The Randy Price Lifetime Care Fund

By Gerry Foss, CSRNE President

No, no, don’t worry, it’s not what you might think. Randy Price is fine - great, really - and CSRNE has not established a fund for his lifetime care. I’ll describe the Fund in a moment but first some background about CSRNE’s relationship with Randy.

The day 22 years ago when Randy Price agreed to be the Joey Fund Honorary Chairperson was a very fortunate day for CSRNE. We knew Randy and his husband, Mark Steffen, raised beautiful show cockers and that Randy was the charming news anchor for WCVB Channel 5 but we never thought he'd have the time to honor a small, unknown rescue like we were then. But he did and he changed the course of events for CSRNE forever.

No one has single-handedly raised more money for the Joey Fund or brought more publicity to CSRNE than Randy. His personal live auction donations always got hot bids. Randy’s tour of his news station followed by dinner with Randy (for 2, 4, 6 or however many) went for huge final bids - and then he'd offer the same to the runner-up bidders!

He also donated visits to their beautiful home on Kittery Point with a tour of the elegant gardens he and Mark had created. And he organized all the auction attendees to do a "Good Morning, New England!" shout out and then he aired it on the live morning program “Newscenter 5’s EyeOpener.” He even auctioned off his wonderful voice as the outgoing message on someone's answering machine!

But life goes on. In the coming year, Randy and Mark are planning some big changes in their lives that don't involve snow and ice. So, this was Randy's last year as our Honorary Chair of the Joey Fund Auction. (By the way, Randy is the only person to attend all 22 auctions.)

CSRNE has decided the best way to honor the years of Randy’s time and enormous talent that he has so selflessly given to homeless, neglected cockers is to establish “The Randy Price Lifetime Care Fund.”

We have special needs cockers that don't find forever homes so CSRNE places them with caregivers with advanced skills where these dogs can live out the rest of their lives, stress-free with people they trust, at CSRNE’s expense. Beginning this year, the Randy Price Lifetime Care Fund will help us pay for the care these special cockers need for as long as they live. Thank you, Randy and Mark, for inspiring this fund.

Even though Randy and Mark are relocating to South Carolina, our fondest hope is that they will always venture north for an October Fall Foliage tour, including a stop by the Joey Fund Auction to say “hello” to their many CSRNE friends.
President’s Message
Dogs have an incredible ability to tolerate difficult circumstances and some even emerge from them relatively unscathed. Others, though, are a different story. In every instance, CSRNE provides sanctuary, a safe refuge. It’s been said that a sanctuary is where, with physical needs met, one’s soul is nourished.

CSRNE’s core mission is to warmly welcome any abandoned cocker who comes to our door. No one is turned away. Our hope is that once we resolve a dog’s “presenting” issues, we can place the dog in a loving home. Ideally, a cocker is in and out of our care, moving on to enjoy the rest of his life. It’s always a poignant moment when we watch a CSRNE alum cross our threshold to join a forever family and the sanctuary they offer.

The sad reality is that not every dog is adopted. For these dogs, we provide lifetime care in a foster home whenever possible or in a kennel when a home cannot be found. With your support at the annual Joey Fund auction (or our new “Randy Price Lifetime Care Fund”) and throughout the year, CSRNE’s mission can continue so that every CSRNE cocker will be assured sanctuary for the rest of his or her days.

Thank you and happy holidays!

Gerry Foss
President

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Donations and Information:
CSRNE, Inc.
P.O. Box 162
Greenfield, NH 03047
Tel: 603-547-3363
www.csrne.org
Happy Holidays from all of us, including these CSRNE “Lifetime Care” cockers!

CSRNE is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you!
Finding Sanctuary

“When you’re lost in the nightmare of life, just hold my hand, and follow the sound of my heartbeat to find sanctuary in my heart.”

- Anthony T. Hincks, American author

Responsible pet ownership means making sure that your pet is happy, healthy and safe. Look at a pet and you’ll often get a sense for how life is going inside his home. Even though a pet is loved and intentions are good, when an owner’s life is off kilter, a pet’s reliable feeding schedule may be disrupted, regular exercise is dismissed, grooming is overlooked, and preventive veterinary care loses priority.

In five-year-old Suco’s case, by the time he was surrendered to CSRNE, it had been almost a year since he had stepped outside his third-floor apartment, even to relieve himself. His last grooming was around 2015 -- so long ago that it was difficult to distinguish between his cocker ears and the large mats of clumped fur that covered his head. As his foster moms Laurie Drazek and Kristine Binette exclaimed, “Pampered Pet in Paxton, Mass. spent 7 hours working on him and transformed Suco into a Cocker Spaniel!”

To experienced cocker owners and foster parents Drazek and Binette, who already share their home with two other rescued dogs, Savannah and Ellie, the thought of Suco living in a kennel, even a very nice one, was unimaginable. He needed more freedom and the comforts of a family setting. They brought him home.

Adjusting to his new, sensory-dense world and the fun of romping in the grass of a large, fenced yard with his canine pals took time. At first, Suco was very anxious. But safe in this sanctuary, where love and patience abound, Suco healed. Today, he is ready to leave the household’s warm embrace and find his own forever family.

Three-year-old Nala has also found sanctuary in a CSRNE foster home with Leslie Evans of Newport, R.I. Whereas Suco lived in a sensory-deprived environment with a single elderly owner, Nala came from a relatively hectic environment that included a brief stint of living in a car with her young owner.

Remarkably, Nala emerged with a strong sense of self and a social attitude. Nala loves people and has figured out that a person’s lap is the world’s best place to be. Evans says Nala is “a Velcro dog – it’s the only way to describe her. Nala is going to be a marvelous dog for somebody. You cannot be lonely with Nala in the house!”

For both dogs, being in a foster home has given them space to find sanctuary within themselves and prepare for a better future. Thank you, foster families! We hope others will join you in this rewarding endeavor.
These cockers are waiting to go home. Let's give them a home for the holidays!

To learn more about them and other available cockers, please visit our website at www.csrne.org or call (603) 547-3363.
Dear CSRNE: A Tribute to Quincy

I said goodbye to Quincy today. I hope he knows how special he was in my life. Everything was hard with Quincy. He taught me so much about fear and aggression, and about keeping him safe and insuring the safety of everyone who needed to handle him.

As you recall, Quincy was supposed to be a foster dog but ultimately he proved to be too dangerous to send into an unsuspecting home and I decided to keep him with me. Once the decision was made that Quincy was staying, we began to see the happy, playful side of his personality. It was fun to teach him tricks; he loved to go hiking; at supper time, we played training games with the vegetables I was chopping for dinner.

Sadly, Quincy lost his vision when he was still very young. The handicap by necessity slowed him down. He was still feisty but many of the games were no longer fun and Quincy’s life got much more sedentary. He spent his days asleep on the couch and his evenings in my lap. He still loved to go for walks and he still loved to steal papers from the office and rags from the pantry. Whenever someone visited, he spent all his time bringing out every toy he owned.

As they say, time marches on and Quincy’s disabilities started to affect his quality of life. Then four weeks ago he appeared to have a stroke. My hope that he could recover was sadly misguided and it became very painful to watch Quincy struggle to just understand where he was.

Sunday night, Quincy had a seizure and I knew that he was not going to recover. I slept beside him that night, trying to reassure him and when morning came I made the final call to the vet. My husband and I were both with him as he took his last breath.

Thank you for trusting me with Quincy. He has changed my life forever.

Yours truly,

Leslie Davis
Ruby’s Circle of Friends

Sometimes a new love unexpectedly appears in your life at just the right moment. Thanks to whatever forces of nature were at play, encouraged by a kinetic circle of caring friends, that’s exactly what happened to Pat Maguire and Marycatherine Gauvin of Lancaster, Mass. Love in the form of a youthful 10-year old Cocker Spaniel with a very old soul named Peanut, now Ruby.

After losing three of their senior pets in 2018, including CSRNE alums Colby and Sadie, the couple went to Seattle, Wash. last January to visit old friends and care for a traveling friend’s Golden Retriever. Being with a dog again restored Maguire and Gauvin. Unbeknownst to them, Maguire’s friends had conspired to help the couple while also resolving Ruby’s problem: she needed a new family. The three met and the magic instantaneously happened! Soon, Ruby, Maguire and Gauvin returned to New England to begin a new year and their new life together.

Ruby, this year’s Cutest Pet Contest winner!

Ruby’s expanding circle of friends came together once again, this time in an outpouring of support for Ruby that made her this year’s Cutest Pet Contest winner and the cover girl of CSRNE’s 2020 calendar! Congratulations, Ruby, and thank you for inspiring your friends and family to help other cockers.

Ciao Bella!

When your name is Bella, is it presumed that you speak fluent Italian? The Italian words of greatest interest to 4-year-old Bella are “amore” (love), “casa” (home) and “per sempre famiglia” (forever family) – “pizza” (pizza) is probably up near the top, too.

Bella has the personality of an affable Italian beauty: she loves life and everybody she meets, and the world responds in kind. Bella is looking for a home where she’ll have a regular routine and plenty of companionship. She grew up in a loving home and enjoys spending time with people of all ages. A joy to be around, Bella has plenty of love to share. She does, though, want to be the sole dog in her home.

Bella is virtually deaf but has adapted to her hearing loss with characteristic ease. She is attentive to people and even knows a few hand signals.

Won’t you consider inviting this sweet girl to join your famiglia? Ciao Bella!
We appreciate your support.

Happy Holidays! - Billy

Seasons Greetings!

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