

The Women behind the Jane & Shirley Wurz Training Center

Born on June 11, 1925 in Utica, NY, Jane Wurz was the youngest of four children, including her older sister, Shirley. The two sisters were both independent, self-contained, individuals who were always ahead of the times.

Jane and Shirley were smart, well educated, and believed in always taking advantage of a great opportunity when it presented itself. Shirley led a successful career in education and university administration, having the distinction of being the first woman to become vice president in the state university system in New York. After receiving degrees in Business and Industrial and Labor Relations, Jane celebrated a thirty-year tenure at the CIA, and was awarded the Career Intelligence Medal for Career Achievement for her knowledge, acumen, and loyalty to her country.

Jane and Shirley were more than just sisters, they had been close friends all of their lives. Once they joined forces in retirement, there was no stopping the impact the two would create in the Martin County community – particularly for the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast. Fostered by their passion for Shetland Sheepdogs, Jane and Shirley were lifelong champions of responsible pet ownership. Through their involvement and volunteerism, Jane and Shirley experienced first-hand the exceptional work the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast does for its shelter animals. Shirley was one of a small group of foresighted women who purchased the land that the shelter presently occupies. The sisters were both founders and dedicated volunteers of the Thrift Store at HSTC. Shirley served as President for two terms, and was on the Board of Directors for more than twenty years. Meanwhile, Jane served as President of Animal Birth Control of Martin County. Jane and her sister made sure the two organizations worked closely in partnership throughout her 18-year tenure, during which, more than 2,500 animals were spayed or neutered. Their partnership in animal advocacy and protection was legendary in Martin County.

Jane's memorial gift for the Jane & Shirley Wurz Training Center serves as a fitting legacy to their lifelong love of dogs and to all of the positive change they accomplished throughout their lifetime. The Jane & Shirley Wurz Training Center will house the many programs, services, and activities at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, as the shelter continues to expand its reach throughout the community and serve more pets.