

## OVER 49,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATED

2013 was a banner year for the Greenville Humane Society's (GHS) volunteer programs, with thousands of volunteers rallying together to donate over 49,000 hours to our animals and the community. This is a 23% increase over 2012— a number GHS expects to see climb in the following year.

So what is it that compels individuals to continue to give back? GHS has spotlighted three teams of people who are striving together to impact lives in our community and encourage the next generation of animal advocates to get involved.



**Mother-daughter Pet Therapy Team—  
Tamara & Genna Czynnikiewicz**

### TAMARA & GENNA CZYNNIKIEWICZ

You may only catch this next mother-daughter duo briefly as they pop in to pick up a lucky puppy or two. This is due to the fact that unlike Adult Dog Walkers or Puppy/Kitten Room volunteers, Tamara Czynnikiewicz and daughter, Genna, perform their volunteer work off-site through our Pet Therapy Program. Genna, who began assisting her mother with visits at the mere age of 9, has now been bringing puppies to visit the residents of the Cascades assisted living facility for 5 years. When asked what Genna enjoyed most about her work as a volunteer, she poignantly replied, "While my mom loves seeing the smiles [of the residents, staff and rehab patients], I love making them.

Knowing that I changed someone's day, or even life, is the best feeling in the world."

In recent years, experts have found Pet Therapy to be an important aid in providing enrichment for residents of nursing homes, mental health facilities, rehabilitation centers and homes for the handicapped. Not only does it promote socialization and encourage communication, it also provides comfort and lifts spirits. Tamara and Genna can testify to the impact this program has on nursing home residents, having witnessed many remarkable and uplifting events. For instance, in a touching disclosure, Tamara recalls a visit to a resident in the long-term care unit, whom she and Genna were told had been unresponsive to staff: "The first time Genna took the puppy to visit, the lady responded to Genna by reaching out her hand. A few visits later the lady began speaking to Genna and did so until she passed away."

In this volunteer setting, where establishing personal relationships becomes an integral part of the volunteer process, it can be troubling when a Pet Therapy resident passes away. However, despite the feelings of loss that naturally accompany their work, this family says, "The joy that fills our hearts after each visit is indescribable. We have shed tears with the passing of 'family' but the memory of smiles and laughter is the best possible way for a child to find their values." For this fantastic female duo, it truly is about the "heart" work.

### THE HAMPTON INN & SUITES

When it comes to hospitality, this business team is Best In Show! The Hampton Inn & Suites Greenville-Downtown-RiverPlace has made a powerful presence in this animal-loving community through their partnership with GHS. Not only have they become key volunteers in our Pet Therapy program, they have also donated an abundance of "wish list"



**Hampton Inn & Suites employees  
(pictured left to right) Brett Flowers, Nelle  
O'Donnell & Shelby Dodgers**

items and, of course, been extremely generous corporate sponsors. However, for this team, the benefits of partnering with GHS have stretched far beyond the professional realm.

Nelle O'Donnell (Director of Sales at The Hampton Inn & Suites Greenville-Downtown-RiverPlace) believes it is very important that her business team give back to the community on a personal level. Therefore, for almost two years, she and fellow coworkers, Shelby Dodgers and Brett Flowers, have been visiting Omega Health & Rehab of SC through our Pet Therapy program. Nelle describes their take-away from this experience, stating, "Each Thursday when we arrive at Omega it is a genuine reminder that no matter how fast paced the world is or how important work or tasks seem, none of it matters if we are unable to remove ourselves from our own life to bring some joy to others. We are by no means saving the world; however, the small bit of joy we bring by visiting Omega not only brightens their day but also has brought so much joy to our team."

When asked why a local hotel would choose GHS as their charity of choice, she responded, "There are an innumerable amount of amazing charities in the area. However, being a group of animal lovers, it seemed almost an instant unanimous decision to go in the more unique direction of working with

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014



## PAWMETTO DERBY PARTY

May 1, 2014— Old Cigar Warehouse, 6:30–9:30 pm – Watch adoptable puppies compete and go nose-to-nose in our “Run for the Noses” derby dash. In addition to this unique spectacle, enjoy live music by The Saboteurs, open bar, complimentary gourmet food from Saffron’s and Bourbon tastings!



## MUTT STRUT - PRESENTED BY PAPA JOHN'S

August 23, 2014—Cleveland Park, 8:30 am–Noon - 5K Run/Walk with (or without) your dog, held in Cleveland Park. Race finishes in a fun and festive Mutt Strut Vendor Village.



## YAPPY HOUR

2nd Thursday of the month (beginning April 10, 2014)—GHS, 6-8pm - For \$8 you and your friends can enjoy listening to local bands with a cold brew in hand while your dog has a chance to run around our canine courtyard and cool off in one of our “doggie pools.”

FOR INFORMATION ON ALL GHS HAPPENINGS & EVENTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.GREENVILLEHUMANE.COM](http://WWW.GREENVILLEHUMANE.COM).

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

continued from cover

the Humane Society.” Nelle adds, “It was important for us to be a part of an organization where we not only donated money or attended fundraising events, but also where the donation of our time was so valuable.”

In addition to their donation of time and donated items, Hampton Inn & Suites also generously sponsored the 2013 VIP Experience at the Greenville Humane Society’s 2nd Annual Woofstock. This ticket package, which sold out in advance, offered VIP parking, exclusive VIP tent access, complimentary food and a private beer tap. Hampton Inn & Suites reps were also on site making sure all VIP guests left with custom merchandise/memorabilia in the form of groovy koozies and psychedelic bandanas. Neither hand nor paw left empty!

## THE COGGIN FAMILY

Tanya Coggin, who initially became involved with us after chaperoning a GHS service project for her church’s Vacation Bible School, has involved her family in volunteering at GHS for

over 2.5 years. She is joined almost every Friday by her son (Eric), daughter (Madison) and niece (Jada Stroman). When asked why the family has been so committed to volunteering for the past 2.5 years, Tanya replied, “The more we do it, the more we enjoy it.” This family even loves their volunteer work so much that they literally brought their work home with them!

Husband, Mike Coggin, surprised his wife and kids this past year with their latest GHS adoptee, Jessi. Tanya shared that she and her daughter, Madison, were thrilled to add this sweet hound mix rescue to their family after having spent much time working together to clean her cage in the Puppy/Kitten Room. Madison stated, “[Jessi] gave us a big hug whenever we held her!” The family went on to mention that their favorite part about volunteering was helping keep our animals clean and healthy until the time of adoption. Tanya writes, “We’ve been so impressed by the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the rescues healthy. There is so much attention to detail, from time of rescue to final



Volunteer family—Eric and Madison Coggin & Jada Stroman

adoption. We feel blessed to be a part of that process.” GHS is equally as fortunate for this family’s dedication and efforts to help make sure each animal in our adoption facility is treated like a loving pet.

GHS is honored to have the support of so many in our community. We invite you to help make a difference in the lives of animals and people in our area by becoming a Greenville Humane Society volunteer. Help continue and support our lifesaving work. For ways to get involved, visit us at [www.greenvillehumane.com/support/volunteer/](http://www.greenvillehumane.com/support/volunteer/).