



*A spotlight on
2020*

Paws With A Cause 2020

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Read more about how PAWS Foster Puppy
TATER helps people (page 7)

A LETTER FROM THE CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

PAWS Dogs change lives every day. This past year has been especially meaningful as we learned how to continue our work, to stay connected, and to thrive in a remote world. And we learned how important one dog can be in the lives of so many. **In this issue, we would like to spotlight stories of the people and dogs who change lives every day and make PAWS such a special organization.**

Some of our favorite things have been the many calls, anecdotes, and notes that we have received from our Client/Dog Teams. You know how your dog takes every inch of space on your bed? We recently heard from one of our families about how PAWS Dog NOBLE does just that as he cuddles with his client, who is a young man with Autism. The two are best friends and do everything together.

Our PAWS staff share their hearts, their skills, and their passion every day. Even NIMBUS and TUESDAY, our resident cats, give their all managing the dogs and humans in their domains! On page 5, you will meet our Volunteer Engagement and Foster Puppy Coordinator, Julie Thorington, who is celebrating 25 years with Paws With A Cause this spring.

And YOU, our amazing donors, community, and volunteers, give the precious gift of yourselves to make the world a better place every day. Together, we are truly a family united behind

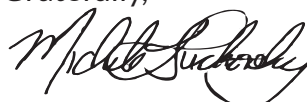
a common purpose of providing opportunities for people with disabilities and communities to live with dignity, companionship, and confidence. Thank you for being on this journey with us!

We have so much to celebrate. Even with the unique challenges of the past 12 months, PAWS placed 59 dogs with clients and certified or recertified 75 Client/Dog Teams. In fact, PAWS supports 430 active Assistance Dogs Teams working across the country!

But those are just numbers. The real story is in the pages of this report. It is Heidi's story on page 6. She shares how her son Noah's PAWS Dog WYLEE added so much joy to Noah's final days. "We received another circle of support around Noah because PAWS is a family." It is also PAWS Dog Volunteer Lisa's story on page 7. She opened her home and her heart to Foster Puppy TATER when the pandemic put her wedding plans on hold. This is the impact and the life journey that we all share together.

We hope that you are as inspired by these stories as we have been. Thank you for being a part of our PAWS family and helping all PAWS Dogs to change so many lives.

Gratefully,



Michele Suchovsky
Chief Executive Officer



Greg Bonner
Board Chair





Spotlight on

PAWS' FIRST CLIENT

November 11, 1938 – September 22, 2020

Forty years ago, Marty Jansen (second from the left in the photo above) had a simple request. He wanted to know when his child cried. Both Marty and his wife Dianne were Deaf. They were also anxious new parents. Marty turned to a friend who trained dogs and asked if a dog could be trained to alert them when their child cried.

As past Board Chair Douglas J. Dok Jr. often says, "PAWS began with a simple goal: train one dog for one client." Marty was our first client and the man who inspired the mission and work of PAWS through his persistence, vision, and compassion. His simple request to help his young family has led to over 3,000 Assistance Dogs changing lives across the country, with more heading to their new homes each month.

Client and Board Member Molly Koroleski shares, "Marty and Dianne paved the path for me forty years ago, not knowing the size of their impact. We began training my PAWS Hearing Dog MATER to alert me to baby cries, as we anticipate the arrival of our first child this coming spring. I think often of Marty (and Dianne) and their courage to ask for help, so that I too can feel confident and capable as a Deaf parent."

As a client, volunteer, and passionate member of the PAWS Family, Marty remained deeply committed to the work of PAWS throughout his life. And PAWS loved Marty! When Marty passed in the Fall of 2020, an Honor Guard of 10 volunteers, 7 trainers, and 13 PAWS Dogs lined up at his memorial service to honor a great man.



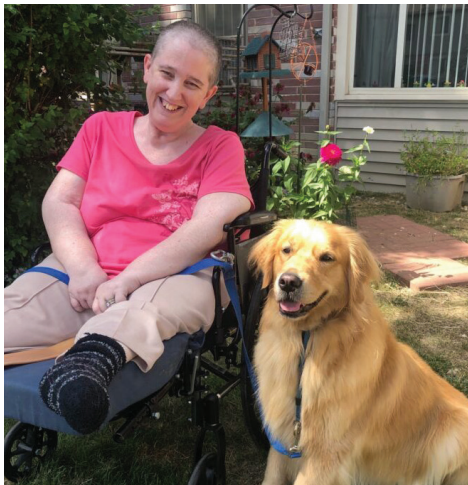
Marty and Dianne at PAWS (2019)



Marty's memorial service (2020)

Spotlight on A FEW OF OUR NEW 2020 TEAMS

Kaylan & MONROE



Emily & SWEET PEA



Maxwell & PARSON



Nick & BOGIE



Maxine & WIDGET



Christina & NEKA



Jesse & SUNI



“Whether SUNI is helping me balance when I walk, opening the door for me, or picking up my keys, he is not only my right-hand man but also my best friend. He has brought me more joy than I ever could have imagined!”

– Jesse and SUNI

Dominic & MILO



Brittney & SKYE



Daniel & ARIES



Anna & SAILOR



Marian & VINA



Gage & MADDUX



Sirius & POTTER



Dallin & JUNO



“I never feel alone because PINTO is always with me. He has returned a sense of security to my life... He also has brought laughter to our home. The most interesting thing is that people don't see an old guy in a wheelchair with a disability. They see me and PINTO, a beautiful Labrador Retriever by my side, and I think it reminds them that angels are in this world.”

– Jerry and PINTO

Samual & PAX



Greg & QUEST



Jerry & PINTO



Davis & MYRTLE





Spotlight on

A SPECIAL PAWS STAFF MEMBER

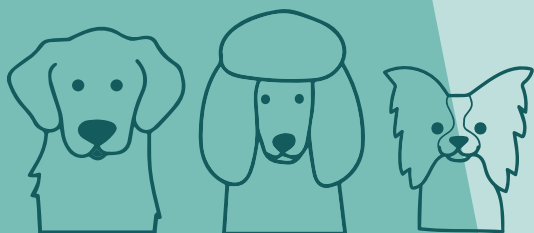


After nearly 25 years at PAWS, Julie Thorington has seen it all. But as our Volunteer Engagement and Foster Puppy Coordinator, 2020 was still a challenging year for her. Normally, Julie's job is to coordinate the placements of all PAWS puppies into their foster homes and follow them through the twelve to sixteen months that puppies are with their Raisers.

However, 2020 changed everything for the Foster Puppy Department. From virtual home visits with new Raisers to socially distanced curbside puppy pickups, Julie and her team have had to be creative. Julie is quick to point out, though, that 2020 had a silver lining: many PAWS Dog Volunteers, whose busy schedules prevented them from raising a puppy, are now working from home and have been able to become Foster Puppy Raisers once again.

PAWS CEO Michele Suchovsky says that Julie is "a person who can tackle any challenge!" Julie is always available for late night calls when a puppy is not feeling well or when a Raiser needs some extra advice. When one of the PAWS Prison Partner training programs shut down right before Christmas due to COVID-19, Julie found temporary foster families for every dog, which enabled them to be in homes over the holiday season.

Julie herself is modest about her accomplishments. Her favorite part of the job is building relationships with the special people who volunteer for PAWS, and she is most proud that several Foster Puppy Raisers are second generation volunteers. "They started out raising with their families when they were young, and it made a positive impact on their lives. Now they are grown and starting families of their own and are raising PAWS puppies with their own families!"



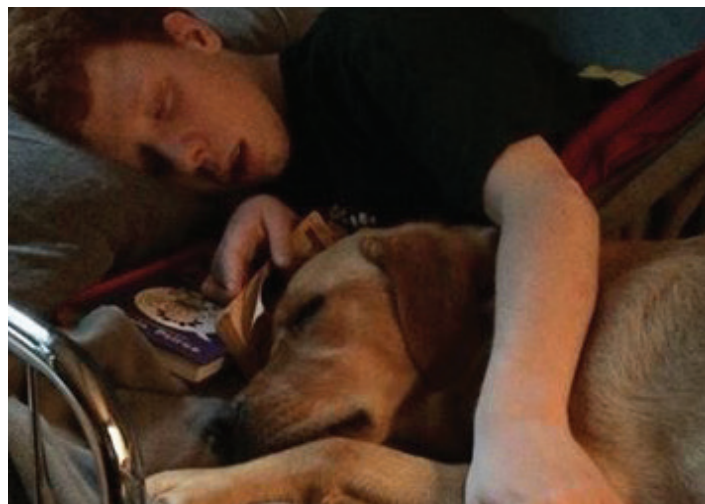
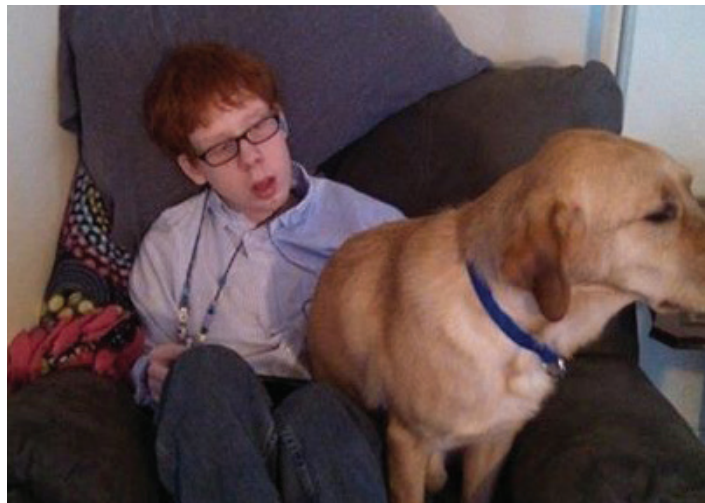
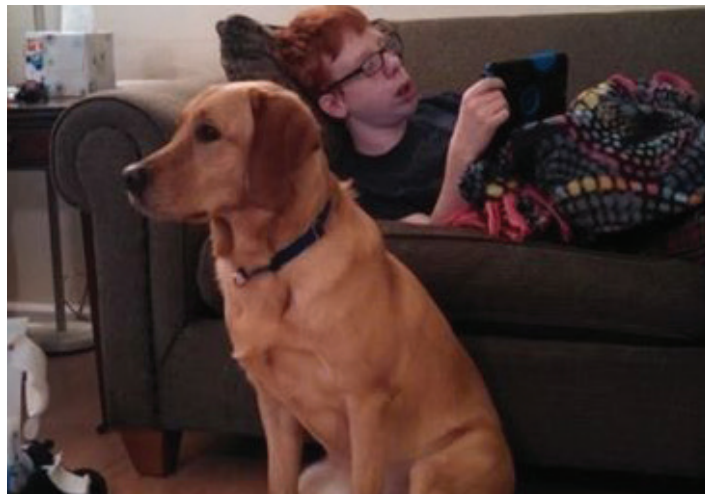
Spotlight on FAMILY

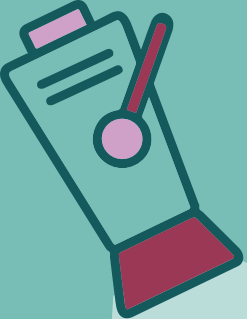
The first thing you notice about photos of Noah is his bright mop of red hair and the mischievous glint in his eye. His mother, Heidi, has hundreds of stories about how funny, kind, and patient he was. Noah had many medical needs and when he was 15 he had his first seizure. When the seizures started coming more frequently, Heidi's sister suggested they get a trained Assistance Dog.

"I am like, 'A dog?'" Heidi says, "I am a single mom with a kid with special needs, and you want me to add *what* to my world?" But Noah loved the idea, so they applied. They were paired with WYLEE, a yellow Labrador Retriever/Golden Retriever mix, who loved Noah fiercely from the moment she met him. By the time WYLEE came to live with them, Noah was having difficulty speaking and was losing the ability to run and play with a dog. But WYLEE still found ways to make him laugh. She slept in Noah's bed, alerted Heidi when something was wrong, and helped them make the most of the time Noah had left.

As Heidi puts it, "We received a dog from PAWS, but it was more than just a dog. We received training, we received care... We received another circle of support around Noah because PAWS is a family." When Noah passed in 2016, WYLEE retired and went to live with Heidi's brother. Heidi took some time to learn the new landscape of her life without her son. But PAWS was always on her mind, and now Heidi is a PAWS Dog Volunteer. She first became a Breeding Host Home to a Papa Dog named REAL DEAL. And now she and her second Papa Dog, ZOOM, help kids, teachers, and staff through Heidi's work in Special Education.

"We received all that support, and now I'm a volunteer," says Heidi. "From the client perspective, I have the gratitude and have experienced what a dog can do. As the parent of a client, the peace of mind that I got knowing WYLEE was there meant so much. Noah got a dog to love unconditionally and someone that loved him unconditionally. Now as a volunteer, I get the joy of knowing I am giving that gift to someone else."





Spotlight on

BRINGING COMFORT

TATER is a little Golden Retriever puppy with a big job. On the days when he goes to work with his Foster Puppy Raiser Lisa, TATER works hard to make people happy. Lisa is a home health coordinator for nine different nursing and long-term care facilities. The residents and staff help TATER practice the skills he needs to one day become a fully certified PAWS Assistance Dog. For now, these tasks include bringing a stuffed toy shaped like a bouquet of flowers to residents and politely greeting the staff at each facility.

Lisa had a big year planned for 2020. "I was a COVID bride," she laughs. "I was supposed to get married in July." Instead, Lisa and her fiancé postponed their wedding. "I wanted something else to do and someone to take care of. Even during lockdown. I still visit the facilities. People are so sad and so lonely. I wanted to foster a PAWS Dog for myself and for the people I work with."

Residents at Lisa's facilities loved TATER even before they met him. Fostering TATER was a community project from the start, with



residents excitedly voting on TATER's name. "We all needed him this year," Lisa says. "It takes a toll on you. He really saved the year for all of us."

Lisa hopes that more nursing and care facilities begin bringing in trained dogs like TATER. "People live here, and they have lengthy stays, such as elderly people and



younger people with disabilities. TATER has already had a huge impact on our residents. We need more of that!”

In the meantime, Lisa is looking forward to walking down the aisle with TATER at her side in the summer of 2021, just before he returns to PAWS for his final round of Assistance Dog training.

PAWS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

59

New Dogs Placed With Clients

33

New Teams Certified

42

Teams Re-Certified

4

Facility Dog Placements

89

Working Dogs Purposefully Placed

430

Client/Dog Teams Served

280

Active PAWS Dog Volunteer Homes

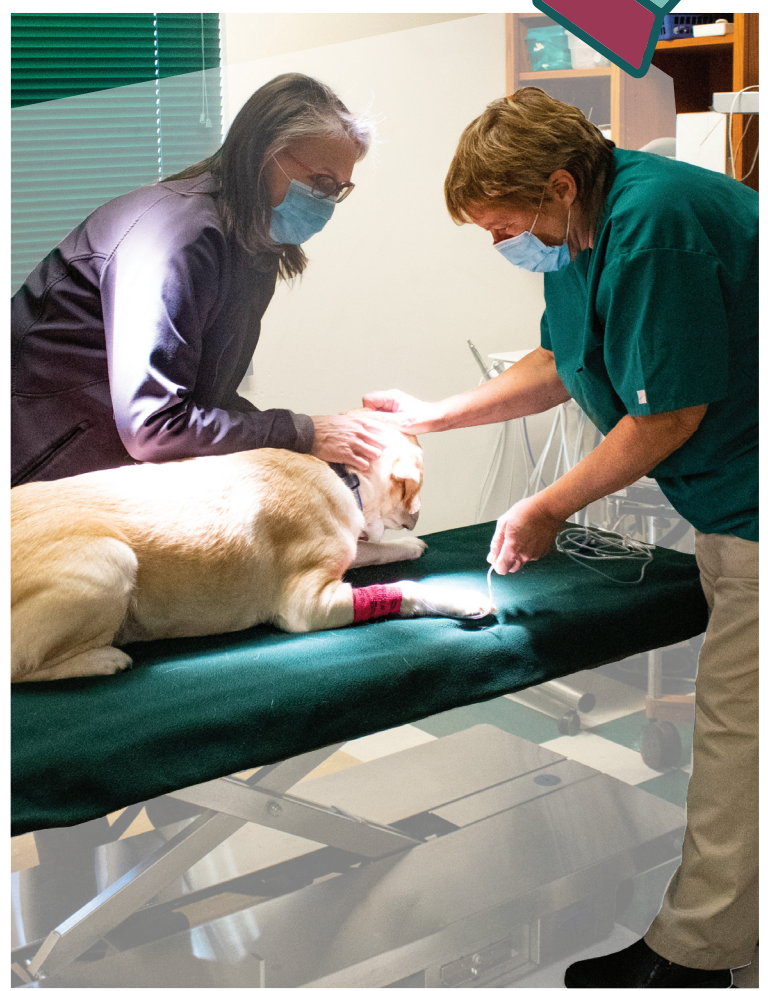
Spotlight on

A SPECIAL PAWS DOG

“CARMEL is in labor!” exclaimed Sue, a long-time PAWS Dog Volunteer. CARMEL and Sue were ready for a normal home delivery of future Assistance Dog puppies but would quickly learn that there was going to be nothing normal about this delivery. Staff Veterinarian Dr. Jeanne Klynsma and National Breeding Coordinator Dawn Bohan decided to have Sue bring CARMEL to the PAWS clinic on our training campus for a Cesarean section.

Just like with humans, a Cesarean section may be used if the Mama Dog is struggling with a delivery. CARMEL presented to Dr. Jeanne in greater distress than expected, and the vet team jumped to work to comfort her and to help with the delivery. CARMEL worked hard and delivered seven beautiful babies but not without great cost. She lost a lot of blood, was exhausted, and her puppies were listless. Something had to be done to help them make a fast recovery, and allow CARMEL to be there for her new puppies who were anxiously awaiting their mama’s attention.

PAWS Ambassador Dog MADGE to the rescue! MADGE spends most of her days greeting staff and visitors with a smile and tail wag. She also provides demonstrations of the tasks performed by PAWS Assistance Dogs. But on this day, MADGE was called on to volunteer as a blood and plasma donor. Thirty minutes later, when the transfusion was complete, CARMEL was meeting her new babies for the first time. CARMEL and her puppies were released from the clinic and returned home safe and healthy. And MADGE? She enjoyed an extra serving of kibble for dinner and a couple of her favorite dog treats!



UPDATE: In January, CARMEL’s litter was turned in to PAWS healthy and ready to go home with their Foster Puppy Raisers. CARMEL is also doing well. She is officially retired as a Mama Dog and living a happy life with Sue and her husband.





PAWS supporters age 70 and a half or older can create taxwise IRA gifts to support our Client/Dog Teams!

If you are interested in making an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) gift, contact Colette Beighley at cbeighley@pawswithacause.org

PAWS loves our Best Friends!

When you decide to make a monthly gift, you increase your impact. In 2020, our PAWS Best Friends donated over \$90,000 which sponsored three Client/Dog Teams.

To become a PAWS Best Friend, visit pawswithacause.org/bestfriends



PAWS IS IN THE TOP 10% OF NONPROFITS IN THE NATION!



2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Number of Months	9 months	12 months
REVENUES	2019	2020
Contributions	\$ 553,485.00	1,460,362.00
Events	69,767.00	58,990.00
Direct Placements/Partnerships	38,050.00	78,616.00
Donor Restricted Funds	5,000.00	5,000.00
General Contributions	666,302.00	1,602,968.00
Local United Way Designations	180,201.00	483,998.00
Federal/State Combined Campaigns	84,368.00	55,896.00
Workplace Campaigns	264,569.00	539,894.00
Planned Giving	1,249,946.00	1,000,854.00
Foundation Grants	50,212.00	512,181.00
In-Kind Contributions	188,153.00	91,368.00
Investment/Gain/(Loss) Sale of Stocks	320,402.00	203,419.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	82,835.00	0
Endowment Revenue	16,000.00	5,750.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	419,237.00	209,169.00
TOTAL REVENUE	2,838,419.00	3,956,434.00

Number of Months	9 months	12 months
EXPENSES	2019	
Program Expenses	\$ 2,733,131.00	3,518,835.00
Education & Advocacy	179,413.00	86,502.00
Administration Costs	243,158.00	302,561.00
Fundraising Costs	316,829.00	448,401.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,472,531.00	4,356,299.00

CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE \$ (399,865.00)

ENDING NET ASSETS \$ 4,550,931.00

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



Paws With A Cause®

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PAWS TO CELEBRATE

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VIRTUAL EVENT APRIL 12-15, 2021

www.pawswithacause.org/pawstocelbrate