

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

## Donation from Tampa Bay promises hopeful future for senior pets

Krystina Woychowski// Chronicle intern

Jun 24, 2019



Community Impact presents a check to the Greener Side Haven for its Seniors Helping Seniors Forever Foster Program. From left, are: board of directors member, Kaitlyn Walker; board of directors member, Izzy Ragan; Julianne Jackson; board of directors member, Wally Anderson; Jackson's service dog, Sammie; and vice president of Community Impact, Jesse Coraggio.

Krystina Woychowski// Chronicle intern

Senior citizens, meet senior animals.

Julianne Jackson, founder of nonprofit animal rescue organization The Greener Side Haven Inc. is more determined than ever to help the animals find their well deserved loving homes by pairing senior citizens with senior animals.

And with the help of The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, they will be able to do this.

The Greener Side Haven Inc. received a \$7,000 grant award check from The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay on Saturday, June 22, at their its Pins for Paws to help fund their new Citrus and Pasco/Hernando Seniors Helping Seniors Forever Foster Program.

“It is a highly competitive process and we really liked this proposal,” said Jesse Coraggio, Vice President of the Community Impact. “This one really appealed to us, because of the aspect of innovation. It has both the idea of companionship for seniors and taking in disabled dogs, in order to find them homes and making that connection; they are solving two issues that we see in the community.”

The Community of Tampa Bay is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating an easy and meaningful path for donors to strengthen nonprofit organizations and build a better, more vibrant community. The foundation award funds twice a year: fall and spring. With the spring funds mainly focusing on animal welfare, environmental, health, and human services. Over the past 28 years, the foundation has awarded more than \$210 million in grants to nonprofit organizations across the country.

“Our grants are extremely important to us, so this a big deal,” Jackson said. “It is one of our largest grants that we have received. We were very thrilled to get this one, especially with the large amount like this; this will take us a long way.”

The Seniors Helping Seniors Forever Foster Program will benefit the unadoptable senior pets that have and will be rescued and rehabilitated. It will also benefit the senior citizens in our community by allowing them to become forever foster parents to the rehabilitated senior pets.

“We saw a need, and nobody else does anything like we do,” Jackson said. “We want to help as many people and senior animals as we can. We do not shy away from medical conditions; we have had dogs with cancer, blindness, deafness, paralyzations, and neurologic conditions. We have done it all.”

The beginning of June marked the start of the new program and two 12-year-old cocker spaniels have already found new homes.

“We see so many senior citizens relinquishing their animals because they cannot afford them anymore,” Jackson said. “In this case, if we see a senior citizen that has a pet that they are going to give up because they cannot afford it, we can step in and save that relationship. We can save that animal and person with this new program.”

This program allows residents to become forever foster parents by providing unconditional love and care without the financial cost.

“We pay for all of the expenses so that the senior person does not have to worry about any of those things anymore,” Jackson said. “In this program, we will take care of the food, medical, supplements, and toys; we will help with everything.

All that is required is for the foster parent to take them to a designated veterinarian, take them to a location once a month for heartworm medications, and monthly visits from Jackson and her board of directors to ensure that the animal is doing just fine.

Animals for this program are not limited to dogs and cats, but it solely relies on what the senior citizen is looking for. They match the needs of the person with an appropriate animal.

“With this program, we can help both the people and the animals at the same time,” Jackson said.

With all of this comes extensive requirements in order to become a forever foster parent. The requirements include a background check, a call to the veterinarian regarding the care of animals in the past and ensuring that the immunization record is up to date, two personal references that are non-relatives, and a home visit to ensure a safe environment for the animal.

“There is so much joy that an animal brings to a person,” Jackson said. “And especially somebody who may not have any other relatives or a lot of friends,... having an animal changes that.”

Jackson has always had a passion for animals. She got her first pet at the age of 20 years old, and her passion has only grown.

“I am deathly allergic to them,” she said. “ I have to take Benadryl everyday so that I can have my animals around and take care of them.”

This allergy does not slow her down at all, which is evidenced by the endless love she displays to the animals.

With the forever foster program comes a need for more space to hold the animals.



The Greener Side Haven Inc. founder and president Julianne Jackson is developing a Citrus and Pasco/Hernando Seniors Helping Seniors Forever Foster Program.

Matthew Beck

Jackson and her crew are still in the process of raising more money to be able to purchase property for The Greener Side Haven Animal Sanctuary.

“We have raised about \$22,000, and we need about \$400,000,” Jackson said.

The goal is to eventually have a property designated for the animal sanctuary to house all the rescue animals and allow senior citizens to come and select an animal to foster.

“We hope to continue flourishing as long as we have the financial needs to do so,” Jackson said.

The Greener Side Haven office is located at Hands to Paws Grooming, 3892 N Lecanto Hwy in Beverly Hills.

For more information about becoming a forever foster parent or to make a donation, visit [www.thegreenerasidehaven.org](http://www.thegreenerasidehaven.org) or call the office at 352-513-2063.

Contact Chronicle intern Krystina Woychowski at [Krystina.woychowshi@chonline.com](mailto:Krystina.woychowshi@chonline.com).