Sunny Paws Rescue

until every dog has a home....

Toni Eaton and Sunny Paws Rescue

I would like to nominate Toni Eaton and Sunny Paws Rescue as one of your 2026 Community Choice Grant recipients.

There are many rescues out there; all do good work and contribute to alleviating the ongoing problem of too many homeless and uncared for dogs and puppies in the southern states, and the needless and heart rendering euthanizations that result.

Every day, rescue partners pick up dogs that are wandering the streets, visit kill shelters to save those that they can, and agree to take in litters that are found dumped under bridges and in trash cans. The cute and healthy are quickly tagged and soon be on their way to forever homes where they don't have to worry about being scared, hungry, or abused again.

Then there are the others; the ones who are scarred from fighting, the ones who have lost all their fur because of untreated infection, the ones with medical issues. The ones whose required care can quickly deplete an already overburdened rescue. These are the ones that, when found, often lead those rescuers to phone the person they know will say yes to helping and do all she can to save that life: Toni Eaton and Sunny Paws.

One year old Penelope was found out on the street, doing her best to protect and care for her new babies. It is not known exactly what trauma caused it, but her jaw was broken and locked, preventing her mouth from opening. She was unable to eat and get the much needed calories to sustain her pups. The people who found her made a concoction of mashed up, soupy food and painstakingly fed her while they searched for a vet who could do the necessary surgery to fix her jaw, and Toni quickly went into action to make sure the funds were raised to cover the cost. Penelope is now smiling- literally. Her mouth slowly opening wider, finally showing her tongue and allowing her to eat and gain much needed weight. She and her puppies will eventually be able to travel north to adoptive families that will make sure the horrible things they suffered in the past are but a distant memory.

Other cases include Everest, who, as a result of backyard breeding, had eyelashes growing into his eye instead of out, scratching and scarring his eye his whole life, permanently impairing his vision. Hope, the sweet girl who was purposefully burned. Lacey, who had such a bad untreated infection she lost every bit of her fur. Bristol, who has a heart problem that will require medication for the rest of his life.

The adoption fees that the rescue takes in barely cover the associated expenses of getting a healthy pup vetted and transported to Massachusetts. One that needs extra care, medicine, or surgery quickly exceeds the fee.

But Toni cannot turn her back on the ones that need help the most. Sunny Paws' logo is "until every dog has a home", and to her, that means EVERY one. It is not easy. It is often fraught with stress and frustration and heart break. She is constantly fundraising; creating raffles that go expressly to a medical care fund, writing grants, and holding various events. But seeing these still gentle and trusting souls find their way back to health and into forever, loving homes makes it all worth it.