

SPLASH

A WRAPPORTS PUBLICATION

NOVEMBER 10-16, 2013

PARTIES

SERVICE
CLUB OF
CHICAGO'S
STUDIO 123

CHICAGO
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM'S
GALA

& MORE

LOST & FOUND

PAWS CHICAGO FOUNDER
PAULA FASSEAS
IS THE CITY'S CANINE CRUSADER



WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT ...
DINING &
LIBATIONS

THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK



CH Carolina Herrera

The fashion house brings its women's, men's and children's collection to a brand new Oak Street outpost, housed in the former Esquire Theater, a landmark as iconic as Herrera herself. 70 E. Oak; Carolinaherrera.com

H2O Plus Sea Lotus

The Chicago-based skincare brand has taken the plunge, unveiling new products based on the hydrating properties of water lotuses. Protect against dry winter weather with the line's skin smoother, body lotion and body wash. \$17-\$21, 845 W. Madison; H2Oplus.com



Grace Hayes linens

The line of upscale linens, founded by former Holly Hunt exec **Susie Mackenzie**, includes bedding, bath towels and cloth napkins, perfect for adding a luxe pop to any dinner party. Pieces start at \$36; Gracehayeslinens.com



Barrelhouse Flat Sunday service

To celebrate its new Sunday service, the Lincoln Park craft cocktail spot is concocting a boozy ice cream sundae each week. With scoops like homemade vanilla bourbon gelato and toppings such as Fernet whipped cream, Sunday has never been sweeter. \$7, 2624 N. Lincoln; Barrelhouseflat.com

AT THE SHOOT

Paula Fasseas welcomed the Splash team — and a half-dozen PAWS Chicago pups that will be up for adoption at the Fur Ball Nov. 15 — into her Gold Coast residence. We dressed her in Carolina Herrera gowns from Saks Fifth Avenue and draped her in jewels from PAWS supporter A. Marek Fine Jewelry — then surrounded her with dogs. Each of our staffers fell in love with a different four-legged friend; see the pics in our online gallery at Chicagosplash.com.

ON THE COVER

ON PAULA

Carolina Herrera: gown, \$5,999, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com

A. Marek Fine Jewelry: mixed-cut Spring diamond earrings, \$32,500; sapphire and diamond necklace, \$93,000; mixed-cut diamond bracelet, \$80,000; diamond line necklace, price upon request; cushion-cut sapphire

and diamond ring, price upon request; 3021 Butterfield, Oak Brook; Amarekfinejewelry.com

CREDITS

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Hair: **Darrin Goins for Anthony Cristiano**

Makeup: **Sarah Lukaszewicz for Amazing Cosmetics**

Styled by: **Kit This**

Shoot Coordinator: **Katerina Bizios**

"Adorable puppies mixed with amazing fashion ... this was a dream shoot for me! I have always been a huge dog lover and a supporter of PAWS."

— **photographer Kirsten Miccoli**



need to know

WHAT HAD YOU TWEETING



Alexandra Torissi
@atorissigirl:
@Suntimes_Splash
@AtelierAZZA
@luxurygarage
@ANNAFONG
Great fall fashion from some of Chicago's fav fashionistas!



eDrop-Off @ShopEdropOff: Great pic of our @CorriMcFadden in her @KryolanOfficial makeup at @Suntimes_Splash Halloween Ball!



1stWardEvents @1stWardEvents: Did you know our sister eatery has amazing food? Read up; check us out. Sunday Dinner: Chop Shop via @Suntimes_Splash

Tweet us: @Suntimes_Splash

SPLASH

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HAPPY HOUR SPOT?

"Monks' Pub [205 W Lake], especially if you can snag a table in the cozy little Library Room in the back. The beer list is also great."

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Founder
Michael Ferro

"I love grabbing a drink at Jellyfish [1009 N. Rush]. You can sit at the window overlooking Rush and people-watch."

"The Local Option [1102 W. Webster] in Lincoln Park. Along with 30 beers on tap (most of which I've never heard of before), they have awesome Creole food — get the swordfish tacos."

Splash is distributed weekly inside Sun-Times Media publications.

PUPPIES ON PARADE

All of these dogs will be available to adopt at the PAWS Fur Ball.

ON PAULA

Carolina Herrera: gown, \$3,690

Oscar de la Renta: coat, \$3,390

Courtesy of Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com

A. Marek Fine Jewelry: grey moonstone and diamond slice earrings, \$6,000; Cynthia Back diamond necklace, \$26,725, 3021 Butterfield, Oak Brook; Amarekfinejewelry.com

FUR LOVE & MONEY

Paula Fasseas, founder of PAWS Chicago, on finding the driving force, funds and families to save the city's pets

STORY BY ZAK STEMER | PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN MICCOLI

Seeing her in a sprawling Gold Coast residence, sitting in the (literal) lap of luxury, it's hard to believe that two months ago Josephina, a shy black-and-white terrier mix, was struggling to survive on the streets of Greece. But every dog has its day — and last September, she was lucky enough to be found by one of the country's foremost stray advocates: Paula Fasseas.

It's not the first time the founder of PAWS Chicago — the city's beloved no-kill animal shelter — has brought home a pup literally plucked from the streets while on vacation. But she's gone far beyond the occasional rescue; this business-savvy philanthropist has been the savior of thousands of cats and dogs, while reducing the number of euthanized pets in the city by 70 percent through spay/neuter programs in low-income communities.

On Nov. 15, the organization will host its biggest event of the year: the PAWS Fur Ball, a pet-friendly, black-tie gala where even the animals are encouraged to dress up. Started by luxury retailer Escada, the party has grown over the last 12 years to host more than 700 guests and 150 canines at the landmark Drake Hotel (140 E. Walton). With celeb supporters like Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan donating a private dinner and concert, PAWS hopes to soar past last year's \$1 million mark, with all proceeds benefiting its pet-saving services.

The whole operation began 16 years ago, when Fasseas had an awakening. She and her husband, founders of North Community Bank, were vacationing on the Greek island of Crete when a stray terrier followed their daughter, Alexis, back home. After learning the fate of Greece's stray dogs — according to Fasseas, they are poisoned by farmers — the family decided to add one more furry member, bringing Pippen home to Chicago.

"I started reading all things dogs," Fasseas remembers. "I started seeing articles about dogs being killed in Chicago and I was surprised. Why would shelters be killing dogs? I didn't see strays around here, so I didn't think that was an issue." Fasseas did some research at the city pound while Alexis volunteered at a humane shelter, and the two learned the troubling statistics that spurred them to action: At the time, more than 40,000 dogs in Chicago were being put down each year.

Armed with this new information, Fasseas set out with her two-pronged ap-

proach: Find homes for existing pets, and spay/neuter animals to reduce the future population.

Sixteen years later, she's built PAWS into the largest no-kill animal shelter in the Midwest and one of the largest in the nation. The organization gives medical treatment and a guarantee of life to every animal that enters its doors (only euthanizing animals that a behaviorist has certified as inherently violent or animals with untreatable suffering). Between PAWS' adoption, spay/neuter and vaccination programs, 36,000 animals come through its doors every year.

At its first event, PAWS had 26 dogs and found 26 homes. Fasseas remembers, "The next day, I had 50 calls to my office. People saying, 'That was fabulous, we want to help, what's the name of your group? We want to volunteer.'" That was in 1997. In 2012, she found homes for 5,606 cats and dogs.

Fasseas was at the forefront of a movement to make stray dogs more desirable to a purebred-loving public. Using classic marketing tools, she decided to "rebrand" her strays by hosting adoption events in luxe retail stores like St. John and Ralph Lauren, swaddling adorable pups and kittens in the labels' upscale reputations. Suddenly, PAWS pets were a point of pride — and adoptions soared. "Partnering with luxury retail was

an amazing combination. Ralph Lauren built a puppy bed out of mahogany and we put these homeless puppies in it and they got adopted like they were the most in-demand item. It helped change that whole image," Fasseas says. Now, "It's a badge of honor saying 'Oh, mine's a rescue.'"

Through PAWS, Fasseas oversees 5,000 volunteers, 100 staffers and four veterinarians. As any pet owner can attest, vet bills have a way of adding up, so the organization has a yearly budget of \$7.5 million (more than the city's animal control budget), raised entirely through philanthropy. That's why the Nov. 15 Fur Ball is such a critical fixture on the PAWS calendar: It raises 20 percent of the annual budget.

With the gala around the corner and new projects on the horizon (PAWS will be opening a Highland Park location in 2014), Fasseas is riding high. She's on track to transform Chicago into a no-kill city in the next three years. "We're on our way," she says. "When you see a problem like this that's so solvable, I felt that we had to get people in the community doing great things." And for Fasseas, it's been her goal to lead by example, changing the world four paws at a time.



Nov. 15, Drake Hotel,
140 E. Walton.
For tickets, visit
Furball.pawsevents.org.

PAULA'S PUPS

Since she started PAWS, Fasseas has been constantly taking in cats and dogs, adopting or fostering them until they find loving homes. She's lost exact count, but says that she's played mom to 250 to 300 four-legged friends. "Probably more," she laughs. Here are some of ones that have stood out to Chicago's resident pet patron.

DAISY: Daisy was Fasseas' first pup, a beagle that her godfather won in a golf game. "It went everywhere [with me]," she says. "My father said, 'There's a doghouse, the dog stays outside.' The dog never stepped foot in that doghouse. It was in my bed from day one."

KOUKLA: Fasseas fell head over heels for the long-haired Chihuahua when she saw her wandering a drive-in theater in Tucson. "She was the sweetest thing, just like a little doll," Fasseas says. Which is why she chose the name Koukla: It's Greek for "doll."

PIPER: "Piper was from our first adoption event," Fasseas remembers. "She had a cold and we were afraid if we took her back to animal care that we'd never see her again. It was sort of a failed foster."



Fasseas and Josephina

MORE ONLINE

For a behind-the-scenes video of our puppy-filled photo shoot, as well as more photos, go to Chicagosplash.com