



Democratic Party of Santa Fe County Community Service Program

Volunteer

People | Planet | Prosperity

Monthly Schedule

- **Food Depot:** 3rd Thursday
- **Animal Shelter:** 2nd Tuesday
- **City Parks:** 2nd Thursday
- **Habitat for Humanity:** 4th Wednesday
- **Reunity Resources:** 2nd Saturday April—October
- **Kitchen Angles:** Every Monday and Wednesday by team

Variable Schedule

- **Santa Fe indigenous Center**
- **Pete’s Place**

See inside for details

[Join the CSP here](#)

[Sign up for 2024 Winter events here](#)

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THANKS TO AN AMAZING GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS
KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!!

FEATURE ARTICLE — SANTA FE ANIMAL SHELTER

Gimme Shelter

Find your joy helping needy pets

By Katherine Heerbrandt

People who have an affinity for animals and want to make a difference in their lives can serve in a variety of volunteer roles at the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society. Several dedicated animal-loving Santa Fe County Democrats took the training to become dog walkers, just one of several volunteer options coordinated by the Community Service Program.

Elizabeth Broyles and husband George wasted no time signing on to walk dogs after joining the Santa Fe County Democrats in January 2023. The Shelter offered a way to get their dog “fix,” Elizabeth said, and offer some comfort to dogs at the shelter.

The couple found their dog Meg by fostering her for a few months, another way to give dogs a break from the Shelter. Although Elizabeth admits it’s often “emotionally difficult to come to terms with these dogs’ circumstances,” spending time with them is far more rewarding than it is sad, she said.

The Shelter’s program has 277 volunteers who contributed 33,427 hours year-to-date since March 2023, across many areas of shelter operations. Those include fostering, dog walking and enrichment, medical, retail at the two Cat Resale Stores, adoption support, communi-



Above—Elizabeth plays with a shelter dog. Below, Linda works with a dog.

ty outreach, housekeeping and administrative, according to Volunteer Coordinator Tony Wasowicz. Additionally, corporate, alumni, faith-based, and school groups often come for a day of service or on a recurring basis.

Tony himself started as a volunteer dog walker at the Shelter, and later served as Volunteer Liaison. Working as a volunteer lends him a perspective he carries into his current role. To that end, Tony immediately created stronger communication channels between staff and volunteers, and



ANIMAL SHELTER VOLUNTEERING

expanded opportunities for volunteers to serve and be served.

“As a volunteer, I saw ways that things could work better,” Tony said. “Now we look for input from volunteers. We want to tap their creativity and to engage more with them to make this a better place.”

Shelter staff recognize the critical role that volunteers play in day-day-operations, and have planned activities for them to expand their knowledge about animal behavior and training, and to socialize with each other. Aside from special events and gatherings, the Shelter offers regular classes, including how to read dog body language, how to handle dog fights and loose dogs, and how to mentally stimulate dogs through nose work.

The Shelter’s volunteers run the gamut in age and experience – the oldest is 91 - but share a compassion for animals and a passion for keeping them safe. SF County Dem Linda Burchfiel has been walking dogs at the shelter for nearly two years. Linda admits she spoils her own dog, and chose to work at the Shelter because “all dogs are deserving,” she said.

Fellow Democrat Karla Lauritsen began volunteering at the Shelter at the same time as Linda in March 2022. She chose to walk dogs because she, too, enjoys the direct interaction. Karla admits other volunteer activities kept her away the past few months, but plans to change that very soon.

“Taking them for a walk, then taking them to the play yard is very rewarding,” Karla said. “These dogs need people, and they remember you!”



Inaugural CSP Dog Training at the Shelter.

Dogs and the humans who interact with them benefit from their togetherness. The dogs receive care and attention from loving people; humans get a boost in serotonin, and the exchange creates a positive feedback loop.

Still, some would-be volunteers worry they may be too tender hearted to work with shelter animals. Talking to other volunteers can help allay those concerns. Long-term volunteer Lyn deMartin has volunteered at the Santa Fe Animal Shelter for 25 years, and remembers helping move shelter operations from the original location on Cerrillos Road to the 100-acre facility on Caja Del Rio in July 2005.

Prior, she helped establish a permanent shelter in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Although volunteerism was part of her upbringing— she began by reading to the blind at age 15 – she was initially hesitant to volunteer with dogs because she was afraid it would be too emotionally draining.

Lyn said two things happened to help her overcome that fear. The first thing, she said, was to get over the idea of crying in public. Secondly, she recognized that her heart would suffer a little after each visit. “I realized I just had to deal with that because it was worth it,” she said.

Aside from the personal benefits of working with animals and like-minded people, volunteers help relieve Shelter staff. The need is great, according to Volunteer Liaison Barbara Leighnor.

“Sheltering is tough right now and dogs continue to flow in at record numbers. And this is the pattern we are seeing everywhere. Add to that staffing challenges and we are experiencing a greater need for volunteers than ever before,” Barbara wrote in a recent email to volunteers. Her message expressed gratitude for those who volunteer while reiterating the need for a sustained effort. Volunteer Coordinator Tony said ideally, the Shelter could use at least 200 more volunteers. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Volunteer Coordinator Tony Wasowicz at 505-983-4309, ext. 1128; and at

twasowicz@sfhumanesociety.org. For more information about the Shelter, visit sfhumanesociety.org.

CSP – STANDARD SCHEDULE

The Community Service Program has implemented a standard event schedule. The standard schedule is:

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
1	Kitchen Angels (team)		Kitchen Angels (team)		
2	Kitchen Angels (team)	Animal Shelter	Kitchen Angels (team)	City Parks	Reunity Resources (April—Oct)
3	Kitchen Angels (team)		Kitchen Angels (team)	Food Depot	
4	Kitchen Angels (team)		Habitat for Humanity Kitchen Angels (team)		

Please see details for times, locations and general information on volunteering with each organization in the Partners section below.

In order for partner organizations to plan, please register for standard events so that organizations can be informed on how many volunteers to expect.

NOTE: the standard schedule has been established to provide volunteers and partner organizations consistency; however, most organizations appreciate any additional time you are able to volunteer.

PARTNERS AND SCHEDULES

Food Depot

- 3rd Thursday of every month
- 1:30 - 4:00
- 1222 A Siler Road
- [Click to register](#)

From Food Depot— Our vision is simple: Healthy, hunger-free communities in Northern New Mexico. We work toward that vision by engaging a network of partners to develop solutions to create a hunger-free New Mexico.

The CSP assists with sorting fresh, canned, and other food items in preparation of distribution.

Kitchen Angels

- Mondays and Wednesdays
- Currently no slots open
- 3:15–5:00

Kitchen Angels mission is to provide free, nutritious meals to our home-bound neighbors facing life-challenging conditions.

The CSP has established two teams, one on a Monday route and another on a Wednesday route. Currently Kitchen Angels delivery slots are full. If you are interested in volunteering with Kitchen Angels, please contact the organization directly, or e-mail csp.dpsfc@gmail.com.

City Parks

- 2nd Thursday
- 1:00 pm
- Default—Villa Linda
- [Click to register](#)

Santa Fe boasts 77 developed parks, 26 undeveloped parks, and 170 miles of trails. With so much responsibility, City Parks greatly appreciates assistance from the community.

The DPSFC efforts focus on the Villa Linda Park. Activities will primarily be picking up garbage, raking, pruning... The CSP may have special events at other City Parks upon request of a CSP member, or the City. Any location changes will be e-mailed to all that have signed up for park events. Default is Villa Linda.

Santa Fe Animal Shelter

- 2nd Tuesday work with dogs for those trained
- 8:30 am
- 100 Caja del Rio Road
- [Click to register](#)

Since 1939, the Santa Fe Animal Shelter has been dedicated to its mission: support animals, save lives, spread compassion. The Santa Fe Animal Shelter is northern New Mexico's largest open-admission, no-kill shelter.

The animal shelter needs volunteers to exercise and play with dogs, cats and kittens. Training is necessary prior to interacting with animals. If you would like training to work with the animals, please e-mail csp.dpsfc@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity

- 4th Wednesday
- 1:00 pm
- Location variable
- [Click to register](#)

The mission of Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity is to promote affordable homeownership for Santa Fe area residents by constructing simple, adequate, and energy-efficient new homes and repairing or rehabilitating existing homes through the cooperative efforts of partner families, volunteers, donors, and staff.

The CSP is volunteering with Habitat for Humanity by assisting with the construction of new homes. No experience is necessary—all training and tools are provided onsite.

Reunity Resources

- 2nd Saturday of April—Oct.
- 9 am
- 1829 San Ysidro Crossing
- [Click to register](#)

Reunity Resources is a not for profit farm that donates produce to ease local hunger. CSP volunteers may assist with starting seeds in the greenhouse, weeding the vegetable garden, or other farm tasks.

Santa Fe Indigenous Center

- Check Santa Fe Indigenous Center [web site](#) for current dates
 - 9am - Prep Care Bundles
 - 10am-noon Distribution
 - 1420 Cerrillos Road
 - Registration not necessary
- The Santa Fe Indigenous Center distributes free bags of groceries and care bundles approximately every other week at 1420 Cerrillos Road. Donations can be dropped off at 1420 Cerrillos Road on the days of distribution. Volunteers can work events and/or donate goods.
- Needed items include:
- Diapers/pull ups – adult, children and baby
 - Hygiene products, soap, lotions, tooth paste, tooth brushes, combs, deodorant
 - Bedding/towels - sheets, pillowcases, pillows, blankets, towels, washcloths
 - Laundry detergent
 - Undergarments - socks, new underwear, bras

Pete's Place

- Variable
 - [Click to register](#)
- Interfaith Community Shelter, also known as Pete's Place, offers hope and a safe place for anyone who is homeless or vulnerable as they overcome adversity.

CSP volunteers serve dinner approximately every few months. We hope to establish a regular schedule. Volunteers also provide sack lunches on Mondays.



If you would like to submit an article or photos, please send an e-mail to csp.dpsfc@gmail.com