

Plantation & Sunrise

The Herald

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LOCAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2000 BPS 17

THURSDAYS AND SUNDAYS IN THE HERALD

HOMETOWN HERALD www.herald.com



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ANIMAL LOVER: Artist Ron Burns, a resident of Sedona, Ariz., has made a career of depicting dogs and cats from animal shelters. His works were exhibited and sold at _____ in Plantation as part of a fundraiser.

Art exhibit raises money for homeless dogs, cats

BY TOM SCHWARTZ
Special to The Herald

Several dozen homeless animals were framed last weekend in Plantation. The dogs and cats from the Broward animal shelter were the subjects of paintings done by nationally known artist Ron Burns.

The works were exhibited and sold at _____

_____ as part of the store's Holiday Open House, a three-day event designed to raise funds for the Humane Society of Broward County in Dania Beach and increase awareness about animal overpopulation.

The _____ fourth annual Holiday Open House began Thursday evening with a reception and auction of an original work by Burns, who donated the auction's earnings to the Broward Humane Society. Burns also donated 10 percent of the sales from the pieces sold Saturday. All of the works featured local animals that need homes.

Burns, a resident of Sedona, Ariz., has made a career of depicting dogs and cats from animal shelters. He and event organizer _____



TAKE US HOME: Dixie and Dina were available for adoption at Three Dog Bakery during the the Humane Society's monthly visit there.

_____ said the event was not just a fundraiser. It was also intended to make more people understand the need for pet adoption.

"My goal is not so much to raise funds than it is to raise awareness and make sure that

some day there's never going to be a need for another shelter, and every animal will have a good home," said _____ a longtime volunteer with the Humane Society and owner of _____

▶ PLEASE SEE ANIMALS, 8

Art exhibit paints brighter picture for homeless animals

ANIMALS, FROM 1

Part of the awareness-increasing effort was a field trip Friday for 30 area youngsters to the Humane Society to help them better understand pet care. The Humane Society also scheduled its monthly visit to the same plaza as The Artful Framer, to coincide with Saturday's open house and help find homes for some of the pets in the shelter. Humane Society adoption

counselor Bridget Larvenz said half of the animals brought to the bakery were adopted Saturday morning.

Koch said sales of Burns' works were brisk Saturday as a steady stream of art lovers and curious shoppers visited the store in the Plantation Community Plaza. She said she was fortunate to have Burns as part of this year's event.

Burns has dedicated the past decade of his painting career to featuring dogs and

cats from animal shelters around the country. He began by painting his own pets, then, when his wife prevented him from selling those paintings, he visited an animal shelter seeking models.

He displayed his works at an art show in Los Angeles, and every piece sold quickly.

"I thought, 'Well, I'm on to something here,' and so I wrote a check for 10 percent of everything that I made on the paintings back to the shelter,"

Burns said.

The animal lover has continued to return 10 percent of his sales to animal shelters.

"Because I paint cats and dogs, I think it's my responsibility to do something cause-related that really keeps the cats and dogs alive and finds them homes," he said. "I'm giving back as much as they're giving to me. It's a nice reciprocal full circle."

Burns estimated that his life

is split equally between fundraising and creating new works. He produces between 50 and 75 new paintings a year, which are sold around the country in events similar to last weekend's show, as well as in galleries in Arizona and California. His work combines his passion for painting with an ability to help animals.

"It's nice being on your path. I'm doing what I love to do, which is paint, but the

cause side of it really fills your heart so much," he said. "It makes you feel good. I love to wake up in the morning to get going."

Unsold works from last weekend's event will remain on display for sale at

For more information, call the store at 475-0626. To inquire about the Humane Society's monthly visits to call the Society at 989-3977 or