

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

Pets for Life Coronavirus Statement

Volunteers, as you have seen on the news, the coronavirus continues to spread. Since containment of this virus is critical to our communities health and well being, we are asking you to discontinue all visits thru at least the end of April. This includes all visits, not just hospitals or nursing homes. During this visit hiatus, we will be working directly with our partner facilities to determine next steps.

We understand that this news may be disappointing to you, because we all understand the joy that our visits bring, but it is the best decision for our community at this time.

We are looking at ways to keep our volunteers engaged during the hiatus and are currently finalizing the details for a R.E.A.D. scholarship program.

Please watch your email and our social media pages over the next couple of weeks for visit and R.E.A.D. scholarship updates. Thanks again for all you do!

Sharon Woodrum
Program Director
Pets for Life

CONGRATULATIONS to OUR NeWest R.E.A.D. VOLUNTEERS!!!



Sharon Easley, Judy Young, Ed Frownfelter,
and Nancy Knight.

Are you interested in becoming a R.E.A.D. Certified Team? Simply call the Pets for Life Office 816 363 3665, purchase a R.E.A.D. manual and get on the schedule to attend one of the following workshops: March 21, April 18, or May 16.

Thank you for Your Support....

Hall Family Foundation	\$5000
Victor E. Speas Foundation	\$5000
J. B. Reynolds Foundation	\$5000
McCullough Family Foundation	\$2000
Scheels	\$1,000
Roethelli Lil'Red Foundation	\$500
Residence Inn by Marriot	
for their Charity of the Month	\$330
Family & Friends of Earlene Bopp	\$100
Family & Friends of Joanne Johnson	\$120
Family & Friends of John Bouck	\$30

Additional Pets for Life DOC Teams Needed

The **Pets for Life**/St. Luke's Hospice House program began in January, 2016, to meet the needs of all those in the Saint Luke's Hospice House: patients, family members, and visitors, as well as the staff, at any time of the day or night. These Pets for Life teams have partnered with Saint Luke's Hospice House to create a Program called DOC....."Dogs on Call."

Melinda Estes, M.D., President and CEO of the Saint Luke's Health System, made the following comments about the DOC program in a monthly address to all employees in 2017.....*"When these pets and their human owners/volunteers visit Hospice House there's no set schedule. The need for them could arise at any time, so they're literally on call around the clock. I'm proud to see this program taking shape--it's about living in the moment and providing excellent care for our patients at the end of life."*

The **Pets for Life**/DOC program provides regular pet visits to the Saint Luke's Hospice House. Patients and their families can also request a visit at any time, night or day, "24/7". These devoted PFL/DOC Teams, which include twenty dogs, two cats, a rabbit and a guinea pig have made more than 750 DOC visits since January 2016.

Over the past four years, the number of **Pets for Life** DOC teams has increased, but additional DOC teams are needed. Saint Luke's Hospice House will provide training for any **Pets for Life** volunteer interested in becoming a part of this program. If you would like more information or you are interested in joining the DOC program please contact Alexis Martin, **Pet for Life** Volunteer, at 913-652-9358 or email alexisamartin@hotmail.com

Saint Luke's Hospice House was awarded the Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association's Heart of Hospice for Best New Program. The following link takes you to a video of the MHPCA Award Ceremony.

<https://youtu.be/9karoGoCtHk>

Judy Steadman and Rosi



Pets for Life Takes to the Airwaves to Share "Pets Helping People"



Karen and Calvin

KC Cares is a non-profit radio show and online platform dedicated to telling the stories of local nonprofits and sharing news and information. Every week, KC Cares features various nonprofits, sharing their story over the airwaves. Recently, Pets for Life Pro-

gram Director, Sharon Woodrum and volunteer team Karen Fitzgerald and Calvin were guests on the show. The **Pets for Life** Podcast can be heard by following this link

<https://www.kccaresonline.org/pets-for-life-pet-adoption-kc-cares-nonprofit-radio/>

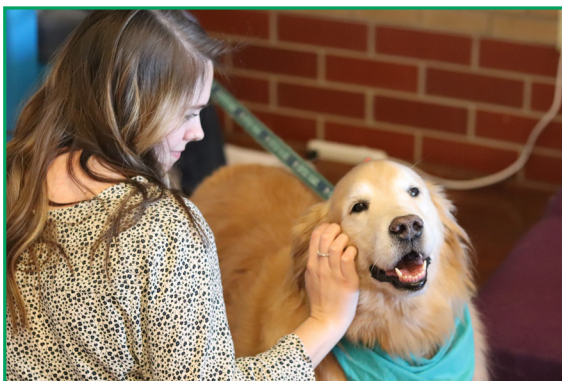
Therapy Dog Days at Notre Dame de Sion

By Mary Hudak

The idea for Therapy Dog Days came into being through my cross country team. I manage the school cross country team and often bring Daisy, my Pets for Life certified Golden Retriever, to the meets. Daisy was always amazing with the runners. She helped put them at ease before



She helped put them at ease before races and was always there to comfort them post-running. I realized that I wanted people at my school to experience the benefits of therapy animals, as both students and faculty get extremely stressed. It took several months to get everything approved, but once I did, I needed to assemble a committee. Therapy Dog Days at Sion would not be possible without my incredible Therapy Dog Team. Though we are only made up of five people, we are able to get so much done in order to prepare for each event.



We have an event once a quarter, and the students get so excited for them. In the two weeks leading up to Therapy Dog Day, I get constant questions about the dogs and cats that will be there. The team and I finish preparations by decorating goodie bags for the volunteers to welcome them to Sion. When the event starts, we get waves of students flocking to the New Grand Sal to see the animals. We do limit the amount of students who can be with each dog or cat at a time in order to avoid overwhelming the animals, so we hold six, fifteen minute sessions so everyone can get

a chance to meet them. The students love seeing and interacting with the animals. It is a huge stress reliever and student moral booster! After events, students often approach me and tell me how much brighter their day was because of it and ask when the next Therapy Dog Day will be held. Events with Pets for Life therapy animals has been solidified as a Sion tradition that we hope will continue for years to come.

New Logo-Wear Options for Volunteers!

Pets for Life has partnered with *Personalized for You*, a Kansas City based company, to offer embroidered white logo wear for our volunteers. Simply go to their website by clicking on the following link <http://personalizedforyou.com/buscorp.html>. Choose the Business and Corporate tab, then click on Pets for Life, Inc. and choose Ladies or Men's. Currently, there are three logo wear options for ladies and two options for men. All clothing is true-to-size. Shipping is free on orders over \$100 so consider ordering with some friends to save the \$10 fee. Or, you may pick up your clothing at their showroom for no additional cost.

This new logo wear will not replace the free t-shirts which are already offered to Pets for Life volunteers. Volunteers are not required to purchase this logo wear. We just wanted to provide an option to any volunteer that wanted to expand their Pets for Life wardrobe at their own cost.

Remember, wearing the Pets for Life logo not only lets others know that you are a volunteer and the purpose of your visit, but it also gives you the opportunity to share Pets for Life without even saying a word.



LINKS TO ARTICALS:

<http://personalizedforyou.com/buscorp.html>

alexisamartin@hotmail.com

<https://www.kccaresonline.org/pets-for-life-pet-adoption-kc-cares-nonprofit-radio/>

<https://youtu.be/9karoGoCtHk>



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.

Pets For Life newsletter is published quarterly in Kansas City, Missouri, by Pets For Life, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation: all donations are tax deductible. Pets For Life, receives no government funding and relies solely on your gifts and donations. Additional copies of our newsletter are available by calling us or contacting our web-site.