

Pets for Life



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

Hello Volunteers,

Well, it is already September. I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer, even though it went by way too fast. Oh, well, Fall is on the way and that can mean only one thing—the Annual Volunteer Luncheon is almost here!!

A lot of things go on behind the scenes at Pets for Life, but not many of them are as important as the Annual Volunteer Luncheon. The topic comes up in just about every monthly staff meeting and the official planning starts as early as June or July. You may be wondering why all the fuss?

That's easy. Celebrating you, our volunteers, is very important. Honestly, the word volunteer doesn't even seem adequate in this case.

VOLUNTEER [vələn 'tɪr]

Noun – a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task

VERB – freely offer to do something

It is true that you freely offer you time, but you also do so much more. You continually work with your pet to prepare them for our evaluations. You take care of your pet to make sure that they are healthy and groomed for every visit. You work hard just to qualify to be a volunteer. Then you drive to and from your visits at least once a month; some of you even more frequently. When we need volunteers for special events, you don't hesitate to raise your hand. You patiently wait with your **pet to help a child learn to read. Your pet patiently waits while you talk to a group of kids about dog safety. You volunteer, and then volunteer again, and then volunteer even a little bit more.**

We understand that without you, there would be no Pets for Life. That is why the Annual Volunteer Luncheon is so important. It is our one opportunity to thank you. To show you that we understand what it means to be a Pets for Life volunteer, and we appreciate everything you do for the organization.

So, we hope to see you all at the Annual Volunteer Luncheon on October 26th. If you can't make it, we understand and please accept our heart felt gratitude for all that you do.

Sharon Woodrum
Program Director



Save the Date!!!



26th

**Annual Volunteer Luncheon
Saturday, October 26, 2019
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Mission, Kansas**

This year there will be games, prizes, food and fun for all!!! The luncheon will include a delicious taco bar with all your favorite toppings. And of course, we can't forget the prizes and contests! So be ready for the Costume Contest, the Longest Stay, the Longest Catch, and the Potato Walk. So, mark your calendar, watch for your invitation, and come to enjoy an afternoon of great fun with your fellow volunteers and of course, all the amazing pets!

They Will Be Missed...

CHARLIE

Charlie was a weekly regular at Bishop Spencer Place in their assisted living and skilled nursing areas. He was a perfect listener, sitting at Barbara's feet getting petted as we talked politics for an hour. Mary, a colorful resident careening her wheelchair, used him as a footrest, which he happily accepted. He had a special way with stroke

patients who had trouble speaking – he knew they needed a special friend who understood. His 2:00 p.m. movie crew snuck him popcorn while they watched Fred Astaire or Cary Grant. And the staff was just as happy to see him.



CHARLIE

Charlie volunteered to be a "special weekly treat" as a visitor/listener to an autistic middle school student in her classroom. The school had requested a patient, larger dog as that is what the student asked for. He was calm with all the students, but especially with her.



CHARLIE

She was non-verbal when we started visiting her and by the end of the school year, we 'heard' her being verbal and that was such a great thing for all of us to see after all the months of visits.

When he volunteered at KU Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation, Charlie got to show off his 'bi-lingual' skills by sitting and staying and shaking to Spanish commands much to the delight of a Latino family who was visiting their loved one. On another visit, he was so calm and really unflappable with a patient who had had a head injury and didn't know his own strength as he petted Charlie. Charlie didn't mind at all and wagged his tail knowing that his short visit was helping that patient recall some vocabulary with his speech therapist. We didn't just visit patients – our visits also delighted the staff and the doctors who stopped to say hello on his weakly visits.

Seeing Charlie always drew a crowd in the hall and they would argue over who Charlie liked best! He had no favorites – he loved everyone he met and showed it with a tail wag and sitting for pets until they had to go back to work.



CHARLIE

Shared by Molly Dwyer and Al Mauro

STANLEY

"Stanley loved visiting his friends at Sunrise of Leawood. Stanley always seemed to know who could use a visit and was so patient with anyone who needed him. He was especially fond of his friends who had treats for him. Stanley loved showing off his special tricks like twirling around and never minded sharing the spotlight with his human sister, who would often join us on visits. Charlie, Stanley's pug brother, is hoping to follow in Stanley's pawprints."



STANLEY

Shared by, Natalie Rosenberg

ARNOLD

"Arnold loved coming to school with me each day. Students would read to him and cuddle with him. When students were feeling sad or upset and went to our calming corner, he would follow them there and let them love on him. When some of our more troubled kids would refuse to move, holding Arnold's leash and walking with him would help. He is missed so very, very much."



ARNOLD

Shared by Samantha Grimes

Thank you for Your Support.....

Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation	\$3,000.00
Greater KC Community Foundation -from an anonymous donor	\$2,000.00
Junior Board Fund	\$600.00
Thank you friends and family of Stefanie Adams	\$150.00
Thank you friends and family of Georganne Gage Walters	\$650.00

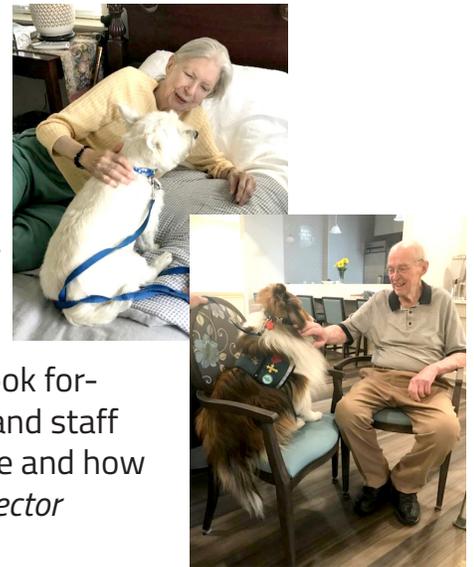
Georganne was the sister of Pets for Life Board Member, Hires Gage, DVM. Georganne treasured her furry canine friends: Boxley, Mija, and Coo Coo, and mourned the loss of her special companion Poosh. She was devoted to her dogs and they never left her side or couch or bed.

Facility Spotlight



Pets for Life volunteers have been coming to McCrite Plaza at Briarcliff for over a year now. Most of our residents are unable to take care of their beloved pets anymore and that is where Pets for Life volunteers truly help our residents. Every time they come into McCrite Plaza, our residents feel the love and affection from them which makes their day. We look forward to these visits each month. Not a day goes by where our residents and staff members don't ask when are the pets coming. We appreciate Pets for Life and how they bring happiness to our hearts!!!

Nicole Walter, Activity Director



Volunteer Spotlight

Your Name: Edwin

Your Therapy Pet: Rory a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, age 6

How long have you been volunteering? 2 years

What types of facilities do you visit? Memory Care, Rehab, and Elementary Schools

What do you enjoy most about volunteering with Pets for Life? Seeing people's day brightened by Rory's visits.

Share a random fact about your pet: Rory's sister is a Shetland Sheepdog. He would tell you that she can be pretty bossy.



Volunteer Spotlight



Name: Judy Thomasson

Being a member of Pets for Life has been in my life for the past 10 years plus. There have been four really super Golden Retrievers who were a big part of these years. I had been involved in horse related activities for a number of years and when the knees wouldn't take it anymore, I heard about Pets for Life in the Kansas City Star and thought it sounded really rewarding. I have gone to a number of facilities, schools, and special events as the time went by. All of it has been both enjoyable and beneficial. It comes to my attention that when people have to give up independent living and move to a facility, they not only give up a way of life, but in many cases that includes giving up their pets.

Being a Pets for Life Volunteer with Bailey, Charlie, Bella, and now Mo has helped fill the gap in many lives. My dogs have seemed to know what their role is and I am just a person who follows them along. I look forward to each visit with Mo to a facility and have noticed that there are times that she doesn't want to leave after we visit because she loves the people that she sees. My hope is to continue doing volunteer work with Pets for Life as long as I can and as long as Mo can hop into the dogmobile.



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!



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<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.

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