

NEWS RELEASE – October 20, 2010

Lee Youde, and Phantom, Address the Importance of Giving Shelter Pets a Forever Loving Home

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Lee Youde Speaks on the Importance of Giving Shelter Dogs a Forever Loving Home



Northwest Iowa resident Lee Youde, and his two rescued dogs Nikki and Phantom, campaign for the millions of voiceless dogs across the country in hopes their story will improve the quality of life, one dog at a time, as well as put an end to senseless abandonment of unwanted pets. On Dec 21 and 22 the trio will be at the Spencer Library.

Phantom has adjusted well to her new family, which includes another shelter rescue dog named Nikki. Nikki and Youde are building a relationship with Phantom in her new family via morning walks, playful exercise, clear communication, respect, and lots of love.

"We love our animals and take great pride in giving them a warm and caring environment. The dogs love interacting with people during the holidays and it's a

great feeling to see the faces of teen guests when they finally get that chance to meet Phantom. It's a win-win for us, the dogs and the teens."

The local shelter, *People for Pets*, does charge a fee for adopting, but the fee only defrays some of the costs of each animals stay and adoption.

Youde says dogs make fantastic companions. "In most cases a new owner can bond with a dog in less than 24 hours."

Living arrangements are important when adopting a pet from shelter. Larger dogs, like Phantom, generally need a bigger space to run around. Anyone living in an apartment might want to consider a smaller breed.

You can learn more about *People for Pets* at <http://www.peopleforpets.org/>. Cats are also available for adoption at the shelter. If you'd like to learn more about Phantom and join her in promoting and celebrating Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog, visit her online at www.phantomthedog.com.

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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 Phantom and a few of the young people in the audience.