

# Make A Difference; Volunteer With ACDC



**Animal Coalition foster parent Karen Chaya with her dog, Haylie, and one of her "furry friends," helps to make a difference in homeless animals' lives.**

Trading in a material holiday season with one full of volunteer service could be a highly gratifying choice.

Less than two years ago, Karen Chaya of Drexel Hill, her husband, Jim, and two teenage boys opened their home and their hearts to foster rescued kittens for Animal Coalition of Delaware County (ACDC). Armed with nothing more than a litter box, pooper scooper, food and, of course, lots of love, they said hello to their first batch of rescued kitties.

Since then, the family has shared their home with many

kittens, sharing the chores, responsibilities and sheer joy of giving animals in need a second shot at life. Even the family dog, an 8-year-old golden retriever named Haylie, does her part. She makes sure all the kittens are good with larger four-legged friends.

Taking the plunge to foster rescued animals is a big one, but different households all over the county serve as temporary homes for ACDC cats, dogs and rabbits. Once an animal is rescued, it undergoes a veterinarian check-up, gets up-to-date on shots, and if old

enough, is spayed or neutered. The foster parents don't have to pay a dime for any of these things, they only pay for litter and food.

While people often tell Mrs. Chaya they don't understand how she can say goodbye to her foster kittens once a "forever home" has been found, she finds that's the most gratifying part -- it allows her to foster another wave of animals in need and find them homes.

Mrs. Chaya wouldn't trade her foster mom status for anything, but said other volunteer jobs play an equally important role in making ACDC a successful organization. Some deal with intake operations, while others handle medical issues and give the animals rides to veterinary appointments and outreach events. Many volunteer at ACDC's adoption center in Springfield, spending time with cats and keeping their cages clean. Others process applications, help with publicity and fundraising duties or answer questions at adoption events.

For more information on how you can make a difference volunteering with ACDC, call 610-876-1479 or visit [www.acdc.ws](http://www.acdc.ws).