

## MARTIN COUNTY

# Humane Society of the Treasure Coast to hold luau fundraiser

**Doreen Poreba**

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STUART — Expect to see leis and straw skirts at this year's Paws & Claws gala, which benefits the shelter animals at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, because the gala theme is the "Bow-Wow-Meow Luau."

Slated for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 6 at the Marriott Hutchinson Island Beach Resort, this outdoor, open-air and free-roaming venue will allow for social distancing and masks to add to the guests' safety. Details are being carefully planned and executed with the health and safety of guests being top priority.

Guests will be treated to an authentic island revue performed by professional entertainers from the Mai Kai Polynesian Restaurant and Show, a South Florida landmark. In flavorful fashion, Little Moir's Hibiscus Street Catering — same owners as Little Moir's Food Shack and Little Moir's Leftovers in Jupiter — will serve a taste of the tropics with various mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres. Island cocktail attire is suggested.

Afterwards, from 8 to 9:30 p.m., guests may opt to take in a VIP experience, which includes a starlight cruise down the Intracoastal Waterway aboard The Island Princess, cocktails and musical entertainment. Tickets are \$185 per person or \$225 per person for the VIP experience.

"The success of our shelter and our programs depends entirely upon community support," said HSTC President and CEO Frank Valente. "We're not affiliated with any other humane society, nor funded by the Humane Society of the United States. We look to the community to help us in achieving our mission: To provide compassionate care and nurture the bond between people and pets."

Volunteers Kit Haas and Shaun Kelly are leading the committee in organizing the event. They are joined by committee members Katie Astras, Barb Bucel, Jennifer Campbell, Dixie Church, Diane Coakley, Dana Coates, Carol Dippy, Tracy Ferguson, Cindy Greenspan, Debbie Hansen, Cindi Hobbs, Dr. Linda Kardos, Bev Mauermann, Allola McGraw, Eileen



**Pictured, standing from left, are committee members Eileen Morris, Diane Coakley, Dixie Church and Debbie Hansen. Seated are Shaun Kelly, Carol Dippy, Allola McGraw and Kit Haas. DOREEN POREBA**

Morris, Jennifer Renfro and Kay Ziegler.

The presenting sponsor is Stryker Electric & Air. Major sponsors are Carl's Buick GMC and the Samuel M. and Alma Catsman Foundation. Additional event sponsors include Apex Pavers & Pools, Saelzer Atlas Wealth Management Group of Raymond James, JetLoan Capital, Rick Carroll Insurance, Camp Bow Wow and Wagnolia's.

The annual Paws & Claws gala is the most prestigious and successful shelter animal fundraiser on the Treasure Coast benefiting Martin County's only open-access, no-kill, nonprofit animal welfare organization. Like-minded individuals come together for an enchanting and memorable evening as friends of the animals join forces to raise critical funds for shelter pets in need.

Funds raised also help support the pet adoption program, a low-cost spay/neuter surgical program, a multitude of humane education programs and its lifesaving Emergency Medical Fund. All combined, these programs have continued to allow the HSTC to provide life-

saving care and essential services to more than 6,000 animals each year.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information and/or to make a reservation, call Courtney Zannetti at 772-600-3211 or email her at [czannetti@hstcl.org](mailto:czannetti@hstcl.org).

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