

## Inspired Words

**By Debbie Prevost**

### Deciding How To Serve Humanity

Dear God, there seem to be so many people in need on our planet that it's difficult to decide where to help, but I really want to contribute in some way to the upliftment of humanity. Please guide me to the best opportunities to use my unique talents to contribute to the highest good of a person or group. Amen and thank you, God.

### Making Waves

May you be called to serve humanity in ways that allow you to shine at your brightest. May you intuitively instill in your service the full love of your heart and creativity of your mind. May the collective energy of our unique services be combined into waves of love and creativity that lift our global human family and ride us all gently to our next level of collective consciousness. Amen and thank you, God.

### Blossoming the Global Human Family

I know it's no mistake that I have been given my unique set of talents in this lifetime. Because I am open to sharing my gifts for the highest good, I am naturally drawn to the best ways I can contrib-

ute to the evolution of the global human family. The events where I choose to serve are the ones where my skills and spiritual awareness can make a difference in the quality of one or many lives. I feel deeply blessed when I see the ways that my services (large or small) help our human family to blossom. Amen and thank you, God. ♦

© Debbie Prevost 2008. **DEBBIE PREVOST** has received messages from angels all of this lifetime. She happily shares these angelic messages with others, using whatever forms of communication are best in the moment. To schedule an angel appointment, contact her at [HandsOnSoul@yahoo.com](mailto:HandsOnSoul@yahoo.com).




## Minding the Menagerie

### Fostering Animals


**By Susan King**

**D**o you love animals? Do you have space available in your home to let an animal temporarily live with you? If so, you may have the ideal foster home for an animal in need. A foster home provides temporary care for a rescued animal until the animal is adopted into a permanent home or can be moved into an animal shelter. In addition to affection, a foster family provides basic care for a foster animal — food, water and shelter. Fostering is important, valuable work that helps to save lives.

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Every week animal rescue organizations have to turn away adoptable animals because they don't have enough foster homes. Foster homes make an enormous difference in the number of animals rescued and saved by providing a temporary home to animals in need. Not only do foster homes maximize the number of animals rescued, they also help to care for animals that would be difficult to care for in a shelter environment — young animals with immune systems not strong enough to fight germs; animals recovering from an injury, illness or surgery; or animals needing individualized attention to help them overcome shyness or a behavioral issue.

Being in a foster home can be a lifesaving event for an animal. It gives an animal a chance to get used to life in a home and an opportunity to learn that people can be kind, food is available, and there is a warm, secure place to sleep. Foster homes help animals learn how to love and trust again. They can also help animals become more adoptable by providing socialization and basic training. This helps to prepare an animal for a new life in a permanent, loving home.

Fostering isn't just for dogs and cats; foster homes are needed for all kinds of animals, including rabbits, birds, horses, donkeys, mules, gerbils, hamsters, ferrets, snakes, goats, etc. There is a rescue organization for just about every kind of animal, many of which need foster homes so they can save and rehome more animals.

The time commitment required to be a foster home varies from a few days to several months. The majority of rescue organizations do not have an adoption center, so foster animals remain in foster care until they are adopted. The time commitment to foster an animal depends upon how long it takes to find a permanent home. You can also open your home to animals already in foster care but need a temporary place to stay while their foster family is on vacation.

The financial obligation varies as well. Most rescue organizations provide all of the veterinary care, including medications, though you may be required to take your foster animal to a designated veterinarian. Some organizations provide food and basic supplies while others may ask you to supply these for your foster animal. You may also be asked to transport your foster animal to and from adoption events as well as meet with people interested in adopting your foster animal.

Some people are unsure about fostering an animal for fear they will get too attached to their foster animal, thus making it hard to adopt them to a new home. Yes, when you foster, you will open your heart to the animals, but you need to keep in mind that your role is not to provide a permanent home for every animal in need but rather to provide them with a loving, safe and secure temporary home until the animal finds a family of its own. I have met many people who foster animals, and many did end up adopting one (or two) of their foster animals because that animal was meant to be with them. That is how my cat, Harley, came to be part of my family. I was fostering her and her litter of kittens for the SPCA of Wake County, and I formed a special bond with her and knew

she belonged in our family. But she was the only cat out of the dozens that I had fostered that I adopted. There is nothing quite like seeing the joy in the faces of a family who have adopted your foster animal and how happy your foster is to have a family of its own. It is always fun getting updates over the years and finding out how your former foster is doing.

Even though the idea of opening your home to a foster animal seems like a great idea, upon further consideration or after fostering an animal, you may determine fostering just isn't right for you and your family at this time, which is OK. One reason my husband and I stopped fostering cats is because the cats in our family were getting more and more stressed out with having other cats in the household, even though we kept our foster cats in a separate area of our house. So before you decide to foster, take into consideration the other members of your family to make sure everyone is on board with fostering. In addition, make sure you have the time and energy to bring another animal into your home, especially one that may require extra attention and care.

If you decide fostering isn't right for you and your family, there are still many ways you can help to save the lives of animals in need. Rescue organizations need not only monetary donations but also help from volunteers. Rescue organizations need help with planning and running fundraising and adoption events, answering phones, returning calls, administrative work, etc. Organizations that run a shelter always need volunteers to help with cleaning, doing yard work, grooming the animals, exercising the animals or interacting with customers. If you are willing to volunteer your time, I can guarantee you that a rescue organization will find something for you to do.

For more information about fostering, please visit [www.petfoster.org](http://www.petfoster.org). You can also contact rescue organizations in your area to find out if they have a fostering program and the requirements needed for you to foster animals for them. Keep in mind that even if a rescue organization has an adoption center, they may still have a fostering program. One way to find the rescue organizations in your area is to contact your local animal shelter, animal control office or veterinary clinic and ask them for a list of rescue organizations and contact information. Some other ways to find local rescue organizations include visiting your local pet supply store that hosts adoption events, attending an event for animals and their people, or talk to friends and co-workers who have adopted animals from area rescue organizations. Remember, even if you decide you are unable to provide a foster home to the animals in need, you can still take an active role in helping to save lives by volunteering your time and talents. ♦

©2008 Susan King. **SUSAN KING**, Animal Healing Facilitator, helps animals heal through the use of massage and energy work, either in person or remotely. Susan specializes in helping animals overcome phobias, traumas, anxieties and behavioral issues. Susan also offers animal massage workshops. [www.companionchi.com](http://www.companionchi.com), (919) 244-1264

