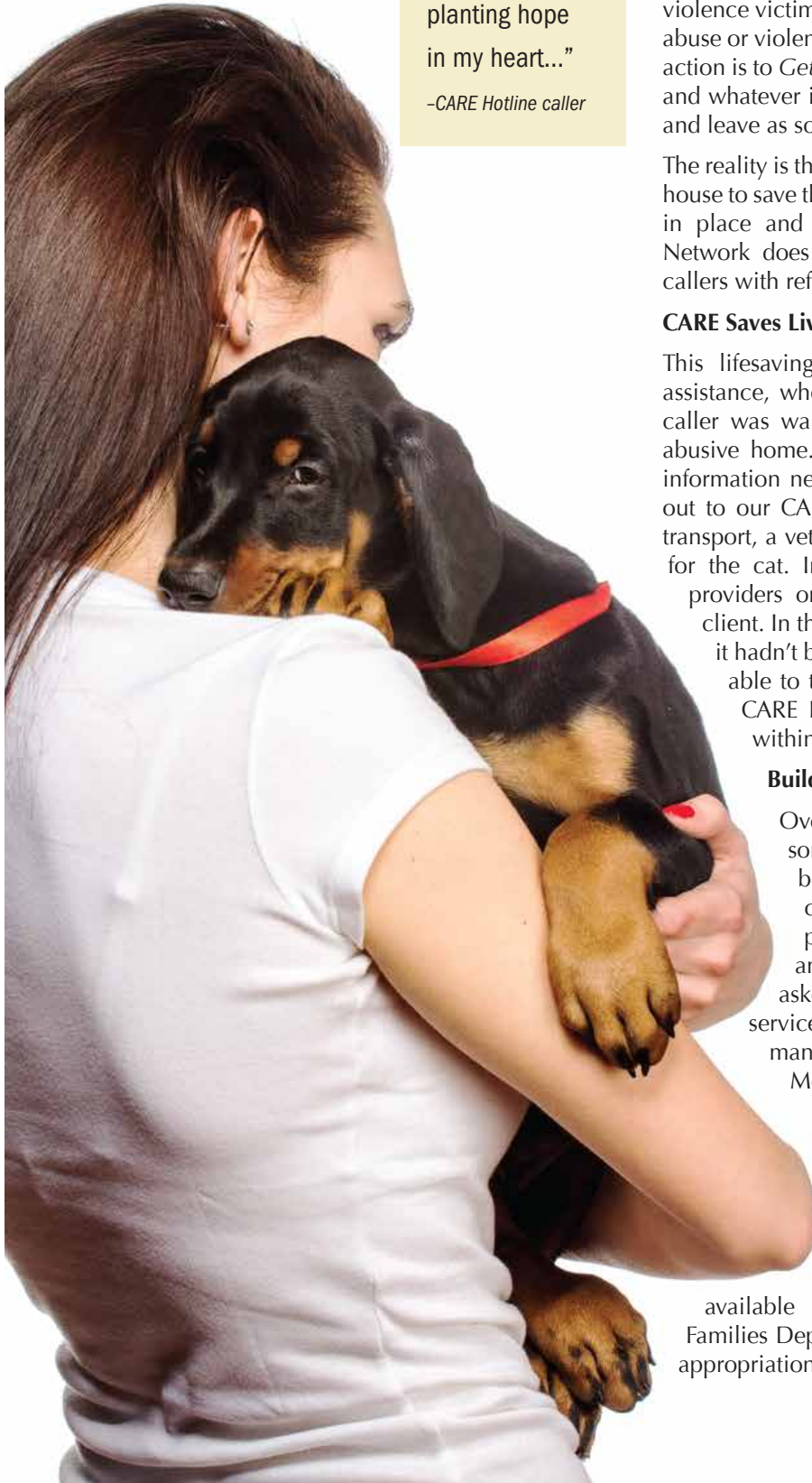


CARE Hotline and Network: Bringing Relief in Real Time

“Thank you for
planting hope
in my heart...”

–CARE Hotline caller



APNM’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) Network provides temporary and confidential safe havens for the animals of domestic violence victims in New Mexico. To an individual or family at risk of abuse or violence and needing to flee that dangerous home, the best action is to *Get Out!* Victims need to take their children and animals and whatever important documents and other items they can grab, and leave as soon as they can.

The reality is that victims may not be able to get back safely into their house to save their animals. What’s important is having the resources in place and ready to help in these situations. APNM’s CARE Network does just that. Since July 2014, CARE has assisted 50 callers with referrals and/or direct services for over 100 animals!

CARE Saves Lives, Delivers Peace of Mind

This lifesaving service was there for a woman, desperate for assistance, who called the CARE Hotline one recent evening. The caller was waiting for police to escort her and her cat from an abusive home. She called the CARE Hotline, provided the basic information needed, and APNM’s CARE Hotline manager reached out to our CARE Network of safe haven providers to arrange for transport, a veterinary wellness exam, and safe emergency housing for the cat. In less than 20 minutes, APNM had three willing providers on “stand-by,” awaiting final confirmation with the client. In this case, CARE was it, she had nowhere else to turn. If it hadn’t been for the CARE Network, she would not have been able to take her cat with her. Like most calls coming to the CARE Hotline, the need for response was urgent, usually within 24 hours or sooner.

Building a Network for Immediate Response

Over the past several months, CARE program staff and some partnering domestic violence advocates have been actively reaching out to New Mexico communities to expand the network of CARE service providers. Veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, animal transporters, and foster caregivers are all being asked to join the Network. There are now about 75 service providers around the state, but CARE still needs many more foster home providers in all regions of New Mexico. Interested individuals should contact Sharon Jonas at (505) 265-2322, ext. 23, or email care@apnm.org.

Laws That Matter

Senate Bill 178, sponsored by Senator Nancy Rodriguez (D-Santa Fe), passed and was signed into law during the 2015 legislative session, making available \$50,000 to the New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department’s “animal sheltering services” program. This appropriation will support the CARE program and its operations.

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CARE Hotline and Network: Success Stories



From Sandy, a CARE client:

“Not everyone I know or meet understands the love I have for my cats and most thought I should *just get rid of them*. Each time I heard those words it truly broke my heart, as they are the

ones who have given me the unconditional love that everyone wants in life. The thought of having to “get rid of them” because of my homeless situation made me a complete wreck! As I realized I was to end up in a shelter, all I could think of was...what was to happen to my babies? I felt so overwhelmed with guilt. Then one day I felt that God had led me to the right place at the right time. I had contacted the DVRC [Domestic

Violence Resource Center] for help, and it was then I was told about the CARE Program. This organization was truly a gift from God. I had just been accepted into a shelter that had a waiting list, so the timing in getting them accepted was critical or I’d lose my place at the shelter. DVRC orchestrated the process with CARE beautifully. My babies were immediately taken in and the woman who came to pick them up made me feel so much better, as I could definitely see that they would be in a great place with the best of care. During their time away I was provided with pictures and updates, which gave me so much comfort and encouragement to work toward my new future. I couldn’t be more grateful to CARE for taking great care of my babies and giving me peace of mind so I could concentrate on building a better future for the three of us. Thank you, CARE!”



From Deleana OtherBull, Executive Director of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women:

“It is common in a lot of Native American tribal communities to hold animals in high regard and view them as an extension of the family. Dogs, horses, sheep, livestock, etc. are often seen as our relatives and thus we take on both nurturing and protective roles towards these animals. At the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW),

we are aware that the link between domestic violence and animal abuse is a topic that has not been widely discussed in tribal communities, so we are moving towards acknowledging our connection to our animal relatives and ensuring that victims of domestic violence have access to resources and support for their animal relations when seeking safety. We are proud to partner with APNM and are extremely thankful to APNM for providing training to our tribal advocates during our 40-hour core advocacy training.”



Saturday, October 3, 2015 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa, Bernalillo

Announcing this year’s winners:

- Jojo *Animal Award*
- Sena Fitzpatrick *Board of Directors’ Award*
- Patty Mugan *Direct Animal Services Award*
- Pam Wiseman *Executive Director’s Award*
- Robyn Albani *Humane Education Award*
- Mary Katherine Ray *Humane Citizen Award*
- Ruben Lucero *Law Enforcement Award*
- Senator Nancy Rodriguez *Lawmaking Advocacy Award*
- MaryIn Zahler *Mary Jane Garcia Champion for Animals Award*
- Jenny Rabinowitz *Media Award*

Since 2000, APNM has been publicly recognizing and thanking those who go out of their way to improve the lives of animals in New Mexico. Every four years, the Milagro Awards recognize individual and collaborative humanitarian acts on behalf of animals.

Individuals and businesses can show their support for the 2015 Milagro Awards and the winners by becoming an underwriter for this very special event. There are many opportunities to

support the Milagro Awards, from becoming the Title Sponsor or sponsoring a winner, to advertising in the event’s print program. To learn more and to download the 2015 Milagro Awards Commitment Packet, visit www.apnm.org/milagroawards or contact **Daniel at (505) 265-2322, ext. 32 or daniel@apnm.org**. Purchase tickets to the event online (current APNM donors receive a 10% discount). Get your tickets today and help honor these impressive champions for animals.