

Pets for Life

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Welcome to Pets for Life's New Executive Director, *Kim Southard*

After spending 29 years with the Office of Investigations within the Social Security Administration, I am just now beginning the type of position I studied in college! I graduated UMKC with a Master's in Public Administration with nonprofit emphasis and am excited to join **Pets for Life** to return to the pas-



sion of my earlier years. I have volunteered with Boy Scouts, KC Pet Project and Wayside Waifs and my son helps to "socialize" pets at Wayside.

Growing up, my father nicknamed me "Ellie May," due to all of my critters. I have been the pet parent to many different species of animals and I have loved them all...Kevin Bacon, my pot bellied pig, Frankie, my bottle-fed Nubian goat, Ebony and Booger were my horses who traveled the country with me when I was transferred to South Carolina. My son had a beautiful dapple pony named Thunderpants. Currently, I share my home with two Shih Tzus and a mutt from a prison program, as well as, three cats, two Lady Gouldian Finches and a canary. I also built a small backyard pond for goldfish! I was going to mention the pet toads, but you might think me crazy!! One more thing, I also have a human husband. I can't wait to meet all of the volunteers who make **Pets for Life** brighten the day for so many.

Also, I have not forgotten the mini horse!!!

Kim



2022 Pets for Life Service Awards RECOGNITION

Congratulations to these **Pets for Life** Volunteers for their continued service and dedication to our mission of "Pets Helping People." They will each be recognized during the **Pets for Life** Luncheon scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2022 at 11:30.

FIVE YEARS

Cheryl Roht	1/2017
Carrie Viser	1/2017
Marcia Downs	2/2017
Renee Ravanelli	9/2017
Richard Canida	12/2017

TEN YEARS

Hope Green	2/2012
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FIFTEEN YEARS

Karen Fitzgerald	7/2007
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PETS HELPING PEOPLE



Thank you Leonard Pittala and Buddy for all of your visits to the KU Medical Center Dialysis Clinic. "Looks like Buddy is smiling, too!!"

Pets Helping People

Shared by Keith and Val Gooch

Sarge is a seven year old black lab who was bred and trained as a pheasant and quail hunting dog. While he excels at hunting, he also has the unique demeanor of being extremely laid back and even lazy when he isn't hunting, which makes for a perfect therapy dog.

Sarge, Val and Keith started visiting an elementary school in the Northland in 2019, originally to help students who were struggling with reading. Sarge quickly became a star around the school, so the staff decided to reward students who were setting good examples in the classroom by allowing them to spend time with Sarge on his weekly visits. So, not only is Sarge helping students with their reading he is also used to encourage good behavior in the classroom!



Sarge has a special reading nook set up where he lays down and the kids sit round him on pillows, petting, talking, reading to him and asking A LOT of questions. He loves the attention and will often roll over on his back so they can rub his belly. They all get a kick out of it when he occasionally lets loose with a powerful sneeze! The kids love to learn about him and talk about their dogs and how they wish theirs would behave as well as Sarge. They also take turns reading to him, which is a great exercise since there is no pressure or judgment when they're reading to a dog.

During COVID, Sarge wasn't allowed to visit the school, so he did a few videos the teachers were able to share with their students. Now that Volunteers are allowed back in the school, we're not sure who's more excited, Sarge or the Students!!! He continues to be a big hit at school and even went to summer school for the first time this year. He has his own school pictures/trading cards and each student who visits with him gets one as a keepsake.

In addition to the amazing work that he does at the elementary school, he also visits an assisted living facility in the Northland on a regular basis. He definitely doesn't discriminate based on age as he makes friends quickly with everyone he meets!!!



Thank You for Your Support

In Memory of Keith Kauer

Floyd & Josephine Spinelli \$100.00

David and Sharon Silvers \$25.00

Miriam Krum \$50.00

In Memory of Les Amato

Lon Lowenstein \$36.00

**In Memory of Dick Peterson,
Department of Rehabilitation
Services at the University of
Kansas Health System**

\$1,000.00



Welcome to Our Newest Pets for Life Volunteer Teams



Jackie Summers and Greta



Lauren Hruby and Buddy



Justin Main and Rocket

Dogs On Call

Shared by Alexis Martin

Recently, I came across a short article "Therapy Dogs Offer Pain Relief" by Julie Mazziotta in People Magazine. This is what DOC Teams do during every visit with patients, families, friends, and nurses at the St. Luke's Hospice House.

DOC Teams are making an A+ on all their DOC visits to the Saint Luke's Hospice House. The DOC teams always take the time to stop at the nurses areas. When a **Pets for Life** DOC dog comes "eye to eye" with the nurses, they are all smiles and giggles, and giving tummy rubs.

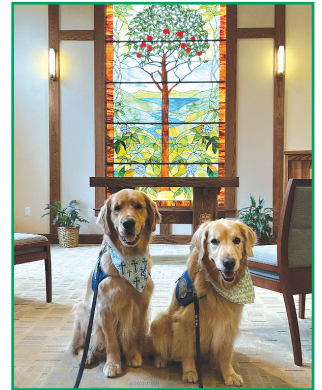
Researchers have determined that just ten minutes with a therapy dog can help reduce pain, anxiety, and depression with those in hospice nurses.....patients, families, friends and staff



Pets for Life's visits to St. Luke's Hospice House have resumed. **Pets for Life** needs more teams to fill this need. If you are interested or would like more information, or even observe a visit, please contact me, Alexis Martin, and I will be glad to answer all of your questions and/or concerns.



Alexis Martin
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R. E. A. D.

What do Books, Dogs, and Children have in common? It is a Magical Alliance that supports young readers and reading during a **R.E.A.D** Session. If you are curious about participating in this Magical Alliance



that brings joy to children, please contact either Fran Lancaster (fransdogs@kc.rr.com) or the Pets for Life Office at petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com



*Shared by
Fran Lancaster*



Shared by
Sharon Woodrum

Have you seen the new Pet Therapy Thursday Series on our Facebook page? The goal is to help people understand exactly what Pet Therapy means and how they should prepare. Feel free to share them with your friends and family.

So far, the posts have all been dog related, but we plan to start including cats and rabbits. We also plan to include volunteer testimonials – why you volunteer, your favorite story, etc. If you have a content idea, or if you and your pet would like to be included in a future video, contact Sharon Woodrum at Personable Pets. You can also call or text her at 913-269-7918

Family Unity Day at the Family Justice Center in Kansas City, Missouri



**Congratulations
on getting
to meet
Slugger!!!**

Kathy Madsen
and Marley



Brookdale of Overland Park



Ashley Breshears and her best friend Moose visit Brookdale of Overland Park. It looks like Moose knows his mission and is ready to do his job of "pets helping people."



Moose



Don't forget to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Pets-for-Life-Inc. We post lots of fun PFL updates and trivia, and occasionally we have giveaways! Stay in the loop,



<https://www.instagram.com/petsforlifekc/>



<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Remember our New email address is:
petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com

<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Pets for Life Inc. Executive Committee:
Director: Kim Southard, Secretary: Marty Letourneau,
Treasurer: John McGee, Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Gorman

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