

# DOGS FOR DIGNITY®

Stories of the Journey  
to Independence

2018 ANNUAL  
IMPACT REPORT

SDA Dog NEWMAN  
brings joy and  
independence to  
Malachi and his mom





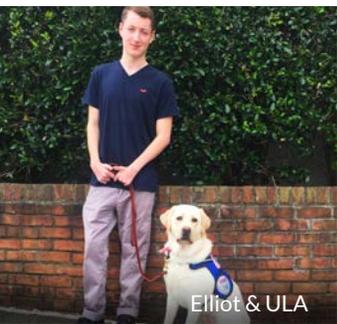
Aaron & QUINCY



AmyJo & BEAUTY



Ashley & REASON



Elliot & ULA



Mikayla & SAFFRON



Logan & MOCHA

## 2018 PAWS CLIENT-TEAM PLACEMENTS

Jack and HALO  
 Michael and COOPER  
 Michael and SIRI  
 McAllister and ARTY  
 Declan and NOBLE  
 Ashley and REASON  
 Janice and MAE  
 Katrina and KYRA  
 AmyJo and BEAUTY  
 Pamela and DAYA  
 Aaron and QUINCY  
 Eric and LEX  
 Michael and VOCO  
 Mikayla and SAFFRON  
 Guinevere and SOLSTICE  
 Jannette and SAPPHIRE  
 James and NINJA  
 Kimberly and WAGS  
 Molly and MATER  
 Justin and WENDELL  
 Elliot and ULA  
 Darlene and NIKE  
 Lynn and GILLMORE  
 David and BENTLEY  
 Thomas and AJAX  
 Nancy and PELLA  
 Debra and BLISS  
 Noah and FINN  
 Logan and MOCHA  
 Kimberly and CJ  
 Evan and VIXIE  
 Lucinda and PONCHO  
 Diane and OTIS  
 Steve and WOODROW  
 Mary Sue and WINTER  
 Matthew and FOZZIE  
 Michela and HENNE  
 Sharon and CORAL  
 Lauren and WILEY  
 James and SAGE  
 Cesar and DAPHNE  
 Kyle and NOODLE  
 April and PORSCHE  
 Antonio and PIKE  
 James and PHOENIX  
 Jonie and FERGUS  
 Lisa and CHILI  
 Leslie and TRIXIE  
 Ray and JASPER  
 Ethan and RUFUS  
 Elizabeth and RIO  
 Carol and SHASTA  
 Dustin and ANSEL

Paula and TUCKER  
 Mason and BAYLOR  
 Anna and WHATLEY  
 Michael and SCOUT  
 Jerome and THURMAN  
 Leslie and LINUS  
 Ashley and FUJI  
 Candace and DENALI  
 James and STANLEY  
 Janet and GILMOR  
 William and AVERY

## PAWS STAFF

### OFFICE STAFF

Mary Blain  
 Kim Blozinski  
 Carolyn Conway  
 Kelly Jo Crabb  
 Deb Davis  
 Carol Manshaem  
 Shari Murdock  
 Paula Pasma  
 Haley Pomorski  
 Abigail Robinson  
 Jill Ver Lee

### TRAINING STAFF

Crystal BeVier  
 Barbara Kozminski  
 Anna Post  
 Bradley Rowe  
 Maddison VanEgmond

### CANINE STAFF

Dawn Bohan  
 Connie Bowne  
 Jim Cantrell  
 Taylor Contreras  
 Abigail Cook  
 Carol Dobos  
 Linda French  
 Debra Gaylor  
 Dawn Hunter  
 Jennifer Hill  
 Wendy McIntosh  
 Michael Reurink  
 Julie Thorington  
 Michael VanLent  
 Donna Venner

### ANIMAL CARE STAFF

Jeanne Klynsma, *Veterinarian*  
 Nicole Hall, *Veterinary Technician*  
 Karlie Vander Kolk

## BUILDING CARE STAFF

Kevin Thiel, *Building Care Supervisor*  
 Emily Beard  
 Elizabeth Coyne  
 Tyler Doane  
 Kinsey Dykstra  
 Douglas Hollebeek  
 Allison Lake  
 Heather Reurink  
 Joseph Thiel  
 Diane Williams

## PAWS MANAGEMENT

Michele Suchovsky, *Chief Executive Officer*  
 Teri Crosby, *Chief Financial Officer*  
 Catherine Rogg, *Chief Advancement Officer*  
 Karen Sapp, *Chief HR and Talent Officer*  
 Colette Beighley, *Development Director*  
 Rebecca Canale, *Client Relations Manager*  
 Anthony Clementi, *Canine Production Manager*  
 Mike Hanna, *Canine Flow and Prisons Manager*  
 Carrie Simmons, *External Relations Manager*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Douglas J. Dok Jr., Esq., *Board Chair*  
 Greg Bonner, *Vice Chair*  
 Melanie Yanchuk, *Secretary*  
 Bart Merkle, *Treasurer*

### FULL BOARD MEMBERS

Libby Child  
 Faye Richardson Green  
 Jane Hoggard  
 Janey Ladd  
 Scott Winters

# A BRIGHT FUTURE



Our PAWS® Dogs change lives every day. The PAWS staff share their hearts, their skills, and their passions every day. But most importantly, YOU, our amazing donors, community members, and volunteers, give the precious gift of yourselves to make the world a better place. Together, we are truly a family united behind a common purpose of providing independence and hope to people with disabilities.

This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate 40 years of our founders Mike and Candye Sapp's vision and leadership. Thousands of lives have been changed, and 2019 carries on this inspiring legacy. In fact, Paws With A Cause® has over 420 active Client-Dog Teams working across the country!

But those are just numbers. The real story is in the pages of this report. It is Malachi's story and his mother, Margie, who shares how their lives were changed for the better when they received Service Dog for Children with Autism, NEWMAN. And Alan, who credits his Service Dog ROXIE with giving him the confidence to be independent. This is the impact of PAWS and the life journey we all share together.

Because of you, the future looks brighter than ever. I am excited to work with all of you to carry our mission forward, looking at how we can continue meeting the needs of our clients and our communities. Thank you for being part of our legacy over the past 40 years and for joining us as we celebrate the next 40 years together.

This is an exciting year for Paws With A Cause as we celebrate 40 years of enhancing independence for people with disabilities through custom-trained Assistance Dogs. And furthermore, we celebrate a bright future for our organization.

Last year's announcement of Mike Sapp's retirement prompted a national search for a new Chief Executive Officer. We worked with an executive recruiting firm to find a qualified, passionate, mission-driven leader to continue Mike's inspiring legacy.

We are pleased to have found each of those qualities in Michele Suchovsky, who joined us in November. Michele brings with her a wealth of knowledge, more than 15 years of nonprofit management experience, and an unparalleled passion for making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

The PAWS Board of Directors made you a promise that we would remain committed to keeping the PAWS mission at the forefront of all we do. We continue to work tirelessly to uphold this promise, seeking input from our many generous donors, clients, and volunteers throughout this transition.

I'm honored to have had the privilege of watching PAWS grow during my over 20-year tenure as a member of the Board of Directors. Now, as Board Chair, I look forward to seeing what our future holds.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Suchovsky".

Michele L. Suchovsky  
Chief Executive Officer



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas J. Dok Jr.".

Douglas J. Dok Jr.  
Board Chair



# YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE

**M**alachi wants what every 13-year-old boy wants: to be included, to feel accepted, and to experience all that life has to offer. And with NEWMAN – his Service Dog for Children With Autism – by his side, this is all possible.

But life before NEWMAN was less certain. Before his second birthday, Malachi received an autism diagnosis which rocked his family's world. As Malachi grew older, he experienced night terrors and struggled to sleep through the night. He developed a tendency to run away in public. He had a fascination with water that made backyard gatherings hazardous. Even traveling to the grocery store became a scary experience for his family.

"I don't know how many times I've been in mud, sand, dirt, grass, covered from head to toe, because Malachi

just doesn't understand the dangers of the road," explained Malachi's mother, Margie. She and her husband knew a PAWS Dog was what they needed to help keep Malachi safe. And from the moment they brought NEWMAN home, keeping Malachi safe is exactly what he has done.

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**"IT IS REALLY NICE TO BE ABLE TO RELAX AND NOT HAVE TO BE ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT."**

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"It is really nice to be able to relax and not have to be anxious about what's going to happen next," said Margie, recounting some of their first trips together as a team. "The bond they share is amazing because Malachi wants to be with NEWMAN; where if he was walking hand-in-hand with me, he would want to wiggle his hand away and get away from me."

NEWMAN acts as a security blanket for Malachi at night and helps him overcome his night terrors. He provides a point of focus for Malachi in public, so Malachi is less likely to run. He offers Malachi constant companionship and acceptance. But one of the biggest things NEWMAN has done for Malachi is make his world bigger.

With the encouragement of PAWS, Margie, Malachi, and NEWMAN began participating in their local 4-H nearly two years ago. They started in the Special Kids & Special Dogs exhibition and then entered the Cloverbud Class for agility. "It was phenomenal how everyone embraced us – even though we look different and we do things a little bit differently," said Margie.

Today the trio is active in the Doggie Diggers 4-H Club and currently shows for the United Kennel Club (UKC). They are making it more acceptable for other individuals who need accommodations to show their dogs.

**Margie says getting NEWMAN is the best thing she has ever done for her son. And thanks to your support in 2018, more PAWS Clients are experiencing the same independence and safety that Malachi now has!**



## MEET OUR BEST FRIENDS

Ken and Ellen Milne first learned about Paws With A Cause while living in West Virginia. Ken, having parents who are deaf, and Ellen, a teacher for students who are deaf, were immediately drawn to PAWS' mission and knew they wanted to give back. After returning to Michigan, the Milnes opened their home to a PAWS Puppy in 2003.

Their experience as PAWS Dog Volunteers inspired the Milnes to support PAWS financially. "We, thankfully, have been able to meet several of the clients our puppies have been placed with," shared Ellen. "Seeing the independence that those dogs have given their clients encourages us to do more for the organization. We believe it's important to put our money where our hearts are."

The PAWS Best Friends™ monthly giving program provides an easy, convenient way for the Milnes to give on a regular basis. "I would encourage anyone who has any question about whether or not they want to volunteer or donate to listen to a client's story," explained Ken. "This is why we do it."

Since joining the PAWS family nearly 16 years ago, the Milnes have been loyal donors and volunteers raising eleven PAWS Puppies and housing a Mama Dog. PAWS is truly thankful to Ken and Ellen for their dedication to our mission.

**Did you know, on average, PAWS Best Friends™ contributions sponsor two Assistance Dogs each year?**

**To become a PAWS Best Friend and join our monthly giving program, please contact Paula at (616) 877-7297 ext. 220 or visit [pawswithacause.org/bestfriends](http://pawswithacause.org/bestfriends).**



Photo Credit: Central Michigan University

Alan and his Service Dog ROXIE are an inseparable pair at CMU graduation.

# LOOK WHAT WE ACHIEVED

**A**lan and his Service Dog ROXIE are inseparable. Since the day Alan met ROXIE, she's been his right hand. ROXIE helps Alan, who has cerebral palsy, with tasks such as opening doors, turning on lights, and grabbing items from his book bag. The two became a Client-Dog Team nearly eight years ago and they've traveled everywhere together in that time: from Disney to Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers games. But perhaps the most remarkable thing about the pair is that both Alan and ROXIE are college graduates.

ROXIE was by Alan's side all three times he crossed the stage during commencement. She was there at Delta College, where Alan received his associate's degree; at Saginaw Valley State University, where Alan

and ROXIE each received a bachelor's degree; and at Central Michigan University, where Alan received his a Master of Business Administration and ROXIE was mentioned during commencement. "All those milestones, graduating from college - I wouldn't have been able to do that quite as well without her," explained Alan.

The "unmeasured level of independence" ROXIE gives Alan is something his father, Brian, says provides him and his wife great peace of mind. But "doing the tasks she's been trained to do is only part of the story," he added. ROXIE also supports Alan by giving him the confidence he needs to be independent.

This confidence inspires Alan to serve as an advocate for service animal teams. While completing a

college co-op in human resources at a Fortune 500 company, Alan shared his story with the company's Disability Employee Network in front of a live audience of nearly 150 employees and executives. The presentation was simulcast globally throughout the organization.

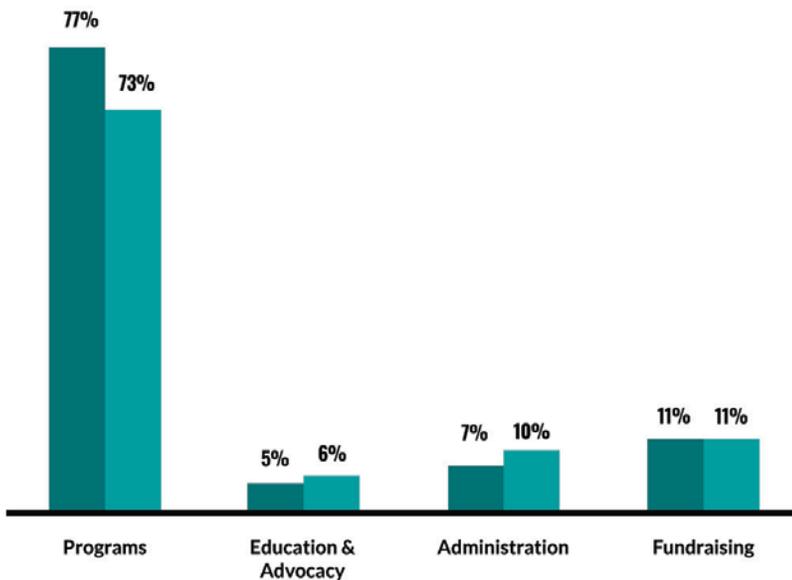
But of all the incredible things this duo has achieved together, Alan's favorite memory with ROXIE is the day they met. "I was kind of nervous, but once I met her for the first time, all of that went away," Alan shared. "She has a big heart and her personality is kind of outgoing like mine."

**Your gift to Paws With A Cause empowered Alan, giving him the confidence and independence to follow his dreams - THANK YOU!**

# 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

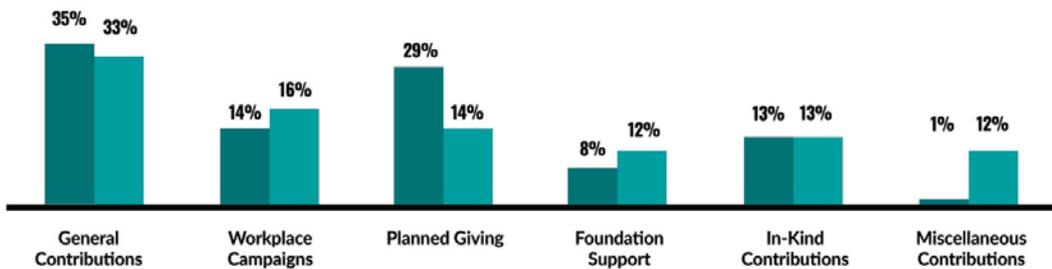
## EXPENSES: 2018 vs. 2017

■ 2018 ■ 2017



## REVENUES: 2018 vs. 2017

■ 2018 ■ 2017



REVENUES	2018	2017
Contributions	\$ 1,513,741	1,221,581
Events	16,370	57,972
Donor Restricted Funds	0	2,100
<b>General Contributions</b>	<b>1,530,111</b>	<b>1,281,653</b>
Local United Way Designations	575,344	530,452
Federal/State Combined Campaigns	44,188	110,473
Workplace Campaigns	619,532	640,925
Planned Giving	1,270,195	564,711
Foundation Grants	376,861	472,413
In-Kind Contributions	558,180	500,376
Investment/Gain/(Loss) Sale of Stocks	(136,416)	369,849
Miscellaneous Revenue	181,287	86,013
Endowment Revenue	11,608	5,010
Miscellaneous Revenue	56,479	460,872
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$4,411,358</b>	<b>3,920,950</b>

EXPENSES	2018	2017
Program Expenses	\$ 3,600,315	3,049,207
Education & Advocacy	245,984	236,332
Administration Costs	330,017	402,290
Fundraising Costs	505,904	469,112
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,682,220</b>	<b>4,156,941</b>

**CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE** \$ (270,862)

**ENDING NET ASSETS** \$ 5,584,908

If you would like to learn more about PAWS' annual finances, please visit [pawswithacause.org/financials](http://pawswithacause.org/financials) or call 616-877-7297 to request our detailed financial statement, 990 form, or audited financial statement.



Paws With A Cause®  
4646 South Division  
Wayland, MI 49348  
pawswithacause.org



## OUR MISSION

Paws With A Cause® enhances the independence and quality of life for people with disabilities nationally through custom-trained Assistance Dogs. PAWS® increases awareness of the rights and roles of Assistance Dog Teams through education and advocacy.



Tax ID #38-2370342  
MICS #7506



# 2018 COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS



136 inmates participated in the PAWS Prison Partners program



PAWS had clients in 33 states



PAWS served 426 Client-Dog Teams

300+ PAWS Dogs were raised and trained by volunteers



# 40th

## ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

June 22 | Wayland, MI  
11am to 2pm

For more information, visit  
[pawswithacause.org/40](http://pawswithacause.org/40)