Bend girl, 11, aims to feed shelter dogs

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. -- The Humane Society of Central Oregon is often asked, â€œWhat can I do to help the animals?â€• An eleven-year-old from Bend, Oregon, Mimi Ausland, has made it as simple as a â€˜click of the fingerâ€™ for anyone to help homeless animals. Through the creation of her web site, www.freekibble.com, Mimi hopes to feed the dogs in the shelter so the Humane Society of Central Oregon has one less thing to spend valuable resources on.

HSCO shelter manager, Karen Szymanski and Maty, the three-legged dog, partner with Mimi Ausland to help feed homeless animals - submitted photo. At the age of seven Mimi wanted to help the animals by volunteering at the shelter, but learned she was too young. Still determined to help the animals, she began sending donation envelopes with change in the amounts ranging from $2 to $20 to the Humane Society of Central Oregon.

Today, Mimiâ€™s first goal is to feed the dogs cared for by the Humane Society of Central Oregon. Mimiâ€™s mission is to provide â€œgood, healthy dog food to shelters who are working so hard to see that no dog goes hungry - they need our help.â€• Ultimately, she hopes to expand to more shelters.

Those interested in helping Mimi reach her goal can do so by visiting her web site and playing a trivia game called â€œBow Wow Triviaâ€•. It is free to play, and for each day that a site visitor plays, ten pieces of dog kibble will be donated by local sponsors.

As of Wednesday afternoon -- only the second day the web site has been online -- already 7,190 pieces of kibble have been donated.