In 2016, we were able to help 432 PAWS teams, including Art & OLLIE, gain independence with custom-trained Assistance Dogs. Thank you for your support!
Thank you. There are no better words to express our gratitude for all that you helped Paws With A Cause® accomplish in 2016. Because of you, PAWS® served 432 Client Dog teams in 35 states last year. You helped us welcome 225 PAWS Puppies. PAWS Dog Volunteers spent over 2.8 million hours housing, whelping, nurturing and socializing future Assistance Dogs. And we partnered with Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital to place our first Animal Assisted Intervention Dog.

One of the clients we served in 2016 was Julie. You met her this past summer in our Dogs for Dignity newsletter when she was waiting for her PAWS Successor Dog. The independence and security that her Assistance Dog, JADE, gave Julie were gone, when JADE passed away, impacting Julie’s quality of life.

But you changed all of that. You provided the support necessary to match Julie with AYLÁ! Julie said, "AYLA certainly is filling JADE’s “paws” nicely and doing great as a Successor Dog. A huge thank you to everyone who was involved with AYLÁ from the time she was born to the time we became a certified team."

While we experienced many successes in 2016, our work is not done. There are still more than 90 people waiting to receive a PAWS Assistance Dog. With your continued support, we can help them experience the peace of mind and independence that Julie and other PAWS Clients share.

On behalf of PAWS and all of the Client Teams you made possible, thank you!

Libby Child, Board Chair

Michael D. Sapp, Sr., CEO
Whether Art is teaching class at Chapman University, riding his bike to the pier or running errands around town, you will always find PAWS Service Dog OLLIE by his side. And it’s obvious that there is no place he would rather be.

Their journey began when Art was 40 years old and had a stroke that resulted in his being diagnosed with quadriplegia. Yet Art didn’t let his disability slow him down. His positive attitude and perseverance kept him active and independent. Art said, “Social and political change toward valuing rights and away from deficit thinking about disabilities made this possible.”

As his children grew older, Art desired an Assistance Dog that would enjoy his active lifestyle, and act as a companion. But more than that, he was looking for a dog that would enhance his independence by opening and closing doors, removing his jacket, retrieving dropped objects, and pulling a personal alarm when he needed help.

When Art first met PAWS Service Dog OLLIE, their Field Rep Lynn knew it was a great match. Art’s stroke impaired his speech, but one of the things that struck her and Art was how patient OLLIE is with him. Lynn shared, “The bond between the two of them is fantastic. It is clear that OLLIE wants to help Art.”

Sometimes the larger—and often unexpected benefit of having an Assistance Dog is the bridge it provides to the community. This is true for Art as he explained, “OLLIE’s help enables me to be a more active participant in the community.” He allows Art to connect more easily with students and faculty members. Art added, “Not only are PAWS Dogs assisting individuals like me; their presence is also transforming society. OLLIE has made two decades of a good life with a disability even better.”

It is with your support that PAWS will continue to match clients like Art with Assistance Dogs. Thank you for making this possible!
There is a new dog in the halls of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. She is a sweet and spunky black Labrador Retriever by the name of VANDY, the first Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) Dog trained by PAWS.

As an AAI Dog, VANDY is partnered with Recreational Therapists who are trained to utilize an AAI Dog and work in conjunction with Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapists. VANDY does so much more than visit a hospital to lift people’s spirits. She works with patients throughout their rehabilitation to help them learn how to perform tasks that will help in daily life. Patients working on hand dexterity and fine motor skills give her treats. Children with poor muscle tone, due to progressive diseases such as muscular dystrophy, pet her. Patients learning to walk are encouraged to go a little farther as she walks by their side. During VANDY’s short time at Mary Free Bed, the staff and patients have already noticed a difference. Maria Besta, Mary Free Bed’s manager of Recreational Therapy and Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports shared that “Her presence alone can lift the spirits of patients who need support to keep going. She plays cards with patients and motivates children to walk or sit up independently. She’s been a wonderful addition to our team.”

While most PAWS Dogs focus on alleviating the challenges of one person’s disability, VANDY will help thousands of people with varied disabilities. We look forward to sharing her journey with you as she continues to enhance the independence for people with disabilities.

AAI Dogs work with patients of all ages by integrating activities and goals into their clinical treatment with occupational, physical, speech and recreational therapists.
Twenty years ago, Kathleen began giving to PAWS through a workplace giving campaign. Her generosity has not stopped as she continues to give directly to PAWS. After so many years, we were thrilled to have Kathleen and her partner, Diana, visit PAWS for the first time on our PAWS For Lunch tour last year. On the tour, they both were moved when they heard PAWS Client Linda share how her Service Dog, Sawyer, helped by retrieving dropped objects and opening doors.

Hearing this story inspired Diana to return a few weeks later when families were receiving their Service Dogs for Children with Autism (SDA). After seeing each family interact with their new Assistance Dog, Diana was motivated to create a planned gift which will be designated to PAWS’ SDA program.

Kate was watching Sesame Street with her 4-year-old daughter Kylie. The episode featured a family raising a future Assistance Dog. “The thing that struck me the most,” Kate remembered, “was teaching your kids to do something you enjoy while also helping others.” It was in that moment that Kate knew working with Assistance Dogs was something she wanted to do.

Kate and her family signed up to become PAWS Dog Volunteers. They agreed to raise a puppy, teach it basic obedience and expose the puppy to different experiences to help prepare him for his future. At the time, Kate was also working for American Airlines so she also agreed to transport PAWS Dogs to clients and Foster Puppy Raisers.

Libby was the first PAWS Assistance Dog that Kate flew. As she walked Libby off the plane, she noticed Libby perk up when she spotted her new client. Libby ran to her side, wagging her tail. Kate was confused as she said, “I didn’t think they had met before.” The amazing thing is, they hadn’t! That’s when Kate felt the impact she was making. “Raising and transporting dogs is incredibly rewarding for me, just knowing I am playing a small part in changing people’s lives.”

The decision to join the PAWS Family over 20 years ago not only changed Kate’s life, it continues to influence the lives of her family and PAWS Clients across the country.

Kate’s daughter Kylie is now an adult and works as an instructor at a therapeutic riding center. She is also raising her second PAWS Puppy. Kylie’s passion for training animals to enhance the lives of others is a huge part of her life, whether canine or equine. She said, “Not everyone with a disability can or wants to ride a horse, so raising and training dogs for people with disabilities is just another way to help people with special needs improve their quality of life, make them feel a part of their community and allow them to have that special bond with an animal.”

Thank you, Kate and Kylie—and all of our PAWS Dog Volunteers—for giving the gift of independence. Your passion inspires us all.
If you would like to learn more about PAWS’ annual finances, please visit pawswithacause.org/financials or call 800-253-7297 to request our detailed financial statement, 990 form or audited financial statement.
2016 PAWS ASSISTANCE DOG TEAM PLACEMENTS

Anna and FABLE
Anna and SNICKERS
Art and OLLIE
Ashley and RAINA
Beck and WYNN
Bill and GORDON
Brandon and FEBE
Bruce and ARDIS
Catherine and MESA
Cimberly and BRYCE
Cindy and JONES
Dani and GOLLY
Daniel and DAPHNE
Dean and BANU
Dina and HOGAN
Eric and CESSNA
Eric and NIEKO
Erin and ZENA
Harrison and DUKE
Janet and TINSEL
Jayda and SELMA
Jeff and TAHOE
Jennifer and FAYGO
Jordan and GIBBS
Joshua and LOGAN
Julie and AYLA
Karen and FALLON
Katie and ROXIE
Kenneth and JASMINE
Kevin and JEDI
Krzysztof and NASH
Lennon and REGAN
Leslie and NEKA
Lewis and DECKER
Louise and MARSHAL
Marilyn and NALLY
Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital*
Medina and MADGE
Michael and EVE
Monique and KIT
Nicole and BROCK
Patty Jo and SABLE
Peter and RUSTY
Rebecca and LILAC
Rosalind and JAVA
Sally and WINFREY
Samantha and ROYAL
Sandra and CASSIE
Sandra and WALLY
Sarah and ILLEY
Shawn and FAITH
Sherry and TARA
Sonia and MAUI
Terri and NERO
Tyrone and MATTICE
*PAWS' first Animal Assisted Intervention Dog

PAWS STAFF

OFFICE STAFF
Mary Blain
Kim Blozinski
Jennifer Boan
Becky Canale
Tony Clementi
Deb Davis
Kelsey Haldane
Kimberly Junglas
Ashley Kortemeier
Carol Manshaem
Paula Pasma
Kayla Sapp
Carrie Simmons
Carlie Soule
Jill Ver Lee

TRAINING STAFF
Crystal Bevier
Sara Crockett
Emma Hill
Barbara Kozminski
Emily Martin
Brittany McCready
Shari Murdoch
Anna Rhea
Bradley Rowe

CANINE STAFF
Marilyn Arwe
Dawn Bohan
Connie Bowne
Carol Dobos
Linda French
Debby Gaylor
Jennifer Hill
Dawn Hunter
Wendy McIntosh
Julie Thorington
Donna Venner

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Jeanne Klynsma, Veterinarian
Theresa Peck, Veterinary Technician
Jackie Koloseik

BUILDING CARE STAFF
Taylor Contreras
Doug Hollebeek
Allison Lake
Heather Miller
Michael Reurink
Kevin Thiel
Michael Van Lent
Diane Williams

PAWS MANAGEMENT
Michael D. Sapp, Sr., Chief Executive Officer
Kathleen Ribbens, VP of Program Groups
Kelly Jo Crabb, Client Relations Manager
Teri Crosby, Finance Director
Michael Hanna, Training and Quality Manager
Catherine Rogg, Development Director
Karen Sapp, Human Resources Director

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Jane Timmer
We placed 39 PAWS Dogs into other working careers including arson detection, narcotics detection and PTSD work.

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

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.

Our Mission

PAWS served 432 Client Teams

82% of every dollar supported our mission

Six prisons have inmates raising puppies

We welcomed 225 puppies into the PAWS family

We placed 39 PAWS Dogs into other working careers including arson detection, narcotics detection and PTSD work.

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2016 Community Achievements