



ANIMAL COMPANIONS OF LAS CRUCES

Working to bring 24/7 emergency veterinary services to our community

BY PICACHO NEIGHBOR LINDA DESNOYERS MANDEL AND CONTENT MANAGER OLIVIA MORITZ

Your neighbor, Linda Desnoyers Mandel, is a retired owner of an interior plant design business that she started 45 years ago in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park. She and her husband, Steve, had a second home at Lake Valley Ranch, south of Hillsboro, New Mexico for 20 years and grew to love the area. They sold their home in Illinois and moved to Picacho Hills in October 2020.

Today, Linda volunteers with Animal Companions of Las Cruces as a board member and heads the volunteer committee. She has met many wonderful people and also feels that she is helping our community by advocating for all the local pets.

Animal Companions of Las Cruces' mission is to provide support and resources for establishing and

sustaining 24/7/365 emergency veterinary services in Las Cruces, serving a wide community of pet owners in Southern New Mexico and easing the burden of local veterinary staff.

"I first became involved with the group in August of 2021 when I met Dr. Dawn Duncan, our president and founder, while checking out in line at a local pet shop. When she asked me if I liked living here, I replied, 'I love it, except for one missing piece. I was shocked to find out there was no 24/7 Emergency animal care hospital in town.' It had never occurred to me...coming from a larger metropolitan area, we took it for granted," Linda says.

Linda lives in Picacho Hills with her husband Steven and two dogs, Gilbert and Sullivan. They have two adult children - Andrew and Max. When she isn't volunteering at Animal Companions and at the Community Foundation in town, Linda enjoys walking, riding her E-bike, gardening, hiking, and cooking.

"We live in a beautiful part of town with unparalleled views of all the mountains nearby. Since we moved to Picacho Hills during Covid, it took a little while to meet my neighbors and make friends in the area, but now I feel that this is my home and I love living here. Lucky for me I have two dogs because that is how I met most of my new friends...walking my dogs."

Linda feels the mission of Animal Companions is close to not just her heart, but the hearts of many residents of southern New Mexico. She recognizes that this mission cannot be accomplished alone. "Our efforts to establish an emergency veterinary hospital for Las Cruces and our surrounding communities are going to require the support of all of our neighbors,

near and far," Linda added. "We encourage all pet owners in Las Cruces to visit our website and get involved in our work."

Visit the Animal Companions website to make a donation, as well as to volunteer if you are interested in becoming involved in their very important work. You can also find links to their social media on the homepage. Animal Companions of Las Cruces is under the fiscal sponsorship of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico for their 501c3 nonprofit status.

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Linda Desnoyers Mandel

Together, our impact grows.



GIVING TUESDAY

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The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is committed to improving the quality of life in southern New Mexico. Our goal is to serve, connect and support the future needs of our region. With your help, we can continue to drive change and lift up our communities.

This year on Giving Tuesday, your gift will support our efforts to expand our impact in the 12 counties we serve while supporting our 47 nonprofit partner organizations.

With up to \$35,000 matching dollars available, we hope you'll join us on Giving Tuesday and help keep southern New Mexico a great place to live and a great place to give.

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