



Inside Hyde Park

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Generosity of Heart

written by Paul Wentz, editor *Inside Hyde Park* and HP homeowner

Last June, Hyde Park homeowners Sherry and Charlie Bear participated in a program to aid Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Their experience providing counsel and support to members of their own church, Southern Hills Baptist, was put to good use supporting PROEM, a Polish Christian Ministry. This ministry has been focused primarily on sharing the Christian faith with the youth and families of Poland, but as a result of the war in Ukraine, it has taken on a new responsibility, aiding refugees. In addition to Sherry and Charlie, the team from Tulsa included five others. Four of the Tulsa team are members of Southern Hills Baptist Church. The team was sponsored on their journey by the supportive donations collected at Sunday services.

Two members of the Tulsa team applied their skills and experience to provide comfort and a sense of normalcy for the refugee children with games, crafts, and activities. Sherry and Charlie's responsibility was to listen and to provide counsel. They listened to individual refugees and worked with groups. They heard heart-wrenching stories of the trauma experienced by those who lived and escaped their personal encounters with war. The indiscriminate bullets and bombs targeted everyone. The refugees witnessed death and destruction and suffered trauma. Sherry stated, "We listened to their stories. Telling others about their traumas helped."

Sherry, Charlie and the other members of the Tulsa team were put up in the renovated PROEM Hotel Mazowiecki in the city of Tomaszów Mazowiecki. Because PROEM boarded the Ukrainian refugees here as well, there were plenty of opportunities to interact, plenty of opportunities to reduce the intensity and effects of one's trauma, plenty of opportunities to talk in terms of a better life, and plenty of opportunities to believe there is hope for one's family.

Poland has generously welcomed tens of thousands of Ukrainian refugees. This generosity alone would give hope to those fleeing their homes and homeland. The Polish people remember when many of their own were refugees and how the generosity of others gave them respite from the ravages of war. The staff of PROEM and the Tulsa team are giving hope to others and respite from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, an invasion that began in 2014 with the occupation of the Crimea. With or without documentation, with or without passports, the Polish people continue to host the people of Ukraine.

Thank you, Sherry and Charlie and the rest of the Tulsa Team, for your generosity of heart. **HP**



The Tulsa Team (L to R)

Mike Brose

Charlie Bear

Sherry Bear

Sara Pederson

Bonnie Jones

Lanny Endicott

Shawn Monier

It Started with Rocky

written by **Paul Wentz**, editor *Inside Hyde Park* and HP homeowner



It started in 2011 with Rocky, a labradoodle. Believing that a hundred-pound dog would be difficult to control, Hyde Park homeowner Nancy Cruzen began a new passion, dog training and competition. “They’re smart,” Nancy soon discovered. “I like dogs,” she continued, “It’s amazing what they can do. It’s so interesting that they can learn to comply with the sit, the down and other commands.” Nancy soon learned how to teach puppies to obey. In the beginning, it was train the trainer to train the dogs.

Rocky has since passed away. He was an intelligent companion and an excellent competitor, having earned the CD (Companion Dog) title, BN (Beginner Novice) title, and the AN (Advanced Novice) title. He placed first in many of his competitions. In addition to being bright, he was a playful buddy. It should be pointed out here that another reason Nancy pursued dog training is because she is really good at it. It takes two to train and to compete successfully – the dog and the trainer. The dog relies not just on verbal commands, but on the cues provided by the trainer, e.g., turning on the correct foot or a hand signal. Nancy and her buddy Rocky learned to rely on one another.

There are many categories of dog competition, all requiring mutual reliance. Examples include obedience, agility, and conformation. In addition to these, there are highly specialized categories such as barn hunt and scent work. In the obedience category, there are several titles that can be earned. Examples include Companion Dog (CD), Utility Dog (UD), Obedience Master (OM), and Obedience Grand Master (OGM). The American Kennel Club (AKC) lists 17 obedience titles on their website that can be earned by the dog and its handler.

Currently, Nancy has two dogs: Minnie and Fergie. Minnie is a Havanese. The American Kennel Club states that the Havanese is a breed native to Cuba. The AKC describes this breed as small, about 7 to 13 pounds, intelligent, and outgoing. Nancy would add that at seven months, Minnie is bouncy and does not like to comply with the command to stay. Minnie is going through obedience and agility training.

Fergie on the other hand is the old trooper. Fergie is a Yorkie (Yorkshire Terrier). The AKC describes this breed as small as well, about 7 pounds, and affectionate and full of energy. Nancy would also note that Fergie is good at obedience but because of a bad knee, can no longer compete.

In addition to Rocky, Fergie, and Minnie, there was Sophie and Zoe. According to Nancy, “Sophie didn’t really care about training, but did get her CD and BN titles. I lost Zoe right before I moved to Hyde Park, and she was trained to the point of starting competition. I got Minnie at the same time that I was moving in.”



Nancy with Minnie.
Minnie and Fergie with some of their accomplishments.



When I asked Nancy what her dogs mean to her, she said, “My dogs are like my children. I don’t like to leave them alone, and I try to take them with me as much as I can. So I also want them to be well behaved so that they don’t annoy people.” “I have always told my kids,” she continued with a smile, “that they should train a puppy before they have children so that they have well behaved children.”

Nancy told me that she loves to train her dogs because it is fun and because the dogs are so smart. Obviously, there is a third and most important reason: she loves her dogs. **HP**