



P.O. Box 1510 * New Boston, NH 03070 * 508-473-2228

Beagles of New England States

2009 Annual Report

Message from the B.O.N.E.S. Board of Directors

Anne Joyce
Margaret Swanson
Jeanne Lemner
Sharon Vartanian

Serving the New England region and Albany, New York, Beagles of New England States (B.O.N.E.S.) provides a crucial service to both beagles and people – providing foster care and placement for homeless beagles and placement for beagles remaining with their owner until a new home is found.

But we do more than that... we spend countless hours teaching people about beagles so they can make an educated decision on whether or not to adopt one. We also spend hours talking to people about their beagle because we know better than anyone how loving, playful and stubborn this breed of dog can be!

While other rescues and shelters are transporting dogs from outside the New England area, B.O.N.E.S. still continues to help beagles located primarily in New England and Albany, New York. We would love to help dogs in other locations but we are limited with foster homes, so we focus our attention on beagles that need help in the states where our volunteers are located.

In 2009, B.O.N.E.S. passed a very significant milestone – We adopted our 1,000th beagle, a great boy named Sherlock, to a wonderful family who lives in Massachusetts. Just think, our 500th beagle was adopted back in 2006! This could not be done without the help of all our volunteers – from foster homes to adoption counselors to volunteers who complete home visits and transport. Each volunteer contributes something to this organization. We thank you for that!

As a private, non-profit organization, B.O.N.E.S. does not receive any public funding. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to ensure that B.O.N.E.S. continues to head in a positive direction, both financially and operationally, to meet the ever increasing needs of homeless beagles.

While the cost of taking care of these beagles continues to increase, income, through donations and other sources has not kept up at the same pace. We do believe we have made financial strides, mostly through the efforts of our very focused volunteers, but there is a lot of work still to be done from an operational perspective. As a result, we will be looking to try and add new Board members by the end of 2010 to help with new initiatives.

Adoptions

We had a very successful year for adoptions – we had 85 completed adoptions. In 2009 we had 9 adoption counselors. It's always great to have so many qualified adoption counselors because this is a very demanding role. Having a good number allows people to take vacations or other times off without affecting the number of adoptions we complete.

Adoption Counseling involves educating many potential adopters about beagles. We try very hard to get as much information from phone interviews and home visits to make a good beagle match. Some of the dogs we place have various medical issues while others have behavioral problems. All of these beagles will eventually make wonderful family members, if given time, some leadership, daily exercise and a whole lot of love. Our very talented adoption counselors do a great job helping many adopters accept real “rescue” dogs into their family. We help adopters through the initial adjustment period and try to assist in any behavioral issues if they arise. One of the most rewarding parts of being an adoption counselor is some of the wonderful e-mails we get from adopters letting us know how grateful they are to have this B.O.N.E.S. beagle in their life.

This year we continued our Senior Beagle Program which was started in 2007. We had a few great adoptions as well a few permanent foster placements. This program will again be continued in 2010. There is always someone who loves an older dog!

Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone to our organization. An organization cannot continue to grow and prosper without our volunteer base.

In 2009, we had 19 new volunteers join our group. 4 people resigned for personal reasons. At the end of 2009, there were over 200 volunteers. While this number is very large, it seems, like most non-profit organizations, the majority of the work is completed by a small percentage of the group.

We know that everyone is busy with their families, their jobs, etc. We are hoping that even though you are busy, you will consider giving 4-6 hours a month to help the beagles. This help can come in various ways – from doing your first home visit, to volunteering to transport a dog or give a few hours to work at an Outreach event. Please consider helping. While the organization prospers from your help, it's really the dogs that benefit the most. If you find you have more time to give B.O.N.E.S., please contact Sharon Vartanian, She will be happy to discuss any open opportunities with you.

Thank you to all our volunteers.

Intake

In 2009, we took 84 dogs into our program and adopted out 85. 12 dogs were carried over into 2010. The number of dogs coming into the program has been dwindling for the past few years as you can see from the follow statistics-

In 2008 we had 91 dogs come into the program

In 2007, 178 dogs came into the program

In 2006, 194 dogs came into the program.

Why is the number dwindling? We believe for two main reasons.

1. We continue to be challenged by New England shelters and rescues that now place healthy beagles on their own instead of calling us to consider taking them in. As we stated before, these rescues only call us when they have dogs in need of medical or behavioral attention. We are also being asked to take dogs from many other, smaller facilities (animal control facilities, town run shelters, vet clinics, etc. These dogs carry a vet price and an overall need from B.O.N.E.S. but are the real reason we have this rescue. Finding the right balance of dogs for our program has always and will continue to be one of the most challenging things we need to do in B.O.N.E.S.

We want to thank the Intake team for all their hard work. This is not an easy job. It is always hard to turn a dog away that needs our help.

2. We do not have enough foster homes. This has been a serious issue for a few years now. We will continue to advertise for foster homes in 2010 with the hopes that we may be able to double the number of homes we have now. If you have any interest in helping dogs, please consider fostering. It is a very rewarding experience for both the dog and for you.

Foster Homes

In 2009, our dedicated foster homes worked very hard with all the dogs that were accepted into our program. This is a part of the organization that never seems to get the attention it truly deserves. We hope that people realize without our foster families, we would not have a B.O.N.E.S. rescue program.

This very special group of people work 24/7/365 to help hurt, emotionally scarred and medically challenged dogs. There is no "off" time for foster families. They are constantly working with their rescue dogs, preparing them to be adopted to their forever homes. This preparation includes more than just giving a rescue dog a place to live. It may include back and forth vet visits, attendance in training classes, meeting with behaviorists, etc.

While it is one of the most challenging volunteer opportunities, it also brings rewards that cannot be counted in dollars or words. Watching a dog go from being a scared little pooch to an outgoing, happy and friendly one leaves you with the warmest feeling.

We are in constant need of good, structured, foster homes. If you are interested in helping a dog get ready to be adopted to its forever home, please contact Margaret Swanson directly.

Fundraising

Fundraising continues to be one of the strongest sources of income for our organization. Ongoing website programs, such as the B.O.N.E.S. Boutique and Affiliate Shopping programs on our website remain profitable.

Several large scale fundraisers continued to be profitable for B.O.N.E.S. The 2009 Beagle Bash, held the last Saturday in September, was extremely successful. At one point we counted over 190 dogs at the event! It was a beautiful day and everywhere you looked, everyone was having a wonderful time. The Bash committee, chaired by Sandi Church and Glenda Templet worked very hard to put on this wonderful event. The day included winning of raffle prizes, silent auctions, beagle games, a beagle parade and the crowning of the King and Queen of the Bash. This Mardi Gras themed event left everyone smiling. Thank you to Sandi, Glenda and their hard working team.

Another very large fundraiser is the annual B.O.N.E.S. Calendar. This year's committee, consisting of Cathy Clayton, Mary Clare Springer, Pam Amaral and Jeanne Lemner, did an excellent job in not only making this a major fundraising project but also a very fun event. The annual voting was fun and the quality of the calendars was one of the best we have seen to date. And, unlike in other years, they were available and being sold at the Bash in September! Thank you very much, Cathy, Mary Clare, Pam and Jeanne!

The 2009-2010 Annual Appeal, chaired by Denise Conley, also raised quite a nice sum of money for the organization. Denise worked very closely with Mary Clare Springer, utilized both Constant Contact messaging and a mailer which was sent to individuals in our very large database. Denise, who is very experienced in marketing, did a tremendous job in helping B.O.N.E.S. – from both a PR perspective and a financial one. Thank you Denise!

Successful fundraisers were held on a regional level as well. Car washes, Shaw's Market Receipts, The RI Pet Expo, The Shelbourne Museum Goes to the Dogs, Gift wrapping at Christmas, Bake Sales and other events all helped to spread the word about B.O.N.E.S. and raise money for our organization.

Thank you to everyone who has helped!

Technology

This is a new topic but one that is important to communicate. Last year, Mary Clare Springer took on the enormous task of updating all the B.O.N.E.S. websites, adding new software and numerous other things to help expedite getting dogs on the website, sending information out to our volunteers and many other things.

We would like to thank Mary Clare for all her hard work and efforts that she has done and continues to do for B.O.N.E.S.

2009 Financial Review

2009 was a very challenging year financially. While we had many great fundraisers, expenses related to the dogs in our program continue to increase as compared to adoption fees and other revenue.

It should also be noted that 2009 was a very challenging year financially for many families so the reduction in revenue was not surprising.

Income		
	Adoptions	\$13,725.00
	Donations	26,848.42
	Fundraising	27,125.21
	Other	<u>1,054.43</u>
	Total Income	\$68,753.06
Expenses		
	Veterinary and other dog related	\$40,281.29
	Fundraising	9,238.55
	Administrative*	21,095.96
	Other (Outreach Supplies, Bank costs, etc)	<u>1,971.27</u>
	Total Expenses	\$72,787.07
	Net Income	(\$4,034.01)
Retained Earnings		\$66,018.12
Net Income		(\$4,034.01)
Total Equity		\$61,984.11

* Administrative Expenses included over \$10,000 in printing expense for the various projects that we undertook last year.