

## **Helene Hicks #11**

Leadership

**Please describe why you feel your nominee deserves a Caring Woman award. If possible, please provide specific accomplishments:**

Helene has single-handedly started a reduced fee spay & neuter program for the residents of Jackson County. Her compassion for the animals and helping Senior Citizens and Disabled to get their animals helped led her to help in any way possible.

Jackson County Spay & Neuter was started in 2008 with no funds and became a nonprofit in February 2009. This program is donation & grant funded only and with her group of a few volunteers manages to help about 300 animals yearly.

She was named Home Town Hero with WLOX in 2009 and Gulf Coast Neighbor in 2009. Helene is nominated yearly for "Celebration of Caring Women". Her ability to have fundraisers to raise awareness, also to sign up community animals and show the need for such a program which is the only one of its kind on the coast. Her relentless passion finally led to 2 Jackson County Vets to help with her reduced fees in 2012 for cats. Otherwise animals are taken to Harrison County by transport to be fixed. With no help she tackles grants and works hard to get as many as possible with continuing to search for other resources to help.

2012 brought 3rd place in the Pepsi-Wlox Charities Contest for \$2500.00. Started a Website **www.jcspan.org** in 2011 and maintains it daily to show people their accomplishments & where the funds go. By going door to door for seniors & disabled this encourages animals to be fixed and also offering transport for Community animals, is foolproof reason for people not to get animals fixed.

Helene is a former EMT-Fire fighter from Bristol Boro, Pa. and was the only Woman EMT In her County Rescue Squad and Fire Company, an accomplishment in itself. She also had a "Merchant Day" fundraiser at Singing River Mall in August 2011 to bring in old and new Merchants for people to come out & see what Jackson County had to offer the communities and to let people know that there was help for their animals. She is a firm believer in trying to help venues to survive the Economy down fall and at the same time to help save animals from sickness, unwanted litters, starvation and euthanasia. Helene has an outgoing personality and has no problem going the distance for anyone if it helps to make something better. Hal Comely a well know TV & Radio personality had her on his show 6-8 Times a year since 2009. He always said at the end of show. "Anyone wants to donate a van to this young lady for the animals, she needs the help". Sadly he passed January 2 and the next day she received a call from YMCA of Ocean Springs who donated a van. She cried and said he was looking down from heaven and got her a van. When it gets painted she wants to dedicate it to him.

**Describe an incident involving your nominee in which something she did or said Serves as the best illustration of who she is:** Actually 2 things stand out in 2012:

One is a Rabies Clinic done December that helped 107 animals to get updated Rabies @ \$5.00 also offered booster shots & no volunteers getting paid. This is going to be a biannual clinic from now on in Jackson County.

Also the 1st Annual Pink Paw Open Golf Tournament was July 2012 with 42 Participants, she had 50 sponsors who donated items or monies and was told "No one ever has 50 sponsors" by the golf course, that she set a record of sorts. This I think shows that her program is much needed & appreciated with people having no problem coming to help out. She also included the Gautier Fire Company with 3 EMT's to come out and be on site during tournament in case of emergency, because she cares.

**In your opinion, what one word best describes your nominee?** Compassionate