

Foundation funds pet projects

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Keri Chase's love for animals continues to spread long after her untimely passing.

For the third year in a row, the foundation which bears her name delivered \$6,000 in fundraising proceeds to Thunder Bay-area groups on Monday.

The Thunder Bay & District Humane Society received \$3,500 for its spay and neutering programs.

Judy Decicco, humane society board member and investigator, said the foundation goes "above and beyond" to ensure the organization has the funding it needs to carry on.

She said the recent investigation and removal of 26 malnourished dogs from a Thunder Bay residence set the humane society back financially.

"At this time, it's very greatly appreciated," Decicco said of the Keri Chase Foundation support.

The foundation also provided \$1,500 to

PAWS (People Animal Welfare and Safety Inc).

Director Donna Vantaa said the money will again be used to help low-income families spay and neuter pets, with PAWS covering some, but not all of the cost of the procedures.

"That way, (the pet owners) have to be a little bit responsible themselves," said Vantaa.

She said the group helped 37 families pay for spaying and neutering last year, and co-ordinated several pet adoptions.

The third group receiving funds was the Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association, which received \$1,000.

The group provides horseback riding opportunities for children and some adults with disabilities.

Director Maureen Downey said the money will be used to maintain the group's five horses, which cost \$30,000 a year to feed and keep healthy.

"This helps beautifully," said Downey, adding that her group is always looking for more volunteers for Tuesday and

Thursday night activities.

MP Ken Boshcoff, a trustee of the Keri Chase Foundation since its inception in 2002, presented the cheques on behalf of the board.

"Today we see some of the benefits of what is happening with the foundation," said Boshcoff.

"It's been a very generous community effort."

Keri Chase, a longtime animal welfare advocate, died in a car crash in 2001 at age 42.

Friends and family kept her memory alive with the establishment of the Keri Chase Foundation soon afterward. Her father Carl Chase and uncle Ken Chase said the organization has raised almost \$70,000 for animal welfare causes.

The group's next fundraiser is set for Sept. 6 at Central U-Wash on Golf Links Road.

Pet owners can bring their dogs and cats to the U-Wash facility that day for a bath, and a portion of the charges will go to the Keri Chase Foundation.

The event, slated for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will also feature an outdoor barbecue.