OWEN and Patty at their favorite place on Earth: Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona, Arizona. With OWEN, Patty returned to work, moved into a place of her own and traveled throughout the United States.
Patty leaned, sobbing, against her daughter’s kitchen counter as she made some toast. Patty’s daughter, Andrea, found her there and couldn’t understand why Patty was crying: it was her long-awaited Service Dog OWEN’s first day home.

Once, Patty had been a nurse who cared for those in need, including the homeless and HIV communities. Then, Patty was diagnosed with lupus and fibromyalgia which – along with other medical issues – stripped away almost all of her independence. Patty moved in with Andrea. She could no longer work, was ill and deeply depressed.

“I can’t take care of myself. How can I possibly take care of a dog?” Patty exclaimed to Andrea.

But take care of him Patty did. “Her life started again the day OWEN came home,” Andrea says of her mom.

Day-by-day, OWEN – a big black Lab with a very gentle spirit – and Patty learned to work together as a team. OWEN was trained to brace for Patty when her balance was wobbly. He also picked up things Patty dropped, and aided her with tasks like getting dressed. OWEN learned and helped her remember all the steps in her daily routine. He would sit by the spot where Patty kept her medicine until she took her dose.

In time, Patty became strong and happy again. She was able to return to work, and move into a place of her own. Patty and OWEN traveled all over the United States together.

“We got our mom back!” Andrea declared.

In fact, OWEN quite literally saved Patty’s life: one night, OWEN licked and nudged Patty until she woke up to hear the carbon monoxide detector. She was able to call 911 from her bed and get out of her house safely.

Seven amazing years after she was partnered with OWEN, Patty succumbed to her numerous health issues. OWEN was there to the end – a faithful companion, trusted helper, and precious gift. Thank you for making such a life-changing gift possible for Patty and her family!

We love to tell PAWS® stories! Many thanks to Andrea – who sent us her family’s stories through our website – for letting us share them here.

Do you have a PAWS story?

Visit www.pawswithacause.org and click on “Share Your Story” at the bottom of the home page. You could be featured in our next Dogs for Dignity!

Happiness starts here: Patty and OWEN on their first day home.
HEIDI’S INTRODUCTION on the Personal Campaign page she set up through PAWS’ website to raise funds for an Assistance Dog for her son, Noah begins:

How do I describe Noah and life with Noah? Where do I begin? With the doctors who told us, when he was just 18 weeks old, that our boy would never walk, never talk, never function above toddler level? Or later on, when he defied his doctors, stunned his therapists, and silenced his naysayers by walking at age 2, talking at age 4, and reading at age 5? How about later, when he was dubbed the Orange-Haired Boy and delighted both kids and adults with his songs and dances? Or later, when he became the Orange-Haired Teen and won the hearts of anyone he met with his gentle nature, sweet spirit, and joyful sparkle?

Just 19 hours after Heidi first posted a link to the campaign on her Facebook page, Noah’s Arf had surpassed its $10,000 goal, buoyed by the generosity of Noah’s friends and fans.

Heidi, who has raised funds electronically for her walking team (The Coconutter Strutters), admits Noah’s Arf is a unique case. “I’d planned to put the link out on Facebook, wait a day or two, and then really launch the campaign. I was excited to try some ideas I’d had success with before,” she shared. “But Noah’s fans had a different idea. Their response to my initial post – hitting our goal in less than 24 hours – was overwhelming.”

The success of Noah’s Arf may have been unusually quick. But it’s not unprecedented. And it is a vivid example of the power of Peer-to-Peer fundraising.

Peer-to-Peer fundraising isn’t really a new idea. Any fundraising effort relies on individuals personally reaching out across their social networks for results. A Nonprofit Technology Network (NTEN) study reports that 50% of people say they gave a gift because a friend asked them to.

What is new about today’s Peer-to-Peer fundraising is the ease social media and email bring to the process. In a matter of minutes, a link to a campaign page can be shared with scores of friends, across the country, even around the world! The NTEN data tells us that 15-18% of donations to Peer-to-Peer campaigns come directly from Facebook.

That’s why we’re so excited to be able to offer the latest Peer-to-Peer fundraising technology right through our website. And – if you hear “technology” and think “complicated” – rest easy: you don’t have to be a computer programmer to set up a PAWS Personal Campaign. If you can type and know how to "cut and paste," you can do it! PAWS staff are also happy to help you every step of the way to make your campaign a success.

Photos courtesy of Heidi S.

Heidi and Noah on a family trip to Jamaica in 2012. Since Noah was diagnosed with epilepsy, his out-of-control seizures have robbed him of nearly all of his speech and much of his mobility. The seizures have also dimmed something Heidi simply calls Noah’s “sparkle.” Heidi applied for an Assistance Dog for Noah to help rekindle that sparkle, provide comfort during Noah’s seizures, and lessen the isolation epilepsy has imposed on them. You can see a video of Heidi and Noah, and read more of their story, at www.pawswithacause.org.
Wondering how to promote your ready-to-go Personal Campaign? Here are some tips:

**Share your Campaign** with friends and family through email and on your Facebook page. Make sure to include the link to your donation page.

**Ask your friends and family** to share your Campaign link with their families and friends.

**Share regular updates** on progress to your goal. If you have them, include pictures, or even video, of you working on your Campaign project, or at your special event. Heidi notes, “If you share too often, you’ll lose people. If you share too little, people will forget. Typically, I plan for a Campaign post every 10 days or so.”

**Say thank you** publicly and often! Tag your donors in your thank you posts. Heidi adds, “No gift is too small – be grateful for everything that helps you meet your goal!”

**Be honest and open.** This is actually Heidi’s first and most important advice. She explains, “The hardest part is figuring out what to say, and putting yourself out there for the world to see. But people are willing to help and to give to a cause that touches their hearts. So aim to do that, and you’ll succeed!”

**PERSONAL CAMPAIGN IDEAS**

PAWS Personal Campaigns aren’t just for our clients, or families of clients – friends of PAWS are most welcome to join in! Looking for a reason to create your own Personal Campaign for PAWS? The “PAWS-abilities” are endless!

- **Celebrate Birthdays**
  Yours is the most obvious. But a friend’s or family member’s, or even your pet’s – are great options, too.

- **Mark Milestones**
  Graduations, weddings, anniversaries of special events, or other accomplishments. If you commemorate it, you can create a Personal Campaign for it.

- **Seek Sponsors**
  If you do [______], your sponsor will donate [$______]. You fill in the blanks – gather support for each lap or mile you walk, run, or bike. Or by each book you read for a read-a-thon. Or – like some friends at a martial arts school did this summer – by each kick for a kick-a-thon.

**PROMOTE YOUR CAMPAIGN**

**READY TO GET STARTED?**

To set up your Personal Campaign online:
Visit www.pawswithacause.org/personal-campaigns
and click the "Create Campaign" button

For help setting up your Personal Campaign:
Contact Samantha:
800-253-7297
sadler@pawswithacause.org

Noah’s “fist bump” says, “You can do it!”
A DAUGHTER’S GIFT

As a Rehab Nurse and a dog person, Andrea was aware of Assistance Dogs and the help they can give to people with a chronic illness or disability. So when her mom, Patty, was diagnosed with lupus and fibromyalgia, it was Andrea who suggested looking into and applying for a Service Dog from PAWS.

Owen was the first Service Dog Andrea got to watch in action. After seeing all he did for her mom, Andrea knew she had to do something to express their gratitude for the wonderful gift Owen represented. She decided to foster a puppy for PAWS. “Just one,” she laughed. “Then I’d be done.”

But...“A few weeks after I turned in my first puppy, I found I missed the friends I’d made in Foster Puppy classes. I missed the activity of raising a puppy, too. It was like a hole in my life,” Andrea shared. “So I decided I’d raise another.”

Seven puppies later, Andrea (who was able to adopt Owen after her mom’s passing in 2011) is still going strong as a volunteer Foster Puppy raiser. She’ll return her eighth pup to PAWS later this year.

Andrea also helps represent PAWS at events in her area. Andrea said, “I can’t thank PAWS enough for all the ways you’ve helped my family and me. I’m just happy to pay something back.”

In 2012, 264 families in seven states volunteered to foster a PAWS Puppy. Are you interested in raising a Foster Puppy? Learn more, and find dates of upcoming Foster Puppy Raiser orientations, at www.pawswithacause.org/i-can-help/raise-a-puppy

Or, contact Julie at 800-253-7297 or jthorington@pawswithacause.org

PAWS FACTS

2013 RIVER BANK RUN, BY THE NUMBERS:

I Ran. 222 runners, walkers, rollers, sponsors, and volunteers joined TEAM PAWS

I Walked. TEAM PAWS raised nearly $14,000 to support PAWS’ mission, an average of $63 per team member

I Rolled. 5/10/14 is the date of next year’s River Bank Run. TEAM PAWS will begin recruiting for 2014 this fall

I Gave.
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

Our mission is to enhance 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.

Go Green

To receive PAWS communications electronically, email your request and name to: gogreen@pawswithacause.org

PAWS 2012 Annual Report

If we had to summarize our 2012 Annual Report in two words, they’d be: THANK YOU!

Your support fueled our successes last year. You can check out all of the accomplishments you helped make possible online now at: www.pawswithacause.org/annualreport2012

If you’d prefer a printed annual report, please call 800-253-7297 and we’d be glad to mail one to you.