

## Volume 1, Issue 2, November 2012

### President's Message

The past few months have been incredibly busy for Barrio Dogs. Practically every weekend this fall we have had adoption events, fundraisers and/or FixIt! activities. We are hoping we can take a much needed break towards the end of the year so that we will be ready for the many activities that await us in 2013.

FixIt! has been a big success and we attribute that to both the hard work of our volunteers and the huge need for low cost or free spay neuter in our community. We expect that by the end of FixIt! we will have spayed and neutered between 200-225 animals free of charge.

Primary to our mission is our educational work in local schools. We have visited several schools during the past months and there is a big demand for our educational work; however, we are limited by a lack of volunteers. We are always trying to recruit more people to help us carry out this critical task since teaching young people how to care for and respect animals is one way to ensure a better future.

Thanks to the hard work of the volunteers on our foster-to-adopt team, we've been able to get a number of dogs out of boarding and into foster or permanent homes. Finding homes for the few dogs we've rescued is a big job and we are fortunate to have committed volunteers who do their best to get the job done. Sadly, despite everyone's best efforts we still have dogs that are living in boarding and finding them forever homes is a top priority.

Part of our adoption successes must be attributed to the *A Home for All* project where volunteers work with our rescued dogs in boarding to socialize and prepare them for a future home. Some of these dogs have never lived in a home so teaching them good manners and behavior is especially important.

The Music for Mutts event last September was our first collaboration with other animal welfare groups. We know that to address the animal overpopulation problem in Houston, we must work with other groups and present a united message to city officials and the public. We hope for more collaboration in 2013.

Whether at a fundraiser, adoption or community event, we are pleased to receive a warm response to our work from people throughout the city. Many who do not live in Houston's East End are nonetheless aware of the animal overpopulation that exists here. Others are unaware and are dismayed to learn about the conditions in which unwanted animals must live in our community. We will continue to try to raise awareness wherever we go and work for a better future for the animals around us.

**Gloria Medina Zenteno**

### **Barrio Dogs, Inc. publishes the Barrio Tails newsletter quarterly**

We hope you enjoy this electronic edition of *Barrio Tails*. Please feel free to give the editors your feedback so that we can continue to improve this source of information for our growing Barrio Dogs' community.

#### **Editors**

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#### **About Barrio Dogs**

Barrio Dogs is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 2010 in Houston, Texas for the purpose of educating, empowering and transforming Houston's East End by raising awareness and educating the community about proper animal care, leash and tethering laws, the importance of reporting animal neglect and abuse and promoting and when possible paying for spay and neuter of dogs and cats.



## FixIt! East End Spay Neuter Project

After months of planning and fundraising, we kicked off FixIt on October 27, 2012 with a Community Education Day at Hidalgo Park where we signed up local residents for free spay and neuter for their pets the following weekend. The next Saturday, we fixed 40 dogs and cats at Gulfgate Animal Hospital. We repeated the process on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Mason Park and November 27<sup>th</sup> in Ingrando Park. We expect that by the end of FixIt this year, we will have fixed over 200 dogs and cats free of charge.

We are immensely proud of what we have accomplished as an organization and appreciate the hard work of our volunteers. We also realize that our job is just beginning; there are still many animals that need our help. In fact, the response from the community was overwhelming and with additional funds and volunteers, we could have fixed many more animals.

Along with the free spay and neuter, we ended up vetting some of the dogs that participated since they were suffering from conditions related to living outdoors and never having been to the vet. However, the additional vetting was an extra expense and as a result, we are still raising money for FixIt. If you can contribute, please go to [barriodogs.org/donations.html](http://barriodogs.org/donations.html).

We hope to make FixIt an annual event and give many thanks to the individuals and businesses that donated money to FixIt and helped make it a reality. For more information, contact us at [fixit@barriodogs.org](mailto:fixit@barriodogs.org).



A reluctant FixIt participant at Hidalgo Park



Community Education Day at Mason Park



Happy dog with his owner on spay neuter day



Two FixIt participants with their owner



Gina Damian Moreno and Gloria Zenteno at the vet hospital on spay neuter day





## Tales to Tails at Gardens Elementary

Barrio Dogs was at Gardens Elementary in Pasadena last month working with twenty 1st through 3rd graders. Two teams consisting of Jeff Hooe with his R\*E\*A\*D\* (Rescue Education Ambassador Dog) Henry and Jennifer Washam with R\*E\*A\*D\* Chloe attended. Here's Jeff's account of their visit:

"The Tales to Tails event that my dog Henry and I attended at Gardens Elementary along with Jennifer and Chloe was our first event of the sort and gave me and Henry a unique outlook at how dogs are able to help children in many different ways. Everyone knows that most children like dogs but do not realize how dogs can take a shy child and help boost his or her confidence and make the child more relaxed and able to focus. At Gardens Elementary, when the kids came in they were shy, quiet, nervous and hesitant to come closer. When they saw Henry sitting next to me waiting for them, their demeanor immediately changed and they asked questions and wanted to pet him. The shyness and nervousness disappeared. When I asked if they would like to read a book to Henry, they were ready and quick to pick one out and get started. While reading, they occasionally stopped and asked questions about Henry to find a way to relate him to a character in the story.



Henry and Jeff with a student

This being Henry and my first experience with this program, we knew what we were getting into but didn't realize what a difference it would make with the children we were working with. After seeing and experiencing it, we're both ready for the next one!"



## Youth and Paws at KIPP Intrepid

Barrio Dogs had a wonderful opportunity to share a humane

education presentation at KIPP Intrepid in Houston's East End in November. Jennifer Washam and R\*E\*A\*D\* Chloe presented the story "Buddy Unchained" to two groups of 50 fifth grade students.

The story is about Buddy, who is "unsafe and unhappy" in his first home but then is rescued and adopted by a forever family who gives him a safe and healthy home. Students were then given a creative writing activity where they chose a picture card of a Barrio Dogs rescued dog and asked to tell the story of that



dog's background and the forever home it is looking for. At the presentation's end, each student had the opportunity to meet Chloe and have their picture taken with her. We had a great experience at KIPP Intrepid and look forward to many more opportunities to visit their campus in the future!



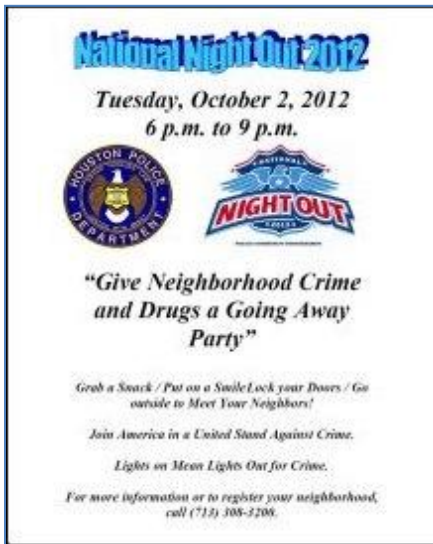
Chloe with a student





## Making a Difference in Our Community

Barrio Dogs participated in National Night Out on October 2, 2012 at several locations throughout the East End. We had a great time meeting our neighbors and talking about our work.



Residents at Reveille Park



Volunteers Tauna Ready and Lawrence Benavides at Mason Park



Gloria Zenteno with State Rep. Carol Alvarado at Reveille Park



Young resident with therapy dog Serenity at Berry Elementary





## Making a Difference in Our Community



Barrio Dogs participated in Community U sponsored by the City of Houston on 9/29/12; its purpose was to educate community and non profit organizations about services provided by the city. Mayor Annise Parker was a guest speaker.



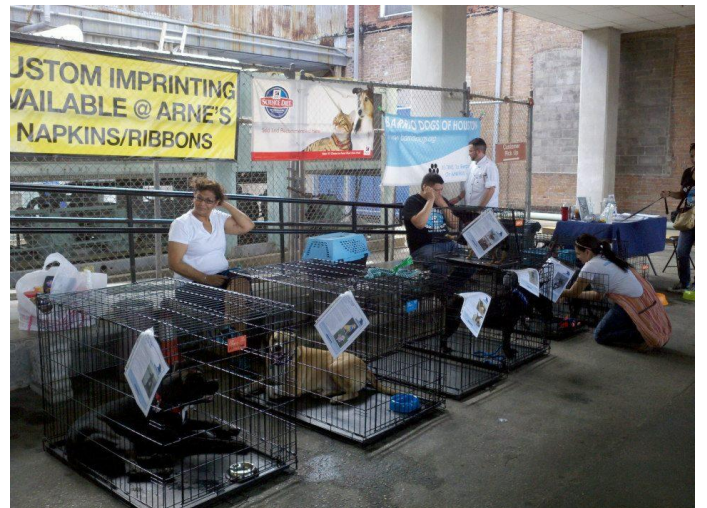
Community Awareness & Adoption Day at Martini Hardware



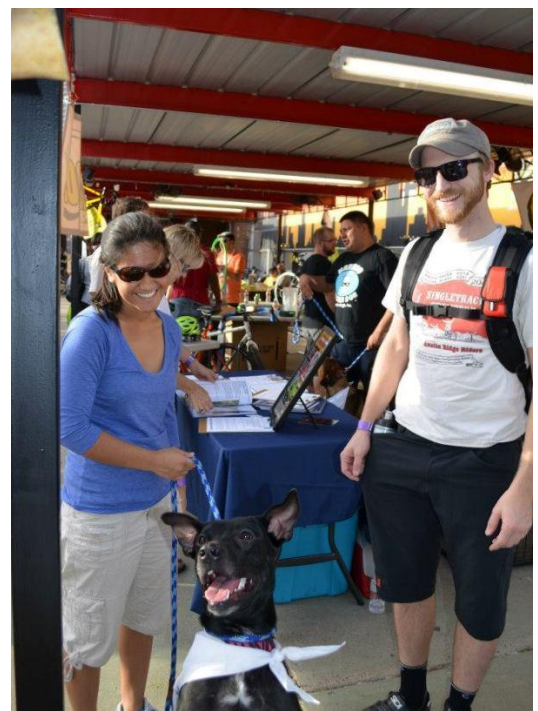
Reveille/Park Place Civic Association with Council Member James Rodriguez



Volunteer Savara McDaniel (right) at the Pecan Park Civic Association meeting



Community Awareness & Adoption Day at Arne's



Barrio Dog Maya at BikeFest in downtown Houston with some new friends





A Home for All is Barrio Dogs' project to work with our rescued dogs that are kenneled in boarding facilities because we haven't been able to find them homes. Kenneled dogs face special challenges and can become less adoptable the longer they are boarded. Also, some of our rescues have never lived in a home so teaching them manners and good behavior is critical to finding them a forever home. Our volunteers are very valuable and help provide the rescues with the necessary physical activity and mental stimulation so that they can be healthy and happy.

***We desperately need volunteers to work with our kenneled dogs in the AHFA program.*** All volunteers attend an orientation session to meet the dogs and learn how the program works. Volunteers can set their own schedule for whatever time works best for them. They can also make arrangements with other volunteers to go in and work together. Sorry but we can only accept volunteers who are 18 years of age or older.

To volunteer, go to [barriodogs.org/volunteer.html](http://barriodogs.org/volunteer.html). To follow the journey of the rescues living in boarding, visit [ahomeforallbd.blogspot.com](http://ahomeforallbd.blogspot.com)

## ***Our Volunteers Make it Happen!***



AHFA volunteer and U of H student Leslie Marzano with Rusty (above) and Phoebe



AHFA volunteer Caitrin Hunter with Derek



Recent AHFA orientation session



## *First Annual Music for Mutts on 9/23/12*

“Music for Mutts” was an afternoon-long event at Rockefeller Hall featuring music, silent auctions, pizza and beer. Sponsored by Star Pizza, Rockefeller Hall and YourTexasMusic.com, it benefitted Barrio Dogs, Corridor Rescue and Forgotten Dogs of the 5th Ward Project. The event’s tagline was “Three Visions, One Goal” and represented efforts by the three organizations to collaborate to address Houston’s growing problem with loose and stray animals in primarily lower-income parts of the city.

Among the performers were the Norma Zenteno Band, Mitch Jacobs & The Zydeco Dots, Sancho & the Lovetones, Lords of Kool, David de la Garza and Ken Mondshine & Brotherhood. Casey Curry from ABC 13 served as emcee.

Music for Mutts was a great success and set the stage for future collaboration between Barrio Dogs and other animal welfare groups including a similar event in 2013.

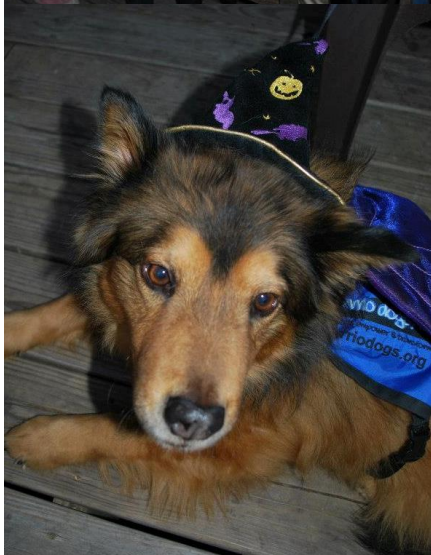




## Halloween 2012 for Barrio Dogs

The end of October usually brings many fun, Halloween-related activities for us. This year was no exception as Barrio Dogs participated in several events that raised both money and community awareness.

**The Boneyard's Boo Bash** on Halloween night was so much fun; both dogs and their owners wore costumes that night. The event raised a lot of money for FixIt and we are very grateful for the support!



**Petoberfest at St. Patrick's Church** on the North Side was a great opportunity to provide information and resources to the community about our work. We also had some completely adorable guests stop by our table!



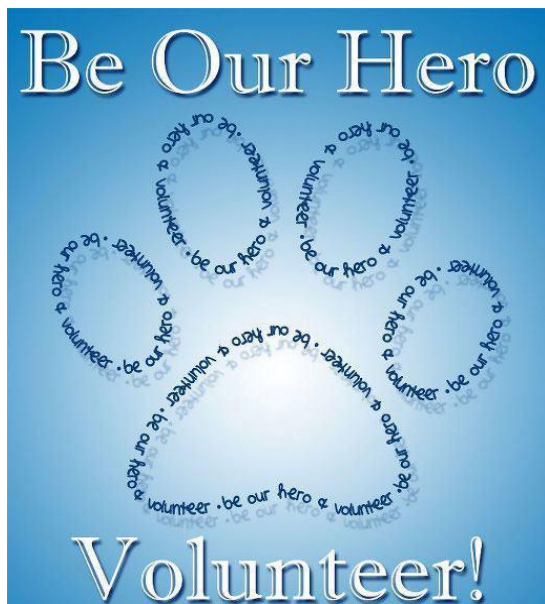
**Ziggy's Halloweenie** party on the Saturday before Halloween raised money for Barrio Dogs and Pet Patrol.



Barrio Dogs was one of the recipients of **Dogtopia Houston's** \$1,000 prize for winning their national Halloween costume contest with the entry "the Samurai and the Geisha". Thank you Dogtopia!







Have you seen a homeless animal in your community and thought to yourself "there has to be something I can do to help." Barrio Dogs encourages you to Be Your Own Hero and help make a difference! Sign up and become a volunteer for Barrio Dogs. These are our areas of interest:

**A Home for All Team (AHFA):** Rehabs our sick, neglected, skittish and shy rescues in boarding and provides training to prepare them for a foster or forever home.

**Foster to Adopt Team:** Gets our rescues out of boarding and into foster or forever homes.

**Marketing & Social Media Team:** Markets and uses all media platforms to promote our mission.

**Community Outreach Team:** Attends civic clubs and community meetings and churches to increase awareness of animal abandonment, neglect, abuse and overpopulation. In charge of FixIt.

**Education & Therapy Team:** Provides educational presentations at schools, homeless shelters and elderly centers and provides reading and therapy sessions for children at different venues.

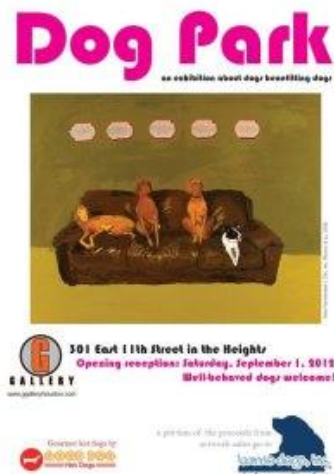
**Administration:** Sends follow up letters, thank you cards, organizes files, responds to correspondence and sends out tax receipts.

**To sign up, go to [barriodogs.org](http://barriodogs.org)**



## Dog Park at G Gallery in the Heights, 9/1/12

Barrio Dogs was a guest at G Gallery's opening for the exhibit "Dog Park" which featured wonderful dog-related art work. Many volunteers and a few of our rescue dogs attended and had a wonderful time.





**Blessing of the Animals at  
Christ Church Cathedral, 10/7/12**



Reverend Stein blessing Cooper with volunteer Buffy Martines; Cooper was so excited to be blessed!



Greyson being blessed; he was adopted by Edward Rodriguez and his family soon after



After being blessed, Kiddo found her forever home; pictured with Marjorie Jackson

# FOSTERS WANTED

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR  
FOSTERS FOR BARRIO DOGS

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.

Job Requirements: Must love dogs and have room in your home and your heart for a rescued Barrio Dog.

Salary: Self-rewarding.

Benefits: Endless amounts of unconditional love.

Job Requirements: Must be able to attend adoption events and have the time and patience to take care of a rescued dog.

TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION, GO TO  
[barriodogs.org/docs/fosterapplication.pdf](http://barriodogs.org/docs/fosterapplication.pdf)



**barriodogs.org**  
educate, empower & transform  
**info@barriodogs.org**



***Please donate to our cause!***

Barrio Dogs is funded entirely by donations. We are also staffed 100% by volunteers and have no overhead costs. All contributions go to our spay and neuter efforts, vetting, care and boarding for rescued dogs and community education efforts. Donations are tax-deductible; for more information or to donate, please visit us at [www.barriodogs.org/donate.html](http://www.barriodogs.org/donate.html).





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Barrio Dogs gear for  
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**Get it now.**  
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## Barrio Dogs' Volunteer Profile

### Gina Damian Moreno



I was born and raised in Houston's Near North Side. I am a licensed real estate broker residing in the East End -Magnolia Park area with my husband Mike Moreno. We are the parents of two dogs (Lola and Dakota), 4 cats (Sandy, Cookie, Oliver and Barrio Barbie) and 2

foster dogs (Sarge and Damian) and one foster cat (Zena).

The strong desire to help animals arose when I was 8 years old. I would see innocent stray kittens in the street. After realizing they needed a place to live, I began bringing them home. I would tell my mom they were just "visiting" until I could find them a home. Because I enjoyed them so much and grew to love them, it was very difficult to part with them so I would keep them. In late 2007, I had an encounter with a dog that changed my life. I was driving home when I saw what looked like skin and bones, a barely hanging on to life German shepherd lying in the middle of the street. I knew from that moment two things: one that I was going to do whatever it takes to save that dog and two, my life would never be the same. With the help of family and friends, Dakota was rescued.

The vet exam revealed she had severe mange, every worm affecting dogs existent on the planet, bloody open sores all over her body and very little hair. The vet recommended putting Dakota down believing that the damage was not reversible. That was not an option. After many months of extensive medical treatment, love and attention, Dakota turned the corner and survived. Her true beauty is now evident in her beautiful coat and her inner emotional scars, while not completely gone, are barely noticeable. One emotional scar that remained was that she would bark and attempt to bite human males.

Wanting to help other dogs in similar situations, I helped co-found a rescue group. It was a huge undertaking requiring a tremendous amount of time and became an emotional drain when faced with many heartbreaking situations where the resources were not available to help the animals. I took a break to recharge my batteries.



*Dakota before and after*

In 2011, I married Mike, a partner who supports my animal loving endeavors. Remember Dakota's anger toward men? Every time she comes inside the house, she immediately runs inside looking for Mike to give him a big wet lick on the face and to receive a big hug back. His love for her is helping eliminate her animosity towards males.

My husband Mike was born and raised in the Magnolia Park area. We moved into his rebuilt childhood home in the barrio after we were married. Soon after moving into the home, I noticed suffering dogs/cats in the street as soon as I would open the front door. I also noticed while driving in the neighborhood many dogs running loose in the streets malnourished, sick, suffering and dying. I would stop to feed them and give them water and would take pictures to chronicle their difficult lives. My camera is my diary. I also took pictures of these poor animals suffering so others could see and help stop it. The awareness of all the needless suffering in Houston's East End had begun for me.

My long-time friend Gloria Zenteno and I share the same passion for change and she had recently founded Barrio Dogs. After witnessing the need to help the many suffering dogs in the neighborhood, Mike and I volunteered as the Magnolia Park Community Leaders for Barrio Dogs. My pictures of the dogs suffering in the East End (primarily in the Hidalgo Park area) are shared with hundreds. Many dog lovers were appalled at the terrible condition of the animals and were unaware that this exists in one of the largest and wealthiest cities in America. I share the pictures on the internet so others can see the needless suffering these animals endure. The suffering they endure because we as humans have not understood just how important their lives are and how we should care for them accordingly. I share them because I want people to see that these beautiful and majestic animals that God created are still beautiful and majestic even in the terrible physical condition they may be in. I share them because I want people to imagine how much more beautiful and happy they would be if they were truly loved and cared for as they were meant to be. Finally, I share them in the hopes that people who are animal lovers will unite together to end this seemingly never ending cycle.



## Thank you, thank you, thank you!

To students from YES Prep in Houston's East End for holding a dog food drive for us in Mason Park



To Houston's Feast restaurant for making October 'Dogtober' month and donating a portion of their proceeds throughout the month to us



To the Boneyard for organizing and hosting the 'Boo Bash' to raise money for FixIt



To Natural Pawz for all the dog food donations and for hosting our monthly adoption events



To Jubilee for hosting the "Party for Pooches" to raise money and help us spread the word



*Do you want to build a movement to help the animals in your community?*



Animal overpopulation is a big problem throughout Houston. We are often asked to help in other areas but our work by necessity is focused on Houston's East End.

However, we are happy to share information and resources with anyone who wants to organize a movement to help the animals in their community. To learn more, contact us at [info@barriodogs.org](mailto:info@barriodogs.org).