

Dear Friends,

After 12 years of the most rewarding work of my life I am moving to my next adventure. Consider this decision a casualty of Covid-19. Last year my family moved to Vermont so my daughter could attend in-person middle school. Now it is time for me to join them.

Out of belief in ***Building a Place for Happiness to Begin***, my dedication to Animal Welfare Association (AWA) and to ensure a smooth transition, I will be staying through the completion of the construction project and grand opening in early 2022.

The new space is far more than a building... it is home to unique community programs that include people in the work of saving pets' lives and makes AWA "more than a shelter!" We've come a long way in the past 12 years, and we are looking forward to many more years of service to the community.

I am excited to introduce AWA's next executive director to the talented and dedicated staff and volunteers who have given so much of themselves during this challenging time as well as to introducing him/her/they to YOU – many of our generous donors.

I started my work at AWA when my daughter was 18 months old and would accompany me down a wooded trail to the shelter lobby. Last week she accompanied me on a Hard Hat tour and left this message for AWA's next leader, "**Love the place.**

Love the animals. Great work happens at AWA every day. Good luck!"

I am very proud of all the work the board, staff and I have done in the past 12 years and look forward to watching the new leadership continue ***Building Happiness*** by enriching peoples' lives, saving pets' lives, and building a compassionate pet loving community.

Sincerely,



P.S. If you have any question, please feel free to contact me at mayar@awanj.org

