

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Shari Yound

The majority of Pets for Life's volunteers visit facilities with their pets. We do, however, have several volunteers who are actively involved without their furry companions. Let me tell you about Shari Yound.

Shari works at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and has a great deal of knowledge about computers. Over the past year, she has donated her time and talent to help move Pets for Life from paper and pencil record keeping to an Access database. With Shari's expertise, we have been able to more accurately keep track of our volunteer teams and their visits. We are now able to document an average of 9,571 adults and children being helped by animals each month. What an amazing statistic!

Shari has also developed a database to record our donations, manage our mailing list, and print our volunteer and facility directories. We are also able to record information on all those attending our orientations as potential volunteers. She has already helped us get started on our next project, entering data on our animals to keep track of their need for vaccination updates and two year re-certifications.

Thank you Shari, for sharing your computer skills with Pets for Life. We greatly appreciate all that you are doing. Hugs to your two furry friends, Otis and Barney.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!

Logging the most volunteer visits, please join us in congratulating our Volunteer Teams of the year for 2008:

Evening/Weekend team – Kristy Stallings and BAXTER

Weekday – Kathy Madsen and RENEE

Pets For Life, Inc., Executive Committee: Joe Sanches, President; Donna Amato, V. P. Development; Sharon Rush Williams, Secretary; John McGee, Treasurer; Judy Thomasson
Pets For Life Staff: Mary Buford, Program Director; Kathy Watkins, Office Assistant; Jane McDowell, Office Assistant

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Pets for Life – Who are we?

Many studies have been conducted which prove the profound effect animals can have on the physical and mental well being of elderly and handicapped citizens. Pets for Life, Inc., has joined animal assisted therapy groups across the country in this valuable, yet simple practice of employing animals to improve the quality of life for the less fortunate. Animals minister to everyone, regardless of race, color, creed or age. They do not care if a person has teeth or both legs, or even if they can speak or complete a sentence. The love of an animal knows no limitations.

In 2009, Pets for Life has 178 volunteers serving 82 facilities in the metropolitan area. Our focus on nursing homes has now expanded to include hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, shelters for domestic violence and facilities for troubled youth, corrections centers and hospice. Our volunteers have made over 500,000 visits since Pets for Life began in 1984.

Congratulations as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Pets for Life, Inc., helping people in our community.

IN APPRECIATION

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration featured a special video presentation showing Pets for Life volunteers in action. This tribute was made possible only through the generous efforts of: David Knisley – Videographer; Steve Bell – Writer; David Lawrence – Narrator; and Dick Espy - Editor. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to these individuals and to Level ITT&D and The Video Works for their significant contributions of time, talent, and creative energy in this effort.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS *Annual Pet Party*

Celebrating our 25th year of volunteer service to the Kansas City metro community, we were treated to the special privilege of meeting at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, Ks. The event began at 12:00 noon with the Blessing of the Animals, by Donna Mueller, Community Christian Church. This year's banquet featured the rich colors of hunter green and silver. A delicious & bountiful buffet was served for all of the "humans" and a tasty treat buffet was enjoyed by all pets present. A welcome to all volunteer teams, special guests and board members was extended by Kansas City's own Joel Nichols from KMBC News. Following the Pet Parade and Costume Contest, Joel introduced our keynote speaker, featured columnist with the KC Star, Charles Gusewell who entertained us with his charming wit.

Special recognition was given to Board Member Daniel Hecker, DVM. Also recognized was our first Executive Director, Patsy Shawver. Without the early involvement of these two individuals Pets for Life would not be the success it is today. Cid Gillispie was presented a portrait, done by Dave Marak, of her therapy dog, RANGER, in recognition of his being the longest running pet volunteer for 2009. Each volunteer team was presented with a "goody" bag, a special, commemorative booklet and a DVD copy of the original, televised, 60 Minutes that was the inspiration for William and Harriett Snyder to become founders of Pets for Life, Inc.

We thank the following volunteers for their contribution to a memorable celebration this year: see page 2

Committee Members

Hon. Kathleen Forsyth, Committee Chairperson
Donna Amato, John McGee, Joe Sanches,
Judy Thomasson,
Sharon Williams, Pat White.

Book Sale Donations

Charles Gusewelle and Jeannine Fox

Games/Contests/Junior League Volunteers

Maria and Erin; Nancy Robinson; Jane McIntyre

Event Photographer - Mike Thomasson

Event Invitations/Booklet & Printing

Alison Saunders & Wurst Printing

Audio/Visual Set Up -Claire Jones

PetCostume Contest

HANNA Kittinger as an Elf with Mike/Julie

NACHO Miro as Dogzilla with Mary

BLAKE Fitzgerald as an Indian with Karen

Best Team: ETHAN-Chief's player &

FIONA-Chief's Cheerleader with Julie Krogh, DVM

Best Tail Waggers

JOSIAH Arlund with Pam; CUSTARD Cain with Rita

VICTOR Kemp with Susan

Best Trick-sters

FIONA Krogh jumped over Ethan and
Read cards to Julie

LLEW Lancaster went through Fran's legs as she walked

LOLA Saunders performed "Please, please" and HI 5

Treat Toss - HANNA Kittinger with Mike

Largest Pet is BRODY Hines at 136 lbs. with Janet

Smallest Pet is JC Krauer at 4.2 lbs. with Keith

Oldest Pet is BEAR Kattner at 13 years with Bill

Youngest Pet-HANNA Kittinger, 2 with Mike

Sponsors

University of Kansas Medical Center
Claridge Court

Delmar Gardens of Overland Park

St. Joseph's Medical Center

Medicalodge of Gardner

Providence Place

White Oak Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

(now Cherry Hill Community and

Rehabilitation Center)

In Appreciation

Bed Bath & Beyond • Berbiglia • Dalton's Florist

Paula Gangel • Jack Sladkey

R.E.A.D

Teams form partnership with
Reach Out and Read--Kansas City

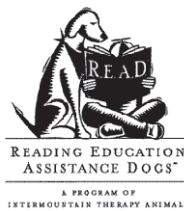
During this past spring, several R.E.A.D. Teams with Pets For Life, Inc. began an association with Reach Out and Read--Kansas City at the Cabot Westside Health Clinic. Reach Out and Read is a national nonprofit organization that promotes literacy by giving new books to children at every check-up from birth to five years with a special emphasis on children growing up in poverty. All the Reach Out and Read clinics train their doctors, nurses, and staff to help advise parents about the importance of reading aloud. Since reading is the single most indicator of school success and good health, the

R.E.A.D. Teams were delighted to have this opportunity to support the efforts of this national organization on the local level. As trained volunteers with the ROR--KC Program, you will see the R.E.A.D. volunteers and their dogs surrounded by young children who listen to stories or read stories aloud as they await their turn to visit with the medical staff.



Reach Out and Read was founded at Boston City Hospital in 1989 through a collaboration of pediatricians, family physicians, nurses, and early childhood educators. Robert Needman, MD, ROR Co-founder, said, "Reach Out and Read started as a simple solution to an obvious problem: waiting rooms without books. Reading aloud was important for young children, and pediatricians had a special opportunity to reach their parents. It was a patently good idea. But if it had been nothing more than that, it would have withered away. Instead, ROR has grown, nurtured by the passionate and inspired efforts of many educators, doctors, corporations, foundations, and politicians." Reach Out and Read--Kansas City began in 1997 as a collaboration between pediatricians at Childrens Mercy Hospital and KU Pediatrics at KU Medical Center. There are 43 clinic sites in the greater Kansas City area supporting our community's most vulnerable children.

The Pets For Life, Inc. R.E.A.D. Teams are proud to be partners in this educational process. We commend the Borders Bookstore at 91st Street and Metcalf that has supplied thousands of books to the Cabot Westside Health Clinic in their effort to support literacy.



The R.E.A.D. Program which began in Salt Lake City, Utah, just celebrated its 10th Anniversary on November 14th. Senator Orrin G. Hatch presented a Resolution before the Senate declaring November 14th as National Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) Day. In his Resolution, Senator Hatch said, "...Mr. President, after ten years of results, the program has proven to be incredibly successful in helping children who are struggling with this most crucial and basic of skills.

Simply put, this is a program that fills a vital place in the spectrum of a child's literary education and with over 2,400 voluntary therapy teams around the world, it would be, Mr. President, not overstating the case to say this program has touched and improved thousands of young lives." Our PFL R.E.A.D. participants are able to attest to the success of this program as they watch the growth made by children in need of reading and literacy support.

For more information about the R.E.A.D. Program, please contact Fran Lancaster (fransdogs@kc.rr.com), licensed R.E.A.D. Instructor.

Pets Helping People ...

Gifts from individuals, foundations, and businesses make it possible for us to continue our mission. We are grateful for the contributions we have recently received:

The Coleman Family	\$ 890.00
Wal-Mart, US HWY. 40, KCMO	\$1,500.00
Sam's Club in Grandview	\$1,000.00
Wal-Mart in Roeland Park	\$1,000.00
Curry Family Foundation	\$2,000.00

"Blessing of the Animals", October 4.

Thanks to Pam Graves, with FRANKIE, for organizing our exhibit, and the Volunteer Teams who helped: Douglas Daniels with DANTE, Sharon Fields with KRINGLE, and Greg Loser with BROOKE. We were fortunate to welcome Board member, and author, Jeannine C. Fox as our featured speaker. We are very grateful for the hospitality of the church, allowing us to bring FRANKIE indoors, thanks to Donna Muller, LM, Minister of Community Life, and the generous donation from the church.

Dogtober Fest, Oct. 18,

Kudos to Pam Graves for organizing our all day exhibit; setting up and scheduling the Volunteer Teams who helped: Angela Amos, Sharon Fields with KRINGLE, Ronda and Greg Hays-Tims with ANGEL, and Marty Letourneau with STANTON Mark next year's calendar now for the 2010 Pet Expo on April 17, and April 18. We need volunteers to represent us at this annual event! Contact Pam Graves: madisonsgranny@aol.com if you are interested and available!

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As this year comes to a close, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers who came out to help recruit in 2009; this is one way for PFL to grow and become known in and around our community.

"SMILE...LUCKY LOVED YOU"

A tribute by Jenny Pope



LUCKY was outside Sunday night taking care of business when I heard him yelling in pain. When I found him it was easy to see that his leg was broken. How do good legs break and for no real reason? It was bone cancer. Osteosarcoma... what an ugly word. There were two options... amputate or the one I chose.

LUCKY came by his name when my Dad drew his name out of the dog dish at the pound. LUCKY... my million dollar pound puppy, worth his weight in gold. LUCKY loved to play fetch. He could go on forever if you would just throw the ball for him. He always wanted to play, even when that "bad" leg slowed him down. He was not a "dumb dog" either. He knew where the good stuff came from and he camped out right in front of the oven in mom's kitchen. He loved to walk; many miles with Amy and Beth were logged as they trained for the Breast Cancer 3 day. LUCKY loved riding in the car, always staking out half the back seat for himself. Anyone else in the back seat had to make do with what space was left. In spite of his ticklish feet, LUCKY loved to be touched. It made him a great Pets for Life volunteer. He made many visits and generated many smiles.

I will miss it all... the hair, the head shakes, the cold, often wet nose; the way he would cock his head when I talked to him, the warm soft fur, ...everything. LUCKY was with me through a lot tough times and many good times. He guarded me in the bathroom and kept me warm at night. I will miss him with all my heart. He was my best friend. He knew all my secrets. He truly was very special. I hope you have a "LUCKY" in your life at some point. Thanks for being our friend. -- Jenny

Welcome to the Team

As we welcome the following new volunteer teams, we wish them the best of luck and the most positive of experiences in their new roles:

Meda Bower and MOCHA

James Haley and SAMMY

Barbara and Duane Unruh and SANDY

Kathy McKenzie and KIKKA

Marsha Orrick and MICKEY

Amy Cada Ph.D. and LIAH

Pam Arlund and JOSIAH

Kristy Oldham and BAXTER