Oak Brook, Ill. — “Thanks a lot.” Lynn Wigley was smiling from ear to ear as she accepted The Humane Society’s very first KIND Youth Award. Lynn accepted the Award for the Charleston, Ill. KIND Branch Club called the Charleston Raccoons.

In presenting the Award, Dale Hylton, Director of KIND, pointed out that if it weren’t for the Raccoons, there probably wouldn’t be an adult humane society in Coles County, Illinois today!

Back in 1971 when they were starting up, the Raccoons couldn’t find a grown-up to help them. So, they went their own way. And what a way it was!

The Raccoons started out by visiting their local dog pound. They offered to clean cages, walk dogs, and bathe and groom the unwanted animals. They soon discovered that the shelter wasn’t being run very well. They put reports in the newspapers so that people would know about the dogs that were up for adoption. They went on a radio talk show and spoke about the bad conditions at the pound. Following the show, there was a new dog warden.

Soon afterwards, local adults became interested in animal problems, too. The grown-ups started a local humane society. The KIND members attended society meetings and helped the adults.

The Charleston Raccoons are still at it. They’re helping people and animals whenever they can. KIND is very proud of them. You should be too. They’re young people just like you.
Can Groundhogs Really Predict The Weather?

Can Groundhogs Really Predict The Weather?

Woody is supposed to wake up and come out to see if winter is over. Legend has it that if it's a bright, sunny day and Woody sees his shadow, he'll probably build a front porch at the doorway, so he can sit and watch the world go by. Groundhogs can't really tell or predict the weather. But it's nice to have a special day for them anyway.

Woody Woodchuck is a very special animal. Also called a groundhog, Woody is the only animal with a special day. It is February 2 every year. That's the day that Woody is supposed to wake up and come out to see if winter is over. Legend has it that if it's a bright, sunny day and Woody sees his shadow, he'll go back to sleep, because there will be six more weeks of winter ahead. If he doesn't see his shadow, it means winter is over.

Woody's long winter sleep is called hibernation. It's Nature's way to protect certain animals from the cold. Animals that hibernate grow fat in the fall and develop thick coats of fur. Then they get sleepy. When they settle down for the long winter's sleep their heart beat slows down from 72 beats each minute, to about four beats a minute. While asleep they breathe every four minutes, instead of every four seconds when they are awake! Their body temperature drops, too, so they can live all winter off the fat stored in their bodies.

Woody is a clever animal. He is a good home builder. His tunnel may be more than seven feet deep and 40 feet long. He also builds a special tunnel for flood control. The den is often built under the roots of a tree. The special sleeping chamber, below where the ground freezes (frost line), is packed with dry grass and leaves to keep him warm. If his tunnel is built on the side of a steep bank, he'll probably build a front porch at the doorway, so he can sit and watch the world go by.

Groundhogs can't really tell or predict the weather. But it's nice to have a special day for them anyway.

From You

Dear KIND,

I am an animal lover. I love your KIND newsletter! I like to help animals, but we have a garden by our barn and the raccoons keep getting at our pumpkins that we grow. So I get pretty mad!

Sincerely, Sally Beaumont, age 9

That's strange. Racoon's are supposed to prefer corn to pumpkins. In fact, some gardeners claim they keep raccoons from eating their corn by planting pumpkins in the corn patch. The idea is that raccoons won't go among the thick leaves of the pumpkin vines because they can't see an enemy coming. Raccoons can get through or over almost any kind of fence, so I don't know what to suggest. Perhaps if you planted some corn for them, they'd leave your pumpkins alone. — Ed

Dear KIND,

I am very much for your group. We already had 7 dogs, when we found out that a very obedient dog had to be taken to the pound. So the next day we took the dog and he was happy. We now have 10 dogs.

Yours truly, Clint Ingledue

Branch Club News

Our newest Branch Club is The Puppies. They are the third grade class at Balfour School in Hendersonville, NC. Mrs. Bondarenko is their teacher. The Puppies report they like everything about The Kindness Club. They each sent in their completed questionnaire, to tell your editor what they liked or didn't like about the newsletter. Welcome to our team, Puppies!
Dear friends,

Have you ever helped an animal, and then seen it say "thanks" with a special look in its eyes? That's always the very best reward. For a long time, KIND has wanted to honor KIND members who've done the most to help animals. Now the Annual KIND Youth Award can do that. And after the Conference, the Charleston Raccoons had their picture in the paper in their own home town!

Our KIND Award that lets you say "thank you" to kind people is important, too. Be sure to let us know about people in your community that you believe should be thanked.

With this special way of honoring kind people, 1975 should be the greatest year yet. Now's the time to begin new habits to help you be a better person. Remember to be friendly and helpful to others. Be cheerful and happy. Be kind. There's no limit to kindness. The more you share with others, the more happiness you'll find for yourself.

Of course, spreading kindness takes a little effort. There's nothing really free in the world. But anything you value is worth the price you pay for it. Our family, friends, and neighbors are precious treasures. Their friendship is worth the effort it takes to make them happy.

Some KIND members haven't renewed for 1975. If you are one, perhaps you just forgot. Use the coupon in last month's newsletter and renew your membership right away. KIND is worth it, isn't it? We try to give you the very best information. But we need your support to keep your newsletters coming. Renew in KIND today.

Your friend,