

A Community's Kindness

| BY JUSTIN CAMPANA



FOR LITTLE SILVER LOCAL AMANDA DIETZ, 2020 ended on a high note. Dietz had grown up here in Little Silver, attending school locally throughout her childhood, and her parents still live in town to this day. She also has recently become engaged to *Little Silver Neighbors'* very own publisher, Ryan Keating. Being the Marketing Director of Greenway Mortgage Funding Corp, a full-service direct mortgage lender headquartered in Middletown, NJ, focusing on both its clients and the environment, Dietz couldn't be happier with the company's philanthropic efforts and her position there helping to make them happen. Greenway donates 5% of their annual profits to local and regional environmental groups and causes.

JAMES PAYOR, THE PRESIDENT OF GREENWAY decided to have his company begin working on a donation to Halfway Home Animal Rescue Team, a.k.a. HHART. Mainly composed of a core group of animal advocates who've worked with shelter animals for years, their goal is to help as many animals as they can, with the resources available to them. This group does everything from shelter placements to work toward ending animal suffering.

"When we started our organization, we did so with the desire to go beyond rescue to serve our community and its animal friends," says Frannie Laurita, HHART's President and Co-founder. When asked for a few words regarding HHART, Frannie was quoted saying: "While rescuing animals is our passion, we also provide rehabilitation, outreach, assistance and education where needed. This past year has shown us that even in the toughest of times, when good people come together, we can make miracles happen." —That was when Greenway came in.

In only three short days, from December 28th to December 31st, Dietz helped raise \$7,260 through a Facebook and direct donation drive. In addition, with the community and Greenway employees coming together to help this amazing cause, Payor decided to triple

match what was raised, for a donation of \$21,780. A total of \$29,040 in donations was generously made to this wonderful organization. "This extremely generous and unexpected gesture from James and Greenway was exactly what we needed to close out a very challenging year," Frannie says gratefully.

Greenway prides itself in giving back to others, supporting local charities such as the Monmouth County SPCA and Lunch Break, just to name a couple of the established charitable organizations they have helped support over the years. "Greenway's philanthropic efforts have mostly centered around causes where the beneficiaries do not have a voice and cannot advocate for themselves," Payor emphasizes. "The environment, homelessness and certainly animals have been our main focus."

Though we have learned over the years what a loving community Little Silver continues to be, it is only necessary to name some of the amazing help that has brought all of us together, and Greenway is, without a doubt, no exception.

Let us leave you with a final quote by Frannie of HHART when asked about the donation, "This incredible donation will help us make our new Halfway Home property into a place where so many animals will find peace, love and understanding as they heal and start their new lives." ♡

