

## Sam's Hope "Keeping Pets & Their People Together"



Sam's Hope is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of companion animals by keeping those facing economic and health challenges and their pets together through our Pet Food, Veterinary Care Assistance and Home-Delivered Pet Food Programs.

Sam's Hope was founded by Marianne Iaquinto in February

2013, inspired by her beloved Shih Tzu, Samantha, as well as her awareness of the economic climate that forces many pet parents to surrender or abandon their pets.

In its 7 years of operation, Sam's Hope has distributed 650,000+ pounds of pet food, awarded 428 veterinary care assistance grants, and provided home-delivered pet food and supplies to 356 pets of low-income homebound/elderly pet parents.

Marianne points out that the benefit to a pet of staying with his or her family is obvious—a safe place to live and thrive. The alternative is not desirable: approximately 6 to 8 million dogs and cats enter overcrowded shelters each year, and up to 5 million more are abandoned. Shelters are a last stop for about 50% of the animals that end up there, since only 50% are reclaimed or adopted; the rest, unfortunately, are euthanized.

And while pets benefit all who love them by providing comfort, companionship, affection and unconditional love, Sam's Hope believes that the elderly, especially those who are homebound with little contact with the outside world, benefit the most—and research back this up.

Sam's Hope was created in honor of Marianne's dear Samantha, who passed away on May 10, 2012 at the age of 11. She had many health issues throughout her life. Thankfully, Marianne was able to provide her with all of the care and love she needed until the very end. It is the mission of everyone at Sam's Hope to ensure that all pets can live as Samantha did—in a loving forever home with uncompromised care.



***If you are in need of help for your pet, please visit [www.samshope.org](http://www.samshope.org) and complete an application for assistance. If you would like to help the organization in its mission to save Southeastern PA's pets, you can donate using PayPal at [www.samshope.org](http://www.samshope.org).***