



My daughter, Eliza, and I driving a transport of dogs up from Virginia.



Sadie (middle) heading off for a hike with our dogs Penny and Lilly.

I came to Chappaqua 23 years ago with my husband, Chris; chocolate lab, Layla; and a nine-month pregnant belly. Three kids and two more dogs later, we are still here. While many people move to Chappaqua for the schools, for me the biggest draw was the natural beauty. I have especially enjoyed hiking on our many trails with my dogs. First Layla, and now Penny and Lilly. Anyone who knows me will tell you that my dogs are a big part of my life.

Volunteering has always been important, so I figured out a way for Layla and me to volunteer together as a dog therapy team. We visited hospitals and senior homes, and as Layla got old and less mobile, we settled on the floor at the Chappaqua Library and kids read to her.



My husband, Chris (right) picking up 4 dogs flown north with Pilots to the Rescue.

Four years ago, my dog-loving daughter, Eliza, and I started to look for a way to volunteer as a family. Fostering dogs seemed perfect for all of us. The need for foster families was tremendous, and we were happy to be helpful. We reached out to A New Chance Animal Rescue (ANCAR) in Bedford Hills, and less than 48 hours later, our application was approved. Our first rescue, a beautiful shepherd mix named Frank, came into our home.

The ANCAR story resonated with us, as it began out of a 15-year-old girl's passion for saving dogs. Ten years and hundreds of happy dogs later, Sophia Silverman, the founder of ANCAR, continues to give many dogs a new lease on life. Most of the dogs ANCAR brings up are from kill shelters in the South, and many were abandoned or abused. ANCAR places each dog with an appropriate foster family, allowing them to settle into a warm, loving, and safe space.

The Beauty Of Fostering



Bowie (big guy on the right) settling in with his new forever home.



Our first foster, Frank.



My son, Andrew, with Boo.

Since Frank, our family has fostered 13 more dogs, and we have loved every one of them: Carter, Athena, Prudence, Bowie, Fonzi, Boozle, Taz, Kimmy, Freddy, Hope, Sadie, Michael, and Maximus. We have watched each dog relax into the comfort of our home, shed the stress of their former life, and reveal their true personality. Whether they stayed with us for two weeks or two months, we considered each one an honorary part of our family. People ask if it is hard to let go of a foster dog. Yes, it is! We get very attached. But there is something so unique and amazing about matching a dog with their perfect, new forever home. It is like filling a hole in a family's heart.

ANCAR desperately needs more foster families to continue their rescue work. Fostering is fun and a beautiful way for a family to do something rewarding together. There is nothing like looking into a rescue dogs' eyes and knowing that you are the bridge to their happiness. I hope I can inspire more families to experience this sort of joy.

For more information about fostering, volunteering, or adopting, visit anewchancear.org.