

Suzie's Friends Animal Shelter

When we started this journey back in November 2003 we were really not sure just how it would go over. All we knew is that we were determined to try to make a difference in the way animals are being mistreated in our community.

We all know what it means when someone says "to coin a phrase". Years ago, when I was trying to start a business that was backed up only with a couple of empty pockets and a lot of determination, I was lucky enough to have coined my own idea that, along with a lot of luck, would help to guide me the rest of my life when making decisions, especially the tough ones.

"Those who want - **will** and those who don't - **won't**"

This **will** work because we all **want** it to.

And now that I have shared this with you let me assure you that starting Suzie's Friends is, by far, the toughest decision yet. Not because of importance but rather numbers. There are so many homeless out there that need food, shelter and medical help.

I would like thank the many volunteers who have helped in getting Suzie's Friends off to a great start. I would like to thank Mr. Charlie Bennet who, through his generosity, reminds us that our dreams are shared by our friends as well. I would like to thank all of you who keep "stuffing" your spare change in our "Donation Dogs" that are spread around the community. I would like to thank Ryan Register and Josh Morgan who come by our "make-shift" shelter often to help out. I would like to thank Teresa Chauncey who has brought together some of the most incredible young people who are helping to guide us in a direction that will keep Suzie's Friends and their messages at the forefront of the social arena in our community.

And, in closing, I would like to say that I believe that the growth and compassion of our community will always be based on our values as a citizen and the people that we elect to make these values work. I encourage you to ask your elected officials to make our community more livable for all of it's inhabitants. And Shelley & I hope that *Suzie's dream* will become a part of *your dream* and *yours* will become a part of *ours* - and that those who we elect that have the power to make the difference, *will*.

Johnny & Shelley Allison & Suzie and all her friends