

**This month, we are pleased to introduce you to a DREAM foster family, the Mobelini's .** Shon and her husband, their 15 year old son and almost 12 year old daughter reside in Troy. While Shon made the initial contact with DREAM offering to foster a large breed dog ( a young Great Dane mix), we are also recognizing and thanking her family. When you foster a rescued pet in your home, the support and commitment of your family is necessary to make the fostering experience a success and help the dog prepare for adoption.

**Shon began her journey with DREAM when she saw Benny on a shelter's website outside of Ohio; it stated he was being euthanized soon, she felt a desperate need to save him.** She had seen fliers about DREAM and contacted DREAM with a request and application to foster. "I will help him if you can get him out of that shelter and save him". Dream contacted the shelter and arranged transport; Shon and family began their first fostering experience. Because the demeanor of a rescued pet changes over time as he/she becomes more comfortable and secure in the foster home, Shon spent time with DREAM's trainer (like most of our fosters) to learn how to work through the challenges of blending a new pet into a home with children and another family pet. Basic obedience, crate training and house training are also important aspects of training and requirements for all DREAM dogs before they can be adopted. In addition to fostering, Shon volunteered with her daughter at DREAM's annual PetFest, and participated routinely at "Meet and Greets" to showcase her foster. Shon and her husband are very community minded, they also volunteer at their church and with Troy school in the activities of their children.

An equally important member of their family, Dexter is a 5 year rescued pit/boxer mix who helped their rescue (Benny) adjust to life in a new environment and with new people. Shon & her family have always been animal lovers and have an empty spot in their heart for the loss of their beloved 13 year old Black Lab, Maxie. They knew after his passing they wanted to help save dogs and fostering became their choice. They learned black dogs are euthanized more often than other dogs and that is why they knew they wanted to help save Benny.

**We asked Shon: What is the positive aspect of fostering,** her response "Giving love and saving a life.. I have learned so much from fostering; like patience, as the new dog learns to trust and get over their fears and pain they may have suffered. Fostering a dog gives them a second chance at life! As a foster for DREAM, we were provided with training assistance, food and monthly medications (for flea tick and heartworm prevention). All you have to provide is your time and love to help them be the best dog possible so they can get a forever home. You will feel such pride knowing you helped change the dog from being shy and sad to confident and happy ,and, your adopter will thank you. Fostering is a good way to teach your kids how to give of themselves and have responsibility; they also will feel rewarded that they were capable of changing the dog's life and saving him. "

**We recognize life in an animal shelter** is lonely, loud, and extremely stressful; little socialization and hours of barking and crying by so many other stressed dogs. Most shelters

try their best to provide good care, they are often at full capacity; which is why fostering is such a huge gift for the dog. Giving them a temporary home, a family to pamper them, kids to play with and a yard to run in with discipline, leadership, and consistent routine; they in turn reward you with their love.

**We asked Shon: Is there a negative aspect of fostering?** "You never know what you are getting and what you are in for and that can be scary but learning about the dog you are getting will help that. By reading about their habits and personality, it will help you understand why they behave certain ways and how to help them. She recognized and accepted the challenge, and advises potential fosters to **learn about the breed** you are fostering." She added: " As with anything new in our lives, moving, getting married, having kids or fostering a dog, there is always an adjustment period; you may be unsure of what to do at first, but in a short time you will start to feel more comfortable. Don't give up on them and they won't give up on you; you are their lifeline to a permanent home."

Shon says they are definitely open to fostering again as the experience was so rewarding and they were so happy when Benny got his forever home with a girl who does marathons and takes Benny along (yes, this Great Dane mix does marathons routinely and loves it!). Open your heart and home and save a life like the Mobelinis did!

**We Thank ALL of our FOSTERS for their assistance with rehabilitation; the necessary part of the journey that prepares them for adoption !**