FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Volunteer Month

Celebrating the Value of Volunteers

April is National Volunteer Month, a time to celebrate and thank the volunteers who give their time selflessly for the animals and people in our community. It would be difficult to put a specific value on the level of help that the Suncoast Humane Society gets from its volunteers. On Saturdays, Denise and her husband, Ed, take a portion of their weekend to spend a few hours at the shelter so that each of the shelter dogs get outside for playtime and fresh air. With upwards of 30 dogs available for adoption at any given time, it is difficult for staff alone to spend extra time letting them play.

That is where the volunteers come in. Denise and Ed spend time playing ball, Frisbee, or just giving them a little extra love and attention. In turn, this keeps the dogs mentally healthy, socialized and therefore, more adoptable.

There were a 145 attendees at this year’s Volunteer Appreciation Dinner which was held at Beyond the Sea restaurant in Englewood. The purpose of the dinner was to honor, celebrate and show appreciation to our volunteers. Their time and enthusiasm is so valuable to the organization’s mission to reduce the number of homeless animals and improve the quality of life. The evening provided good company, great food and the chance to share wonderful stories with one another.

Suncoast Humane Society has volunteers of all ages from 14 up to volunteers in their 90’s. Many have volunteered for years while others are newer to the rewards. Mary comes in every Thursday morning to help with clerical needs. This week she has been preparing materials for our upcoming 9th Annual Critter
Classic. As she arrives Mary is welcomed by all who recognize her in her big straw hat with the bright yellow flower on it.

Volunteer Services Manager, Jacqueline Elliott, states, “Suncoast Humane Society volunteers play a pivotal role in support of the organization’s programs and services. With over 15 different volunteer opportunities, our dedicated team of volunteers assist with everything from fundraising, helping with donations at one of our three thrift stores, as well as socializing our adoptable animals to help promote their adoptability and successful transition into their forever homes.” For information on Volunteer opportunities visit our website at www.humane.org

Suncoast Humane Society has been serving animals and people since 1971. Founded as Englewood Animal Aid Society, the organization’s services and programs were soon challenged to meet the demands placed on them by the pet over-population crises.

Expansions to their facility in Englewood during the 1980s and 1990s helped the Society to more effectively provide for a growing service area. To reflect the changes, the organization became Suncoast Humane Society. Over time our service area expanded and is now Charlotte County, Sarasota County, the Boca Grande portion of Lee County and beyond.

Visit our adoptable pets and learn more about Suncoast Humane Society online at www.humane.org, in person at 6781 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL 34224 or at one of our many community events!

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Photos submitted by Suncoast Humane Society

Mary cheerfully takes on stapling and collating therefore helping staff in many ways.
Ed takes time to bond with and love one of the many dogs who make the Shelter their temporary home.

Denise treats each dog as if it were her own, helping them to learn trust and feel safe.