



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT: James Haydu, 206-774-5225 or james@pikeplacemarket.org

After a Month in the “Hospital,” Rachel the Piggybank and Pike Place Market’s Beloved Mascot Will Return Home on Friday, March 18

But first she’ll make a daily stop at six of her favorite locations around Seattle – then re-enter the Market in grand style

SEATTLE – The Pike Place Market’s beloved mascot Rachel the Piggybank will be released from “doctors” care the week of March 13 after recovering from being struck by a taxicab that ran into her in early February.

Since 1986 she’s proudly stood guard under the Market’s famous clock and sign acting as fundraiser for the Market Foundation, whose mission is to raise money and awareness for the four human service agencies based in the Market Historic District and include the Pike Market Medical Clinic, Pike Market Food Bank, Pike Market Childcare & Preschool and the Pike Market Senior Center.

While not sustaining life-threatening injuries during her February accident, Rachel did have a few things that needed serious examination and repair after the incident.

“Besides numerous scrapes and small abrasions the most visible injury was a 10-inch crack that opened up along the top of Rachel’s left ear and a large but shallow dent on her left side. We carefully welded the crack and sanded the abrasions and she’s good to go after a couple of weeks of rest and recovery,” noted Dr. (heh) Whidbey Island artist Georgia Gerber – who is responsible for creating and bringing Rachel to Pike Place back in 1986.

But before Rachel resumes her work as the full time fundraiser (i.e. piggybank) for the Market Foundation, she’s going on tour. Beginning Sunday, March 13 she will be making appearances on a daily basis at some of her favorite places around town. Her schedule is:

Sunday, March 13: **The Space Needle from 10am-3pm**
Monday, March 14: **Coleman Dock from 2pm-6pm**
Tuesday, March 15: **City Hall from 10am-3pm**
Wednesday, March 16: **SAM (Seattle Art Museum) from 10am-3pm**
Thursday, March 17: **Occidental Park (Pioneer Square) from 10am-3pm**
Friday, March 18: **Westlake Plaza from 9am to 1pm**

Rachel will be toddling around town on the back of the Market's vintage 1936 farm truck. And, after her last appearance at Westlake Plaza the morning of March 18, she will make a grand re-entrance into Pike Place Market and be met at 1st Avenue and Pike Place by some cheering clients from the Market-based four human service agencies she helps raise money for, as well as other Market merchants, customers and fans.

"We'll be thrilled to have Rachel return. We've missed her terribly, as have her many, many admirers. More than 10,000 low-income, downtown Seattle residents rely on the Market's Clinic, Preschool, Food Bank and Senior Center to get by. We'll be happy as a pig in mud to have Rachel back doing her job collecting money for those programs," says Marlys Erickson, who serves as Executive Director at the Market Foundation.

Rachel's "triage and medical team" was comprised of artist Georgia Gerber, Randy Hudson and welder Virginia Keck.

###