

Pets for Life



7240 Wornall Road ■ Kansas City MO 64114

816.363.3665 ■ www.kcpetsforlife.com

Message from Pets for Life Director Kim Southard



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
EVERYONE!**

I am so amazed by the impact our volunteer teams have on those people who need it the most! Since I began my position as director, I have shadowed on visits and accompanied potential volunteers on their first visits. Doing this has given me just a small glimpse into what volunteer teams do with each of their visits. The smiles and conversations that occur just because one of our therapy pets pays a visit is something to be truly proud of. I've known about pet therapy but had not seen it in action until now and I am grateful to each and every one of you who shares your pet with others.

What Pets for Life does for others is without question a benefit to our community. Our challenge is to keep spreading that joy with our limited volunteer base. As you are quite aware, the number of active volunteers has significantly diminished these last two years. As more and more facilities welcomed our volunteer team visits, we now have a waiting list of about 25 facilities requesting services from our teams. It is my hope to attract enough new volunteer teams to meet that demand! To that end, Pets for Life has small flyers that some of our members have begun distributing to places of business where dog and can people frequent. The requests to post our flyers in a prominent place in the business has been met with great enthusiasm and I am already seeing an uptick in the number of potential volunteers signing up for our orientations. If any of you would like to have flyers to help "spread the news," contact the office and we will make them available. There is no better ambassador for Pets for Life than you, volunteers!!

Thank you for what you do and I wish you a happy holiday season!

Kim Southard



A Special Welcome to our Newest Volunteer Teams!!

We are so glad to welcome Mel Payne and her best friend Phil and Kim Knapp and her best friend Diesel, as the newest volunteer teams to join Pets for Life.



Mel Payne and Phil



Kim Knapp and Diesel

Facilities Requesting

Volunteer Teams

Crittenton Children's Center

10918 Elm

Kansas City, MO 64134

Visits are on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Village Shalom

5500 West 123rd

Overland Park, KS 66209

Healthcare Resorts of Leawood

5401 West 143rd Street

Leawood, KS 66224

Pets Helping People

Shared by Donnie Moberly

Milo and I spend a good number of Wednesday nights at the Ronald McDonald House near Children's Mercy Hospital. We spend our time visiting with the parents and children that are temporarily residing at the house while receiving care at CMH. Recently, we visited with a patient that was staying at RMHKC while going through the Rehabilitation for Amplified Pain Syndrome (RAPS) program. Amplified musculoskeletal pain syndrome (AMPS) is a very painful medical condition that can cause pain anywhere in the body. This program lasts for approximately four weeks and is challenging and exhausting for the participants. These patients seem mostly to be middle school, high school, or early college age. Earlier this year, Milo and I became friends with a particular participant in the RAPS program. We saw each other for a few consecutive weeks enjoying small talk while she interacted with Milo.



Donnie and Milo

A week or so after she had left RMHKC and the RAPS program, I received an email from Adrienne Fleck, Guest and Family Experience Manager at the house. Our RAPS program friend had called the front desk and spoke with Liz Abel, the Family Services Coordinator. The patient's message was forwarded to me:

"I wanted to let you know that I just got a call from Rehabilitation for Amplified Pain Syndromes (RAPS) patient 99999: Doe, Jane, who wanted me to thank you for every visit, every walk, every moment that made her stay here that much easier."

I think there are times when we all wonder if we and our pets are making a difference. I believe in our hearts we know we are, but it's nice to get confirmation. Milo and I love our job as a therapy team. Make no mistakes, he is the star of the show. I'm just along for the ride.



To Donnie and Milo.... Thank you sooooo much for sharing this story that exemplifies the Pets for Life mission of "Pets Helping People." This is why our volunteer teams do what they do.

An open invitation to all of the Pets for Life Volunteers to feel free to share a special visit. (No matter how small; it is a story worth sharing with others.) It certainly warms everyone's heart and is the best way to share our mission with others. Help us fill each upcoming newsletter with your experience as a Pets for Life volunteer team.

Thank You for Your Support



Knights of Columbus, Ladies Auxiliary Council 8334	\$400.00
John & Nancy McGee	\$200.00
Fred Achbaugh in memory of Mary Waddington	\$1,000.00
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	\$1,000.00
Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Kansas City Area Developmental Council	\$250.00
Linda McCullough	\$ 50.00
Danielle Thomas	\$ 50.00
Fairway Animal Hospital	\$600.00



2022 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



Donna & John McGee



Donna & Steve Barrett



Donna & son Devin Amato



Donna Amato was recognized for her dedicated 32 years (see August, 2022 Newsletter).

Donna not only received the Advocacy Award that is displayed in the lobby of Pets for Life Headquarters, she, too, was presented a plaque, displaying a gavel honoring her many years of leadership with the inscription of "President Emerita" and her five Pets for Life certified teams covering over three decades. Whereas, our volunteers are Pets for Life's life blood, **Donna Amato** has been the organization's heart and soul since 1990.



Bobby



Program



Centerpieces



Sign-In table showing PLF new apparel



Leo

CONTEST WINNERS



Trish Moore & Alfie



Brietta visits with Toni Hadel



Jean Hanson, Abigail-Rose & Clementine



2022 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

After a two year, COVID-caused hiatus of our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, we returned to the Powell Community Center in Mission, Kansas on Saturday, October 22nd to honor our volunteers. In addition to honoring this year's eight volunteers for their service with Pets for Life.

Five Years: Richard Canida
Marcia Downs
Renee Ravanelli
Cheryl Roth
Robert Sheverbush,
Carrie Viser



Ten Years: Hope Green

Fifteen Years: Karen Fitzgerald

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



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/>



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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