



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For more information, please contact

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Pasarelli stands with two of the completed outdoor cat structures he donated to the Cleo Fund in May. Pasarelli donated eight structures on the way to earning his Eagle Scout badge.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT KEEPS OUTDOOR CATS WARM

KENNEBUNK, MAINE, JUNE 1, 2016 – Recently, eight outdoor cat houses were donated to the Animal Welfare Society’s Cleo Fund, completing Scarborough resident Josh Pasarelli’s Eagle Scout project.

The project, developed by Pasarelli, must demonstrate leadership by the Boy Scout, while performing a project for the benefit of the community. A successful project is one of the final requirements needed to complete and earn the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scout program.

AWS’ Cleo Fund assists cat owners and/or cat caretakers state-wide. The Fund has recently expanded to include assisting outdoor cat caretakers provide warm, safe shelter for colonies living on their property. The Fund’s Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program humanely decreases the numbers of un-owned outdoor cats, while allowing these cats to live in an environment that is right for them. In order to do so, the Fund provides free trapping services, spay/neuter surgeries, rabies vaccines and outdoor shelters to caretakers for outdoor cat colonies. Building shelters for the Cleo Fund to distribute to cat owners was the perfect fit for Pasarelli’s Eagle Scout project.

Pasarelli developed a plan to obtain the materials and resources needed to build the shelters and presented his proposal to Boy Scout leadership. Once approved, he successfully guided a team of 19 volunteers to help with the project. Together, his team completed eight fully-insulated, two-story outdoor cat housing structures for the Cleo Fund to distribute.

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“Weatherproof, warm shelters are essential to help outdoor cats survive the winter climate in Maine,” said Kathy Deschambault, AWS’ Feral Cat Specialist for the Cleo Fund. “The need for these shelters will be strongly felt this fall when the weather turns chilly and we are so grateful for Josh’s forward-thinking and his generosity toward the Cleo Fund.”

AWS’ Cleo Fund program will provide outdoor cat shelters to anyone who has a need with no charge. For more information and/or to have a shelter set up on your property, please contact Cleo Fund Manager, Sharon Secovich, at 207-985-3244 x129.

About Animal Welfare Society

The Animal Welfare Society, a non-profit organization, exists to provide humane shelter and care to companion animals temporarily in need of housing, to assist in disaster response and to further the cause of responsible animal adoption and ownership through education and public awareness. The society actively promotes kindness, the elimination of cruelty and neglect to all animals, and the lifelong commitment of people to their pets. More than 3,500 animals are cared for at the facility each year, while thousands more use the many public services that AWS offers; such as low-cost spay/neuter, youth education and canine obedience classes.

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