**Open Arms Challenge Group:**

<https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup>

**Huddle Registration Link:**<https://maddiesfund-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckduupqjsoGNGtPuk2fatmO_acogXGlPx7>

**Agenda**

* **Welcome –** Amber Eby, Grants Specialist at Maddie’s Fund, Wendy Frink, Marketing Communications Specialist at Maddie’s Fund & Gina Knepp, National Shelter Engagement Director at Michelson Found Animals
* **Speaker –** Rachael Pontillo from Partners Ending Homelessness
* **Q&A**

***45 live attendees***

***Previous Huddle Recordings & Discussion Threads***

* Open Arms Challenge Group on Maddie’s Pet Forum: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #1 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle1>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #2 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle2>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #3 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle3>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #4 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle4>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #5 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle5>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #6 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle6>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #7 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle7>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #8 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle8>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #9 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle9>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #10 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle10>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #11 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle11>

***Resources Shared During Call***

* My Dog is My Home: <https://www.mydogismyhome.org>
* Feeding Pets of the Homeless: <https://www.petsofthehomeless.org/>
* Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC): <https://socialwork.du.edu/humananimalconnection>
* Human-Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC): <https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/habic/>
* Human-Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI): https://habri.org/
* Human-Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) - New Report Highlights the Benefits of Pet-Friendly Housing: <https://habri.org/pressroom/20210719>
* Emotional Support Animal Registration/National Service Animal Registry: <https://www.nsarco.com/>
* MCQE Mobile Pet Pantry: <https://www.mcqemobilepetpantry.com>
* Open Arms Challenge Resources: <https://www.maddiesfund.org/open-arms-challenge-resources.htm>

              

**Chat Log**

09:41:51 From Alison Gibson to Waiting Room Participants:

Welcome! We will be starting at 10am Pacific. Be sure to come by Maddie’s Pet Forum after the program. Our presenters will be available for questions, and we will also share resources there.

Maddie’s Pet Forum Open Arms Challenge Group: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup>

10:00:24 From Gina Emma Knepp to Everyone:

No!!!!!!!!!! Not the last one!!!

10:00:58 From Kathryn Hinton to Everyone:

Kathryn

10:00:59 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

Lauren Dougall Agape Animal Rescue in Nashville, TN

10:01:00 From C Hayes to Everyone:

Denise Hayes, Roanoke Valley SPCA

10:01:01 From Kendall Eckman to Everyone:

Kendall from Foothills Animal Shelter in Colorado!

10:01:10 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

Hello everyone! Joining you from Hamilton, Montana. It started snowing today!!

10:01:10 From Kathryn Hinton to Everyone:

polk county bully project

10:01:10 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Watch the recording of this and previous huddles here: https://www.maddiesfund.org/open-arms-challenge-huddles.htm

10:01:13 From Dylan Moore to Everyone:

Santa Fe, NM

10:01:17 From Brooke Valet to Everyone:

Hi from the SPCA of Brevard in Titusville, FL!

10:01:22 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Maddie’s Pet Forum Open Arms Challenge Group

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10:01:27 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

Hi Donna Brown, Garden City Community Cats Project, Idaho

10:01:31 From Elizabeth Lord to Everyone:

Conway, New Hampshire!

10:01:36 From Stacy Reynolds to Everyone:

Stacy at Paws Between Homes in Atlanta

10:01:38 From Rachael Pontillo to Everyone:

Rachael Pontillo with Partners Ending Homelessness in Guilford County, NC

10:01:39 From Jennifer Nuernberg to Everyone:

Hi from Jen, Harbor Humane in West MI! (We’re in the midst of our big move to our new resale shop, so I’m listening and painting!) :)

10:02:29 From Elise Ramsey to Everyone:

Good Afternoon from Little Traverse Bay Humane Society in Harbor Springs, Michigan!

10:02:52 From Amy Schindler to Everyone:

Hi everyone- here from AWLA Arlington VA

10:03:01 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

Hi! Charice Davis here from Hands and feet Pet Advocates in Knoxville, TN

10:03:46 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

Melina with Heaven Can Wait Animal Society and Pups On Parole in VEGAS BABY

10:07:00 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

Do you collaborate with Feeding Pets of the Homeless?

10:09:23 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

Great example of the OneHealth concept.

10:10:40 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

One great organization in this arena doing important work in the space of unhoused people with pets is My Dog Is My Home

10:10:41 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

<https://www.mydogismyhome.org>

10:16:10 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

Can I share these huddles on FB?

10:16:54 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Donna yes! Share the link to the recordings

<https://www.maddiesfund.org/open-arms-challenge-huddles.htm>

10:17:16 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

In many cases, unhoused people so bonded with their animals that the animals are literally their lifelines, and there are cases in which people will avoid seeking social services support for fear of having their pets taken away from them as part of their acceptance of social services.

10:17:18 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

We are currently working with a homeless man who has a beautiful dog named Jenny. He rescued her from life on a chain and walked from Mississippi to Tennessee with her. He loves her more than most pet parents love their dog.

10:20:23 From Amber Eby to Everyone:

<https://www.petsofthehomeless.org/>

10:21:07 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

Agape has a behavioral training program that is low/no-cost and partners with another organization that is part of the pets for life program. They refer pet owners from all walks of life including those who are not in housing to our training program and we are glad to help them with behavioral training and other resources.

10:21:54 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

Will these food banks give food to the disadvantage in some kind of shelters?

10:23:23 From Sharon Fletcher to Everyone:

Hello Jorge!

10:24:26 From Sharon Fletcher to Everyone:

My Dog is my Home is amazing!! We highly recommend their conference!!

10:25:05 From Laurel-Ann Dooley to Everyone:

Great conference!

10:26:37 From Irene Chansawang (she/her) to Everyone:

IHAC @Sarah?

10:26:48 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

Yes IHAC institute of Human and animal connection

10:26:55 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

our first huddle

10:27:12 From Stephanie Rambo to Everyone:

Is it HABIC?

10:27:19 From Gloria Dorsey to Everyone:

HABRI?

10:27:49 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/habic/>

10:28:18 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

that sounds incredible

10:30:25 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

The intersectionality of issues that unhoused people are dealing with yields a cascading effect of crisis. There are some who are struggling with mental health issues for whom their pets are literally their reason for living.

10:31:10 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

Being a "low-income" focused clinc located in Las Vegas we have recently started looking into more unhomed family outreach. So excited to have all these resources. Thank you!

10:33:14 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

Here is supportive information that we can share with landlords that might help: <https://habri.org/pressroom/20210719>

10:33:23 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

Rachael, for those issues with landlords who won’t allow pets, consider for your clients helping them establish their pets as ESAs (emotional support animals) that cannot be restricted or excluded from housing by virtue of Federal Law.

10:33:33 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

Even my 8 pound disabled chihuahua gives me security knowing he will alert me if something isn't right

10:37:27 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

As a point of clarification, ESAs are federally protected and their treatment is not state- or locality-dependent.

10:40:10 From Irene Chansawang (she/her) to Everyone:

Thanks for sharing that info. @Sarah. This is the registry I'm aware of, and not sure there are others? <https://www.nsarco.com/>

10:41:47 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

@Lauren Dougall we just started working with a translator if you want that information [mramos@hcws.org](mailto:mramos@hcws.org)

10:42:19 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

@melina Melina Ramos -- thank you that would be amazing! I will drop you a line.

10:42:38 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

Does anyone knows of professional translators willing to donate services?

10:43:16 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

<3

10:43:18 From Lisa Saunders to Everyone:

These guys are amazing. Not sure how they do it. <https://www.mcqemobilepetpantry.com>

10:43:22 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

Thanks for sharing, Irene. The process for getting an animal certified as an emotional support animal is not too complicated once you know how to help people navigate it. It involves something called a reasonable accommodation request. The federal Fair Housing Act requires landlords to allow tenants to have both service animals and assistance animals. Emotional Support Animals are a type of assistance animal, and therefore are covered under the law.

Someone is entitled to an ESA if they have a mental health condition that substantially limits at least one major life activity (this is a broad category that includes things like communicating, concentrating, and sleeping) and an animal helps alleviate the impact of that condition.

10:44:12 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

We should further share more about ESA's on the forum!

10:44:20 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

tnr is so important to cut down on the animals to deal with.

10:44:41 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

Absolutely! There is a lot of confusion about it and it helps to have good information!

10:45:12 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

It went by so quickly!

10:45:17 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

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10:45:21 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

Thanks everyone!! Great huddle!

10:45:22 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

thank you!

10:45:24 From Gloria Dorsey to Everyone:

This huddle has been terrific!! Thank you so much.

10:45:24 From Wendy Frink to Everyone:

We can’t wait for the Challenge to start and see what everyone does!

10:45:27 From Lisa Saunders to Everyone:

These have been great! Thank you!

10:45:31 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

HAPPY HOUR!!!!

10:45:38 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

Thanks everyone -- great learning with you all.

10:45:38 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

Would love it!!

10:45:38 From Kelly Clardy to Everyone:

These huddles have been great!! Thank you everyone!!!

10:45:42 From Kay Amland to Everyone:

Thanks so much for the support!

10:45:49 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

Thank you for creating this community of interest!

10:45:51 From Rachael Pontillo to Everyone:

Thank you!

10:46:05 From Stephanie Rambo to Everyone:

Thanks so much! Great experience

10:46:10 From Irene Chansawang (she/her) to Everyone:

Good luck, everyone!! Thank you for joining us on the Cuddles. A happy, yappy hour would be great. :)

10:46:16 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

👏

10:46:18 From Sharon Fletcher to Everyone:

Hope to see you all on the forum

10:46:39 From Amber Eby to Everyone:

Yes - see you on the forum!

------------------------end-----------------------