

ACCES for Pet Health

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A Season to Give



By Beth Davidow, DVM DACVECC

Every holiday season, employees at ACCES vote for 2-3 charities to support. As a company, we then match contributions made by our employees to these charities during the month of December. I think the charities chosen this year do great work and I urge others to support them as well. Individual and small business charitable giving is even more important in tough economic times as government and big business have had to cut back their support.

This year, our employees have chosen 3 charities:

Pasado's Safe Haven

Pasado's Safe Haven's mission is to fill the voids left unanswered by other shelters in an effort to serve those animals that fall through the cracks. Pasado's Safe Haven's programs include: 24-hour rescue of abused, neglected, or abandoned dogs, cats and farm animals; full-time animal cruelty investigations; legal pursuit

of animal abusers; passage of animal cruelty legislation; aggressive spay/neuter services brought directly into low-income neighborhoods (where most unwanted animals/litters originate) via the Spay Stations I & II, mobile pet sterilization clinics; disaster relief animal aid in times of natural or man-made disaster; rescue of senior dogs and cats from shelter euthanasia as part of AARFF (The American Association of Retired Felines & Fido's) located on-site at Pasado's Safe Haven's 80-acre sanctuary.



Members of our staff joined Pasado's during Hurricane Katrina several years ago when they provided much needed care to abandoned animals in flooded New Orleans.

For more information, go to <http://www.pasadosafehaven.org/>

Heifer Project, International

Heifer Project, International is a non-profit organization formed in 1944 that seeks to eradicate hunger by providing environment-appropriate livestock to families and then training them how to care for these animals. In most situations, the animal is given to the woman of the family to encourage gender equality and to make sure the animal is used to improve the nutritional status of the family. All families that receive an animal from Heifer Project, must "pass on the gift" by giving an offspring of their livestock to another family in the community. Heifer Project feels strongly about animal welfare and proper husbandry and veterinary support is part of their commitment to the animals and communities they serve.



Heifer International
The Heifer Project places animals with communities to help eradicate

I learned about Heifer Project when a friend of mine in veterinary school went to Ethiopia for a summer. She spent the summer doing veterinary exams on goats given to families in one region of Ethiopia. She assisted in husbandry training and in making sure the animals were well cared for.

For more information about this group, go to www.heifer.org

Bailey-Boushay House

In 1987, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases were mounting in King County, as they were in the rest of the U.S. At that time, the disease was considered fatal. Hospitals balked at the prospect of having to handle all the potential cases, while individuals, government medical programs, and insurance companies cringed at having to pay hospital costs of \$600 to \$800 a

hunger day. Yet for more and more people, AIDS was becoming a part of their lives. Friends or family members were diagnosed; children were born with AIDS; loved ones were dying; and people's hearts froze when their own blood tested positive for HIV. For Betsy Lieberman, these aspects of the AIDS crisis-as well as a close friend being diagnosed with HIV-came together when she was deciding what to do next after a long and successful career as clinic coordinator of the Pike Place Market Community Clinic. At that time, the seriousness of the epidemic had become so obvious, and the federal government's response was so slow, that a few far-sighted foundations were beginning to fund innovative approaches to service delivery. Ms. Lieberman heard about a job funded by one small piece of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant, which was earmarked to plan for the housing and long-term care needs of persons with AIDS, and the spark for Bailey-Boushay House was ignited.

For more information, go to <https://www.virginiamason.org/bbh/>

Posted by **Christina Ryan** at December 3, 2009 5:50 p.m.

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