

For Immediate Release

Dayna Hilton, 479.979.7328
daynark@gmail.com

FROM RESCUED DOG TO FIRE SAFETY DOG; HERO CANINE CREDITED WITH SAVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES DIES AT AGE 12

Fire safety educators, friends and families across America mourn the loss of Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog

Clarksville, AR – October 29, 2010 – Dedicating her life to helping save the lives of children and their families, Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog, from Clarksville, Arkansas, has died at the age of 12. Adopted in 2003 by Firefighter Dayna Hilton from the Dalmatian Assistance League in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sparkles led a challenging life until she was rescued from a home with 62 other dogs.

An invaluable member of the fire service, Sparkles helped spread the fire safety message through her fire department, Johnson County RFD #1, Keep Kids Fire Safe® Foundation, and the 24-hour preschool television channel *Sprout*, reaching millions of children and their caregivers. Sparkles assisted her department's firefighters and the foundation with hundreds of fire safety programs on the local, state and national level.

“Our hearts go out to Firefighter Dayna and all those mourning the loss of this extraordinary canine, pet, friend, ambassador and hero,” states Jenni Glenn, Vice-President of Communications and Marketing for Sprout. “Although Sparkles is no longer with us, she will forever be remembered by all those whose lives she touched and all the children she helped to educate about fire safety. Sparkles helped Sprout share life-saving fire safety messages on-air with thousands of parents and preschoolers over the past several years and she will be greatly missed.”

In her brief years as a four-legged fire safety educator, Sparkles participated in a Congressional briefing in Washington, DC and appeared on *FOX and Friends* in New York City, as well as having her photo appear on a jumbotron on Times Square in New York City. Her efforts were also mentioned on the Floor of Congress and in a Senate committee hearing meeting.

Sparkles was the star of her own critically acclaimed, award-winning children's fire safety books, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* and *Sparkles Goes to Boston*. Sparkles and the books were credited with helping save the lives of two children and their families. Additionally, Sparkles was featured in several newsletters, websites, blogs and magazines across the globe and will be featured in several books in 2011.

Meri-K Appy, President of the Home Safety Council stated, “Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog will be remembered by her legion of fans -- past, present, and future -- as a safety icon. Sparkles made a real difference in the lives of children and families across America. Her legacy will continue to inspire fire and life safety educators everywhere to follow in her pawsteps in spreading her lifesaving message.”

Sparkles' work will continue on her [fire safety website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [blog](#), and through the work of her companion fire safety dogs, Tango and Siren.

Memorial service arrangements for Sparkles are pending. Memorial contributions to help continue the work of Sparkles may be sent to the Keep Kids Fire Safe® Foundation, 106 East Poplar Street, Suite 200, Clarksville, Arkansas 72830 or by visiting the foundation's website at www.keepkidsfiresafe.org.

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More photos of Sparkles may be found [HERE](#).