



FOUNDATION

Pam was incredibly modest and humble. She did not want any recognition or attention. Her life's work and generosity were done because it was the right thing to do, not for accolades or attention. I remember her saying to me that she thought naming rights on buildings was silly. She said, "What's the point? No one is going to know the name in 50 years."

She was gracious and kind and also extremely pragmatic. She and her lovely husband, Allen, did not own a television or cell phone. She refused to watch the news, participate in social media or get bogged down with sensationalism and nonsense. Instead of wringing her hands and worrying about the world's state of affairs, she chose to roll up her sleeves and help where she could. She was a champion for land conservation, women's health and reproductive rights, progressive change through democracy, and of course, animal welfare—both for domestic and wild animals.

Pam purchased her Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) volunteer apron on November 19, 2011. Since then, she has been a fierce ally and supporter of SCCAS. The impact she has made to our organization is immeasurable. This impact changed the trajectory of the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and its effect will live on.

Pam lives on even before I enter the Shelter as I see its beautiful landscape. She initiated and executed the transformation of the Shelter's grounds by securing a local Master Gardeners group to install a drought friendly landscape surrounding the Shelter. She then organized a group of volunteer gardeners, the Green Team, to maintain and add to it. She was regularly seen digging in the dirt outside the Shelter, pulling weeds, spreading mulch and planting succulents from her beautiful home garden. She also routinely bagged and transported yard waste to her home's yard waste bin so the Shelter's would not be overwhelmed. Additionally, Pam contacted the head of the Bay School, a nearby school for autistic children, and started a program where students come to the Shelter to assist with sweeping and raking of the grounds.

Pam lives on as I walk into the Shelter and see the Phase I construction happening. Not only is the project a reality because of her financial contributions; she also assisted us with the details of the plans. One example is a very important addition she made to the hallway between the cat get acquainted rooms and the new community cat room: she brilliantly pointed out that opening doors into this busy hallway would not be ideal! She suggested sliding inset doors and the change was made.

Pam lives on in our cat housing rooms where she spent countless hours playing with, comforting and socializing cats, match-making cats to potential adopters, helping load up cats into carriers to go to adopted homes, and walking upset owners through the stray cat housing rooms to look for lost cats. She lives on with the numerous cat volunteers she expertly trained and mentored that have expanded and will maintain her good work.

Pam lives on with all the educational literature, brochures, correspondence letters and appeals she beautifully crafted and edited for SCCAS and the SCCAS Foundation. She deeply understood and believed in our mission and values and her writing talent allow us to communicate them so well.

Pam lives on with the establishment of the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Foundation. This nonprofit organization exists because of her. She built it, named it, and expertly ran it. She served as the Foundation's Secretary, but she was the force behind everything. She was constantly strategizing and planning our next moves. It was hard to keep up with her but what an incredible ride!

It's very difficult to realize the ramifications of this loss. Our community lost a treasure. Pam was a mentor, teacher and consigliere to me and so many others. I learned so much from her. She was such an inspiration and help to me. I will miss her terribly.

She will live on in our memories and hearts, and in the good work of the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter.

Melanie Sobel  
General Manager



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