

South Dade News Leader, Homestead

Burgess Family Earns National Honor

By Mike Dill Thu, May 24, 2012

BOOKMARK Facebook Twitter Email

For their dedication to rescuing, training and fostering stray dogs, the Burgess family was named Family of the Year for a national magazine.



"I started crying tears of joy," said Charelle Burgess as she read an email informing her that her family had been chosen as the Scholastic Parent & Child magazine Family of the Year.

The Burgess family was chosen from hundreds of entries from around the country for the compassion and commitment to rescuing and fostering dogs in need.

Charelle says she first heard about the contest on the radio and submitted an application in hopes to bring awareness of the work she does as a volunteer with This is the Dog!, a animal rescue in Homestead.

"I want to be able to give a voice to the animals," Charelle said. "I am proud of what we do and I am ecstatic for winning this honor."

In a statement from the magazine, the Burgesses' inspiring efforts to give back to their community and, more specifically, the canine community make them the perfect choice to be named this year's Family of the Year.

Since she joined 'This is the Dog!' twelve years ago, more than 2,000 animals have been placed in safe homes throughout Miami-Dade County. To date, the Burgesses have fostered approximately 25 dogs and have three dogs of their own. Charelle logs more than 40 hours a week volunteering and organizing monthly fundraisers, including local stand outs like "Yappy Hour," the "Strut Your Mutt" dog parade and an annual "Grrrage" Sale.

Charelle's husband, Homestead Vice Mayor Jon Burgess, helps train aggressive stray dogs by taking them on pack hikes. The couples' son, J.R. has also made his mark in the organization helping take care of dogs.

For his fourth birthday, J.R. asked friends not to give him presents, but to donate money to 'This is the Dog!' He raised \$100 through those donations.

"We are thrilled to recognize the Burgess family as our 2012 Family of the Year," says Nick Friedman, editor-in-chief, Scholastic Parent & Child. "They're active role models for their community when it comes to good pet ownership while also working to find solutions to improve the quality of lives for the thousands of homeless, sheltered, and endangered animals. They give a voice to those who have none and for that we honor them."

As first-prize winners, the Burgess family will receive \$20,000 in college savings bonds and is featured on the cover of Scholastic Parent & Child's June/July 2012 issue, which was released on Monday.

SEARCH

Type keywords and hit enter... Search

Recent Articles

Recent Blog Posts

- Voter Registration Deadline is Tuesday
- South Dade Win Puts Bucs in First Place
- The Moments That Mold My Life
- I Can Only Imagine
- Wounded Warriors Dive in Key Largo

Classifieds

Real Estate

Also In This Section

- Homestead Power New Control Room Online
- National Constitution Center gets a Homestead Flare from Local Florist
- Building Catches Fire, Injures Two
- Homestead Council Approves Original City Hall Design
- Beware of Unknown Fruit
- Mayor - Strong or Weak (Form) - Is One Better?
- Homestead Man Indicted for BP Claims
- YMCA Welcomes Members of All Ages
- Homestead Seniors Go For The Gold
- Homestead Council Agrees to Build New City Hall
- Local Groups Team Up to Install a New Roof at St. Matthew Mission Baptist Church
- Mayor - Strong or Weak (form) - Is One Better?
- Calling All Kids to Harris Field on Saturday
- Meet the New Superintendent for the South Region Schools Superintendent
- Two Subjects in Custody After School is Locked Down
- Cold War Exhibit at ENP
- South Dade High student wins Farm Bureau Speech Contest
- Man Arrested After Striking Officer with a Motorcycle
- We Will Never Forget