

# Animals: Local teen helping four-legged creatures

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her help. The Society gave her flyers, stickers, and information to help with her efforts. ARF took similar steps as well.

Then Alyscia went to work.

During a two day fundraiser for the Human Society, she helped raise \$600 for the Humane Society. She also collected two truck loads of supplies for the society's shelter.

Since ARF's shelter had been destroyed, Alyscia said she couldn't collect supplies like she did for the Humane Society. So she took another direction. Setting a fundraising goal of \$5,000 to help ARF rebuild, she started to collect bottles and cans to raise money. She also held a pasta supper in Waterbury Feb. 9.

The pasta supper fundraiser far exceeded her expectations, said Alyscia. She had set a goal of \$1,000 but she figured that was overly ambitious. But, she managed to raise \$1,342, far exceeding her goal, "which is kind of cool."

"Once we counted up the money and checks, I almost started crying," said Alyscia. "We beat our goal

all because of our community."

With just two fundraisers, Alyscia said, she has managed to raise \$2,000 toward her goal of \$5,000 for ARF. (ARF expects it will need \$200,000 to rebuild.)

(On ARF's website, AnimalRescueFoundation Inc.org, the organization recently announced that Plymouth Planning and Zoning Commission on Feb. 11 gave it the go-ahead for the reconstruction of the shelter facility.)

Although the pasta supper was a success, Alyscia said she's not done yet. She has plans to organize a pet parade in Bristol that will end at Rockwell Park. She also plans a fundraising lockdown where contestants from Miss Connecticut and Miss Connecticut's Outstanding Teen, as well as local civic leaders, will spend the night in a local dog pound "to get a vibe for what the animals are feeling."

Alyscia said she is doing all of this work for the Humane Society and ARF because she also wants to add a "teen voice" to the efforts help animals. "I'm sure the adults are tired of listening to other adults

(tell them what to do)... Adding teens and young children (to the dialogue will) will mix it up and hopefully get them to listen."

Additionally, Alyscia said, she hopes, in the process of pursuing Alyscia's Pet Project, adults will "realize that teens have an opinion too."

And Alyscia has been quick to involve other teens in the process of helping the animals. For instance two of her friends, Justin and Jason Zaino have been integral help at all of her fundraisers. She also has sold bracelets at Memorial Boulevard School to her fellow students for a dollar a piece. More than half the students in the school helped out and continue to help out by buying bracelets.

Alyscia's efforts have earned her accolades. For example, at the recent Miss Brass City/ Miss Greater Waterbury's Outstanding Teen scholarship pageant, Alyscia's activities earned her the community service award. "It was satisfying to be recognized for something close to my heart."

Besides Alyscia's Pet Project, Alyscia has other

plans underway to help the animals. She intends to visit the Bristol middle and elementary schools with animal control officer Brian Skinner to convince children to take the PAW pledge. Alyscia said by taking the PAW pledge, children promise to protect all animals, they will act when you see an animal abused or neglected, and when they get an animal they will get it neutered or spayed.

Alyscia said she will be helping ARF through September and then expects to move on to another project. But she will continue to collect donations on behalf of ARF. If you're interested in donation money to ARF on Alyscia's Pet Project's behalf without participating in one of the fundraisers, Alyscia said it will be more than welcome. Just send your donation to Animal Rescue Foundation, P.O. Box 539 Thomaston, CT 06787 and note in the memo that it's for Alyscia's Pet Project.

Comments? Email [mchaiken@BristolObserver.com](mailto:mchaiken@BristolObserver.com).



TAMMI KNAPIK

## Dessert, anyone?

Last Thursday, Chili's on Farmington Avenue hosted the 'Tip-A-Firefighter' event, which was a fund-raiser for the Bristol Boys and Girls Club. Above, firefighter Tim Callahan serves dessert to Kelly and Amanda Zeitel and Little Sammy Johnson.

## Contacting The Observer

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# Fields: New school will affect league

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will need to find new property in Forestville to build fields.

Further complicating the problem is an uncertainty surrounding when the school is going to be built. Construction of the school is currently scheduled to be held off for a couple of years. But, with the down economy, school officials have said they can save millions of dollars by starting major construction next year.

Akerley said he's under the assumption that the project will start next year leaving the Little League little time to find a new home.

"The city of Bristol, I believe, needs to step up and help us find some new property," Akerley said.

Akerley said the Little League is not looking for the city to foot the bill for new fields, and will do it's own fund-raising. But, he said, the Little League will need the city's help in moving the issue along because any

new plans for fields will need clearance from the city.

"We just want a place for the kids to play, that's it," said Akerley.

Mayor Art Ward said a committee has been formed with school and park officials to help find the little league a new home.

"We're in the process of reviewing alternative sites at this point," said Ward.

Superintendent of

Schools Philip Striefer said officials are looking at temporary space as well as a permanent space for the Little League.

City officials said they are working with the Little League on the matter and felt confident that a solution will be found.

"Something will definitely be done," said Ward.

Comments? Email [egugliotti@BristolObserver.com](mailto:egugliotti@BristolObserver.com).

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