

Gallery features fundraiser for pet shelters

By ARLA SHEPHARD
MASON COUNTY LIFE

Shelly Barnett has always loved adopting rescue animals.

"Just ask my mother," Barnett joked. "I have two cats and two dogs myself now. It's just always a cause that I've held dear to my heart my whole life."

Throughout the month of October, Barnett's Shelton gallery, Off the Walls!, gave back to two Mason County organizations dedicated to finding homes for abandoned or unwanted dogs and cats, Adopt-A-Pet and Kitten Rescue of Mason County.

Thirty artists and vendors sold more than 100 pieces on the theme of "Reigning Cats and Dogs" at the gallery until the end of the month, and at least 10 percent of the artists' proceeds were donated to the two nonprofits.

"Business sponsors and private donations from helpful citizens are what really keep the nonprofit going financially," said Adopt-A-Pet vice president Rachel Sedlacek. "These businesses help more than they know and do it because they care, not just because it is good for business."

Adopt-A-Pet has helped dogs in need for the past 35 years, and in 2013 alone, the nonprofit dog shelter saved the lives of 208 unwanted dogs and placed them in caring homes, Sedlacek said.

The nonprofit also offers a



PHOTOS BY ARLA SHEPHARD

Thirty artists presenting more than 100 pieces are participating in the Reigning Cats and Dogs exhibit at Off the Walls! Gallery in Shelton to benefit the Adopt-A-Pet dog shelter in Shelton and Kitten Rescue of Mason County. At least 10 percent of the proceeds from each artist's work will go to the nonprofits.

spay and neuter program for low-income and elderly Mason County residents and provides dog food for families in need.

But in order to continue the good deeds, Adopt-A-Pet is in need of volunteers, especially during weekdays, Sedlacek said.

The nonprofit doesn't have any paid positions, and a small band of dedicated volunteers keeps the organization running, she added.

"But in order to help the community, they need help from the community," Sedlacek said. "That is the struggle for any small non-

profit. You don't have the people or money to go out and get the people or money you need to keep going."

Adopt-A-Pet holds several fundraisers per year, such as plant and yard sales, a golf tournament and pet pictures with Santa, while Kitten Rescue hosts garage sales and a Christmas bazaar.

At Adopt-A-Pet, volunteers can walk or run the dogs on trails near the facility, play with them in the exercise yards, brush them or give them quiet attention.

Kitten Rescue accepts volunteers on an ongoing basis, for tasks such as scooping litter boxes, petting cats, sweeping floors, heavy duty cleaning, office work, fundraising, helping out with garage sales and fostering rescued kittens, according to the nonprofit's website.

Barnett, who opened Off the Walls! in February, met with some volunteers from both rescue organizations and knew she wanted to do more to help.

"I decided to gear a show toward helping with their operations," she said. "Who doesn't like cats or dogs? It was exciting getting artists to step outside their normal bodies of work."

Off the Walls! is located

at 112 W. Cota Street in Shelton. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 868-2690.

The Adopt-A-Pet dog shelter is located at 940 E. Jensen Road in Shelton, just off Brockdale Road. To volun-



Olympia artist Zaira Dzhaubaeva created this piece, "Queen of the Garden," for the pet-themed exhibit at Off the Walls! Gallery. The Reigning Cats and Dogs exhibit ends Oct. 28.

teer, donate, become a business sponsor, or adopt a new best friend, visit www.adoptapet-wa.org, email thedoghouse3091@hotmail.com or call 432-3091.

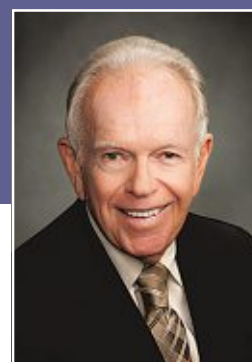
Kitten Rescue of Mason County is located at 420

S.E. Highway 3 in Shelton. For more information, call 427-3167 or 426-2455 or visit www.kittenresq.net. Visiting hours are seven nights a week, 6 to 8 p.m., and 1 to 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. ■



"King and Queen Cat" by Glenhelen Smither is on exhibit at the Reigning Cats and Dogs show at Off the Walls! Gallery in Shelton.

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