FVA Animal Hero Award

Amber Simpson & Dylan Breese

Dylan Breese, President of Ybor Chicken Society

It all started about 2 years ago when Dylan came upon Maisie Mae and her 13 newborn chicks, running around Ybor City in Tampa, as so many chickens do. He started caring for them, and watched them grow. He had noticed that although many people loved the chickens in Ybor City, some people complained about them, and treated them poorly.

He wanted to protect the wild chickens, so he started the Ybor Chicken Society. His goal was to take away any reasons why people might complain about the chickens. He started sweeping the park, and sidewalks, cleaning the poop off of statues and the porches of local businesses. He finds homes or safe sanctuaries for the domesticated chickens. He cares for and seeks medical attention for all of the sick and injured ones and also buries those that die.

He feeds them daily. He puts the chickens “to bed” every night, without fail, and checks on them every morning. He names them, and shares their stories on Facebook and Instagram. His dedication was put to the test this past September, when the Tampa area was threatened by a major hurricane.

With extremely short notice, he gathered volunteers, and supplies, and trapped as many of Ybor’s wild chickens as he could, focusing on mother hens with eggs, or babies, and vulnerable roosters. Lack of sleep and a house fire did not stop him from safely moving at least 50 of Ybor’s chickens to a safe place for the duration of the storm.

Along the way he has found lost dogs and cats, helping them find their way home, or a new home, and he has even adopted 2 Ybor street kittens himself.

His compassion also extends to humans in need, as he helps the homeless in Ybor, getting them involved in caring for the chickens and cleaning up, offering them food, and other assistance, and even passed out blankets during extreme cold weather last winter.

This is dedication.
This is an animal hero.

Amber Simpson

Tampa City Council Meeting on 7/19/18 to determine fate of the Ybor City Chickens


A big city council meeting is coming up. This decides the fate of the protection laws for the chickens of Ybor City. We need as many people there as possible. The meeting is 7/19/2018. Time to be determined. Follow Ybor Chicken Society on Facebook for the latest info on the upcoming city council meeting, and how you can help.
FVA Thanks for Give Day—
*New Billboard Planned*

On May 1st, Florida Voices for Animals had the opportunity to participate, once again, in the fundraising event known as Give Day Tampa Bay. This is a 24-hour online giving challenge hosted by Community Foundation of Tampa Bay as an opportunity for local non-profit organizations to raise funds and awareness. FVA received overwhelming support from its members and friends. Gifts of all different sizes were donated, and for that we THANK YOU. A sum total of $2,165 was raised! And the remaining balance of $4,000+ is being generously covered by an anonymous donor. Thank you everyone!!

These efforts have allowed us to move forward with a much anticipated billboard in the Tampa Bay area. The design & details are already underway. The goal is to maintain a billboard with different animal rights campaign messages throughout the year which will allow us to reach the masses around the clock. We will, however, continue to demonstrate, leaflet and do outreach in addition to the billboard, as these allow us to connect with the public more directly. The billboard will help give our campaign messages a much larger voice and a constant visual presence.

The first campaign of focus will be the anti puppy-mill message. These poor animals are born and spend most of their short lives in filthy cages without their mothers, devoid of doggy social contact. They are then sold to pet stores who then sell them to unsuspecting customers. The customers in turn get bonded with the puppy and typically, when the health problems and the massive vet bills arrive, there is no turning back. The customers end up paying thousands of dollars to try to help save the animal’s life. The store owners can claim ignorance and remove themselves from liability. FVA highly encourages anyone wanting a puppy to please adopt from your local animal shelter instead of supporting these puppy mills.

We appreciate our members & friends of FVA for your continual support of our efforts. The animals thank you!

Brittany Martinez

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HelpPetShelters.com Scam Alert

Many of us are receiving a large post card size mailing from HELPPETSHelters.COM. However, if you look at the return address, it says CORE in large letters and then in letters you might need a magnifying glass to read “Center for Organizational Research and Education”.

This is an industry supported group, organized to discredit environmental, animal & consumer groups including Mothers Against Drunk Driving. CORE is its latest name and was previously called the Center for Consumer Freedom. This mailing is full of lies one of which is HSUS gives 1% of its budget to local pet shelters. All local pet shelters (Named Humane Society or ASPCA) get their funding from individual and business donors and are not associated with either HSUS or ASPCA. That is not to say that these organizations don't support certain programs by making a grant to a shelter.

If a mailing presents startling, shocking statements, it is time for all of us to do some researching on the internet (google their name, several sites will come up) before BELIEVING WHAT EVER IS TOLD TO YOU. From the comments on Helppetshelters.com many animal loving people are believing what they are reading.

The Center for Organizational Research and Education (CORE), formerly the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) and prior to that the Guest Choice Network, is an American non-profit entity founded by Richard Berman that lobbies on behalf of the fast food, meat, alcohol and tobacco industries.

Marilyn Weaver

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Recently, a Facebook post went something like, "Vegans give lots of lip service at vegfests, but when it comes to protesting, where are they?" It gave me pause. I've certainly run around on the vegfest circuit thanks to the generosity and kindness of my publisher, who almost always pays the expensive ticket, room and board it costs to do these things. I always ask him after a weekend of standing on concrete, "Did I earn my keep?" He always says yes. When he says no, I know it will be time for him to replace me. That's just the way the entertainment business works, as I know from a long career in TV news. So far, since 2011 when my first book, Eat Vegan on $4 a Day came out, I've been fortunate that all my books have done well, and I continue to earn my keep. It's one of the reasons I keep thinking of different ideas for books...so that the message can continue to be out there and spoken about.

Along the way, I always wanted to have a back-up plan. Having spent 18 years in TV news, I knew the clock was ticking as it always does. The flash in the pan celebrity-ness of being a TV reporter, anchor or book author has a life expectancy. And usually, those celebs are way younger than I am.

I began running almost 40 years ago, mainly to try to defy genes that gave my mom, aunt and both sisters breast cancer, and pretty much every other disease of affluence as well, for them, and everyone else in my family. As the youngest, I had a lifetime to see what I didn't want to experience if I could help it.

Running was a great way to keep off the 25 pounds I'd lost again and again, and it was also a way to spread the vegan message. I bought several neon yellow, incredibly bright moisture-wicking shirts and had a designer imprint my book cover on the front and back. Runners and their friends and family at races would stop me all the time, asking questions or making statements...some of them, "Oh you can't run/race on a vegan diet." And so my mission began, to prove to the world otherwise. And so, 131 age group awards at races a 5K distance (3.1 miles) or longer later, not including national ranking as a sprinter including 3rd in the US in 4x100 meters and other races I won't bore you with, the mission seems to have taken on a life of its own. I trained for marathons, did two, plus 12 half-marathons. That's 26.2 and 13.1 miles respectively. And about $200 a pop.

When my boyfriend saw an article in the Bradenton Herald about the first inaugural race over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay saying, "Look at this..." I thought, "Yeah right...terrified of heights, trembled when I first drove over that bridge and other high places like mountains...not a good idea." And then I remembered Eleanor Roosevelt's quote, "Do what you think you cannot do." It seemed like a great idea to confront fears, not to mention the idea of exposing 7500 runners and everyone who came out to see them run, to a little veganism via my shirt and hopefully my performance.

The race sold out in 3 days. I paid $200 so that the race packet would be sent directly to my home. Packet pick-up was at the same day as our annual FVA Have a Heart fundraising dinner. I was afraid I'd miss the dinner if I got caught up in the long lines of pick-up. The things we do...

The race was a peak experience. The bridge is the 9th longest in the US and one of the tallest and 400 feet. 2 miles up, and 2 miles down at the peak. I trained for a couple of weeks at the Celery Fields and the Ringling (pardon the name of the circus) Bridge in Sarasota. That was it. With very little training, since I travel so much, I came in 13th out of all 176 women over 65. I mention this because so many male athletes half my age on the speaking circuit say travel really interrupts and diminishes their training time and schedule. I totally get it. This race did not break down the typical age groups by 5 year increments after 65.

Someone recently said, "It must be expensive to race." It is. Although I've always said it's cheaper than a million dollar 30-day stay in cardiac rehab, or cheaper than cancer or diabetes. Those are real time-wasters too.

I've only placed in about half the races I've competed in. At $25 minimum a pop, with sometimes $40 for a 5K, and much more for a half or full marathon, I estimate I've spent $20,000 on race entry fees alone. That doesn't include transportation, and in some cases, room and board to stay overnight. It also doesn't include the running shoes that that "they" say should be replaced every 300 miles or 3 months, whichever comes first. It's true. Runners often report knee pain when the shoes start to break down.

What does it cost to race? I ask, what does it cost not to race? It is important for all of us to ask ourselves how we use our abilities and talents to change the world. If that seems too daunting, keeping it smaller and asking how do we make the world a better place for the animals, our health and the environment which is faster than light speed deteriorating from the #1 cause of climate change: animal agriculture. Racing forces me to get out there and talk to those who want to know more about veganism and suddenly they find someone standing next to them who might be able to answer those questions. Whatever it is you love, try to figure out if there is a way to connect it to your passion of saving animals, the planet and our health. When you connect with people who say they changed my life because of something you said or did, there is no finer paycheck. For some, it is not about the money. I know a number of runners who are retired and use their social security to become a part of the "50 States" marathon club...it literally is one...where the goal is to run a marathon in all 50 states.

I'll never do that. I choose to use my retirement money to fund as many races as I can, wearing that bright vegan shirt, to prove vegans can. At the 10K I placed in last weekend, a week after the Skyway, the announcer completely embarrassed me as he called me up to get my award. He said, "If you want to know how you can place in your age group at 65, read all of Ellen's books. Go vegan and you can." Wow. Times have certainly changed.

If being the example of the change you want to create is your goal, running is a great way to get out there every weekend in a blazing running shirt with a vegan message and just do it.
FVA supports Yes on Amendment 13

We need your voice now to help thousands of dogs this November. If citizens vote Yes on Amendment 13, commercial dog racing will be phased out in Florida by 2020. Right now thousands of greyhounds endure lives of confinement at dog tracks, and a racing dog dies every three days. It’s time for this cruelty to end!

There was a press conference at Humane Society of Tampa Bay (HSTB) Monday morning, June 4th, 2018. They announced the kick-off of Amendment 13 which will phase out Greyhound Racing in Florida by 2020. Speakers present were from Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Senator Dana Young and Sherrie Silk of HSTB.

Grey2K, www.grey2kusa.org, is currently accepting donations to make a TV commercial about Amendment 13.
Greyhound in the Spotlight

Greyhounds like Eunis cannot truly rest unless people vote Yes on Amendment 13.

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Animal Rights Tips
Bryan Wilson

Excerpts from FVA’s recent Have-A-Heart Dinner presentation:

Introduction
Definition of animal rights

ARFF History
The Animal Rights Foundation of Florida (ARFF) is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting respect and compassion for non-human animals. ARFF was founded in 1989 by a small group of dedicated volunteers, and has grown to several thousand members state-wide. ARFF focuses on areas of the state where there is not an established organization and coordinates with those other organizations to pressure Florida communities to make changes for animals.

Definition of activism
Animal rights activism is not one means of spreading the word about animal suffering, it is the act (name starts with ACT, so it should be obvious) of educating the public about animals suffering. It takes many forms and we will talk about some of those forms, the tools we use for each particular form of activism/outreach and how we can combine many of them for greater impact.

Tools of activism
• Protest
• Leafletting
• Food samples
• Letters To The Editor
• Legislation
• Public speaking
• Direct action/civil disobedience

How you can help
Join ARFF, Florida Voices for Animals (FVA), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Mercy For Animals (MFA), Vegan Outreach (VO) or any other activism group that you feel aligns with your beliefs and your chosen form of activism.
FVA in Action

Dear FVA members, friends & readers: Once again we would like to share with you the activities scheduled on our FVA meet-up for the 2nd Quarter this year. We now have over 3,000 people signed up for our group and activities. We continue to have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved and meet us. Frequently many people sign up, but often only a few show up. Please join our meetup, sign up for events that you are interested in, and then attend the events. If for some reason you find that you are unable to attend an event, would you be kind enough to change the RSVP? This will help us to better know what type of attendance to expect at our events and plan appropriately.

FVA in the Community/Tableings:

4/21 – Central FL Earth Day, Orlando, FVA Table - Trevor Chin, Ann Marquis
4/22 – Tampa EcoFest, Lowry Pk, Tampa, FVA Table - Marie, Diane, Myriam, Suzanne, Susannah & Spencer Sherman
4/25 - Sarasota Veg Fest – FVA Table - Bill & Myriam Parham, Ellen Jaffe Jones, Susannah & Spencer Sherman, Pay Per View Table - Trevor Chin, Ann Marquis
6/24 - St Pete Pride Festival

Other Activities:

4/6 – 9th Annual TBVF Volunteer Mtg. Al Lopez Park, Tampa, 4/12 – Tampa Ethical Accelerator Meetup - Myriam Parham spoke on Animal Rights & FVA
4/28 – Al Lopez Park Great American Clean up
5/3 - Vegan Support Group – FVA had its inaugural meeting at John F. Germany Library, Downtown Tampa to brainstorm, hosted by: Kim Gronemeyer, PsyD, FVA Board; Myriam Parham, RD, CDE, FVA Board; & Cathy Unruh, journalist, author, animal advocate
6/1 – Press conference, at Humane Society Tampa Bay, for Official launch of the campaign to end Greyhound racing, Amendment 13, a Constitutional Ballot Initiative in November – Attended by Board members; Diane Koon, Marie Galbraith & Suzanne House
6/7 - Vegan Support Group- Coping With Non-Veg Partners, speaker/facilitator, Ellen Jaffe Jones
6/9 - Vegan Social Eats N Drinks, The Bricks, Tampa
6/30 - Love & Bananas Film: An Elephant (rescue) Story & Free Vegan Snacks – Jimmie B. Keel Library, Tampa

FVA Demos for the Animals:

4/21 - □DEMO□ Go Vegan! - St. Pete Saturday Morning Market
5/12 - Empty The Tanks 2018 – Sea World Orlando
5/19 – Go Vegan demo – St. Pete Saturday Morning Market
6/2 – Petsmart Protest – Brandon

In addition to all these activities, several FVA board members & others activists usually attend Monthly vegan brunch, lunch, dinner activities at several local vegan restaurants. These include: New Leaf Café Breakfast buffet, Loving Hut buffet, Café Hey Brunch & Lotus Vegan Buffet, Please check our FVA calendar to join us at these events so we can get to know each other. Hope to see you sometime!

Suncoast Primate Sanctuary, Palm Harbor, Florida

PETA has campaigned against this primate site, which they call a “decrepit hellhole”, for many years—dating back to when it was named Noell’s Ark Chimp Farm. This facility is by no means a “sanctuary”—rather, it’s a roadside menagerie with a long history of Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations. Even though license revocations are extremely rare, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) yanked Noell’s Ark Chimp Farm’s exhibitor’s license in 1999. Unbelievably, the same roadside zoo, operated by the granddaughter of the original owners, opened a few years later under a misleadingly grandiose name, the Suncoast Primate Sanctuary. The facility has been repeatedly cited for keeping primates in rusty, dilapidated cages with jagged edges.
You can receive this newsletter via e-mail or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will not only help the environment, but will allow FVA more financial resources to help animals.

YES, I want to support Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.
Enclosed is my annual membership fee or donation:  
**□ $300 Lifetime □ $100 Patron □ $50 Family □ $30 Individual □ $15 Student □____ Other**  
NAME: ______________________________ PHONE: ______________ FAX: ______________  
ADDRESS: ______________________________ CITY: ______________ ST: ____ ZIP: ______________  
E-mail: ______________

I would like to volunteer for:  
**□ Phone Tree □ Attending Demonstrations □ Staffing Outreach Tables □ Website □ Newsletter □ Investigations □ Other:**  
I prefer to receive my Newsletters: **□ Electronically via e-mail □ Regular Mail**

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**GOOD NEWS**

**Nov 2017: Exotic acts dropped from Dirk Arthur Vegas show.** Animal Defenders International (ADI) investigation had previously exposed the living and performing conditions of Dirk Arthur’s big cats. Emails flooded into Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino from ADI supporters urging them to drop the animals acts. Las Vegas Review Journal announced that the “wild” has been taken out of Dirk Arthur’s “Wild Magic” show!

**Dec 2017: Salt River Wild Horses victory in Arizona.** The American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC) worked for two years to get the Governor of Arizona to sign an agreement to save the wild horses of Arizona. They were almost removed from the Tonto National Forest and sent to auction. Now they are protected under state law from roundups, harassment, and slaughter.

**Apr 2018: FVA Give Day a Success!** FVA did have a successful Give Day on April 17, 2018, thanks to all of our generous supporters. The funds will help us put up at least one billboard for a month on an important topic.

**Apr 2018: FCRC Prop 6012 Passes!** Ends Greyhound Dog Racing: A proposal to create new sections in Article X and Article XII of the State Constitution to prohibit the racing of and wagering on greyhounds and other dogs after a specified date. This passed on April 16, 2018 with 27 Yes and 10 No votes. Thanks to all activists who attended the long meetings and were the voices for these wonderful animals!

**May 2018: Solutionary Events creates its own Meetup.** Solutionary Events (SE), which helped FVA put on Tampa Bay Veg Fest last November, has now created its own Meetup at www.meetup.com/Solutionary-Events. Please review the mission statement and join their Meetup if you want to participate. Be the change you would like to see!
Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label. 

M Paid membership and renewal date  L  Lifetime member
X  Newsletter exchange  C  Courtesy

FLORIDA VOICES FOR ANIMALS, INC.
P.O. BOX 17523
TAMPA, FL 33682
A NON-PROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT, GRASSROOTS, ANIMAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

All events are posted on our Meetup Calendar, so if you haven’t signed up for our meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for Florida Voices for Animals, then sign up.

Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am – WUSF Ch 16.3, Christina Cooks cooking show with Christina Pirello

Every Wed at 10am – WMNF 88.5FM, Talking Animals radio show with Duncan Strauss

Every Fri at 11am—WUSF Ch 16.1, Jazzy Vegetarian cooking show with Laura Theodore

Check out the Vegan Myth Busters radio show hosted by Ellen Jaffe Jones anytime by visiting https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667198786868267/

7/7, 8/4, 9/1 (Sat) - Loving Hut Vegan Buffet Sat 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6:30pm), 1905 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa FL 33612, 813-977-7888. Loving Hut’s website is http://www.lovinghut.us/tampa_01/ This all-vegan buffet is on the 1st Saturday of the month.

7/1, 8/5, 9/2 (Sun) - New Leaf Elementals Brunch, 9am-12pm 11813 N Armenia Ave, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan brunch which takes place first Sunday of the month.

7/21, 8/18, 9/15 (Sat) - Lotus Vegan Meetup Buffet, 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6pm), 6575 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL Enjoy an all-vegan buffet at Lotus Vegan Restaurant. This buffet takes place 3rd Saturday of the month.

7/21 (Sat) - FVA Adopt-a-Park Cleanup, 9am-12pm Al Lopez Park, 4810 N Himes Ave, Tampa, FL Volunteers need to help pick up litter at the park. Please wear protective clothing, sunscreen, water and pickup tool.

7/29, 8/26, 9/30 (Sun) - Café Hey Brunch, 11am-2pm 1540 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan brunch which takes place last Sunday of the month.