

1-2-3 Go! (August 24, 2020)

Welcome to the Shelter Success Simplified e-newsletter for animal welfare leaders and managers – and those who aspire to be!

1 – Quote to Inspire

- “A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.” ~ Supreme Court Justice **Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.** (1841-1935)

2 – Actions to Try

- **Make one new connection** today. The time to build relationships is well before you need them. Where to start: Your counterpart at another shelter (perhaps one that could take animals if you must evacuate), your local emergency management official, or a local city council member or county commissioner. Start with one connection, then schedule an hour in your calendar each month to make another connection. Before you know it, you’ll have a powerful network of connections.
- **Record a quick disaster preparedness video** that explains simply to your community how to prepare for disaster related evacuations with pets and farm animals. Keep it brief, no more than 3 minutes. Share it at the outset of hurricane or wildfire season and whenever the situation warrants it. [A tip from Joe Elmore in podcast 13, check it out [here](#).]

3 – Ideas to Consider

- **Your mission is the main thing:** Many organizations’ mission statements reside on their website or perhaps in donor appeals. But a well-crafted mission should inform the daily decisions you and your staff make and can inspire the entire team. Discuss your organization’s mission routinely in staff and volunteer meetings and connect it to the daily work of the organization.
- **Bottlenecks are signposts for change:** Are other people on the team routinely held up in doing their work because they are waiting for you to respond or handle something? Do phone calls and thank-you notes pile up because you don’t have time to get to them? When you find yourself at the center of a bottleneck, ask others around you for suggestions. It may be time to let go of some things by delegating them to others. There may even be an app for that. [An idea from Stacy LeBaron in podcast 12. Listen [here](#).]
- **Delegate and still be sure things are done right:** To ensure quality control when things are delegated, try these four steps: 1. Create clear priorities, standards and processes in writing; 2. Provide training; 3. Check back regularly to be sure things are running smoothly and that staff has what they need to do the job right; 4. Work with the team to make needed adjustments. (Resist the urge to take the task back if things are not perfect.)

Check out these new episodes of the Shelter Success Simplified podcast:

- **Technology solutions and innovations for animal welfare groups:** Stacy LeBaron of Community Cats Podcast on [Episode 12](#)
- **Disaster preparation for animal shelters:** Joe Elmore of Charleston Humane Society on [Episode 13](#)
- **Tips for animal shelters to step up for their communities during COVID-19 and other disasters:** Denise Deisler of Jacksonville Humane Society on [Episode 14](#)

Want to up your organization's game? Struggling to raise funds or manager your workload?

We help shelters and rescue groups with fundraising, action planning, operational improvements and more. [Request a free 30-minute consultation.](#)

We hope you find this newsletter useful. Let us know what you think – just reply to this email.

~ Mark Robison, newsletter editor and Humane Network senior consultant

P.S. [Inseparable.](#)