

# **Snow and Flake**

December 14, 2016-16°



**Santa spotted these beautiful babies deep in a concrete hole at a construction site. They were half-frozen, very sick and starving. After his elves pulled them out, warmed them and fed them, he wrapped them in his hat and said, “I know a home with well-cared for kitties and kind people - - and it even has a new roof, (*thanks to generous donors last year.*)**

**“Is it the same place where you whispered to that distraught woman to bring Snap, Crackle, and Pop, and their mother Katze, a couple of weeks ago?” asked Chief Elf. “Yes, I knew the home where *Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too* had just celebrated Thanksgiving with many caring supporters. They generously provided the funds for needy little ones just like these.”**

**“Onward, Rudolph – you know the way!” Santa directed.**



A cell phone call from the “cloud” set off a flurry of preparations and schedule changes for Sue, Jen, Melanee and Marijon, stand-by notice to our veterinarian and gathering of heating pads, blankets and warm kitten gruel to welcome little Snow and Flake, still defrosting, snuggled safe and trusting in Santa’s hat.



So you think Santa just flies around the earth on December 24 to leave gifts for good little girls and boys?

No, “Santa Claus” the personification of Christmas caring in each person’s heart, is with us all year – inspiring us to give generously of our own gifts, talents, time, services, money, *as we see needs*. And to those with *open hearts* and *uncluttered minds* “Santa” (a.k.a. many names) is always quick to point out those needs – to deliver *opportunities* for caring, and serving, and loving, and being loved, not just for holiday hype, but every day throughout a New Year.

**Caring** is what keeps us *connected* to each other, to the world, and to our better selves, our passions, our goals.

### Same Day – Noon

**“Are you the organization that helps older people take care of their pets? Someone (Santa? Christmas Angel?) told me to call this number for help.**

**I fell on the ice yesterday and just returned from all night in the ER. I have a broken ankle and foot, and an injured spine.**

**My 5 cats are looking at me, hungry, but I can't feed them easily or clean their litter boxes. I'm also worried about the little group of outside cats who come out from hiding at the sound of my voice for food, water and warm blankets in the freezing weather.**

**Can someone help, please?”**



**“Where do you live? I will E-M Touched By An Animal volunteers who live in your area.” Three wonderfully caring people quickly answered, and one would go right after work.**

**Back to my task of the day – writing our Christmas Newsletter, already overdue to the printer.**

### 7pm that evening

Caller ID didn't give me a clue, and I am "very busy" trying to complete the newsletter. Should I answer?

I see the sign on my desk: **"Don't think of people's calls for help as interruptions to your Mission: They ARE your Mission!"** (Pope Francis)



**"This is Officer Jones at the Chicago Police Dept. Can you take in a yorkie until this freezing weather changes? Our job is to direct homeless people into shelters but many who have pets won't let me take the animals to the city pound. Such a man who was recently burned out of his apartment is near the Walgreens at the corner of Division and Dearborn. If you can take his yorkie with the assurance that he will get it back, we can get him to a shelter and a warm meal."**

**This one requires fast telephone calls to very select people. Who, at this late hour of a freezing night, be able to help – or network with someone who can?**

So..... you did not receive this holiday card on schedule—

We sincerely want to say:

**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Thank you!**

**for your 2016 donations and support**



*Happy and Blessed New Year to you and Your family!!*

**With a serious plea for holiday/ end- of- year Tax Deductible donations to affirm and enable Touched By An Animal's Mission in 2017.**

*Freezing helpless kittens...  
an elderly woman who needs help with her cats...  
a homeless man clinging to his dog-*

**These are the Mission of Touched By An Animal,**

*These are the real life pleas for your continued enabling support  
that you and we will encounter in the new year.*

**These opportunities for caring are the reason for our existence**

**The hope/the help that just can't wait.**

***Our ability to help depends on your gifts of money, volunteering and networking.***



**Thank you for caring about us**



*Touched By An Animal Cats-Are-Purrrsons-Too*

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