

\$500 Grant from McGraw-Hill Companies



(Paws for Healing volunteer Jody McKenzie is pictured here with her dog Molly, in front of the American Canyon Library where they volunteer each week for the READ program. She is holding the \$500 check from the McGraw-Hill Companies, a donation to Paws for Healing.)

Jody McKenzie and her pit bull-terrier mix, Molly, have been volunteering at the American Canyon Library since they became Paws volunteers in 2009. Molly was adopted from the Berkeley Humane Society in 2007 and is a sweet, loving dog. Because one of her legs is weak due to a previous injury, a less active volunteer opportunity like the READ program was a perfect fit

for Molly. Added to that, owner Jody was an employee at the San Diego Public Library during college, and she now works for a book-publishing company as an editorial supervisor—so a library and the READ program were even more than perfect for this canine-owner team!

Jody currently works for McGraw-Hill Technical, which publishes print and digital engineering and computing resource books. McGraw-Hill provides small grants to eligible nonprofit organizations where employees of the McGraw-Hill Companies volunteer their time. The idea is simple: You give your time, the company gives money. According to the company's intranet site, "The McGraw-Hill Companies has been committed to improving the communities where we live and work, and to helping people develop the skills they need to succeed in life."

Jody applied for the grant, and she was approved for this \$500 donation to Paws for Healing through the McGraw-Hill program. Thank you to Jody and Molly for their great volunteering at the American Canyon library and to McGraw Hill for this donation to Paws for Healing! Woof woof!

Paws for Healing is a 501(c)(3) and its mission is to mend hearts, minds and bodies with gentle paws and healing hands. In the past 14 years our teams have donated well over 90,000 hours and we continue to grow in the North Bay counties.

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Therapy Dog Chronicles

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A Message from Our Board of Directors

Fourteen years and counting---that is how long Paws for Healing has been in existence, and thanks to all of you—our great volunteers—we are still going strong. As an example of your efforts, since we have been keeping time and mileage, our volunteers (those who submit their time and mileage) have traveled 355,381 miles. That equates to having gone around the circumference of the earth more than 14 times! Pretty impressive, I would say. So thank you to all of you for what you do!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 23rd—that is the date for our volunteer appreciation picnic to be held once again at Kennedy Park in Napa at Mulberry sites I and II, from 11AM-2PM. We have had great fun there the last two years and hope that you'll be able to join us this year. Lunch will be served from 1130-1:00 and we'll have some treats for our canine friends plus there will be opportunity to mix with other volunteers and just generally have a fun day! There is a playground nearby, and we'll have some activities for you to participate in so please plan to join us. Therapy dogs—on leash of

course—are invited as well as family members! We'll be sending out more info on the event but I wanted to give you a heads up so you can save the date. If you'd like to help with this event, please contact Marilyn Horvitz at k9grandma@comcast.net.

Also, just to let you know, your PFH board is busy updating our policy and procedure manual. When it is completed we will have copies of it online for you to download or read at your convenience.

Have a wonderful spring and we hope to see you at some of our training seminars. Just a friendly reminder that our PFH store is open on the second day and this provides you with a chance to see any new products, and for you to purchase new uniforms or other things you might need—besides we like you to stop in and say hello and woof woof!

Thank you again for all you do! Sara DeCrevel and the board—Meir Horvitz, Pauline Seago, Joyce Bristow

TRIPLE REWARDS FOR PAWS FOR HEALING FIRST TIME VOLUNTEER

Over the years I have volunteered with several organizations, each offering a unique and rewarding experience. As a first time *Paws For Healing (PFH)* volunteer with my dog Otto, the rewards are double, even triple!

We decided to volunteer at the Veterans Home after meeting Trudee Lewis at a PFH training session; she has been a volunteer there for 7 years. While one must be diligent and stay on top of all of the Veterans Home procedures a volunteer has to pass, it is well worth the patience. Trudee went out of her way to help us once we were approved as a volunteer and showed us the hospital ward that she “works” with her dog Tristan.

Otto is a seven-year-old mixed breed rescue dog. When we adopted him we were told that he is a mix of a German shepherd and dachshund. This unusual combination makes him lower to the ground and long, with black and tan markings, and an extravagant tail. Weighing in at 35 pounds makes it challenging for me to lift him up to see residents in hospital beds, so I was hoping there was another facility at the Veterans Home for us. We were in luck when Susan, the Volunteer Coordinator, said that she had a new program in mind. A young Veteran in the Roosevelt Building, which offers more of an assisted living atmosphere, asked if a dog could come to their building. On Otto’s first visit, he quickly made many friends; he could jump up on the chairs and couches in the lobby to curl

up with residents, get some good belly rubs, and lay his head on their laps. It made me so proud of him seeing the joy that he was bringing into people’s lives, not to mention the happiness that he, too, was feeling. He has a big smile on his face when he greets the residents and I can’t think of a more deserving group than our Veterans.

While Otto does all of the work, I play a small role on our visits as a photographer. On our first visit, the young Vet was going to take a photo of Otto but her battery was dead, so I said that I would bring my camera, and take photos on my next visit. It was a terrific way to interact with everyone and I got some great photos. I printed them and took them to distribute on our next visit—they were a huge hit, and now a regular part of our visit.

My inspiration to volunteer for this program came from Nanci Caron (PFH Assistant Trainer) and her dog Duke. Nanci has known Otto since he was a puppy and cares for him when we are out of town. Otto enjoys many adventures with Duke and Nanci during our vacations which Nanci documents in photos that she shares with us. This thoughtful act made me realize how shared photos are so appreciated. As we have gotten to know her over the years, it has been obvious that she loves animals, and knows how much healing and joy they can bring to others through a program such as PFH. Since I have become a PFH volunteer, the rewards are triple: the Vets benefit, Otto benefits and I am a huge beneficiary seeing Otto at “work”, spreading unconditional love.

Julia Scannell & Otto



Sadie and Roscoe Hinkle



Cooper Greenspan



Sweetie Greenspan

This Issue’s Featured Dog Breed

This newsletter we are featuring Shih Tzu. The name is both singular and plural. A **Shih Tzu** is a breed of dog weighing between 4 and 7.75 kilograms (8.8 –16 lb.) with long silky hair. The breed originated in China, and is the closest known descendant of the prehistoric Chinese wolf, the “Senji.” Shih Tzu were originally recognized by the American Kennel club in 1969.



Olive, Emily and Mickey Vigil



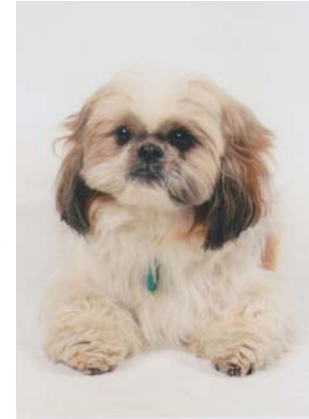
Brandy DeCrevel



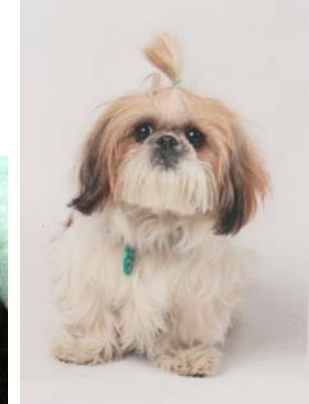
Moulán Smith



Milo and Max Smith



Bart DeCrevel



Bootsie DeCrevel



SOLANO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANINE VISITS



We all know that Paws for Healing volunteers visit all kinds of healthcare facilities to mend hearts, minds, and bodies with our gentle paws and guiding hands. We also know that many of our volunteers bring their canine partners to various libraries and schools throughout Napa, Solano, and Sonoma counties to allow children to read aloud to the dogs thereby helping them achieve higher levels of reading ability.

However, there is a small group of our volunteers that have become involved in a new program that was initiated by our volunteer, Paulette DuClair, with the Solano County District Attorney's Office in Fairfield. What they have been doing is bringing their canine partners when there are children that need to be interviewed by the various District Attorney staff members. These children interact with the dogs while they are waiting for the investigators, taking their minds off of the impending interview.

There are several requests for the dogs each and every week. Paulette screens the calls and tries to match the child being interviewed with the type of dog—i.e., she attempts to match the age of the child with a size available dog—one that she thinks will be most

effective in relaxing the child.

This program began in May, 2011. Paulette retired as the Solano Sheriff's Office Administrative Secretary after 35 years of service. Working in this office she became very aware of the stress that the children undergo as they go through any legal process, dealing with strangers for the most part, after already enduring a traumatic event in their young life. The professionals—attorneys, counselors, social workers—who work with the children determine if the child likes dogs and if so they contact Paulette and request a canine visit. The idea of having a dog there a few minutes before the child goes in to be interviewed or appear before a judge is just a small effort to help ease their anxiety and bring a little bit of normalcy to their lives.

Volunteers for this project have to undergo a special screening before they are allowed to be a part of this extraordinary program, but all of those who are involved feel this is a wonderful privilege and the extra screening is appropriate. Paulette would like to expand this so that the teams can eventually go into the courtroom with the children, when asked. And because of the success of the Solano County program and Paulette's efforts, Paws for Healing is now in the process of expanding to our other counties. Thank you, Paulette!

Upcoming Events

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
June 23, 2012
at Kennedy Park, Napa

Santa Paws
November 17, 2012
at Pet Food Express Napa

A Beautiful Soul in the Dead Letter Office

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey.

She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

*Dear God,
Will you please take care of my dog?
She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I'm happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.*

I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls.

*I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog.
I really miss her.*

*Love,
Meredith*

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey & Meredith, addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven.

That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand.

Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

*Dear Meredith,
Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away.*

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog.

Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I'm sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank-you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much.. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.

*Love,
God*



What is the Difference Between a Therapy Dog and a Service Dog?

A therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in various healthcare and educational environments and stressful situations such as disaster areas.

Service dog means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform specific tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a “physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or mental disability, according to federal law.”

Please note the specific differences between the two definitions. Paws for Healing does **NOT** certify dogs as Service Dogs; the dogs that are certified by us are Therapy Dogs.

When applying for a Service Dog Identification Tag, the following is the statement extracted, from the California Penal Code is required.

“By affixing my signature to this affidavit, I hereby declare I fully understand that Section 365.7 of the Penal Code prohibits any person to knowingly and fraudulently represent himself or herself, through verbal or written notice, to be the owner or trainer of any canine licensed as, to be qualified as, or identified as a guide dog, signal dog, or service dog, as defined in subdivisions (d), (e), and (f), respectively, of Section 365.5 of the Penal Code and paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of

Section 54.1 of the Civil Code, and that a violation of Section 365.7 of the Penal Code is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.”

We are sharing this as there has been at least one incident where an individual has stated that their dog should be allowed into an eating establishment because it was trained as a **Service Dog** by Paws for Healing (PFH).

Dogs certified by Paws for Healing are **not** certified as **Service Dogs**.

In Solano County, for example, they fall into the category of Working Dogs for licensing purposes, the same as herding dogs.

In Napa County, The Animal Shelter will issue a Therapy Dog License, however, from what they tell us there is no difference in the fee.



Even cats need some good old fashioned Canine Assisted Therapy



Sample of what they will look like

of color. In addition, there will be a catalog with pictures of most of the popular dog breeds. Not to worry, if the pattern for your dog’s breed isn’t in the catalogue there is a good possibility that Marilyn can order one. In the event your dog is not breed specific there will be a choice of novelty embroideries to choose from.

If it is inconvenient for you to get to Napa on training days, you can email Marilyn at k9grandma@comcast.net and order a sweatshirt directly from her. She will email photos of what she has available for your dog’s breed to you. In addition samples and the catalog of patterns will be available at the Appreciation Picnic on June 23rd.

Make your donation to a worthwhile organization and show off your furry friend.

A Therapy Visit Story

A story from a C.A.T. volunteer.

Yesterday we visited the rehab hospital and in the Physical Therapy room there was a very large young man who indicated, with his gestures not voice, that he wanted Beaucoup to come over to him. He was in a wheelchair and his right foot was in a cast. He loved petting Beaucoup, and when I asked if he’d like to give her a treat he indicated yes. He didn’t talk at all, but somehow knew what he wanted and Beaucoup was quite taken by him.

Later in our visit, when we were on the upper floors doing our room visits, we encountered him again in his wheelchair near the nursing station. By this time we were joined by the recreation director, who has an incredible way of using these dog visits for her own interactions with the patients. She began to ask him questions, like "Have you ever seen such a big dog?" "Do you like her?" "What do you think of..." and he was verbally answering her. It all seemed quite normal to me.

Then afterwards, she said to me privately that this was the first time since he’d been admitted that he had said *anything* to her. He is schizophrenic, hears voices, had tried to jump out of a window and broken his foot.

Just these small, small steps in communication that a dog can make possible. And often you don’t even know just how gigantic an interaction may be in terms of bringing a patient to a new level.

Carol

Paws Takes a Break

Our last class of the spring is in May and, except for the Volunteer Appreciation picnic June 23rd, we have no official events until this fall. If you have any uniform needs or concerns about anything, be sure to contact us at any time via our phone number or email.

From all of us on the board, have a wonderful and safe summer! We know you'll all be busy with your volunteer duties, spreading smiles throughout northern California. If you go on vacation with your dogs, take pictures and send them to us, either hard copy or via email, with a little blurb about who, what, and where and we'd love to include them in the fall newsletter.

In fact we love to share any of your activities with your canines so please share them with us so we can publish them! Thank you...have a great summer!

When the Volunteer is the Recipient

Dileas, my Scottish Terrier, goes with me to the Cultural Center Library in Vacaville, where she loves the little kids who read to her, whether they can barely read or read Dr. Seuss with great expression! A few weeks ago, the first little girl to read asked if I had any books in Spanish. This was a surprise, but ...yes, I did have a book she

might read. "*El gran lavaperros (The Great Dog Wash)*" was in both Spanish and English. She very happily read it in Spanish to Dileas and me and then I asked if she read English, too. "Oh yes, I learned in first grade."

I told her how wonderful it was to speak and read *two* languages -- something I cannot do. She was pleased and wanted to know if she could read another book to Dileas, but other children were waiting. About 20 minutes later she came back with a list of Spanish words for me to learn! When I asked how I would know what they meant, she said "Oh" and left with her list. She returned with the lists: "Spanish" and "English." I am working on the Spanish and will treasure it for a long time.

Freddi Miller

One of a Kind Sweatshirt Offer

Would you like a sweatshirt with your dog's likeness and name embroidered on it? Well, now you can have just that.

Marilyn Horvitz has introduced a new product to the paws store. For a minimum donation of \$25.00 (no tax) plus \$5.00 to cover postage costs if the shirts must be mailed, you will be able to order one of these one of a kind sweatshirts that will be custom made for you.

During any training session, samples will be available for sizing and choice

Comments From Our Volunteers

What do you think has contributed most to making your visits either positive or not so positive:

"Joy of the kids for Charlie and reading. Gratitude of the parents. Love it!" MH
J/CC

"The patients and staff are really happy to see Rea!" LE

"Seeing how happy children are when playing with Charlie. Charlie is delighted also." ALC

"The wonderful welcoming attitude of the whole library staff." MW

"Sweet dog and sweet people I visit!" KB

" Personally contributing to making people feel better." JL

"Gratitude and smiles from patients, families, and hospital staff." EE

"The clients love Jake." RH

" Seeing how the kids respond to Louie and his response to them." JF

" The joy of the veterans seeing Tristan." TL

"I love the dogs attitude when someone responds to them—they are excited and tails are wagging, actually from

the moment their uniform is put on until we get back into the car." SD

"The reaction and comments of the hospital staff as they all gather around and wait their turn to pet Poco." MH

When a patient looks at you and says "Thank you, you've made my day." MH



Thank You for Your Generous Support

How does PFH use the donations you give us? We are so grateful for our supporters and donations. As you know your donation is tax deductible so we all benefit from your generosity. We have many expenses, as you can imagine, and we do our best to use these funds as frugally as possible. We pay for the training expenses (the continental breakfast, the workbooks, the evaluations), the liability insurance, the website, printing of any brochures and newsletters, birthday and sympathy cards, accounting, mailing expenses, READ book rewards—all this just to name a few of our expenses. If you have any questions, please contact any of our board members and we would be happy to discuss. So, thank you once again. Listed below are our generous donors.

Board of Directors

Sara DeCrelve, President

Pauline Seago, Vice President

Meir Horvitz, Secretary/Treasurer

Joyce Bristow, Director Paws for Reading (READ)

In our last newsletter we indicated there was a donation in memory of Jack Brannan. This was an error and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused

Sandy for Don and Joanne
♥ Lea Stegman



~In Loving Memory~

Bobby a Cat ♥ Lea Stegman
Antonio Vasquez
♥ Sharon Lynne Hafez
Copper ♥ Barbara Tonelli
Dear Sweet Cinnamon
♥ Deborah Wheeler
Izzy ♥ Margery Smith
Miss Molly Gracy
and Miss Mariah Pacheco
♥ Trudee Lewis

~Special~

Kisco Cares ♥ Drake Terrace
Paws for Reading Biba
♥ Mary Lou Wheat

~Donors~

Sadhana Brent
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MAJ Alfred Miller
Diane Moore
John Pershing
Sheryl Sindt
Lea Stegman
Debbie Vigil
Dolores Woods
Lynn Wyman

Would you like to honor or remember a special friend?

If you wish to make a donation* to Paws for Healing in honor of or in the memory of a beloved relative, friend or companion animal, please fill out this form so that we can acknowledge the appropriate person. The enclosed envelope is pre-addressed for your convenience. We appreciate your support.

Please circle:

In Honor of OR In Memory of _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

Message _____

* All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. PFH is a 501 (3)(c) non-profit corporation. All donors will be acknowledged with a letter as well as those families or individuals who are honored or remembered.