

Talk of the Town Sept. 25

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Article Launched: 09/24/2008 02:44:07 PM PDT

Student, company aid Humane Society

Humane Society Silicon Valley, which is building its new headquarters in Milpitas, recently enjoyed charitable support for its mission from a Milpitas corporation and a local youth.

Milpitas-based SanDisk Corp. provided a \$15,000 sponsorship for the HSSV Special Needs Department. The Special Needs staff at HSSV facilitates the regional rescue program, traveling weekly to local shelters to rescue animals at risk for euthanasia. The department also provides care for sick and injured animals, and animals with behavioral or emotional issues.

The contribution from SanDisk, which lists "animal welfare" among its philanthropic priorities, will enable HSSV to rescue and care for up to 100 additional local animals.

In addition, Milpitas Girl Scout Khanh Truong raised \$1,000 for HSSV by holding a pet fair and concert at Milpitas' Barbara Lee Senior Center in August. Truong, a 2008 graduate of Independence High School in San Jose and current freshman at University of California at San Diego, used the proceeds to purchase 17 beds for the shelter to provide comfortable sleep areas for its dogs.

Truong wanted to create an event where Boy and Girl Scouts could earn badges and promote animal adoption. She created stations designed to teach scouts about various animals; the importance of safety around animals; and what animals need to feel safe, happy and healthy. She also developed pet care workbooks with questions that pertained to each station's topic.