

#36 OCONTO AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

Members of the Barn Quilts of Oconto County (BQOOC) project got together to sponsor a *Community Quilt Block* for the Oconto Area Humane Society. All quilt blocks are painted at New View Industries in Gillett by the workers there as well as several volunteers.

BQOOC volunteer Donna Baird sponsored this block in memory of her husband Bill who served on the OAHS board for many years, and Donna's family continues to provide support. Volunteer Fran Wishneski hopes to bring attention to importance of the humane society, and her daughter-in-law "Dr. Kate" from the Hometown Veterinary Clinic in Oconto Falls volunteers several hours each month to the shelter. Volunteer Les Schultz is a retired Biology teacher and has a strong love of animals. Kay Rankel and Lynn Jones (coordinators for the BQOOC project) are both dog lovers and believe in the importance of animal rescue.

The quilt block has been installed on the side of their facility in Oconto, and several posed for a picture in front of the quilt block. Pictured on the left side of the block are New View Industries (NVI) painters Andrew, Susie, Mike, Priscilla, Wendy, and Lynn Jones (BQOOC coordinator). On the right standing are Shannel (NVI painter), Les Shultz (volunteer), Donna Baird (volunteer), and Fran Wishneski (volunteer); kneeling are OAHS staff - Lexie Woodworth (director) and Breanna Gussick. Not pictured is Kay Rankel (BQOOC coordinator) who took the picture.



A message from the OAHS...

The Oconto Area Humane Society & Animal Shelter, Inc. is a 501C3, non-profit organization located in Oconto, WI. As an open-admission shelter, we are dedicated to providing protection, care, and shelter for abandoned and homeless companion animals. When the need for a shelter was first realized in 2002, it was estimated that more than 2000 animals were abandoned or lost in Oconto County alone each year. Since opening its doors in 2005, our shelter has taken in an average of 800 animals per year—or approximately two animals per day, seven days a week. Our highly-trained and compassionate staff and our dedicated volunteers work hard at caring for these animals in need and ultimately placing them into their ‘forever’ homes.

The area we serve is predominantly rural, and we actively work at educating our public on issues of pet care, and the need to spay and neuter our companion animals. We attend public functions and visit classrooms with pet care literature. As with all shelters, we operate on a tight budget. With our rural location, we are limited on the number of potential corporate sponsors, and the bulk of our support is received through fundraisers, or is made by private donations. We also rely heavily on our volunteers to help with the bulk of the work that is needed to care for the animals and building, helping us keep our doors open and our services available for those in need.

This block was installed by the Oconto Area Humane Society in November 2015.