

Joint effort: Getting out of jail not free for these animal lovers

JAIL

Chesapeake Police Chief Kelvin T. Wright was in a rare position Friday night. He was on the inside looking out – of bars, that is. Tall, white PVC bars held him prisoner until he raised the “bond” money necessary to bail him out of the plastic pokey.

The Great Stray Roundup corralled several city dignitaries, including Mayor Alan Krasnoff, in a lockup at Greenbrier Mall on Jan. 30. The fundraiser was the first for the newly formed Friends of Chesapeake Animal Services, which has earmarked the money to go toward a new animal shelter on North Battlefield Boulevard.

Michael Perez, principal at Hugo Owens Middle School, and Jeffrey Johnson, vice principal at Western Branch High School, got a taste of detention as they called buddies to donate to their cause.

Barbara Thompson of Canine Corners relaxed behind bars looking jailhouse-chic in a black-and-white two-piece ensemble. “It was the only one that fit me,” she said, eyeing the orange jumpsuit worn by Helena Wilson of Baker’s Crust.

Thompson has donated her talents for several years to the Animal Control Services, helping spiffy-up bedraggled dogs and matted cats to make them show better for adoptions. Wilson reached her goal \$1,000, thanks to lots of help. “Our employees and customers have been stopping by,” Wilson said. “They’ve been very supportive.” Wilson, who is a member of a German shepherd rescue group, also donated food for those behind bars.

Tremayne Fredrick, a petty officer with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Expeditionary Support Unit Two at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, got his Navy mates to help out. “We have a lot of animal lovers in our command,” he said.

Out in the mall, Michelle Gibson of Great Bridge was accepting donations from shoppers. She happened to be window-shopping when she noticed the event going on. As a PETA volunteer, she donated and then asked if she could help. “People have been nice,” she said. “They’ve dug deep into their purses or walked inside to see what’s going on. People are hearing more about what goes on in animal shelters with the dogs and cats.”

Patti Hamilton, president and founder of Friends of the Chesapeake Animal Services, was stunned with the results. “For a first-time event, we were hoping for \$5,000,” Hamilton said. “We’ve brought in close to \$8,000, and more pledges continue to come in daily. This event has certainly exceeded our expectations.”

Great Stray Roundup

PARTICIPANTS Alan Krasnoff, mayor; Kelvin T. Wright, police chief; Kathy Strouse, animal control superintendent; Laura Anderson, associate pastor Great Bridge United Methodist Church; Michael Perez, principal, Hugo Owens Middle School; Jeffrey Johnson, vice principal, Western Branch High School; Helene Wilson, Baker's Crust; Ruth Ann MacQueen, DVM, Midway Veterinarian Hospital; Barbara Thompson, Canine Corners; Paul and JoAnne Chertoff; Susan Geers; Office of Emergency Management/Fire Department; Suzy Parsons; Vicki Root, Little Miss Chesapeake; Martha and Bob Root

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS Bakers Crust, Icon Limousine, Greenbrier Mall, Beach City Customers, Mario Blanco, Alston Plumbing, Picture People, Chick-fil-A, Party City, Olive Garden

VOLUNTEERS Tremayne Fredrick and Lloyd Wilmot, both petty officers with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Expeditionary Support Unit Two, Little Creek Amphibious Base; Bridget Vincent, Suzy Kelley, Deborah and John Stanley, Rick Hamilton, James Hamilton, Kellie Goral, Debra Ross, Ferne O'Hara, Mary Brinker, Laura and Willie Corl

DEVON HUBBARD SORLIE PHOTOS | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

By Devon Hubbard Sorlie

The Virginian-Pilot

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Barbara Thompson, left, and Helena Wilson were borrowed inmate clothing as they waited for their “bond” money. Thompson, of Westover, is the owner of Canine Corner Grooming and often donates her services to bathe and groom stray dogs to help them be more adoptable. Wilson, of Norfolk, operates the local Baker’s Crust restaurants. Her employees had already raised \$500 of a \$1,000 goal.



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Inmates, from left, Gabriel Green, 7, of South Norfolk, Laura Corl of Great Bridge, and Vicki Root, 7, wait for her father, Bob Root of Deep Creek, to pick a card as they waited for their “bail” money to come in at the Great Stray Roundup Jan. 30 at Greenbrier Mall. Vicki, who is the reigning Little Miss Chesapeake, dressed the part of a lost kitty. The event was sponsored the Friends of the Chesapeake Animal Services to raise funds for a new animal shelter on North Battlefield Boulevard.

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