

The DREAM volunteer spotlight for December shines on a Tipp City mother-daughter team, Sammi Marcum, a freshman at Troy Christian High School where her mother Rebel is the Choir Director.

Rebel has shared her musical talent for the past two years by opening DREAM's Pet Fest with singing the National Anthem. She has also volunteered at DREAM's spaghetti dinners. Rebel is a small business owner who specializes in event planning.

Sammi is a very active 15 year old with her school work and softball yet still finds the time to care for her 7 year old Shih Tzu named Buffy, who may soon have a rescue playmate. Sammi also has a 9 year old horse who lives at Carriage Hill Riding Center in Huber Heights. Along with riding her horse, she cares for other horses at the center and teaches riding lessons.

Sammi has already planned her future by choosing NYU with a major in nursing and a minor in music. Through research she discovered that New York has one of the largest problems with dog abuse. While there Sammi plans to get involved in helping to make a difference. With Sammi's focus, energy and love of dogs, no doubt she will make a difference.

Sammi came to DREAM after meeting Shannon, a DREAM volunteer at a dog adoption event. Shannon could easily see that Sammi was motivated and determined to help save dogs. Since finding DREAM she has become a valued volunteer. She helps whenever asked which includes adoption events, Pet Fests and spaghetti dinners. Sammi encourages others to volunteer for DREAM and come to know the reward of helping to save a dog. She told me "I love to help with DREAM's fundraising events because I know they use the money to make life better for the dogs."

Sammi and her family have been longtime supporters of the ASPCA. In 2012 Sammi heard the ASPCA talking about the huge problem of puppy mills so she researched the topic and realized it goes on in all areas of the country, even in her own hometown. She knew she needed to do something, so with the support and encouragement of her family. In 2013 Sammi created an organization called PUP, Puppies Under Protection. Her goal was and is to bring awareness about the life of a puppy mill dog. She has accomplished this by educating her friends, family and

church members as well as speaking at her school. She encourages those looking to adopt to go to a rescue and to NOT buy from a pet store.

The following year Sammi and Rebel suspected there was a local puppy mill. Together they gathered information by visiting the residence several times. What they saw reinforced their suspicions. They turned to the local animal shelter, but legally they could not help. Without letting any time go by they went to the Police with their proof and eventually the puppy mill was closed and the dogs were removed. *Kudos to Sammi and Rebel!*

Shelby County Animal Shelter (SCAS) posted a need for help. Sammi and Rebel answered the call to volunteer at SCAS to socialize and walk dogs. With the holidays just around the corner Sammi and Rebel approached the shelter staff for permission to provide Thanksgiving for the dogs after reading about other shelters doing the same. Permission granted. Sammi started fundraising to buy needed items for the dogs (like toys) and the shelter. She approached a food supplier who donated enough food so Sammi and Rebel could provide Thanksgiving Dinner for all the dogs. Thanksgiving was a huge success for the dogs and the shelter. Yes, there was Christmas celebration at SCAS.

Sammi encourages others to volunteer with DREAM so they can realize their mission to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome dogs in need. Visit the "How2Help" page of www.Dream4pets.org for various opportunities to volunteer; you can do as much or as little as you wish.

HEARTFELT THANKS TO SAMMI AND HER FAMILY FOR ALL THEY DO TO HELP OUR 4 LEGGED FRIENDS!!!