

A word from Sharon Woodrum, our Program Director.....

Hello Volunteers,

I hope everyone made it through our rainy season unscathed. As we mentioned earlier this year, one of our 2019 goals is to increase our **R.E.A.D.** volunteer base. In support of this goal, we have revamped the process to become a **R.E.A.D.** volunteer.

Going forward, if you would like to become a **R.E.A.D.** volunteer, simply follow the steps below:

1. Visit the Intermountain Therapy Animals website and follow the "Steps to Become a **R.E.A.D.** Team" (link below). We still have a few **R.E.A.D.** manuals in the office for purchase, if you need one. www.therapyanimals.org/Read_Team_Steps.html

2. Once you complete the online **R.E.A.D.** process, contact the office so we can schedule your shadow visit with a current volunteer and enroll you in a Pets for Life **R.E.A.D.** workshop. The workshop is a 4 hour presentation that will be held monthly with a certified **R.E.A.D.** instructor.

3. Start volunteering!!

If you aren't familiar with **R.E.A.D.**, the following text comes directly from the **R.E.A.D.** website:

R.E.A.D.

Mission

The mission of the **R.E.A.D.** program is to improve the literacy skills of children through the assistance of registered therapy teams as literacy mentors.

About

The Reading Education Assistance Dogs (**R.E.A.D.**) program improves children's reading and communication skills by employing a powerful method: reading to an animal. But not just any animal. **R.E.A.D.** companions are registered therapy animals who volunteer with

their owner/handlers as a team, going to schools, libraries and many other settings as reading companions for children. **R.E.A.D.** is the first and foremost program that utilizes therapy animals to help kids improve their reading and communication skills and also teaches them to love books and reading. It's been growing around the world since November of 1999 when ITA launched it here in Salt Lake City. More than 6,000 therapy teams have trained and registered with the program and are going strong! Today, thousands of registered **R.E.A.D.** teams work throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico and 24 other European, Asian, Central American,

and South American countries. **R.E.A.D.**, is one of those ideas that, in the words of Bill Moyers, "pierces the mundane to arrive at the marvelous."



Does **R.E.A.D.** sound like just the thing for you and your dog? If so, get started today! We have plenty of local kids that need you!!

Sharing Our Mission at Three Dog Bakery



Pat with Tassi and Kikki, Jim with Bobby, and Julie with Oliver



Anita with Cosette and Jean with Abigail Rose and Clementine



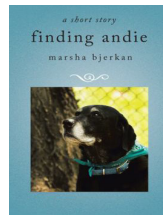
Thank you for Your Support.....

Hall Family Foundation	\$ 5,000.00
Oppenstein Brothers Foundation over three years	\$12,000.00
Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation	\$ 5,000.00
Dodson's Bar & Commons	\$ 665.00
Heartland CFC Campaign	\$ 130.24
Heartland CFC Campaign	\$ 88.08
Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign	\$ 800.35
Thank you, friends and family of Marsha Bjerkan	\$1,520.00

Shared by Kristine Lawrence, Marsha's sister:

Marsha was passionate about people and, with her dog Andie, they trained and qualified to become a Pets for Life therapy team that brought joy to her and those they visited at The Forum at Overland Park.

Marsha wrote the book, *Finding Andie*, about Andie, her love for her, and their personal experiences together as a therapy team. Her story illustrates the importance of animals as healing creatures and the value of your organization to help others.



Marsha would be pleased to know that her friends were so supportive of Pets for Life and hope this helps to accomplish your mission of "pets helping people." Thank you on behalf of Marsha and her family.

Kristine B. Lawrence

Edwardsville Elementary School Book Fair



Laura and Wally



Curtis and Lida

"Thank you again so much for your help! The kids LOVED getting to talk to, read to, and love on the dogs. We appreciate you and your volunteers so much!"
Katie

They Will Be Missed.....

"Dante loved going on his visits and seeing old friends and meeting new ones. He was a sweet, gentle soul who was born to do pet therapy work. Amy shared, "We always joked that Dante really didn't need me there for the visits, he knew what to do on his own." We know that his memory will live on through the many people he brought joy to at Grace Gardens in Leawood."



Dante

Shared by Amy Campbell

"Tony worked for nine years as a Pets for Life visitor and he loved going to Delmar Gardens every month. This was a major part of his life and I'm so glad that he was able to bring joy to so many people. Tony loved going to the dog park, popping bubbles, and watching sports with his dad on the couch." Shared by Kaci Beichley



Tony

"We lost our sweet girl, Molly, on Friday, February 22nd. She was strong and brave to the end, but she could not beat the liver disease that took her from us that night. Molly was near 14 years old and was a Certified Pets for Life Therapy Volunteer for 12 years where she brought comfort to hundreds of people. The last 3 years, Molly was the leader of 20 Pets for Life Therapy Teams making visits 24/7 thru the Saint Luke's Hospice House Dogs on Call Program. Our hearts are broken, but we know she is now free to run and play with her friends that went before her. Run free pretty lady, run fast, knowing how much you were loved. Enjoy the new smells and roll in the new grasses you find. You will live in our hearts forever." Shared by Alexis Martin



Molly
April 2005 -
February, 2019

Facility Spotlight



Here at Aberdeen Village we are proud to say that we have had several Pets for Life dogs in and out of our community. Right now we are blessed with two handlers and their faithful friends that have become a part of our family.



Laura and Wally

Laura and Wally have been coming to our health care community since 2013 and they have brought much joy to our residents. I have seen residents that wait at the door for them to



Linda and Elphie

come and others don't want to stop petting him. Linda and Elphie have been coming to Aberdeen Village the last couple of years and have made our Assisted Living their home. They come several times a month and are always a big hit with our residents. They gather around Elphie and always make sure that she is fully loved by all. Aberdeen Village welcomes these Pets for Life Volunteer Teams and takes them in as part of our family. They bring smiles and sometimes tears to our residents. Thanks to all of the Pets for Life Volunteers!!

Sandy Barnes
Life Enrichment Director

Save the Date!!!

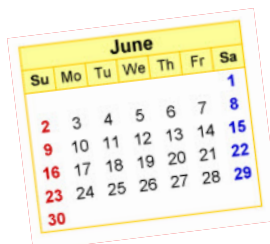
Want to hang out and celebrate with your fellow volunteers? Then mark your calendars.....

Annual Volunteer Luncheon
Saturday, October 26, 2019
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Mission, Kansas



You don't want to miss this! There will be games, prizes, food, and fun. It is our time to celebrate you – our wonderful Volunteer Teams!!! The exact location and more details will be included in the email invitation.

Want to get out and about before then?
Join us in June for a Spring Mixer!!



Wednesday, June 12, 2019
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bar K Dog Bar
501 Berkley Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64120

Spring has sprung, so it's time to get outside and enjoy this great weather. So, let's meet up with other volunteers, and potential volunteers, at Bar K.

If you've never been to Bar K, trust me, it's a really cool experience. You can grab a delicious bite to eat from their indoor restaurant and then hang around outside on one of their many patios to watch your dog romp around in the play yards. Bar K has also been nice enough to reserve an upstairs patio for this event. Leashed pets are welcome to hang out on the patio. It'll be a great opportunity to meet up with other volunteers and to share your knowledge and experience with potential volunteers. Hope to see you there!

If you aren't a Bar K member, you will have to complete a short form at the front desk before you and your pet can enter. Save time by using the link below to complete the form in advance.

form.jotform.com/82296003284152

Never been to Bar K? Check out their website:
www.barkdogbar.com



Volunteer Spotlight

Name: Cathy



Your Therapy Pet's Name:

Charlie who is a Pomeranian Mix. His birthday is March 7 and he is 6 years old.

What types of facilities do you visit:

We visit senior living facilities with the focus on assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing. We go to three facilities regularly.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering with Pets for Life?

Seeing the impact a "Charlie Visit" has on the residents we visit. It's fun to see them smile and reach out for Charlie when we come. They will share stories about dogs that they used to have. A few have been brought to tears of joy or fond memories when we visit. I regularly hear comments like, "Charlie, you made my day! I was down but you came to see me!" I've seen several in memory care focus and smile and even talk a little when they pet Charlie or when Charlie puts his paw on them.

Share a random fact about you and your pet.

That's easy. I am Charlie's third owner. When he was little he was abandoned but taken to a shelter. He was adopted again, but surrendered after two years. I had just lost two dogs and was volunteering at a dog shelter because I love being around dogs. Immediately, Charlie found me. He loved going on long walks and so did I. After fostering him for five days, I knew he was the one!! He is a complete delight!



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

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,
join us on Facebook!



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



<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Pets For Life, Inc., Executive Committee: Donna Amato, President; Judy Thomasson, Vice President
Marty Letourneau, Secretary; John McGee, Treasurer; Jack Sladkey, Joni Roeseler. Pets For Life Staff:
Sharon Woodrum, Program Director; Mary Gorman Volunteer Coordinator.

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