



Humane Animal Welfare Society
of Waukesha County, Inc.
701 Northview Rd
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-542-8851
262-542-8853 (f)
hawspets.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Jennifer Smieja, Communications & Media Specialist
jennifer@hawspets.org 262-542-8851, x107

OLENIK ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM HAWS

Waukesha animal resource center saw unprecedented growth during her 20-year tenure

WAUKESHA – July 30, 2024. Lynn Olenik, long-time leader of HAWS, the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County, has announced her retirement effective July 29, 2024. Olenik began her 20-year tenure at HAWS in September of 2004, and has had a profound impact on the organization, animal welfare and the Waukesha county community.

Galvanizing the employees, volunteers and donors with her upbeat nature, Olenik brought a fresh vision to HAWS, strengthening the animal care and adoptions programs. She oversaw two successful capital campaigns and three large shelter expansions, the creation of the Behavior Department, increased education opportunities and the growth of the Spay-Neuter Initiative Program. Most recently, she directed the development and opening of the HAWS Schallock Center for Animals, a center for learning and respite gifted to HAWS by mentor and former board member Mike Schallock and his wife Jane.

Other highlights of Olenik’s leadership include:

- A significant increase in adoptions and decrease in euthanasia, allowing HAWS to gain no-kill status while also maintaining open admissions.
- The creation of HAWS’ Project Guardian and Seeking Sanctuary community cat programs.
- HAWS’ Mobile Adoption program and community outreach.
- Strengthened relationships with the Friends of HAWS fundraising volunteer group.
- Growing partnerships with other shelters and humane organizations, as well as with corporations and professional organizations.

“It would be impossible to quantify the impact Lynn has had on this organization in the last 20 years,” noted Board President Betsy DeJaco. “She fundamentally changed the way sheltering was done in this community through her focus on education both inside our walls and in the greater Waukesha area. We will forever be indebted to her.”

Added Executive Director Maggie Tate-Techtman: “Lynn has had a significant impact on thousands of animals. In addition to these animals, Lynn has made a permanent impact on those that have had the privilege to work beside her and learn from her strong business skills and compassionate, kind nature.”

Today, HAWS numbers more than 100 employees strong, with over 300 regular volunteers. Going forward, the organization is led by Tate-Techtman, Assistant Director Andres Garcia, Shelter Director Kelly Rohda, Program Director Devon Kirkpatrick, Marketing/Philanthropy Director Katie Jenson and Business/Culture Director Nichole Janny.

“The organization is in great hands with Maggie at the helm, along with Andres, Nichole, Kelly and a host of other outstanding individuals. Thank you all for the support over the years. Here’s to a bright future, and remember - it’s about the animals!”

A non-profit organization established in 1965, the Humane Animal Welfare Society assists over 12,000 animals and welcomes more than 35,000 human visitors each year. HAWS is an open admission, no-kill shelter dedicated to strengthening the relationship between animals and humans through adoptions and education, making a more compassionate community possible.

HAWS is located at 701 Northview Road in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

For more information call (262) 542-8851 or log onto hawspets.org.

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HAWS: Growing Our Humane Community.

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