

## **“I-CARE” 2013 Awards brings animal groups together**

They came from around Central and Southeastern Ohio to receive awards for helping animals. Members of the animal welfare non-profit organization called Fairfield County CARES (FCC) presented their annual **“I-CARE” 2013 Awards** at the Lancaster County Club on Thursday, September 26. The group presented 26 awards to animal rescue organizations, veterinarians, businesses, community service agencies and individual volunteers.

“Animals are unifying”, stated Janice Kobi, Fairfield County CARES President and Founder. “Caring about animals crosses all boundaries.” Kobi presented the awards on behalf of the organization. In its fifth year, individuals and groups were recognized for their efforts in helping animals in Central and Southeastern Ohio. Kobi stated, “Each of these award recipients demonstrates our CARES ‘ACES in Action’ qualities.” ACES stands for Awareness, Compassion, Education and Support which the group considers necessary qualities in building better communities.

Recipients of the Fairfield County CARES - “I-CARE”2013 Awards included the following:

- Animal Rescue Groups:
  - D.A.S.H. of Ashville; Friends of the Shelter Dogs of Athens; Friends for Life Animal Haven of Canal Winchester; Pet Orphanage of Hocking County; the Ohio SPCA of Pickaway County; Second Chance Humane Society of Licking County; and T.U.F.F. Rescue of Fairfield County.
- Business Services:
  - South Central Power Company – Support in Fairfield County
  - Feeder Creek Veterinary Services – Millersport
  - Pet Supplies Plus – Lancaster
  - Masterson’s Veterinary Services – Perry County
- Community Service:
  - Fairfield County District Library
  - Fairfield County Meals on Wheels
  - Southeaster Correctional Institute (SCI) – Lancaster
    - Doggie Daycare
    - Dog Training Program
- Outstanding CARES members:
  - – Emily Matusek and Lisa Ohl - Lancaster
- Hero Dog:
  - Morgan – Therapy/Service dog of 12 years –Deceased September 11, 2013

- 
- Special Volunteers:
  - Lisa and Alan Hooker – Lancaster
  - Dr. Steve DeBruin – Millersport
  - Blue Jones – Pleasantville
  - Debi Clarridge – Lancaster
  - Tracy Craig – Commercial Point
  - Jonna Burton – Canal Winchester
- Youth Volunteers:
  - Danelle and Tristan Calhoun - Pickerington

Major sponsor of the event was the Lancaster Country Club.

Donors for awards:

- Dave and June Harcum
- Sarah Pugh
- Wendy Stewart
- Emily Matusek

Business Recognition awards:

- State Farm Insurance – Joan Kaminsky
- Kelly and George Chaposky – The Melting Pot (Easton) and the Rodizio Grill (Columbus)
- AstroGrafx – Mitch and Lisa Reta

Anyone in Central or Southeastern Ohio can nominate individuals for an “I-CARE” Award by going to the Fairfield County CARES website at [www.FairfieldCountyCARES.org](http://www.FairfieldCountyCARES.org) and submit a person or group who has helped animals in the community. Submit to: [fairfieldcountycares@columbus.rr.com](mailto:fairfieldcountycares@columbus.rr.com) .

The FCC “I-CARE Award” Committee will review each request for consideration for an award.