

enough to grab the dog and help him swim back to shore.

Trostle's effort, Shea acknowledges, "was pretty ballsy on her part."

Trostle, who has been swimming since age 4, says she was "not really" worried about her own safety. "I was more worried about Gabe, the boy, because he had apparently fallen in the ice before anybody had gotten there, trying to get his dog. And I knew that if I did not do something, or if the deputy sheriffs didn't do anything, then he was gonna go after his dog again, and as a mother I didn't want that to happen. It was like my mother instinct and my adrenaline just took over."

After dog and owner were reunited on shore, Trostle had her vital signs checked by emergency medical personnel. Her health was fine, and she declined the offer of a ride to the hospital. After changing into some dry clothes delivered by her husband, Trostle returned to the shelter shortly after 6:30 p.m. and finished her shift, which ran until 10.

The deluge of attention came afterward, as Middleton's video from the *Salina Journal* was posted on websites ranging from YouTube to ZooToo Pet News. "Everybody I know in 85 states has called me," says Shea, adding that he saw the rescue reported on CNN.

Trostle doesn't see herself as a hero, but that hasn't stopped others from singing her praises. "The actions by this animal control officer saved not only the dog in distress, but also the young man who was desperately trying to save his animal," notes Joan Willoughby, deputy director of emergency services for The Humane Society of the United States. "Her courage represents the very best in ACOs—and mothers!"

Trostle heard from admirers in such far-flung locales as California, Georgia, and Texas. Gabe's grandmother, Sue Seim, brought Porter by the shelter and told Trostle, "I want you to know that you're forever in my heart." The ACO also received flowers from the family.

"It does make me feel good," Trostle concedes, despite her preference for keeping a low profile. "... As I told everybody else, I would do it again." AS

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