

Pets for Life



7240 Wornall Road ■ Kansas City MO 64114

816.363.3665 ■ www.kcpetsforlife.com



In Memory of

CURTIS T. BLISS, DIRECTOR OF PETS FOR LIFE, INC.

Curtis T. Bliss, 94, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2017 at his home. I got to know Curt Bliss during my years in banking as he and his company Bliss Associates both dealt with Commerce Bank. Passing him either in the hallway, up or down an escalator or on a fairway always resulted in a greeting from a man who was both humble and gracious. Curtis Bliss was a dog lover, particularly the Border Collie...throughout the years, the Bliss family included Sugar 1, then Sugar 2 and another, Sugar 3. It's known that Curtis and his four-legged partner Sugar would often get in a few golf holes around sunset. PFL was fortunate to have Curtis Bliss serve on the Board of Directors for many years as he encouraged new programs as well as growing our volunteer base and number of facility visits. In memory of Curtis Bliss, PFL has received over \$2,000 in contributions.

John McGee *Treasurer*



Curtis Bliss and his caddy, Sugar 3

A Note from Lisa

It is with a heavy heart that I write this email to let you know that Howie and I will no longer be able to do pet therapy. Over the weekend Howie wasn't feeling well and ended up at not only his regular veterinarian but also at Blue Pearl. He was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney Disease which causes him a lot of pain and he is subsequently on heavy pain medication. I don't know what is in store for him in the future. Please know that Howie and I have both thoroughly enjoyed the past few months that we have been doing pet therapy.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing organization doing so much good in the KC area!! Howie truly enjoyed the visits and I regret having to stop them, but it is for his own good. He just doesn't feel well.

Lisa Lujin

ARE YOU INTERESTED TO VISIT AT THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION?

PET MINISTRY

Many churches offer outreach into the community. But at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood one of the ways we offer outreach is through pet ministry.

Started in June 2016, the Pet Ministry at the Church of the Resurrection provides an opportunity to meet the unique needs of our congregation, our community, and our partners by providing services, resources, and education for people and pets. Through our partnership with Pets for Life, we offer certified therapy animals at events and programs at COR and in our community.

Lead by a team of volunteers, the pet ministry provides many opportunities for service and education. We welcome anyone to serve with our pet ministry or attend our education classes or service opportunities. You do not have to be a member to participate. See below for a list of opportunities. For more information contact Linda Haney at lindahaney@outlook.com or go to www.cor.org/pets



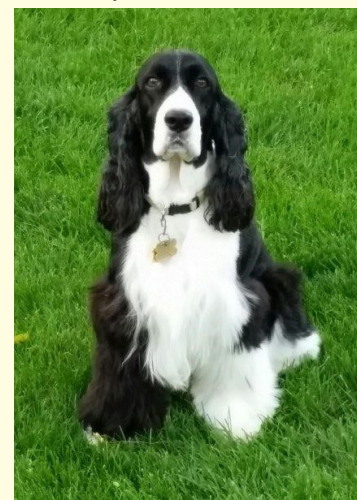
Certified Therapy Animals to provide support and comfort. Therapy dog teams volunteer at COR events, CARE night classes, and in the community. Animals are certified through Pets for Life and opportunities are posted on the Volunteer Spot.

Elphie and I visit an assisted living center each Saturday and meet with the residents one on one.

Last year we were asked to meet with a new resident who loved dogs. On our first meeting, it was clear that she had difficulty talking as the result of stroke. I learned that she didn't have a lot of family in this area. On a good day, she was able to form a sentence or two but mostly we didn't talk but just shared time and the joy of having Elphie present.

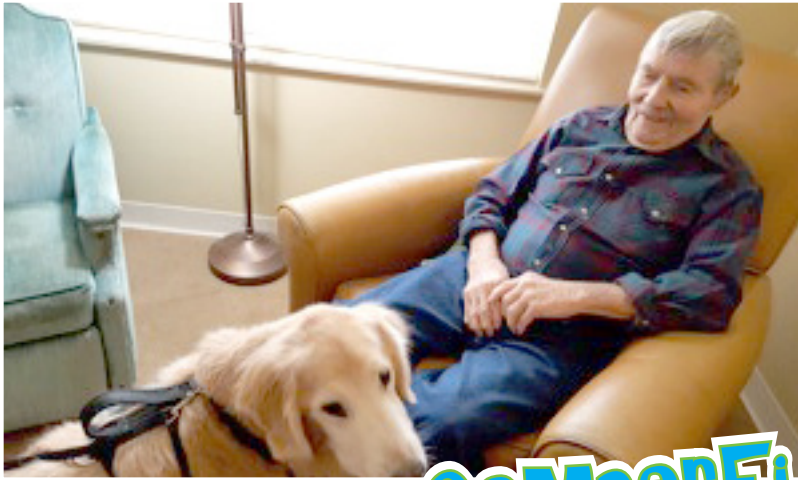
As time went on, her health began to decline and she was often in bed when we visited. On a recent visit, we arrived to find her room full of family. Chairs had been set up and the family was sitting in front of her bed spending time in her final days. As Elphie and I entered, her family all stood and made a path for Elphie. Everyone knew Elphie's name and welcomed us with joy. It was clear they knew that Elphie's visits were special for their loved one. In spite of the lack of verbal communication, the power of pet therapy was able to transcend that limitation and reach this woman in her heart. I am always grateful for the great work Elphie does with seniors.

Submitted by Linda Haney



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!





Remembering SemperFi

Thursday at Blue Pearl, Drs. Mandy and Cory Stamp-er did an ultrasound on SemperFi which showed fluid in the sac around his heart, probably caused by a cancer/tumor. He was put to sleep peacefully with Cory and Mandy, our two grandsons and Paul and me consoling each other and saying a tearful goodbye to our sweet dog.

Semper's life was one of service, first to an elderly woman in Ark City, then to our family as an amazing, unforgettable companion, also to many residents in nursing homes and assisted living. But best of all, he loved sitting with children who would read books to him at school and libraries. We will miss him terribly, but this was his time to go. It was a hard decision to make, but was the right thing to do after watching him weaken over the past weeks, knowing the end was near.

My brother shares that "A good pet can be fun, but a really good relationship with a pet is almost indescribable to non-pet people".

Terri Stamper

PFL is sad to report that Julie Krogh lost sweet Fiona. I remember how Fiona entertained all the children at Marillac with her interpretation of the moonwalk. She was awesome.

Donna Amato

Llewelyn Joseph Herz-Lancaster

Adopted March 19th, 2004
Peace came on March 22nd, 2017

Very sadly Rich and I had to say our good-bye to our little Llew this past Wednesday two days after returning from England. Over two weeks ago, an ex-ray indicated that the suspected cancer had metastasized to Llew's lungs. The end came more quickly than had been expected.

Llewelyn is for the name of the veterinarian who operated on him after he had been struck by a vehicle along the road in Los Lunas, New Mexico. Joseph is for his adoption on the feast day of St. Joseph on March 19th, 2004.

Little Llew was a character whose antics will be remembered by many people. Janet will remember how he opened a drawer in her upstairs bedroom to get some of Moki's treats. All of us can visualize how he made a dash for Gabby's candy drawer and opened it! Llew was Sally's first customer for a treat at the end of our visits. Years later, when we only participated in R.E.A.D. at Brighton, he did not forget the spot where Sally dispensed the treats. We miss him.

Fran & Rich



HEROES IN HEALTHCARE 2017

Where the Extraordinary Is an Everyday Occurrence

By: Dennis Boon

It's the kind of moment that lingers in the mind of a hospital volunteer, and especially one like **Susan Ruiz, who helped establish the Pets for Life program at St. Joseph Medical Center.** In the waiting room of the ICU unit one day, a somber family was waiting for news of a loved one. That's when Blake, a Golden Retriever that's part of the program, managed to get his muzzle into a lady's purse and pull out a ball of crochet yarn, looking around for somebody to play catch with him.

Despite the tense setting, the room burst into collective laughter. "Everybody lights up when they visit with a pet...the pets are truly the heroes" says Ruiz.



A 16-year volunteer at the hospital, Ruiz served a year as president of the hospital's 1,000-member auxiliary in 2006. Ruiz says, "Each person visits with multiple pets, and we have had more than 180,000 people-pet interactions the past decade at St. Joseph Medical Center."

THANK YOU SUSAN! FROM YOUR PFL FAMILY!

*Thank You
For Your Support*



Pets for Life is very grateful for the gifts from individuals, foundations and businesses. Please accept our thanks for the following:

Jim and Betty Kirk Fund	\$ 500.00
Mo. State Employee Charitable Campaign	\$ 667.45
Oppenstein Brothers Foundation	\$4000.00
Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation	\$5000.00
Enid & Crosby Kemper Foundation	\$5000.00
Elaine Feld Stern Charitable Trust	\$2000.00

<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

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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.