



Media Release

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Donor, Inspired by Mt. Hood Hero Dog, Names Assistance Fund

DoveLewis recently received a generous gift from a long-time donor to our assistance fund. To honor this individual, DoveLewis offered to name the fund after one of his family's animals. The donor instead asked that it be named after Velvet, the Mt. Hood dog. We are honored to immortalize Velvet's bravery, as well as our donor's generosity. The Velvet Assistance Fund will help many DoveLewis clients through one of their toughest experiences, just as Velvet helped her fellow climbers through one of theirs.

Velvet's owner, Matty Bryant, is a special education teacher in the North Clackamas School District. A group of students from Concord Elementary have created a mural with the theme, "How Velvet Makes Me Feel." It will be unveiled as the name is officially announced at a special event June 1.



Velvet is a classroom inspiration in the North Clackamas School District

When: Friday, June 1, 10:00AM

Where: DoveLewis, 1945 NW Pettygrove

What: School kids unveil mural dedicated to Velvet & DoveLewis' Assistance Fund

Many of us save money for a rainy day or an unforeseen emergency. But according to the Economic Policy Institute, indebtedness in U.S. households has risen 36% in the last four years. The Census Bureau reports almost 13% of Americans live in poverty. For some pet owners, a visit to DoveLewis poses a threat to their finances, which adds to their emotional strain.

How it Works:

DoveLewis offers financial help through Care Credit, a national financing company. If clients do not qualify for Care Credit, they can apply for help through the donor-supported **Velvet Assistance Fund**. The national poverty level helps determine a client's eligibility and the amount available. Since July 1, 2006, DoveLewis has given almost \$83,000 in financial assistance, an increase of 66% over last year! We expect to reach \$120,000 this year.

To make a donation to the Velvet Assistance Fund, [click here](#) and select the "Velvet Assistance Fund."

DoveLewis is Portland's 24-Hour Emergency and ICU Animal Hospital, offering advanced veterinary care in a state-of-the-art facility in Northwest Portland and in Southeast Portland's Plaza 205. DoveLewis also shares several 100% donor-funded programs with the community including one of America's largest volunteer-based animal blood banks, an award-winning animal assisted therapy program, a nationally recognized pet loss support program offering five free group therapy sessions each month, 24-hour stabilizing care for lost, stray and wild animals and financial assistance for low income families and owners of abused pets.