



## Healing Species founder honored by Traditional Home magazine

In March, Traditional Home magazine turned to its 4.2 million readers to nominate women for the magazine's third-annual Classic Woman Awards honoring women, who through their exemplary acts of volunteerism and outstanding contributions, are making a difference in the world.

The magazine's editorial staff considered the nominations and chose five women to honor who truly are changing the world one day, one person at a time.

Cheri Brown Thompson of Orangeburg is one of the five women being honored at the magazine's Classic Woman Awards in New York City on Oct. 10 and featured in the Nov. 2007 "Classic Woman" issue.

Thompson founded The Healing Species, a violence prevention outreach program incorporating the help of rescued dogs, after her work as a lawyer opened her eyes to how many convicted violent offenders first abused animals.

Since 1999, The Healing Species has relied on rescued dogs to teach children in classrooms how to understand and overcome abuse, neglect and grief while teaching life skills in self-esteem, conflict resolution, anger management and respect for the feelings of others. The Healing Species reaches more than 3,000 children each year in South Carolina alone, and satellites have also been established in Seattle and Miami, with plans for further expansion.

"Cheri, the other award recipients and all of the nominated women display a depth of individual commitment that we are humbled by," says Ann Maine, editor-in-chief of Traditional Home. "Our Classic Woman Awards give us an opportunity to celebrate the true spirit of volunteerism and to honor some of the women who are working so diligently to make our world a better place."



Thompson will join Maine in New York City in October, where she will be honored at a luncheon co-hosted by CNN's Soledad O'Brien. In addition, The Healing Species will receive a contribution from Traditional Home.

Additional Traditional Home Classic Woman Awards honorees and their causes are: Nancy Ahlberg Mellor, Richmond, Calif. (Coalinga-Huron-Avenal House); Sandy Haggart, Glenview, Ill. (Feed the Dream); Pat Rowe Kerr, Jefferson City, Mo. (Missouri Veterans Commission/Operation Outreach); and Florence Reed, Surry, Maine (Sustainable Harvest International).

A Classic Woman Awards interview series will air on the Satellite Sisters radio program, the media partner for the 2007 awards, on Wednesdays from Sept. 5 to Oct. 12. Satellite Sisters can be heard on XM satellite radio (channel 155) and more than 90 local stations nationwide. The entire Classic Woman Awards interview series will also be available online at [www.satellitesisters.com](http://www.satellitesisters.com).

In addition to the Classic Woman Awards feature, the entire November issue of Traditional Home focuses on giving back. The companies, designers and homeowners are all committed to bettering their communities. O'Brien, First Lady of California Maria Shriver and Inside Edition's Deborah Norville are profiled as well. The Classic Woman issue hits newsstands Oct. 16.