

Thank you, Sharon!!!

Well, 2020 is coming to an end, but not before introducing so much change into our lives.

As the world starts to slowly open back up, remember that therapy visits are still on hold. We continue to work with our Board of Directors and our facilities to determine next steps. In the interim, should any facility ask that you resume visits, be sure to contact the office before making any commitments. We cannot wait to resume visits but we need to make sure that we do it in the most organized, safest way possible.

Another change this year is, unfortunately for me, my resignation from Pets for Life. I have been proud to represent this organization and all the wonderful volunteers. I know you understand the impact that your visits make but you should know that other people understand it as well. Not only are people in awe of the joy a simple pet therapy visit can bring, they also understand the dedication and commitment it takes to be a volunteer. The fact that you are so willing to give of your time to brighten other people's days speaks volumes.

I will miss it all. The first visits, the evaluations, and the Pet Parades. I think most of all, I will miss the orientations. I loved introducing new people to the organization and talking about the wonderful work that our volunteers do.

Mary Sellaro is the new Program Director. I will let Mary introduce herself but I have known her for years and I have no doubt that the organization is in good hands.

Thanks again for all your support over the last couple of years and I mean it when I say it has been an honor to be associated with each and every one of you.

Thank you,
Sharon Woodrum

Welcome Mary, Pets for Life New Program Director!!



Hello! My name is Mary Sellaro and I am the new Program Director for Pets for Life. I have a great affinity for Pet Therapy, and have seen the benefits first hand. I also have a deep respect for the volunteer teams who share their time in order to make a difference in other people's lives.

I have been involved with Pets for Life through the years, and served as an Evaluator from 1996 until 2001, and again in 2014. Since 1995, I have been the Evaluator for the Children's Mercy Hospital's Pet Pals Program. I have been a professional dog trainer since 1990, and my motivation is to educate owners and keep dogs out of shelters, and in their homes. I am also a certified Canine Good Citizen Evaluator with the American Kennel Club. I have been the Director of Training for Pooches Paradise since 2012, and was the national Director of Pet Education for Pete and Mac's Pet Resorts for 6 years. I am certified in Pet First Aid and CPR.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, and of course, my 4 dogs (Colt, Max, McClain and Circo), also reading and writing.

I am so looking forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you and am excited to see what this new endeavor brings.

Mary Sellaro

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS



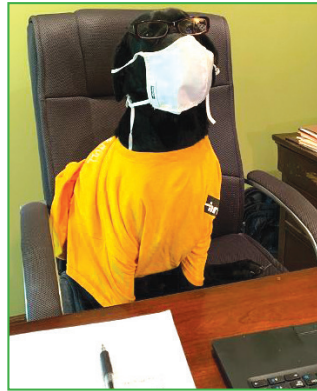
Thank you to all the volunteers who entered the Pets for Life Halloween Costume Contest!!!
We have four winners, each receiving a \$25 gift card to Petsmart!!



Ewok and Princess Leia
(Trooper and Carla Smith)



Fritz the Lumberjack
(Marianne Gaines)



Sarge the Covid Safe
Office Worker
(Keith Gooch)



Rufus the UPS Worker
(Debi Cook)

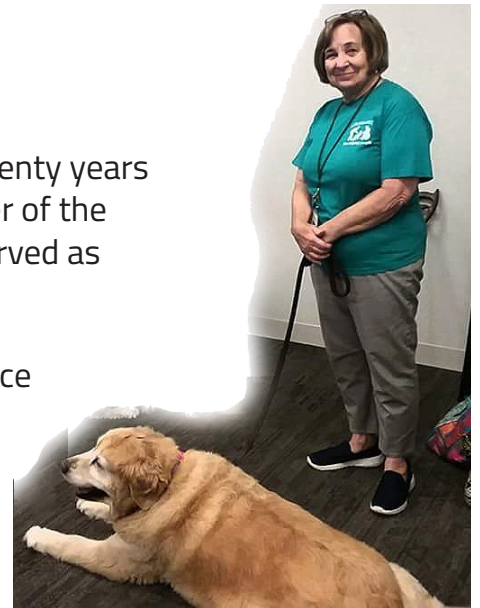


Goodbye to a Dear Friend and **Pets for Life** Volunteer

Judy Thomasson was a longtime Pets for Life volunteer for almost twenty years with her dogs Charlie, Bailey, Bella and MoMo. She was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for many years and served as Vice President of the Board of Directors for a number of years.

Judy passed away on September 30, 2020, after a short stay at Hospice House of Olathe. She was an exceptional volunteer and friend. Her energy and enthusiasm will live on as we remember all the fun times that we had during pet parties, visits, and meetings.

Judy was a very caring and a very witty person. She never met a person she didn't consider a friend. Everyone who knew Judy loved her. She will be sadly missed by many.



To read Judy's entire obituary and information concerning a Celebration of her Life, follow the link below to Penwell-Gabel Olathe Chapel, 14275 South Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66062.

<https://www.penwellgabelkc.com/Obituary/190170/Judy-Thomasson/Olathe-KS>

Thank You, Patricia Kay White, You Will Be Missed

Patricia Kay White was a Pets for Life volunteer with her dog, Chilly. Patricia also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Pets for Life, Inc. for several years. She passed away while in hospice care on June 13, 2020.

We will miss you, Patricia.

To read Patricia's entire obituary and information about her service, follow the link below to Johnson County Funeral Chapel and Memorial Gardens, 11200 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66210.

<https://www.johnsoncountychapel.com/obituary/Patricia-Kay-White>



Annual Pets for Life Service Awards

Shared by John McGee

30 Years of Service – Donna Amato

Typically, October means our annual Pets for Life Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon where volunteers are recognized for their years of service. 2020, as we all know, has not been a typical year; however, what has been a continuum of normalcy is Donna Amato's dedication to PFL's mission. For over two decades Donna has served on the PFL Board, and many of those years as President, chairing the monthly Executive Committee's and quarterly Board of Trustees' meetings. In addition to her leadership, Donna has single-handedly reached out to Kansas City's philanthropic community, writing and presenting grant requests to fund the costs of PFL's operations and expansion. Because of Donna's tireless efforts to grow PFL's Snyder Endowment Fund and our Fall Donor Campaign including her own personal support, Pets For Life is financially strong and the envy among local small non-profits. Donna has done so very much to assure Pets For Life's perpetuity; but, I believe Donna would say the most rewarding in all her 30 years of service are her many memories of facility visits with her dog companions Chance, Jimmy, Gracie, Pal and Roxy. Thank You Donna for everything you do for Pets For Life.

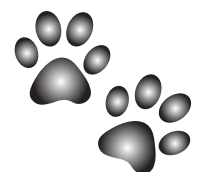


20 Years of Service – Janet Dubrava

15 Years of Service – Fran Lancaster, Kathy Madsen, Julie Krogh, and Julie Yoder

10 Years of Service – Robbie Grogan and Steve Barrett

5 Years of Service – Jennifer Gillespie, Carrie White, Wendy Melland, Norma Spear, Jim Schope, Linda Haney, Linda Miller, and Jean Hanson



Thank you to all *Pets for Life Volunteer Teams*. You are truly appreciated!!!

Message to Our Pets for Life Facilities

We miss visiting. We miss our friends. We miss all the smiling faces and allowing our pets to bring joy. We are sure you do to. If there is anything - a pet parade, virtual visits, pen pal program, - anything at all that we can do to help you bring joy to your residents at this time, just let us know.

We are here. We want to help.

Please call or email with any ideas or requests you may have.



Pets for Life Office 816▪363▪ 3665 Email 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>

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

<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

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

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