

Author is sister of BSHS After School Rocks leader Bonnie Chadderdon

Book published as tribute to shelter dogs and their adoptive owners

Titan's Tales and Other Dog Adoption Love Stories is a newly-published book that pays tribute to shelter dogs, their caregivers and their new families. Former Buchanan resident, Julie Holmes Chalpan (along with her husband, Keith), adopted Titan, a Jack Russell/beagle mix, more than 12 years ago from a shelter near Atlanta, Ga. Titan is now 14 and Mrs. Chalpan thought it was "high time" to write down his stories.

Mrs. Chalpan talked with 38 people from all over the country to hear their stories of how *they* were rescued by their shelter dog. The book is available for purchase at Almost Home, Buchanan Art Center, and the Union Coffee House in Buchanan; Your Kitchen Connection in Niles; and the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan in Benton Harbor. Two local dogs and their adoptive parents from Buchanan and Stevensville are included in the book, along with five former Michiana residents, including Mrs. Chalpan.

"This was a real labor of love for me," Mrs. Chalpan said. "As Titan gets older, it became more and more important for me to write down his stories, and I thought it would be great to share others' stories of how they were rescued by their dogs and the whole adoption experience."

Mrs. Chalpan is the daughter of Roma Holmes and Don Holmes of Buchanan, and sister of Bonnie (Holmes) Chadderdon of Niles. She has been volunteering with local shelters and dog-related groups

for more than a year now, and has supported the shelter from which Titan was rescued since they adopted him. Titan was rescued by the Gwinnett Humane Society, near Atlanta, Ga., from a no-kill shelter on his "kill day" at an animal control facility in north Atlanta. The Chalpan's are still in touch with the volunteer who rescued him that day, and in fact, she wrote the foreword for the book.

"We are so grateful for Titan's rescuer and thankful for all of the people who work tirelessly to save these wonderful dogs," Mrs. Chalpan said. "The uncon-

ditional love and pure joy a dog can bring to you and your family is not to be missed, and I am blessed to have Titan in my life."

When Mrs. Chalpan isn't writing books about dogs or playing with them, she runs her national public relations firm, Focus Unlimited PR.

For more information on *Titan's Tales and Other Dog Adoption Love Stories*, visit www.titanstales.com. A portion of each book sold will go to help local shelter groups, including the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan.



Author Julie Holmes Chalpan cuddles her dog, Titan.