

NEWS RELEASE – March 9, 2011

Foster Dog Parent Helps Hope Haven Kids Learn About Caring for Pets

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Northwest Iowa resident Lee Youde, and two of his rescued dogs, were on-hand last night at Movie Night for Hope Haven kids to give the kids a chance to ask questions about caring for dogs, interact with them and benefit from the loving friendship that is magically created when children and gentle dogs come in contact with each other.

Gretchen, one of the two dogs that were rescued by Spencer police and firefighters from a slab of ice located on the Little Sioux River northwest of Spencer in early December, loved all the

attention from the kids and happily accommodated everyone who wanted to spend a few minutes petting her. Gretchen was surrendered to People for Pets shortly after her rescue. Youde is currently a foster parent for Gretchen. Nikki, Youde's adopted poodle, allowed several of the kids to hold and hug her. Peaches, a 3 year old poodle/maltese mix was in the truck, but did not visit with the group as Youde is fostering him in an effort to ready him for adoption.

Youde gave all in attendance A & W Root Beer tokens, a Phantom Fan Badge, and three of the kids won Phantom T-Shirts in a drawing at the end of Youde's educational session. (The local A&W is just one of the many Spencer businesses supporting the Phantom campaign to stop the abandonment of pets.)

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About Hope Haven: For 45 years, Hope Haven has served people with disabilities. We have a track record of successfully developing and implementing new services in response to needs; today we have programs in 24 communities around the Midwest.

Pictured in photo is rescued shelter dog Nikki, Lee Youde, a few of the kids in the audience.