

PETS FOR LIFE NEWSLETTER

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOHN MCGEE

As you can see, Pets for Life, Inc. has a new look. During this year, your Board defined a strategic plan for the future of our organization. It included operations, publicity, financial and education/program issues. Committees for each were established and work started immediately. The new logo and newsletter are initial results of this work. More changes will be incorporated in the future, and you will be informed of these over the next year. We are excited to bring these changes to our evolving organization.

Additionally, PFL celebrates its 40th anniversary this month and a party is planned for Saturday, November 2nd. More details are in this newsletter, and we hope to see you all at this celebration.

All our volunteers are crucial to our mission as we continue to better serve the Kansas City community. I sincerely thank all past and present volunteers who have made PFL the success it has become since its humble beginning in September 1984. Suggestions and recommendations for the future of PFL are welcome as we go forward with our objectives.

In closing, we PFL active volunteers will elect new officers and directors at our Saturday, December 14th Volunteer Annual Meeting. There are several PFL Board Director positions for 2025-2026 to be filled. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board, please contact the office. I hope to continue as the organization's Treasurer in 2025 but too welcome new leadership as PFL strategizes for the future.

NEW LOGO

To honor our 40th anniversary and to reflect the ongoing evolution of our organization, the Pets for Life Board is proud to present our new logo. This logo better reflects the services our volunteers and their pets offer.

Over the next year we will transition to this new logo phasing out the original one. In the meantime, continue to use your cards and wear the shirts/bandanas/etc. with the original logo.



R.E.A.D.: READING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOGS

Shared by Fran Lancaster



Have you ever wondered what happens during a R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs -- and Cat) session?

Pets for Life volunteers are invited to satisfy their curiosity by observing the R.E.A.D. teams in action during our 2024 fall sessions in Johnson County Libraries. The sessions are from 3:30 to 5:00.

If you wish to observe a R.E.A.D. session, please contact Fran Lancaster at fransdogs@kc.rr.com to confirm your visit.

It will be such an enjoyable experience as you watch the interaction between the children and the dogs working together!

Blue Valley Library
Oct. 14 and Nov. 18

Central Resource Library
Oct. 3 and Nov. 14

Shawnee Library*
Sept. 18; Oct. 16; Nov. 20
(*sessions temporarily moved to the Shawnee Civic Center next door to the library)

Lenexa City Center Library
Sept. 23, Oct. 28 and Dec. 2

Corinth Library
Sept. 26, Oct. 24 and Dec. 5



SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PETS FOR LIFE

Saturday, November 2, 2024

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Powell Community Center - Mission, Kansas

Awards, Door Prizes, Lunch and more. Bring your pet and come celebrate 40 years of PFL! We are looking for old and new photos of you working with your pet. Send photos to: petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com. More details will follow, but in the meantime, mark your calendars for this special event.

PASSING OF WILLIAM B. LOWENSTEIN

Shared by John McGee, President

William B. Lowenstein, former Pets for Life Director, passed away July 30, 2024; two weeks shy of his 98th birthday. He served on the Pets for Life Board of Directors from our beginning in 1984 and for many years contributed valuable advice and financial support. I personally admired Bill's wonderful demeanor and cheerful outlook on life.

WELCOME TO PETS FOR LIFE'S NEWEST VOLUNTEER TEAMS

Braxton Hill and Ace

Chris Kerth and Cooper

Cindy Deveaux and Gigi

Ryan Murray and Sanders

Michelle Fort and Winnie

Allison Carezza and Ollie

Rodney Jacobs and Chief

Ashley Linz and Lulu

Melinda Brents and Lennon

Bethany Austin and Buddy

Stephani Briggs and Charlie



FACILITIES REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS

Greenwood Terrace Senior Living
 11150 Greenwood St.
 Lenexa, KS 66215

Greenwood is an independent living facility. Therapy visits can be conducted in a common room, room to room or even outside. The facility requests visits on Wednesdays.

There are 5 dogs living in the facility and some cats that do not leave the resident's room.

Ignite Medical Resort - Rainbow Boulevard
 3910 Rainbow Blvd
 Kansas City, KS 66103

Ignite is a rehab/therapy facility who would like to start all visits in the communal room. They will gather those patients interested in seeing the dog. There will also be some room to room visits.

Best time to make visits is Monday afternoon around 1:30 p.m.

Vintage Park of Lenexa
 8710 Caenen Lake Rd
 Lenexa, KS 66215

Vintage Park is an Assisted Living community. They welcome visits any day except for Thursdays.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, October 20
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dogtober Fest
 Kemper Outdoor Center
 Blue Springs, MO

Sunday, October 27
 2-4 p.m.

Howl-O-Ween
 John Wornall House
 6115 Wornall Road
 Kansas City, MO

Saturday, November 2
 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

40th Anniversary Party
 Powell Community Center
 6200 Martway Road
 Mission, KS

Tuesday, October 22
 3-9 p.m.

Bier Drink to Donate
 KC Bier Company
 79th St., Kansas City, MO

\$1.00 from every full sized bier poured during this timeframe will be donated to PFL.



Saturday, December 14
 1-3 p.m.

PFL Annual Meeting
 Location TBD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

VCA Fairway Animal Hospital \$520

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Kristen McLane \$10

Rae & James Guteridge \$100

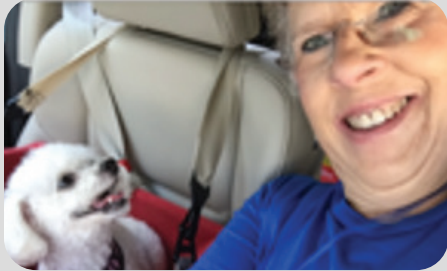
Kathy Madsen \$1,500

Laura Foley and David Cimpl \$1,000



MANY WILL MISS SWEET CLEMENTINE

Shared by Jean Hanson



Clementine came to live with me when she was about 6 years 2 ½ months old (April 1, 2015) after her humans had passed way and her remaining human was not able to take care of her. I am grateful for our wonderful groomer who matched us up. Soon I would find out what a little Angel Clementine was!!! Our vet at the time suggested we might be interested in finding out more about the Pets for Life organization. The rest is history...we became a certified Animal Assisted Therapy Team on December 4, 2015. It has been such a joy to share her snuggles and love primarily with residents in assisted living and memory care, as well as special events. Over the years, I believe we have enjoyed participating in several Pet Parades around facilities we would have normally been visiting inside. Currently, we have been visiting at two facilities weekly. Even as Clementine began showing signs of aging in the recent months, she still seemed to enjoy her visits with our senior friends. Her last official Pets for Life visit was in mid May, and sadly we had to say goodbye to each other on August 19, 2024.

Clementine's adopted sister Abigail Rose is also a Pets for Life certified Animal Assisted Therapy Pet so she and I plan to carry on.



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ZOE - THE GOLDEN WITH THE HEART OF GOLD

Shared by Julie Boresow



I was fortunate to get Zoe, a Golden Retriever, at the age of 2.5 from my sister and brother-in-law in November of 2020. I knew, coming from them, that she would be the best trained dog and I was so excited. My sister, an experienced pet therapy provider, told me Zoe would make a great therapy dog. Once I'd met the requirement of owning Zoe for six months, we began the steps to be certified. Zoe was a people lover, a pleaser, and she could never get enough attention. She was athletic and loved the water, time on the boat, and playing fetch. She would get anxious when people would jump in the water and she'd go in after to "save" them. Although she was a bit shy, she thrived around kids so after we became certified, we began our visits to Cornerstones of Care - Ozanam Campus.

The children we saw there were residents. Several groups would rotate through during our hour-long visits. Zoe enjoyed the attention as much as the kids enjoyed her. The children would often talk about their pets during our visits as they loved on Zoe. She was nick-named "Needy" because she'd put her nose under your hand and push it up as if to say, "Please keep petting me" the second you would stop petting her. Or, sometimes, she would place her paw on your arm hoping the petting would continue.

Unfortunately, Zoe got sick and is no longer with me. My heart, sad from missing her, is healing and I remind myself that she is no longer in pain. Our pets can't be with us forever and I am thankful for the time she was with me. Pet therapy is a great way to help others, connect with people, and can provide unconditional love to someone who might be struggling. I hope with time, I will be ready to become certified again with a new partner.

