



2,928 | animals saved  
 39,471 | ground transport miles  
 299 | pets adopted through Petco  
 2,253 | vaccinations given at clinics  
 971 | microchips given at clinics  
 \$135,311 | med. procedures



## SIZZLER

What possible kind of “stake” could Sizzler have in New Beginnings? Well, an employee of their newly renovated store here in Merced suggested to the owner that New Beginnings be one of the three honorees at their grand reopening ceremony. We had provided spaying and neutering for his three rescue animals and the owner, an animal lover himself, agreed that we were deserving of the honor.

It was quite a feast. Everyone there was treated to a full steak meal and all the trimmings. No one cared that it was nine in the morning; they just chowed down! We were also given lots of items we could use in baskets, like bottles of steak sauce and gift certificates. Their generosity didn't stop there as you can see by



the check pictured here. Who could have a beef with that?

## CLINICS

Preparations are in the works for our upcoming clinics this year. We're expanding to quarterly clinics, up from three last year. So, we should significantly increase the total of 2,253 lifesaving inoculations that were administered in 2024, all free with the kind donations of vaccinations by Petco Love. Many also received rabies shots and microchips provided by New Beginnings. Our first clinic of 2025 will take place in Winton in March, followed by Livingston, Los Banos and Planada.



## BAKE SALE

Our ever-popular annual bake sale made its highly anticipated return last December 14, once again at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center. The black box theater there is a very large room that we completely fill with the hugest assortment of delicacies imaginable, plus decorated holiday wreaths and trees, gift items and New Beginnings hoodies. Thank you, volunteers, for all your hard work setting up the day before and carrying on the next day. Bringing in a little over \$10,000, you can see that this “ain't your mama's bake sale!”

At the same time as the bake sale, we had a fundraiser going on at the Habit Restaurant in Merced. For everyone submitting a flyer or showing one on their phone to the cashier, we were given 20% of their total purchase. Thanks to some valiant volunteers who braved the icy cold wind to hand out flyers, we brought in another \$330. We are already looking forward to this year's sale scheduled for December 13th, our third year at the Art Center.



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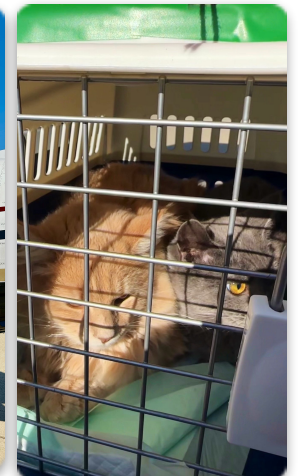


# TRANSPORT

We never get tired of saying, "it was a very big flight," because it means that lots of little sweetie-pies got the opportunity to be someone's BFF. Yet the Wings of Rescue flight on January 28 may even outdistance that—a very, VERY big flight! The plane was filled with 69 cats and 82 dogs, hardly allowing for the addition of a Milk Bone or Temptations Treat at the top of all the crates.

Wings of Rescue, never one to sit idle for long, also coordinated a special Valentine's Day flight in which many transports departed from various places across the country all at the same time. What an enthralling idea! Our contribution was 39 dogs and 51 cats. There was LOVE in the air!

Here are photos from our recent flights. Enjoy.



## In Memory & Honor

We are honored to have received memorial donations in the names of:

- Violet Esau
- Lucy Zimmer
- Lauren Sampson
- Dave Tatum
- Rebecca Hyde
- Jan Chiono
- Michael Marques
- Harper, the best/naughtiest dog ever
- Gloria's loved Rusty

- Brownie's loves: Princess, King and Snoopy
- Little Ruby
- Carole's love, Vito
- Pester the Bester
- Audie's Gucci
- Robin's precious Jenny
- Chad, Oso, Chance and Dottie

- Tiny, loved by Summer and Jose
- Rumor
- David Partlow
- Mike Tanner
- Carole Redd
- Jane Alice
- Markiano

We are honored to have received tributes in the names of:

Yankee Young





# MEDICAL



venmo



Dr. Lauppe & Mayor Matt Serratto with Grace

It was newsworthy enough to be covered by all major news channels. And heartbreaking enough to elicit tears. Recently, in a week's time, three dogs in our area have received gunshot wounds.

The first one happened on February 3rd. The little victim was a terrier that was shot through the eye and shoulder. The vets were able to remove the pellets from the shoulder, but not the eye. She is being adopted and her new name, Hope, could not be more fitting.

The next day a Great Pyrenees was shot. Like Hope, this occurred within the city limits of Merced on a major street. Incomprehensible! She was shot between the eyes with a large caliber gun and left for dead. Fortunately, she was found in time by some people who contacted the city. She was treated at Valley Animal Hospital where her recuperation required a month's stay. Flea-infested and emaciated, it was obvious that her life had not been easy. Yet the next day after her arrival at Valley, she was already slowly wagging her tail, showing the spirit that has kept her alive so far. A few days later, Grace, as she is now known, was actually walking outside, reveling in the sunshine. It just takes your breath away. When she is ready for adoption, her new owners must guarantee that she is primarily an inside dog with a safe yard outside where she can bask in the sun.

The third dog, Raz, is a German Shepherd mix who was found by a vet tech on her back doorstep waiting with her dogs and cats for breakfast! X-rays on his left foreleg showed twelve bullets. Consultation with an orthopedic specialist confirmed our worst expectations—the leg couldn't be saved. To try to do so would put him through a long and torturous recovery with a dismal prognosis. Raz is in good company with many three-legged canines who don't appear to notice the difference! Despite being an older gentleman, he is energetic, sweet, friendly with strangers and awaiting an adopter who will appreciate his finer qualities.

Andy Krotik and his team, staunch supporters of New Beginnings and avid animal lovers, are once again holding a drive-thru chicken dinner to help defray costs. Only 350 tickets will be sold so Andy suggests, "Hurry-we always sell out!" We always need donations for medical care, as our bills can be as much as \$15,000 a month. Where it's natural to feel so helpless in situations such as these, it's a way to feel a part of the cure.

**Emergency Fundraiser**  
 World famous Grilled Chicken leg quarter dinners by Chef Ted Lindo and Reggie Boesch (drive Thru pick up)  
 • Saturday March 29th  
 • 3pm-6pm  
 • 2662 Palm Ave, Atwater (Behind MERCO Credit Union)  
**Tickets \$15 ea.**  
 Location for ticket purchases: Pick up at American Realty 2662 Palm Ave Atwater Ca. For tickets TEXT Andy Krotik 209-777-8029 (will text you)

Meal will include the World famous grilled Chicken Leg quarters from Chef Ted Lindo & Reggie Boesch beans, macaroni salad and roll. All proceeds go to help with Medical expenses for Hope and Grace, 2 beautiful girls and 1 handsome boy randomly shot in Merced area.



# MIDDLE SCHOOLERS OPT FOR ANIMALS

Ellen Avellar, a teacher at Winton Middle School with a high regard for animals, has come up with a very innovative idea to instill such appreciation in her students. This is the third year she has told them that instead of getting each a little gift for Christmas, she will give them \$5.00 to donate and calls it "the gift of giving." She then presents a choice of two charities and gives background information on each. The students make their selections and then create a card to send to their charity of choice. Each year New Beginnings has been one of the two selections.

The cards they create are bright with promise as you can see by the examples here. And it's easy to tell that they have internalized the lesson by some of the things they say in their notes. "You give animals a proper home," says Jakzenny. Marco agrees, adding, "I love all the animals you have found and helped them to survive," and April "wants them to have a comfy bed." "When I see a dog or cat that is homeless it makes me really sad. I love how there is a center like this in my area," states Malesa and Cole supports that idea by saying that he hopes we "continue to house these animals in a new home." One student who did not sign the card tied it all together with, "You bring joy to the animals."

Couldn't say it any better.



## New Beginnings for Merced County Animals

[www.newbeginningsforanimalsmerced.org](http://www.newbeginningsforanimalsmerced.org)

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## 2024 EXPENSES

