

# Pets for Life



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7240 Wornall Road ■ Kansas City MO 64114

816.363.3665 ■ [www.kcpetsforlife.com](http://www.kcpetsforlife.com)

## Thank You, Donna!!!

After many years of leading Pets for Life as its president, **Donna Amato** has decided the time is right to "pass the torch," and effective May, 2021, Joni Roeseler becomes Pets for Life's 7th president. Donna will continue as a member of the Pets for Life Board of Trustees and Executive Committee and provide valuable input in achieving our mission. Donna started as a volunteer with her golden retriever Chance on October 12, 1990. That and the hundreds of subsequent Pets for Life visits with later dogs, Jimmie, Gracie, Pal, and Roxie, that she made throughout her 30+ years of service no doubt have brought many smiles and memories to both Donna and the people that she touched. Thank you, Donna, for your many years of service, plus your superb leadership and guidance as our president. Because of you, Pets for Life has become the gem that it is.

.....**John McGee**



## Time to Retire

Shared by Brenda Jones



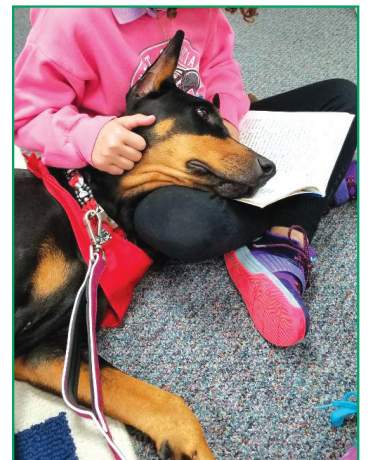
Roxie and I have been volunteering with Pets for Life since 2014. She is almost 11 and is starting to slow down, so I've made the difficult decision to retire her. Over the years we've visited the Lee's Summit North High School Life Skills classroom, Summit Christian Academy and Developing Potential,

which is a day program for Special Needs Adults. Roxie earned an AKC Therapy Dog Advanced Title, which is given for 100 therapy dog visits.

We enjoyed all our visits, but especially enjoyed doing the READ program at Summit Christian Academy. Roxie would get so excited when we would go there. She enjoyed laying on the floor next to the kids when they were reading and then doing her tricks for them when they were done. The kids enjoyed her tricks and tossing her treats.

We will miss volunteering, but now have a new puppy that will hopefully follow in Roxie's footsteps. She needs some more training but I'm hoping that she can be a Pets for Life dog, too.

*Thank you, Brenda and Roxie, for your service with Pets for Life!*



## “Pets Helping People”

*Cynthia Caldwell and Brooklynn....  
the Red Golden Retriever*

My name is Cynthia and my Pets for Life companion is Brooklynn. She is an eleven year old red Golden Retriever. Although she is an absolutely perfect dog for the job now, it wasn't always that way. Up until she became a big sister, when she was 5 1/2, she was too “busy” running around chasing squirrels, rabbits, and anything else possible, leaving no time to have a job. However, once she became a big sister to her younger brother Bronx, she wanted to get some time outside the house, giving love, getting attention, and a moment away from the new puppy,



Brooklynn started out visiting people at Homestead of Leawood in February, 2017. Over the last four years, she has visited and given love to so many people. Brooklynn and I make regular volunteer visits at Homestead of Leawood and Lamar Court. She has also participated in special one-on-one events with children. There is not one person that Brooklynn doesn't love!! She gives love everywhere she goes!

One of my favorite things that often happens when we are visiting friends is when they have family members visiting at the same time and the family will tell me they have heard all about Brooklynn. It is so heartwarming to our friends who look forward to our visits.

It has been a tough year for everyone, but the one thing we worry about the most is how all of our friends are doing. There are so many people we visited on a regular basis that we want to be able to see as soon as possible. I used to say Brooklynn and I volunteer for others, but it has become very obvious that *we volunteer because we absolutely love it.*



## Attention all Pets for Life Facilities!!!

Any Facilities that are interested in a Pet Parade, please contact our Office and we will be glad to help get that scheduled and added to our calendar.

Recent Pet Parade at Garden Terrace: Heather Prunte and Oreo, Leslie Ratterman and Nellie, Deborah Carr and Eugene, and Debi Cook and Rufus. Thank you for helping with this event!!!!





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Brittany

**Your Therapy Pet:** Maggie

**What type of facilities do you visit?** We go to two different retirement homes. We did a virtual visit but can not wait to go back in person!!!

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering with Pets for Life?** I enjoy how it's the simple things in life that bring joy: when a resident smiles while petting Maggie, when a resident is able to reminisce on a good time with their own dog, or offering a short conversation to bring kindness to the residents.

**Share a random fact about you and your pet:**

Maggie loves going on long walks and rolling down hills, enjoys going to the local ice cream shop down the street for her "pup cup" and has "elephant ears" that often fly in the breeze when she runs and plays!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SEVERAL UP-COMING PETS FOR LIFE EVENTS

**Finals Week – Stress Buster!!!**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

**Shawnee Mission East High School**

**7500 Mission Road**

**Prairie Village, KS 66208**

**8:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Contact Person: Susan Barr, Counselor**

It will be finals week at Shawnee Mission East High School. They have invited Pets for Life Volunteers and their pets to the school. This visit will be used as a "stress relief break" for students. We all know how stressful finals can be and this will give the students a calming break.

The event will be held indoors and all students, teachers, and staff at the school will be wearing masks. All volunteers in this event will be asked to wear a mask, as well. The area will be closely monitored to regulate the number of students allowed in the area, to maintain distance, as well as, making sure that the pets are not crowded in any way or made to feel over whelmed. The students are ages 14 – 18

**Pet Parade**

**Wednesday, June 16, 2021 2:00 p.m.**

**Village Shalom**

**5500 West 23rd Street**

**Overland Park, KS 66209**

**Contact Person: Zenette Kearney**

**Feel free to park anywhere available and assemble near the front door.**

**If you are available to attend any of these up-coming events, Please let the Pets for Life Office know, and you will be added to the list to receive additional information as available**

# "Pet Parades Helping People"

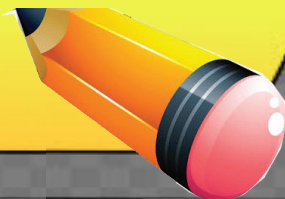
We received this note following  
a recent Pet Parade....



Dear Pets for Life.....

I wanted to thank you for organizing your volunteers  
and getting them out here to Garden Terrace. Our  
residents and staff absolutely loved getting as close to  
the pets as we could. I hope the volunteers had as  
much fun as we did!

Thanks,  
Bailey Seward, Activities Director  
Garden Terrace at Overland Park  
7541 Switzer Road



7240 Wornall Road  
Kansas City MO 64114



Don't forget to like our Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Pets-for-Life-Inc](https://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,  
join us on Facebook!



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



<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Remember our New email address is:  
[petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com](mailto:petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com)

<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Pets for Life, Inc., Executive Committee: President: Joni Roeseler,  
Secretary: Marty Letourneau, Treasurer: John McGee; Member:  
Donna Amato, Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Gorman.

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