

Pet Sitters' Names in the News

Kerri Hunter-Woodman has been a PSI member from the start—way back in 1995. She has seen her company, Kerri's Cat Care, expand and gain in recognition right along with the pet sitting industry.

Clients and peers have long recognized her achievements, and she was recently featured in her local newspaper, *The Girard Home News* in Philadelphia, PA. Kerri was named an "Amazing Woman" and her life was profiled with an in-depth article. Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1998, Kerri serves as an example of dealing with this devastating condition in a positive and determined way. Although it has forced her to cut back on the pet sitting business that she loves, Kerri continues to seek ways to inspire and assist others.

Her latest undertaking is to build an ark. That's right—an ark full of animals, just like Noah's! According to Kerri, Noah was the best pet sitter in history. "He is the image of the ultimate animal lover," she declared. "All those days and nights tending to creatures great and small. Day in and day out, feeding, cleaning and calming the spirits of animals with nowhere else to be but in the home that Noah had built for them."

So, looking for a way to incorporate her caring for animals and people into a personal effort where both sides benefit, Kerri discovered Heifer Project International. HPI (www.heifer.org) purchases and distributes animals to needy families in poor countries around the world. HPI is a non-profit group that pro-



Kerri Hunter-Woodman talks about her latest project, Noah's Ark, at the Silk City Diner. /Carol Denker

vides a way for hungry people to feed themselves, earn income and care for the environment. Funds are donated to purchase animals—from cattle to sheep to pigs, to chickens to honey bees. Project animals offer families a way to feed themselves and become self-reliant. Children receive nutritious milk or eggs; families earn income for school, health care and better housing. Farmers learn sustainable, environmentally sound agriculture. Each recipient agrees to give one its animal's offspring to another needy family, who in turn will donate an offspring from the next generation, so each gift to HPI continues to grow.

Where does the ark come in? At Heifer Project International, it takes a donation of \$5,000 to the project they call "The Ark." An HPI Gift Ark contains at least one pair of more than 20 types of food- and income-producing animals—a boatload of help and hope for hungry families. Kerri has challenged friends, coworkers and fellow pet sitters to raise the funds to make the donation of an Ark to HPI. Her goal is to raise enough money for "Kerri's Pet Sitters Ark" and create a rising tide of good will and continuing cycle of life. "I know how spiritually rich animals make my life," Kerri said, "and with this program, animals can make poverty stricken families financially sound. Let's all be little Noahs and create a rainbow in someone's life!"

Kerri can be contacted at Kerri's Cat Care, PO Box 29271, Philadelphia, PA 19125 or at KerrisCC@aol.com.