane.com)  
<http://www.hhdane.org/>



**LOOKING FOR FOREVER HOMES LIKE YOURS...**

We have 54 Great Danes, 8 Saint Bernards, and 7 mixed breed dogs waiting for new homes. To date we have adopted out 1233 Great Danes and other dogs.

## JUSTICE continued from page 3

Yet, just like Justice they rose above their tragedies to live extraordinary and fulfilling lives. In each case, these noble beasts gave far more love than they required. And I, along with my family and friends, are immeasurably better for having taken the chance on these “damaged goods.”

So, you’re still sitting there, thinking about adopting that dog with the troubling past. You’re counting the possible costs (emotional as well as physical, and dollars). And you should think about these things. But please reconsider; be willing to revise your thinking about formerly-abused dogs. They are not all bad news and broken pieces. Their imperfections can lead to one of the most perfect relationships you will ever have this side of heaven.

There are very few times in life when we can right a wrong or heal a hurt. But think about Justice. And for the love of Justice and others like him, take a chance on that rescue dog. You will get far, far more than you can possibly give.

*Justice passed away from cancer on November 6.*

*Happy Holidays from  
all the Rescue dogs!*



Remember to keep a close eye on your fur kids during the festivities, watching consumption of fatty and rich foods and keeping decorations out of reach!

See “**How to Help**” on the HHGDR site to contribute to the care and welfare of the homeless dogs.

<http://www.hhdane.org/>

## HHGDR eBay Fundraising Auctions



Keep an eye on the HHGDR eBay fundraising auctions!



New items usually go up every week.

Visit <http://www.hhdane.org/> to see all our auctions.



We have many items large and small that would make perfect holiday gifts!

Our most sincere thanks to the supporters who donated or purchased items!

