

## Companien December 2013 The Companient Society Newsletter December 2013

2013: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF GIVING COMPANION ANIMALS A SECOND CHANCE

#### 'Tis the Giving Season!

The year-end holidays are almost here and with them, they bring the opportunity to bring happiness and joy to those we love – both two- and four-legged!

At this special time of year, please consider a contribution to Friends Forever

Humane Society. We are only as successful as our donors and volunteers help us to be, and we value and appreciate every donation of time, money, or materials. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find a list of the items on our list for Santa, and



#### A Christmas Poem from the Dog

Eyeing hydrants, digging holes
Drinking from the toilet bowls
Playing games of tug-o-war
Putting scratch marks on your door

Rolling over, playing dead Getting dog hair on your bed Scaring folks who bring the mail Chasing cars, as well as tail

Barking, begging, heeling, howling And also on occasion growling Romping through a field of grass Sneezing, snoozing, passing gas

Sniffing everything I see Peeing on the Christmas tree Woofing, wagging, chomping, chewing These are things I sure love doing! (but I'll try not to do that tree thing...)

#### A Christmas Poem from the Cat

Having fun with yarn and string Leaving fur on everything Purring when I get a treat Always landing on my feet

Posing on a window sill Staring like I want to kill Leaping with both skill and grace Acting like I own the place

Playing with your rolled-up socks
Visiting the litter box
Expecting you to worship me
Hiding underneath the tree...

Grooming with my feline tongue
Breaking ornaments you've hung...
Taking naps on top of you
These are things I love to do!
(but I'll try to avoid that ornament one...)

a reminder about the general matching challenge that extends through December.

Of course, all contributions are taxdeductible so if you're looking ahead to your tax situation for April, we'd be happy to provide you with an opportunity for a deduction.

Here are some holiday thoughts from a dog's perspective, and another from our feline friends.

Thank you for all you do to help the animals all year long.

#### Happy Holidays!

#### **CALENDAR**

**Board Meetings** – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 5:30 pm – FHN Memorial Hospital, lower level next to cafeteria

Annual Meeting – January 19, 2014, 2:00 pm at the Freeport Eagles Club. Dessert will be served with the meeting.

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http://www.animal-medical-clinic.com/christmas-poem/

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to begin by saying Happy Holidays! Even though Mother Nature isn't quite sure what to do each day, the holiday season is upon us.

As I put thoughts to paper for this issue I do so with mixed emotions. This will be my last President's Letter as my three-year board term expires in January. It has been an interesting three years with Friends Forever. As an organization we have seen many changes take place to improve the facility. We have been part of the implementation of new practices to ensure the health and safety of our animals. We have also witnessed the effects the economy has had on our fundraising efforts.

I can say without reservation that I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve the membership as a board member and board president. The people I have had the opportunity to work with, board members, staff, society members, volunteers and community members, have truly made me feel blessed.

However, the needs are still great. Every minute of every day it costs money to keep the shelter operating. In every issue of the newsletter we publish our wish list for the animals. Since this is my last President's Letter, I am going to publish a wish list of my own. These are my wishes for the future:

- A large enough endowment, corporate or private, for establishment of a trust
- A full Board of Directors
- An experienced volunteer willing to develop and run an annual community fundraising campaign
- An experienced volunteer willing to develop and run an annual corporate fundraising campaign
- The addition of solar and wind energy to shelter to reduce two of our largest expenses, heating and electricity
- Lowering of the ceiling in the large kennel area to reduce heating costs
- A monetary gift to support the hiring of a part-time volunteer coordinator

Some of these are easily achievable; others are a bit of a stretch. However, with a little faith anything is possible.

As I close I again want to thank everyone that makes it possible for Friends Forever to exist. Most importantly I would like to thank my daughters, Jessica, and my youngest daughter Emily for encouraging me to get involved and practice what I preach. Their love of animals has always been an inspiration.

I will still see you all at the shelter – my board term is coming to end, but my belief in what FFHS is about stands strong and I will continue to be an active volunteer. Again, *Happy Holidays!* 

Doug

## Show your love for the animals — join the Friends Forever board!

Looking for an opportunity to help homeless pets and serve our community? Please consider becoming a board member at Friends Forever!



Applications are accepted year-round.

Contact the Shelter to obtain an application at 815-232-6164 or download from our website at <a href="https://www.friendsforeverhs.org">www.friendsforeverhs.org</a>

#### **Wish List**

#### We appreciate all donations!

Here is our wish list, including both daily-use items and those we have included as special, larger donations that will add to the safety and security of our staff, visitors, and animals. If you have questions, please contact the shelter.

#### **Daily Use:**

#### We ALWAYS need these Items!

- Purina Dog and Puppy Chow
- Purina Cat and Kitten Chow
- Paper towels
- · Toilet paper
- Double pocket folders
- High efficiency (HE) laundry soap
- Garbage bags (55, 39, and 13 gallon)
- Copy paper
- Gift cards from Staples, Menards, Farm & Fleet, Walmart and Home Hardware
- · Clay cat litter
- · Chew bones
- Treats
- Bleach
- Dish soap
- Glass cleaner

#### Shelter/Park Improvement and Maintenance Items

- 6x6 treated posts 8' long
- · Security camera system
- Picnic tables
- · Benches for the dog park
- Riding lawn mower
- Large dog kennels
- Grooming table
- Gator or similar UTV with dump box for park maintenance
- New(er) van or conversion vehicle

#### **Special Request**

At the holidays, folks' minds turn to...gifts! Here are a few more things that we could certainly use to make 2014 brighter for the staff and animals at Friends Forever...

- 50 or 75 gallon LP water heater
- High-effeciency washing machine
- LP dryer
- Pump for the 15,000 gallon pond
- Gas or industrial electric power washer
- 30 ft. fiberglass extension ladder
- Outdoor security camera system (please check with us for specs)
- Kuranda-brand cat towers
- · Large chest-type freezer
- Insulation for our ceilings and attics (please check with us for specs)

## HERE ARE TWO FABULOUS PETS READY TO BE YOUR FOREVER F For more information on these and other wonderful adoptable pets, call the Shelter at 815-232-6164 or visit us at warm friendeformation.

#### HERE ARE TWO FABULOUS PETS READY TO BE YOUR FOREVER FRIENDS!

**DIESEL** SMD (single male dog) -Hi there! I'm one of the most outgoing, friendly dogs at Friends Forever! I'm a 2-year old Pit Bull/Terrier mix, just like Petey in Little Rascals! Did you know that he was an American Pit Bull Terrier? Yep. sometimes our owners make us more infamous than famous, but we get along great with kids and are really lovers at heart. In fact, TV and movies are some of my favorite things and I'm ready for



some couch time and popcorn because I love to snuggle. Just don't tempt me with any cats – I tend to think that they need to be on another planet. But I'm housetrained and well-behaved, and I'm more than ready to meet my forever family. Stop by and let me wow you with my movie star temperament soon!

MIRA SFC (single female cat) -Are you a homebody? If so, I'm your gal! I'm a little on the senior side (11 years), but I am in great health and superlovable. This picture of me doesn't do me justice – I just had a haircut to get rid of some mats (how can humans ENJOY haircuts??), but if you'll look at



my face you'll see I'm a beautiful golden long-haired lady with gorgeous greenish-gold eyes. I've been declawed on my front paws so I won't scratch up anything at your house, although that really isn't my style anyway - I'm a lap kitty and really just want to sit with you and purr. I'm more of a dine-in than go-out personality, and I hope to be eating in your dining room soon. Come on in and let me purr my way into your heart!

#### Treasurer's Letter

I can't believe that the holidays are almost here. This year we had a lot to do to get ready and we still have a lot to look forward to. We are getting closer to our \$5,000 goal for our match challenge. We have until the end of the year to finish it off, and I am hopeful that we will make it. A large part of the match is the dog vs. cat contest. So far it is pretty close, with the dogs slightly ahead. The cat lovers still have a good chance, thought, so we will have to wait and see who comes out with bragging rights for the coming year.

The Cookie Walk was a success and we still have baskets left to sell if anyone is interested. This event is always one of our larger fundraisers so between the baskets and all of the great cookies, we did well and the basket revenue is still coming in as Lueckes and Gemorifics is helping to sell some of our baskets. That same day was the FHN Casino Loyale fundraiser. The proceeds from the FHN event are still being finalized and we will be getting 10% of the proceeds which is a wonderful holiday gift that we were not expecting.

The holiday appeal card/letter will be going out soon. Hopefully you will get your card before this newsletter. This is the largest fundraiser that we do. Last year it even topped the golf outing. The photos with Santa will round out the year's fundraising efforts. The fundraising events



have had mixed results this year. Some of them did well, and others were disappointing. The bequest we received in the fall made up the difference between what we needed and what we made plus some, so as of right now the year should show a modest profit which is the best we have done in years. If the fundraisers between now and the end of 2013 do well, we have a chance of having a great year, which would be truly outstanding.

As usual, we need a surplus of cash on hand going into 2014 to be able to cover the expenses in January and February because our first fundraiser in 2014 isn't until early March. Last year we entered 2013 with \$10,000 in cash to cover the winter expenses. With the cost of heating and other expenses, it wasn't enough and we had to dip into the investments for an extra \$5,000 to get to the Chili Supper in

March. This year I think we have a good shot at going into the new year with a enough of a reserve to get us safely into March, and if we have enough left over to put away, that would be even better.

Thank you for your generous support. We couldn't do this without you all.

I wish you and all your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Terri Matthews, Treasurer Friends Forever Humane Society

Please note that in order to help with newsletter costs, we have elected to discontinue publishing actual financials in the newsletter. However, these are always available to you by calling the shelter or emailing us at in fo@friends for ever hs. org.

#### Friends Forever Board and Staff Board

Doug Toepfer-President Karen Christen-VP Pat Toth - Secretary Terri Matthews - Treasurer Diane Heeren

Melinda Kluge Connie Larson

Rick Leininger Brian Wheelock

Pam Wilson

Shelter Carol Falconer-Manager

Contact any of these folks through the Shelter

Fmailpetsrus966@hotmail.com Phone: 815-232-6164



The best doctor in the world is the veterinarian.

He can't ask his patients what's the matter. He's got to just know. — Will Rogers

We're pleased to include an article from a Freeport-area vet in the Friends Forever newsletter! Authors will change from issue to issue and will focus on a seasonal or other timely pet concern. Thank you, veterinarians!



## **Holiday Safety Tips for Pet Owners**

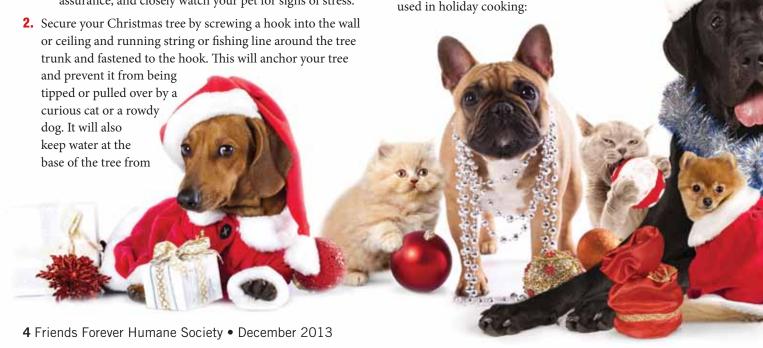
Happy holidays from Dr. Emily Kuntz and the Freeport Animal Hospital!

The holiday season is upon us, which means family, friends and – of course – feasting. Holiday festivities can create safety hazards for your pets, so here are ten simple tips related to holiday treats as well as holiday decorations and other year-end celebrations to keep your pets safe and comfortable this holiday season.

- 1. Try to maintain a consistent and predictable daily schedule, even though you may have time off during the holidays. Stress can cause unnecessary problems for you and your pet this holiday season. Follow these tips to make a difference in your pet's stress level.
  - Maintain diet, feeding time and hygiene routines. Resist the urge to dress up your pet in costume.
  - Provide your pet toys to pass the time.
  - Limit your pet's exposure to strangers and activity. This
    may mean confining him, but it may be less stressful
    than exposure to a roomful of loud Christmas party
    guests.
  - If a health issue does occur, be prepared. Make sure your veterinarian contact information is easy to find.
  - Spend quality time with your pet each day to provide reassurance, and closely watch your pet for signs of stress.

- spilling. Stagnant tree water can harbor bacteria and isn't something your pet should be drinking, so make sure it isn't easily accessible.
- 3. Unplug the Christmas tree and block your pet's access to it when you are not able to supervise. Lights may look like appealing toys to pets, but lights can cause problems from mild burns to a fatal electric shock if your pet gets a hold of them.
- 4. Candles are very popular holiday décor, but make sure to never leave lighted candles unattended. Use appropriate holders that prevent candles from being knocked over by curious pets. Also candle wax isn't species-appropriate nutrition for your pet!
- **5.** Did you know many holiday plants and flowers are highly toxic for dogs and cats? Holly is one. So are many varieties of the lily. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal complications, as can poinsettias. To be super safe, take a pass on live holiday plants and opt for silk or plastic greenery instead.
- 6. Ingestion of holiday foods can cause blockages or issues from undigested foreign objects, toxic reactions, and even pancreatitis. Your guests may not realize that certain foods are toxic for pets, so be sure to inform them before the feasting begins so they don't sneak your pet some treats.

  Here is a brief list of potentially dangerous items



- Chocolate. Dark chocolate and baking chocolate are especially harmful, but all varieties should be avoided. Symptoms of a reaction to chocolate include vomiting, diarrhea, increased urination, restlessness, respiratory distress, cardiac arrhythmias, seizures, and even coma and death.
- Caffeine. Remember that caffeine is an ingredient in many soft drinks, not just coffee (and chocolate). Symptoms of problems are similar to what occurs with chocolate toxicity, above.
- Onions, leeks, shallots and chives. Anemia is the primary symptom, and may occur immediately or several days after ingestion.
- Garlic. Toxic levels are unknown but believed to occur primarily at higher concentrations. Reactive symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, anemia, increased heart rate, liver damage, increased bleeding, asthma attacks and skin irritation.
- Avocadoes. The seed and leaves are the biggest culprits. Symptoms of problems include vomiting and diarrhea. If the seed is eaten it can cause a gastrointestinal obstruction.
- Xylitol. Xylitol (zy-lit-all) is a sugar substitute found in sugarfree candies, chewing gum and baked goods. Symptoms of ingestion are vomiting, seizures and liver failure.
- **Grapes (and raisins).** Reactive symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, lethargy and anorexia.
- **Mint flavors.** Symptoms of problems are excessive salivation, weakness, coma, change in behavior and urination.
- Many varieties of nuts. Reactive symptoms can be any of the above, and gastrointestinal obstructions can occur if large

- **Animal bones.** Bones can splinter or cause gastrointestinal problems that may lead to other complications.
- **7.** If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and could even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.
- **8.** Be careful when choosing how to decorate for the holidays. Especially if you have a kitty in the house, skip the tinsel. It's a real temptation for cats because it's sparkly and fun to bat around, but tinsel eating can obstruct your pet's gastrointestinal tract or induce vomiting. Vomiting causes dehydration and if the situation is dire, surgery could be required to remove the tangle of tinsel inside your pet to repair any damage.
- **9.** When gift wrapping, be sure to keep your pet away from wrapping paper, string, plastic, or cloth that can cause <u>intestinal blockages</u>. Scissors are another hazard, and they should be kept off floors or low tables.
- **10.** New Year's celebrations can be a special problem for pets. The pop of a firework or noise maker can terrify some pets and cause severe stress and escape. Light music in a quiet safe area of the house can do wonders.

A little careful preparation can ensure that that the holidays are great for both you and your pets. We wish you the best at this festive time of year, and Happy 2014!





This month I'd like to tell you a little about some of the behind-the-scenes work that goes on at the Shelter: working with various breed rescues around the country.

My example is Krystal, a beautiful Belgian Malinois who came to Friends Forever this summer as a stray transferred to us from Freeport Animal Control. Most described her as a German Shepherd mix, but when I saw her I knew she was much more than that. I took pictures and forwarded to a friend who is familiar with the Malinois breed, which is what I thought she might be. He was shocked to hear that such a beautiful example of this great breed was a stray!

Krystal needed a home that understood her breed and the ability to offer the activity this breed needs. We contacted the American Belgian Malinois Rescue and soon arrangements were underway. Krystal left our shelter just a few days after arriving, headed to a foster home in Springfield, IL.

I was very impressed with the organization of the American Belgian Malinois Rescue, as I have been with the other rescue organizations we have had the opportunity to work with. In Krystal's case, conversations ranged from Pennsylvania and Maryland to Illinois in order to make accommodations and preparations for her trip. The Rescue team was equally impressed with Friends Forever; here's an excerpt from their blog:

I picked Krystal up late in the afternoon. I met our contact at the shelter, Carol, and took a short tour of their wonderful facility. All the pups were busy greeting me as I walked by the kennels. Barks and wagging tails. Then there was Ms. Krystal, calm on her karunda bed. She ran up to the door and did a full body lean for some pets. What a beautiful girl, soooo social, soooo eager for attention.

Thanks so much to Carol and staff at the Friends Forever Humane Society who took such wonderful care of Krystal. Thank you for contacting us and we will do our best to keep you updated on her adventures.

Lin Karrels, ABMC Rescue Transport Coordinator

For more about Krystal and other Belgian Malinois rescues, go to <a href="http://blogs.belgian-shepherds.com/rescue/category/malinois-transport/">http://blogs.belgian-shepherds.com/rescue/category/malinois-transport/</a> I am proud our Shelter was able to help such an amazing dog and to create ties with an amazing rescue organization... that's teamwork in action!

Carol Falconer • Friends Forever Shelter Manager

#### THANK YOU...

To the generous people who've helped Friends Forever through memorials and donations. The following lists cover the timeframe from September 23 to October 31, 2013.

#### In Memory of...

Beatrice Winkelmann

Heath and Regan Meyers

Chiyoko Dirksen - Reiko Kilker

John, from his Mom – Lilas Portner

Candy Rohner - Jill & Mike Rohner

Rose Kruse - Karen Senior

"Meg" Heeren – Julie Heeren

**Adam** – Lee and Jewel Thomasson

Buster Zajicek

Sherry Cancelose, Sarah Corcoran, Kayla Block, Jan Stewart, John & Judy Avampato

**3B**, my dear cat – Pat Kelly **Snoopy and Milo** –

Dennis & Val Hillman

Cassie, Alzana, Raven and Gunner
Pamela S Wilson

Jake - Dr Ray Alberts

Gimpie

Maida Gimple, Diantha Landowski, Iill Rohner

**Taffy** – Rick and Jackie Wehrenberg

**"Barkley"** – William & Mary Sisler

Denny - Peg Schoonhoven

*Marcie Smith* – Susan Kennedy

Carla Klosa - Kelly Mertens

Karen Butler – Willie & Bunny Weisendanger Esther Vogelei – Willie & Bunny Weisendanger

Carol Ann Long - Carol Ann Long Estate

**Duane Claussen** – Susan Benters

Chiyoko Dirksen - Phyllis Dirksen

oko Dirksen - Filyilis Dirksel

Nancy Massie

Lowell Henson, R L Henson, Nancy Massie Memorial

"Merry" Lizer - Susan Myers

*Harry* – Diane Stearns

#### In Honor of...

The 60th Anniversary John and Gwen Barth Lee Thomasson

Richard Tidwell, Ridott - Joan Rice

Gregg and Shannon Lizer's
30th Anniversary
Susan Myers



Mike Afia
Phyllis Alexander
G Allen
Harry Allen
John Allseits
Carole Andres
Matthew & Nicole Arn
Linda Barklow
Blackwood Enterprises
Dolly Boland
Dennis & Denise Book
C. Elaine Bourne
Lowell & Diane Buck
Terese and James Burch

Janice E. Campbell
Patricia Carbaugh
Craig and Cherie Cline
Ken & Jill Collin
Donna Cornelius
Mary Jo Dalton
Kelsey Dash
Amy Davis
Lisa & Barry De Boor
Beverly Dittmar
Don Morse International
Andrea Doughty
Patricia Scavone-Ely
Kay Erickson
Ronald Eytcheson

Fifth Third Bank Employees

**Kyle Flores** Laura Jaeger Fraser Charles and Diana Garrett Lynette Gisel Jane Gordon Joseph Graham Anson A Green Mary Guentner Vicki Heeren Frances Heitter R L Henson Georgia Herman Anita & Mark Highland **Doris Horner** Richard & Althea Hornung Illinois Short Hair Rescue Monika E Ishmon Larry and Mary Johnson Connie Kaderly

Kent Bank Kind Hearts Sarah & Hugh Knapp Cheryl Kneubuehl Erna Krischak Scott Lillie Janet Lizer Betty Lou Miller Mary E Miller George & Joanne Modica Jeanne Mordick Deborah Nordgren Kris Olson Kristi Philliber **Brandy Quinn** Lyle and Sally Ranken Cynthia Reed Rita K Rowe **Betty Rupnow** Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rutter

Cheryl Schneider Judith Shankland Larry and Marilyn Shipley Terry Smith Martha J. Stith Beth Street BettySwalve Jordan and Cassidy Tempel Lee Thomasson **Becky Thompson** Kathryn Ubben Roy Van De Mark Jan & Sue Vehmeier John Watkins Paul Watkins Colleen Wilson Wisconsin Illinois Realtors Inc Jon & Pam Wolfe Arnold and Betty Wood Kay Woods

### Help us meet the challenge!

Our generous matching challenge for Friends Forever from Friends Forever Lifetime Members Jim and Sandy Dixon expires at year end!

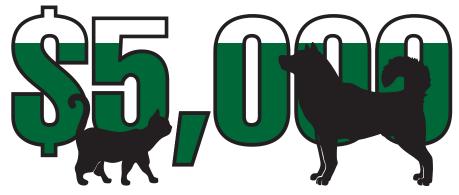
The Dixons have pledged to match donations to the Shelter through the end of the year up to \$5,000. That means that when we have \$5,000 in donations, they'll give us another \$5,000!

Please help us take advantage of this very generous opportunity, which we can use for whatever we need most – no strings attached. There is no minimum contribution needed to secure a match – anything you give will be matched by the Dixons. In addition to considering a contribution yourself, please pass this challenge along to your friends and family to help ensure that we hit our \$5,000 goal.

Remember that to add to the fun, we've pitted dog lovers against cat lovers to see who can raise more. Of course, you can support both! The dogs are still ahead by almost a 2 to 1 margin so come on, cat lovers – help even that score! We'll report the "winner" in this friendly competition in the next issue.

"Sandy and I hope this moves others in the Freeport community to help with the financial shortfall at Friends Forever this year," says Jim. "We believe that this facility is very important in the care of man's best friends, and we're happy to give."

As of 15 November, we've received **\$4022** of our \$5,000 goal!



# Need some holiday stocking stuffers?

We've got you covered! New additions to our retail offerings include greeting cards "written" by pets, and of course our FFHS 2014 calendar. We also have t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, halters and leashes, and other pet necessities and novelties.

Stuck on finding something unique? What could be a better gift for an animal lover than an annual pass to the award-winning Friends Forever dog park (\$125/year for nonmembers and only \$60 for FFHS members) or an annual Friends Forever membership (\$25-\$60, or higher levels for patrons and lifetime members)?

If we don't have what you're looking for, make a shopping stop online at www. petango.com. When you buy any pet supplies there, you can designate Friends Forever as your favorite shelter and we receive a percentage of every purchase!

Stop out soon to pick up just the right thing to put under the tree...and support FFHS!

#### Friends Forever Humane Society

966 Rudy Road Freeport, IL 61032

Phone: 815-232-6164

Email: info@friendsforeverhs.org

Visit us online at:

www.friendsforeverhs.org

Change back to FFHS Indicia Number for December Issue

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** Rockford, IL Permit #745



#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

City \_\_\_\_\_

ciety.
Individual \$40
Senior (62 and over) \$25
Person with Disabilities \$25
Membership dues enclosed \$
Donation enclosed \$
Gift amount \$
Gift amount \$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$
make checks payable to: Friends Forever Humane Society
and mail to us at 966 Rudy Road, Freeport, IL 61032
Phone
-mail

State\_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_