



Helping Hands Ministry to visit OFD community marketplace

By Mary Weimer

Julie and Les Dumaw, who live in Muskegon, were called to a special ministry 14 years ago. Julie recalls the example set by her great aunt and uncle who provided items to families in need when she was young, and inspired Julie to give to others. She says, "As long as God is in it, it keeps going. But when man takes over, it stops."

Julie is a former Fruitport Township resident, whose sons Rick, Mike and Mark Harper graduated from Fruitport High School. She and Les, a retired truck driver, have been married for 26 years.

The couple has established 14 food pantries in Oceana and Muskegon counties, and is working on setting up two more. Their goal is to meet needs as they become aware of them. At one time, they had a thrift shop in Muskegon Heights. Money earned in that shop went to provide food for families in need.

Their current ministry, however, extends way beyond food. Whether they get a donation of a house full of furniture or 5,000 eyeglass cases, a case of candy, or bottled water, they find a home for all of it. They accept anything "given in love" and will find a new home for each donation as it meets a need. Donated items cannot be re-sold.

Their partnership with Pastor Glover from Word of Life Church in Shelby, Michigan, helps the couple distribute items to churches, rescue missions, nursing homes, and individuals. They also work with Feed the Children and Operation Blessing, and a vast network of agencies and groups with a similar desire to meet the needs of people.

The Dumaws will have a booth at the Community Marketplace/Garage sale during Old Fashioned Days. They will be accepting donations from our community to help them fulfill their ministry. They have a van, so they are willing to pick up large donations of items or furniture, appliances, etc. Their main goal at the Community Marketplace/Garage Sale is to collect non-perishable food items. Cereals are particularly difficult for them to get. So on your way to visit the marketplace on Sunday, May 30 at the middle school, grab a box or two of cereal, or some of your unneeded items and help the Dumaws help others. •

Is there room in your heart and life for C.J.?

By Mary Modderman and Mary Weimer

C.J. is a big, friendly guy who lived with the same family for his entire life. A divorce sent him to the pound, and nearly broke his heart. He came to Pound Buddies Rescue in October 2009, and spent much of that month looking hopefully at anyone, looking for his loved ones. Anyone who saw him could see how desperately he hoped that they had come back for him. Many people don't give a second thought to how confusing and lost a pet feels when dropped off at the pound or how the pet longs for the sound of a familiar voice and touch in the middle of noise and fear. But even in the midst of this scary life change, C.J. remained well mannered and kind, always a gentleman.

Now nine years old, C.J. is a pretty mix of yellow lab and golden retriever with an ever-wagging tail. He is well mannered. He will sit, stay, and lie down when asked. In addition, this smart boy knows how to shake hands and will sit up to beg for treats. Having once had children of his own to play with, C.J. adores children and cherishes being used as a pillow and happily joins in their play. One of his favorite tricks to get laughs is perching on his rump on a chair while keeping his paws on the floor. C.J. was probably mistreated by a man sometime in his past, and can be timid around men until he gets to know them. C.J. loves going for walks and behaves on a leash.

Please consider giving this lovely golden boy a home. He has so much to offer! He could add such luster to your life in his golden years! Since he is already trained, you will get no personality surprises and won't have to deal with naughty puppy chewing or puddles. C.J. only needs YOU to love and enjoy him. Given just a bit of time to adjust, you will be loved right back! He is timid at first around men, but given some encouragement, this gentle guy is easily won over.

C.J.'s adoption fee is \$100.00, which includes micro-chipping and a friendly, helpful foster parent to help you re-home him. You can apply online at www.petfinder.com/shelters/poundbuddies.html. •

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