June 20, 2020

Dear Friends & Supporters:

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. As you probably know, on March 20th Caring For Creatures closed the sanctuary to the general public and volunteer visits. Adoptions continued by appointment only for folks with approved applications. Many of our wonderful animals have found their forever homes over the past couple of months which brings us all great joy.

Recently, we began to welcome back our regular volunteers who play such a vital role at the sanctuary. Our volunteers enhance everything we do and all were hugely missed during the lockdown timeframe. Little did I know, however, that a group of our dog-walking volunteers were busy at home working on an idea to help their animal friends at the sanctuary. They did not squander their time away from their beloved sanctuary. Slowly they began collecting money while NOT dog walking…digging deep in the nooks and crannies of their couches, emptying out piggy banks, and even offering up a stimulus check or two. They were like money-seeking missiles and all for one special purpose – to present to you the CFC Dog Walkers Perfect 10! Matching Gift Challenge. You read that right – this group of dog walking volunteers collected $10,000 and they are now presenting their Challenge to you!

Now through July 31, 2020, the CFC Dog Walkers will match your gift, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of $10,000! A Perfect 10! any way you look at it.

Let me provide you with a little information about this group of dog walkers. First, they want to remain anonymous. These individuals are not seeking fame or pats on the back (though I can assure you they deserve both!). All they want is to be able to help the sanctuary as we make our way through yet another major challenge! The dog walkers don’t miss a beat when it comes to getting their canine buddies out for a fun walk, a good brushing and even scenic car rides and day trips! Step counters can barely keep up with these folks as they clock mile after mile while venturing through the fields, wooded trails and up the long driveway with a willing and loving canine. Please consider honoring their commitment with a gift to match their Perfect 10! $10,000 Matching Gift Challenge!

Our work has gone on pretty much as before with the exception that we have enhanced our disinfecting routines and incorporated social distancing and mask wearing to protect each other as much as possible. We still are closed to visitors but have continued to do adoptions by appointment only for those who have approved applications. Like other shelters and rescues across the country, CFC has experienced a dramatic increase in adoptions as the stay-at-home directive has resulted in large numbers of people working from home and has kept children away from schools. I assure you our thorough adoption screening has remained in place and we confirm each adopter is committed for the long haul and understands their responsibilities do not end when they return to the office.

The pandemic has not reduced the number of animals in need of assistance. We have welcomed kittens, cats and dogs in varying stages of neglect. We are only limited by available spaces for new arrivals and the resources needed for providing quality care. Adoptions help create openings for animals waiting for help and we can dramatically increase our resources through this Perfect 10! $10,000 Matching Gift Challenge. Please help if you can.

When the volunteers presented me with their challenge I was stunned and overwhelmed with gratitude for this very special gesture and what it will mean for CFC and the animals in our care. Amazing. Simply amazing.

On behalf of everyone at CFC, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to our volunteers, friends, rescue partners, and supporters who are dedicated healthcare professionals and are selflessly committing themselves to the job at hand – saving lives. May you remain safe and healthy throughout this uncertain time. Thank you for your great sacrifice and compassion.

So, now, it’s up to all of you to help us meet the CFC Dog Walkers, Perfect 10! $10,000 Matching Gift Challenge. They will match your donation, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of $10,000. This is not a done deal yet and there is not a lot of time to spare. This Challenge will end on July 31, 2020.
Complete the enclosed reply card and return to the sanctuary with your check (envelope provided). You may make a gift via credit card either on the reply card or via our secure donation page on our website (www.CaringForCreatures.org). If doing a website gift, select Perfect 10! Matching Gift Challenge under the Gift Designation dropdown list. Your gift, in any amount, will make a big difference. The dogs and cats you help save go on to share their love in their new forever homes. In our world it doesn’t get any better than that.

Thank you for sending your positive thoughts and prayers, for donating much-needed supplies and for letting us know you are there should we need your help. It means the world to us. Please stay safe and be well.

Warm regards,

Mary K. Birkholm
President & Founder

P.S.— We thought you would enjoy seeing some of the recent happy adoption day/new home photos!

“The vital function that pets fulfill in this world hasn’t been fully recognized. They keep millions of people sane.”

- Eckhart Tolle