



## GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT

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# Dog-gone Good Deeds

**By Pam Johnson**  
**Courier Senior Staff Writer**

Three Guilford youths helped rain down donated money in true "cats and dogs" fashion recently, delivering a windfall of nearly \$800 in contributions to the Guilford Animal Shelter.

"It was all very unexpected," said Animal Control Officer Debbie Volpe, who added the department was very grateful for the surprise donations.

The first surprise came when 16-year-old Joe Petrowski gave \$367 from funds raised during the Christmas holiday season. The money was contributed by viewers drawn to Petrowski's home holiday light show. The show-stopping display illuminated his family's home on Valley Shores Drive.

The display included 26,000 lights and was coordinated by Petrowski's computer programming. Lighting sequences were set to music Petrowski broadcast over a short-wave FM transmitter. Viewers in vehicles could tune in



Nearly \$800 in donations went to the Guilford Animal Shelter recently, thanks to Guilford youths (from left to right) Joe Petrowski, Matthew Walwer, and Shawn Ross. With the boys are moms Dorothy Walwer and Dawn Ross, (left to right, rear), Guilford Animal Control Officer Debbie Volpe, and Guilford Police Officer Joanne Shove and her dog, Scout. *Photo by Pam Johnson*

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## Fairway to Heaven

### Guilford's golf team



...the Portuguese newspaper. ... 2003.

# Dog-gone Good Deeds

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their radios to experience an additional layer of entertainment.

As part of his broadcast, "I had a small voiceover saying I was collecting donations for the American Cancer Society and the [Guilford] Animal Shelter," explained Petrowski.

The holiday light show marked Petrowski's first public lighting display, although, he adds, "I've always been interested in lights."

Petrowski raised a total of \$734 and split the money into two local donations, Relay for Life of the Shoreline and Guilford Animal Shelter. Petrowski said he plans to

re-invent his display to raise more money to donate to other worthy causes next year and beyond, explaining, "I want to try to go through a bunch of charities."

Buddies Matthew Walwer and Shawn Ross, born just two days apart, decided to celebrate their 10th birthdays in a special way this year. In March the boys, who are both animal lovers, combined parties and asked their 20 guests to forgo gifts and consider bringing a monetary donation for the Guilford Animal Shelter instead.

The boys raised a total of \$405 at their party, which they brought to the shelter with moms Dorothy

Walwer and Dawn Ross. While the Walwer and Ross families already have pet dogs, thanks to that visit, the Guilford Animal Shelter found a home for one more animal in need.

"When we dropped off the donation, there was one lone cat in the shelter. The next day, we adopted it," said Dawn Ross.

The money donated by all three Guilford youths to the Animal Shelter will be set aside for uses ranging from unexpected emergencies such as taking an unclaimed injured animal to a veterinarian to assisting with adoption fees, said Volpe.

## Guilford Seniors Host Storyteller

The Guilford Seniors hosts...