

## ***Big Bend DART Meeting- October 29, 2007 Leon County Animal Control Building***

Twelve members were in attendance: Stuart Abbey, Joanie Batten, Karla Brandt, Jan Collier, Haven Cook, Nancy Gabrielsen, Leslie Long, Laura Morse, Bill Schmitt, Darla Wolak, Richard Ziegler, and Mary Ellen Zydell.

### ***Pet Oxygen Mask Project***

Big Bend DART raised \$1,280 from the car wash. To date a total of \$1,100 has been donated in checks via mail. Additionally, we received \$220 from T.R.E.A.T.S. All of these funds will be used to purchase pet oxygen mask kits for the Tallahassee Fire Department, volunteer fire departments within Leon County, and fire departments in nearby communities. We are working with Cody Reese to determine how many masks can be used.

We will proceed with buying all requested masks. The remaining funds will be placed into an interest-bearing account to be used to buy new and replacement masks upon request. A follow-up story to this project will be done after the Tallahassee Fire Department has actually used the masks.

### ***Pampered Chef Fundraiser***

Laura mentioned that approximately 15 people attended the fundraiser that was held Friday, October 26th. We had a lot of fun and good food, with the main dish being chicken potstickers. Additionally, numerous orders have been and continue to be placed online. Online ordering will be available until Wednesday, October 31st.

### ***Charity Direct***

Haven proposed that Big Bend DART consider contracting with Charity Direct to accept donations of vehicles. She distributed information about the corporation along with a draft contract. Big Bend DART would be required to sign a 5-year contract and promote Charity Direct in its request for vehicle donations (e.g. on its website). Haven will provide further information, and the Board will vote on the proposal by e-mail.

### ***Borders Book Store Christmas Gift Wrapping***

This fundraiser proved to be quite successful last year for Big Bend DART. We made quite a lot of money from tips and were able to inform others about our organization while wrapping presents. Haven will request Friday, December 21st, and Saturday, December 22nd, for our time slots this year. Stuart suggested that we offer to fill-in for days that the bookstore could not obtain other charities to gift wrap. Mary Ellen said we could practice our phone tree for the fill-in times. Borders will supply the materials to do the gift wrapping. Leslie said she could also obtain ribbon at wholesale prices for DART.

### ***Laptop Purchase***

A Dell Latitude laptop was purchased for \$1,385. Mary Ellen asked when we would learn how to use the various forms that will be placed on the computer. Haven said that would be a good training to hold in spring 2008.

### Lessons Learned Information Sharing

Haven was given the opportunity to comment on a draft document from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security addressing pet-friendly shelters. As compensation for the time that she took to provide these comments, Big Bend DART was awarded \$200. Haven distributed copies of the final document. Additional information can be obtained at <https://www.llis.dhs.gov/index.do>.

### Rescue Team Protocol

Haven passed out a draft of the rescue team protocol. She asked everyone to review it and provide comments. Stuart requested that we have a meeting to discuss it in detail. We agreed that the protocol will be thoroughly evaluated at our last meeting of the year, and it will be finalized at the beginning of 2008.

### GoodSearch

Joanie reported on the money that is being raised for Big Bend DART through the GoodSearch internet search engine. She provided copies of a recent summary of totals. The total amount raised for the year-to-date is \$29.09, and the total raised since inception is \$53.49. Laura mentioned that additional money can be raised by purchasing items through GoodShop, which is accessible through GoodSearch. Numerous stores can be accessed at this site. To use GoodSearch, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/>.

### Yard Sale

The Big Bend DART yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd, from 8 am to 2 pm. It will be held in the parking lot of American HomePatient on the corner of Monroe Street and 7th Avenue. Items can be dropped off at Haven's house. Susan Goodhope has given permission to use her horse trailer again, which will be parked in Haven's driveway on Tuesday, October 30th. Haven will rent eight 8-foot tables at a total cost of \$52. Items left over from our sale will be given to the Gadsden County Humane Society for their yard sale on Saturday, November 10th.

### Fundraising at Premier Health & Fitness Center

Leslie has arranged for Big Bend DART to distribute information and hold a fundraiser at Premier, one of Tallahassee's busiest health clubs. Haven suggested that one approach we could take is to set up an information table and sell pet first aid kits. We have not been given a deadline; thus, we have time to determine how best to use this opportunity.

### HazMat Awareness Training

The University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine offered a 2-hour HazMat training on Friday, October 26th from 3 to 5 pm. Haven attended and said it was an informative class. However, it was presented as more of a refresher course. The primary topics addressed were hazard recognition, notification, and establishing a perimeter around the contamination site.

### Santa Paws Walk 2007

Big Bend DART plans to have an information table at the 2007 Santa Paws Walk. Joanie asked if we would like to distribute flyers or cards containing information about disaster response for pets with a treat attached. Mary Ellen suggested giving people magnets with the information. We agreed to put together these items at our next meeting. For further information about the event, see <http://santapawswalk.org/>.

Miscellaneous

Nancy asked if the work previously done through VolunteerLeon to educate seniors on disaster preparedness for themselves and their pets could be taken into Wakulla County. Haven said she would check into senior programs.

Richard mentioned that an organization called ZooToo is offering a \$1 million makeover to the animal shelter getting the most people to register and review listed products on ZooToo's website. The Tallahassee-Leon County Animal Service Center is trying to win this makeover. To get involved, go to <http://www.zootoo.com/makeover/>.

Next Big Bend DART Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 3rd, at 7 pm. See the Big Bend DART website for further information (<http://www.bigbenddart.org/>).