

Headline: Saving Milky Way

Subhead: The Moooooving Story of Winchester the Cow Continues...

A few years ago, when Dr. Amanda Richline heard about a patient's child and her predicament, in true fashion she jumped at the chance to help. The young girl, named Julie, had raised a cow in 4H club, but according to the rules, Grand Champion winners at the local fair were to be sent to auction and sold for slaughter. Julie was devastated as this was the fate of her cow, Winchester—until Dr. Richline stepped in, that is.

You may recall the stories and press releases back in October 2010 with headlines reading “Local Podiatrist Saves Steer from Slaughter.” Dr. Richline set a record-high bid to save Winchester from certain demise, and Julie from absolute heartbreak. It seems like a happy ending, only the story does not stop there!

Fast forward to November, 2014, when Dr. Richline held an open house to support local businesses in the community, and to show appreciation for her patients. Julie and Winchester were invited, and it was a wonderful reunion. Dr. Richline was thrilled that Winchester had grown from a 1500 pound Grand Champion, to a 2,120 pound happy and healthy, retired steer. She was even more thrilled to find out that Julie was using the money from Winchester's sale to fund her college tuition. The realization of how much good came from a single day at an auction inspired Dr. Richline to do it all again.

As fate would have it, the Pennsylvania Farm Show was taking place in January. It was here that Dr. Richline met Milky Way the cow and Jade, the girl who raised him from birth. As soon as she heard their story, she immediately knew this was the one. Sadly, Milky Way had lost his mom when he was just 2 days old. Without hesitation, Jade took on the role as his mother, bottle feeding him 2 to 3 times a day, nurturing him along. Needless to say, their relationship grew so close that Milky Way became a dear pet—loved like a member of the family. Jade was heartbroken at the thought of losing him. Dr. Richline knew she had to save him, but it wasn't going to be easy.

As the country's largest indoor agricultural exposition, you can imagine the droves of top butchers, steak houses, and well-respected organizations that were there from all across the nation—some fierce competition, all vying for coveted Grand Champion meat. After a long day of waiting for Milky Way to take the stage, a grueling and intense bidding process began, but Dr. Richline refused to back down no matter how long it took or how high the competitors went. In the end, she accomplished exactly what she had made up her mind to do—she outbid them all and saved Milk Way's life! Jade was elated at this twist of fate. After the sale was finally over, the doctor went to see the lucky steer. You can tell by the pictures—as he lays his head on her shoulder, then kisses her on the cheek—he seemed to know, because of her, he was going to be okay.

Now Milky Way, like Winchester, will be living the rest of his days lounging in the pastures, carefree and happy; the money from his sale will be used toward Jade's college education; and everyone will live happily ever after, all thanks to Dr. Amanda Richline, who continues to show us all what determination, compassion, and kindness can do.