

## Beacon To Publish Andover Non-Profits' Wish Lists

By Heather Makechnie  
Beacon staff

Christmas time is upon us. We all want presents! Yeah!

Well, it's a lot easier for Santa to know what to give us if we tell him what we want. So, all you non-profit organizations in Andover have a chance to send in your wish lists to *The Andover Beacon* by November 15. Your lists will be published in the Holidays 2008 issue, due in Andover mailboxes on Friday, December 12. Please e-mail your wish list to Heather@AndoverBeacon.com.

And for heaven's sake, don't be shy. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, as they say.

Do you think it would be more fun for the members of your group if they had three-dozen sets of playing cards? Ask.

Could your group pull a caper if it had a giant plastic pink flamingo? Ask

— ya never know.

Would more kids get to participate if they had warm woolen mittens? There are knitters in Andover.

Could you send out a newsletter each month if your organization had a case of printers' paper? Or ink cartridges?

Were you hoping to put on a dinner, but need cases of baked beans or tomato sauce?

Need to borrow a tractor for an afternoon to get a playing field in shape?

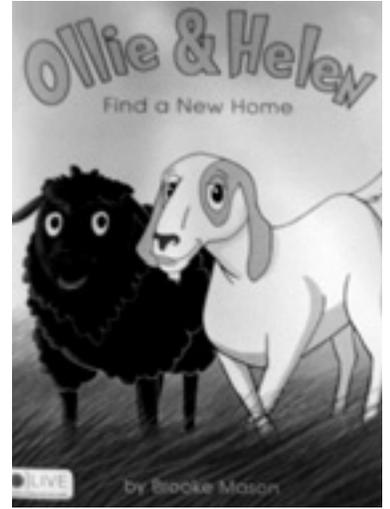
Need someone to design a Web site? Need rolls of pre-printed raffle tickets?

You get the drift. And there are lots of bigger things to ask for, too. Like a car in working condition to transport people from here to there. Or a gift card loaded with 50 gallons of gas for that car.

The sky is the limit here. But don't be surprised if Santa actually comes through. He has elves. Elves who live right here in Andover.



Brooke Mason's new book, *Ollie and Helen Find a New Home*, will be published soon.  
Staff photos: Heather Makechnie



## New Children's Book From Andover's Brooke Mason

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"Part of my childhood was spent on a farm in Meredith," states Brooke Mason. "Then, when I was a teenager, we moved to the city. I dearly missed my horses." The listener hears sorrow in her voice. Brooke grew up and went to college; first in business management and then in marine biology. "I love sea turtles," she says with her characteristic intensity.

Brooke has surrounded herself with animals at her new home on 837 Franklin Highway. Visitors will be delighted by the many goats and sheep and pigs and dogs and cats in the care of Brooke and her husband David, a local contractor. They may, perhaps, be sent home with some of the green eggs laid by her two-dozen Aracuna chickens.

"I've always been something of a tomboy," says Brooke. "I weave and spin wool, and do arts and craft projects. I make bread and yogurt in the kitchen. I am a great photographer. But I would much, much rather be outdoors with my animals any day of the year. You hear about the stubborn, self-sufficient New Englander? That's pretty much me," she chuckles.

Brooke has combined passion for her animal friends, her creative talent, and her dogged persistence, and now she is a published author. Her book, *Ollie and Helen Find a New Home*, is due to be released on January 20, 2009. The endearing children's book is about two of Brooke's farm animals; Ollie, a black sheep, "with fluffy wool as dark as night," and Helen, a goat "with long ears like a bunny rabbit."

"We searched online for a long time to find a publisher," said her husband David. "That process took awhile, and along the way we learned a lot about royalties, manuscript rights, publishing, distribution, marketing costs, and other legal issues." Luckily they came across Tate Publishing, a Christian-based, full-range publishing house out of Mustang, Oklahoma. "It was by far the lowest cost in the professional print-to-publish market. It will allow no profanity and is very choosy about the material it will accept."

Indeed, in 2007 Tate contracted with only 3.5% of the more than 7,000 authors who submitted manuscripts. "Once Brooke was accepted," continues David, "Tate has had constant contact with her."

Clearly, Brooke has created an above-average book. "When I am with my animals, I try to think what they must be thinking. That comes out in the book. And I try to ask the questions children would ask the animals, like 'What does hay taste like?'" The result is a book that will probably be read to groups of kindergarteners all over the world.

Brooke proudly adds, "There will soon be a Web site that goes directly to my book so people can look at it and get some information about it. This month I will have copies of my own to sell here at the house, as well as audio book copies, and posters and bookmarks. And just imagine, I will have to be at book signings!"

Brooke can be contacted at eakin222@msn.com.

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