

# Pets for Life

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7240 Wornall Road ■ Kansas City MO 64114

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



## Pets Helping People

*Thank you for sharing, Todd Bachamp and Zana*



This was an amazing visit! Two of the residents started responding to Zana and me.

The first resident had never said anything during prior visits. She would only stare

straight ahead, then, in 5 or 10 minutes, she would get up, walk over to us and pet Zana. When I asked if she wanted to pet Zana, she responded, "Yes," and started petting her immediately.

The second resident normally does not want anything to do with Zana. When I asked if she wanted to pet Zana, she said, "Yes, I do!" and asked me questions while petting her. If I remember correctly, this is the resident that asked us to leave during our first visit because Zana is a Pit Bull mix. Since that visit, when asked what kind of dog Zana is, I tell them she is a Black Lab mix.

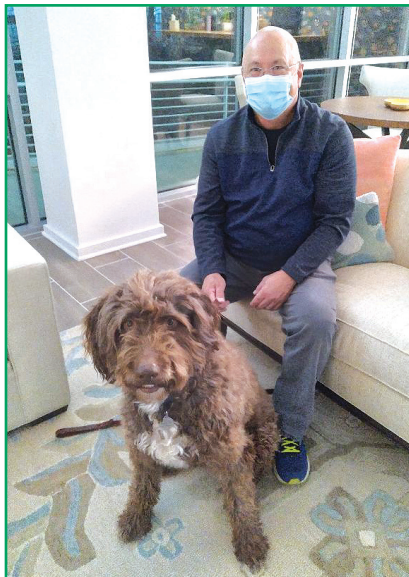
There is a third resident that does not want us anywhere near her, so I do my best to keep our distance from her. I also keep myself between her and Zana when we approach any residents near her. Elaina, the staff person with whom I work, commented that the resident does better when Zana visits. She normally leaves the room when dogs visit, but with Zana and me, she stays in the room, but moves around to stay on the opposite side of the room from us.

## Ronald McDonald House Visit

*Shared by Donnie Moberly and Milo*

This is some feedback I received from **Ronald McDonald House** in reference to a previous patient and our visits with her. I changed her name to 'Jane'. She was a bit older than most, and a student from Mizzou.

"I wanted to let you know that I just got a call from a RAPS patient 99999: Doe, Jane, who wanted me to pass on to Milo's handler that she had graduated. She specifically wanted me to thank him for every visit and every walk.



Every moment made her stay here that much easier. I let him know what she said and that I would share with you."

*Liz Abel,  
Family Services  
Coordinator*



## Special Reminder for all Pets for Life Volunteers....

Perhaps you are thinking that you and your pet are out of practice due to the lack of visits during all of the Covid issues. Please know that you are welcome to register for a "Pre-Test/Practice Test"...come to two or three, if needed. Sharon Woodrum will give you advice and techniques to get you and your pet "back in the visiting mode." So, feel free to email the **Pets for Life** Office and we can get you and your pet on the schedule.

## Facilities Requesting Pets for Life Volunteers

**Life Centers of Kansas City** This is a large, spacious facility located in an industrial park in Southern Johnson County. They provide daycare services for adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They currently have around 150 clients. This is a day service for adults with disabilities. They have two facilities, 7405 W. 161st and 6925 W. 151st, both in Overland Park. They would like volunteers M-F 10-2. The clientele is mixed. They have younger, more exuberant participants and also older more reserved clients. So there would be a need for active pets but, also pets that are calmer and prefer a more laid back visit.

**Marillac Children's Facility,** 8000 W. 127th Street, Overland Park, KS 66213-2714. They are needing a volunteer from 3-4 p.m. Wednesday and also a volunteer team for every-other Thursday from 3-4 p.m.

**The Parkway Senior Living Retirement Community,** 550 NE Napoleon Drive, Blue Springs, MO 64014  
If you are interested in visiting any of these facilities, please contact Mary in the Pets for Life Office.

## Remembering



We remember longtime **Pets for Life** Volunteer, Joe Sanches, who recently passed away. Joe volunteered with his precious dog, Blue and served many years on the **Pets for Life** Board of Directors, as well as, President of **Pets for Life**. He was dedicated to our mission "pets helping people" as many will remember his years of service.



### Thank You for Your Support

Our Savior Christian Academy	\$208.24
Catherine A Vietze,	
In memory of Joe Sanches	\$100.00
Shyla Strathman	\$250.00
Cathy Marks	\$100.00
Fairway Animal Hospital	\$200.00



### Pets for Life Volunteers Help Nurses at St. Luke's Hospital Celebrate their Special Day!!

*Shared by Tom Govreau*

St. Luke's Health System invited Pets for Life Volunteer teams to help their employees celebrate National Nurses' Week on May 11, 2022. It looks like Sunny who volunteers with Tom Govreau knows how to "celebrate!"



### Wednesday Pets for Life Visits at KU Marillac

*Shared by  
Toby Von Der Heyde*

"Sammie is taking a much needed break between two groups of kids. They tossed the tennis balls for her. I counted 24 times that she brought back the ball. I'm amazed at her focus. She was rewarded by lots of belly rubs!!!"



"Dogs have a way of finding the people who need them, and filling the emptiness we didn't even know we had.

*--Thom Jones*



# Cheryl and Baxter Retire from Volunteering

*Shared by Cheryl Bradley*

The entire **Pets for Life** operation is very positive and professional. The **READ** program is especially noteworthy and we had hoped to make more visits along these lines. The lockdown with Covid really slowed us down.



Nevertheless, Baxter was able to enjoy visiting the patients at Cedarhurst in Blue Springs pre-Covid and loved riding up high in his dog stroller. He also participated in his first reading event at a local grade school and loved visiting with the little kids and sitting with them while they read. I enjoyed the Volunteer Luncheon and seeing the other pet teams. I probably enjoyed it more than Baxter, but he did look so cute in his Fed Ex costume.



Baxter is enjoying retirement and may be looking at mentoring a future **Pets for Life** dog.

.....  
**Welcome to  
Pets for Life's  
Newest  
Volunteer Team:  
Leonard Pittala  
& Buddy!!**

*Leonard Pittala  
and Buddy*



# Debi Cook and Rufus Retire as Volunteers with Pets for Life



Rufus and I visited the residents at the Care Haven Homes in Overland Park, KS. We were very proud to wear the **Pets for Life** teal t-shirt and scarf!!

We had the joy to work with many wonderful Directors, Julie Gibson, DeAnna Holm, Courtney Goin, and Marie Rogers. They greeted us at the front doors and away we went to see wonderful ladies and men. I think, Ken, a resident at the Care Haven Home stands out in my mind as such a kind man. He used to fly airplanes and is so proud of his family. Even when Ken's morning had started out a little rough, he greeted us with a smile and held Rufus on his lap for a long time!!

Our (my) favorite events with **Pets for Life**, was when we would parade around the outside of facilities. I'd pack Rufus in his doggie carrier and away we'd go. The other dog and cat moms were so friendly, and it felt like a family going to bless other's locked up inside when the Covid restrictions were so tight. We would see the residents through their windows, and *their smiles said it all!!!*

My knee replacement last fall has not been successful, so we regretfully have to bow out from the wonderful opportunities **Pets for Life** offers to the communities in our area. They enjoy our fur-baby visits!!!

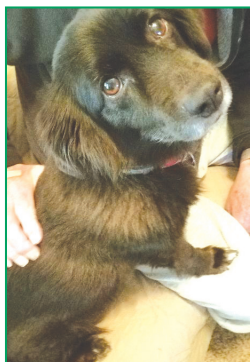
*Shared by Debi Cook and Rufus James!!*

# Many Students Will Miss Ikey's Visits

Shared by Hope Green

My special **Pets for Life** partner, Ikey, worked hard to learn how to entertain the children we visited and to stay awake while students read to him. Some of his skills included:

- Skateboarding (he taught himself to ride with three feet on a Penny board while propelling with one rear foot.
- Knocking down toy bowling pins by propelling the ball with his nose.



- Put his stuffed toys back in the popcorn tin for storage.
- Balance on a small exercise ball secured in the base.
- Jump through a small hoop.
- Catch well-tossed soft toys
- Catch a treat balanced on his nose.

Due to a rapidly growing tumor on his kidney, Ikey passed away peacefully April 9th to join my husband in the place where pets and their owners reunite each other.



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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,



<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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