



For Immediate Release

Schwarzman Animal Medical Center Honors Donors to the ‘Gift of Love’ Capital Campaign and Sadie the Hero Rescue German Shepherd at Top Dog *Under Construction* Celebration

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department Canine Unit Teams Also Honored

Event Raises \$1.8 Million

(New York, N.Y. – December 14, 2021) The Stephen and Christine Schwarzman Animal Medical Center (AMC) Top Dog *Under Construction* Celebration honored supporters of the ‘Gift of Love’ Capital Campaign, along with Sadie, the Hero Rescue German Shepherd. The MTA Police Department Canine Unit was also honored. The Top Dog *Under Construction* Celebration raised \$1.8 million to benefit the Schwarzman AMC’s non-profit mission of research, education, and charitable giving to animals in need.

The benefit, co-chaired by Nancy Kissinger, Elaine Langone, Elizabeth Monaco McCarthy, Marianne Mebane, and Annette de la Renta, was held on Tuesday, December 14th, at Cipriani-42nd Street. Over 250 guests were in attendance, including: Donna and Bill Acquavella, Georgina Bloomberg, Brooke and Ed Garden, Emilia Krimendahl, Elaine and Ken Langone, Marianne Mebane, and Lisa Schiff. Event designer David Monn transformed the iconic venue to match the event’s ‘under construction’ theme.

“AMC has a proud 111-year history of providing the highest quality medical care for animals, and to continue this legacy, we knew that our 60-year-old building was in need of modernization, expansion, and renovation,” said Kathryn Coyne, President and Chief Executive Officer at Schwarzman AMC. “Two years ago, we launched the ‘Gift of Love’ campaign and today we have raised \$85 million of our \$100 million goal.”

“Tonight, we are so proud to honor the hundreds of donors from across the city and around the world who have made this transformational moment for our hospital possible. Thanks to their vision, we can ensure that the Schwarzman AMC continues to be the standard bearer for veterinary care well into the future,” said Robert Liberman, Chairman, Board of Trustees at the Schwarzman AMC.

About the Stephen & Christine Schwarzman Animal Medical Center

The Schwarzman Animal Medical Center (AMC) is the world’s largest non-profit animal hospital with 120+ veterinarians providing the highest quality medical care across more than 20 specialties and services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our mission to provide the best in care, research, and education has been the foundation of our work for over a century. Learn more at www.amcny.org/giftoflove.

The Elmer and Mamdouha Bobst Hospital | Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Institute for Postgraduate Education
Caspary Research Institute | The Cancer Institute | Chris and Bruce Crawford Feline Health Institute
Emilia Saint-Amand Krimendahl Institute for Trauma Care | Ann and Charles Johnson One Health Institute
Usdan Institute for Animal Health Education

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AMC

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About Sadie the Hero Rescue German Shepherd

In September 2020, Brian Myers rescued six-year old Sadie, a beautiful German Shepherd, from the Ramapo-Bergen Animal Refuge, Inc., a shelter of last resort, in Oakland, New Jersey. Just four months later, Sadie would rescue Brian right back—in a very big way.

While home alone, Brian suffered a stroke in his sleep. While attempting to get to the bathroom, he collapsed to the floor and was unable to get up or reach his cell phone to call for help. Sadie knew Brian was in trouble and rushed to his side. As Brian drifted in and out of consciousness, Sadie stood over him and licked his face to keep him awake. Brian instinctively realized that Sadie was in distress and, as he laid on the floor, he reached up to comfort her. I knew I couldn't get up, but as my hand passed over her collar, it occurred to me that I could use her as a counter-weight to pull myself up. I grabbed hold of her collar, and to my amazement-Sadie started pulling her weight backwards. As Sadie pulled me, I was able to slide myself across the floor to where my cell phone was and call for help.

I could not have gotten up off the floor if Sadie were not there for me. Sadie is the only reason I was able to call for help. She literally saved my life, and I plan to give her the best life possible, said Myers. Sadie stayed with Brian's family while he went through the recovery process at a rehabilitation facility. Brian and Sadie Face Timed many times during the recovery process. Upon Brian's discharge, arrangements were made to have their reunion in the parking lot of the rehabilitation facility. Sadie could not contain her excitement to being reunited with Brian. It was clear that Brian felt the very same way. There was not a dry-eye in the crowd of people celebrating the happy reunion occasion.

About the Metropolitan Police Department Canine Unit

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department (MTAPD) Canine Unit is tasked with protecting Metro-North Railroad, Long Island Railroad, Staten Island Railway, and other transportation facilities and terminals. The MTAPD Canine Unit's mission is to deter terrorism and prevent crime throughout the transit system.

Initially, the primary purpose of most canine units included tracking down people, evidence, weapons, and criminal apprehension. As a result of the September 11 attacks, the MTAPD Canine Unit reinvented canine training to be effective in terrorist prevention- in a public transit environment, incorporating routine sweeps for explosives, bomb threats and investigating unattended packages/vehicles. While the MTAPD still use canines to prevent and deter traditional crime, the primary focus is preventing a terrorist attack.

They have implemented a combination of unique patrol, intel, canine explosive detection tactics, and have learned to adapt to different threats as they develop. The MTAPD has one of the largest canine explosives detection forces in the country. Prevention is key. The best way to prevent crime is to create an environment where the public feels comfortable and criminal activity does not.

The MTAPD Canine Training Center (CTC) was opened in June of 2015 to facilitate the extensive training the MTAPD canine teams need to succeed in their mission. Recognized as the most advanced and largest police canine facility in the country, the main building is 20,000 sq. ft., on 71 acres, and equipped with 26 in/outdoor kennels, a canine medical room, and real-world simulated training fields, including train cars, railroad tracks and signaled crossings.

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