

The Daily Sentinel

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Serving Nacogdoches, the Oldest Town in Texas

Inside: Save! **\$35.75** in coupons in today's edition

Baseball: SFA holds off Nicholls

AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER: Texas Associated Press honors The Daily Sentinel with 2010 Best of the South Award

FINDING A HERO for the

Editor's note: In soliciting nominations for the Nacogdoches County United Way and Daily Sentinel's Real Life Hero Award, we asked readers to nominate volunteers, educators or other community members who unselfishly made Nacogdoches County a better place to live.

When contacted about their selection, most simply stated their actions were not noble, but merely their own personal way of responding to a perceived need.

The selected award recipients are featured in our Real Life Heroes section in today's paper, and they, along with some United Way volunteers, will be honored at a Hometown Hero Celebration.

Because of an overwhelming response, we have decided to keep the momentum going by periodically featuring more of our community's Real Life Heroes throughout the year.

Today's front-page features a more unlikely sort of hero — the kind whose acts of kindness are most often rewarded simply by a wagging tail or a soft purr. These heroes, although not among the



award recipients, are working to control the pet population through humane initiatives and find loving homes for deserving animals.

When you finish reading this, look inside

— there are more heroes among us, and here are their stories.



Hometown Hero Celebration

- When: 5:30-7 p.m., April 5
- Where: Convention and Visitors Bureau, downtown
- The event is open to the public

Story by Robbie Goodrich
Staff photos by Andrew D. Brosig

Above, Drey, a 20-day-old orphan kitten, speaks Wednesday in the hands of Michele Sprague, volunteer director for the O'Mally Alley Cats rescue group. The group traps and spays or neuters free-roaming cats in an effort to address the overpopulation problem in the community.

Left, Volunteer Allisa Daniels greets one of her charges Tuesday as she leads a group of future volunteers through the outdoor dog kennel at the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer
 - Donate funding
 - Foster an animal
 - Donate pet food, pet treats, old used linens, newspapers, paper towels, aluminum cans, shampoo, toys
- For information, call 560-5011, or access www.petfinder.com/shelters/TX377.html

voiceless

By **ROBBIE GOODRICH**

Sentinel staff

Behind the scenes of any successful organization are often worker-bee volunteers who give countless hours expecting nothing in return. They do the really hard stuff — the down-and-dirty kind of work that lightweight volunteers don't want to think about, much less actually do.

The reward for these individuals is the knowledge they are helping someone or something in need, and that they are furthering a cause that's truly important.

The following are a few of the heroes to the most vulnerable in our society — those who have no voice, other than the human ones who take up their cause ... those who rely completely on the kindness of others, those who return that kindness with unconditional love.

And the important cause here is — literally — the difference between life and death.

Allisa Daniels

She was looking for something to do after arriving in Nacogdoches from Sugar Land for her freshman year at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Allisa Daniels began volunteering with a friend at the Nacogdoches Animal Services and Adoption Center one day a week, and then she was offered a work-study program that would

put her at the shelter working 20 hours a week. With the special events, like adopt-a-thons on weekends and community awareness events hosted by the shelter, she found herself working far more than 20 hours a week, but she didn't mind. She was doing something for which she had a passion — helping animals.

“It's very rewarding, but it's also pretty stressful,” she said. “You really want everything to go perfectly, and you have to get over the fact that you can't make a difference for all of them. But you can make a big difference for some of them.”

Now a junior early childhood

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