SOUTH JERSEY GIFT GUIDE 2014 19 Hope for the holidays

hile the weather gets colder this holiday season, warm your hearts by giving to the animals at The Animal Welfare Association of Voorhees. AWA has been helping animals in our community – and the people who love them – since 1948. AWA receives no government funding and relies solely on charity to save the 2,600 pets that get adopted each year.

Each pet has a story to tell, like Snowflake – a white shepherd who was neglected and crated for nearly 23 hours a day until caring neighbors, hearing the whimpers, acted and called for help. When Snowflake arrived at AWA, she received the comfort and care she needed. She gained weight and our shelter staff and volunteers provided her with

love, basic training, and playtime. Snowflake was adopted by a loving man who takes her on frequent hikes – she now enjoys the open-air and being confined to a crate all day is just a faint memory.

Donations are also critical to supporting AWA's Pet Clinic and our community-based programs. The Pet Clinic, which is open to anyone, offers affordable spay/neuter and wellness services.

Many clinic programs have directly lowered our area's pet impoundment and euthanasia. AWA's outreach programs include a wellness team that travels to underserved neighborhoods to give out food and basic vaccines and a humane education program which engages thousands of youths in understanding the importance of the humane treat-

ment of animals.

Donations matter – we couldn't have helped Snowflake or offer the community-based programs we offer without the support of our compassionate community.

Please consider a donation to our Holiday Fund Drive. To read some of our most precious 2014 stories and to donate, go to www.savepetsnow.org or call 856-424-2288, ext. 107.

To learn more about AWA, visit us at www.awanj.org. On behalf of all of us – both two-legged and fourlegged – we wish you a "pawsome" holiday!

The Animal Welfare Association is located at 509 Centennial Blvd. in Voorhees (across from the post office); (856) 424-2288; www.awanj.org.