

## FEATURED FACILITY

### The Sweet Life at Rosehill

The Sweet Life at Rosehill located in Shawnee, Kansas offers personalized, assisted living and skilled nursing options for seniors. Comprised of three, independent buildings, each is built around an enclosed village theme, with beautifully appointed, spacious accommodations, along with lovely landscaped grounds. The diversity of assisted living options provides residents with the ability to be independent, while receiving assistance when needed; always maintaining the personal dignity and respect of each resident with all the comforts of home.

Pets for Life Volunteer/Pet Team, Bonnie Dunn and BEAU, visit the Sweet Life on the first and third Saturdays of each month, focusing their visits in the "President's and Governor's Mansions"; a village which accommodates both physical rehabilitation and assisted living residents. As regulars for the past two years, they are often greeted with smiles, and shouts of "Well...there's Beau"! The residents greet them with enthusiasm and the rehab patients come alive when they cross the threshold of each patient's room. Because the facility is large, with two additional wings, The Sweet Life could use a few, more Volunteer Teams. Please contact the Pets for Life office if you are interested and/or available for additional visits to this facility!



### IN LOVING MEMORY...



**KATHLEEN  
MCKENZIE**

Pets for Life is saddened by the death of volunteer Kathleen McKenzie. She volunteered with her German Shepherd, KIKKA for the past year. She and KIKKA visited St. Luke's South and were enjoyed by everyone in the rehab unit. Kathy was a professional artist and was known worldwide for her painting of horse figurines. Thank you to all who made donations to Pets for Life in memory of Kathy.

**Pets For Life, Inc., Executive Committee:** Donna Amato, President; Joe Sanches Vice President Sharon Rush Williams, Secretary; John McGee, Treasurer; Judy Thomasson  
**Pets For Life Staff:** Mary Buford, Program Director; Kathy Watkins, Office Assistant; Jane McDowell, Office Assistant

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## QUIET MIRACLES

The true heart of Pets for Life lies in the quiet miracles that happen when loving, trusting animals ring responsive chords in minds that are clouded by age, disease or circumstance. Our animals are specially trained, tested and certified for work as therapy animals. Visits to facilities usually last about an hour, sometimes two. Volunteer/pet teams interact with individuals wherever they live or gather...in hospital rooms, residential rooms, classrooms, physical therapy rooms, or in common areas or lobbies in nursing homes.

Our goal is to improve the quality of life by bringing the joy and comfort of a pet visit to the individual; to assist the staff in carrying out the individual's specific care plan. Working closely with the facility staff, we determine the need and adapt accordingly. The ways in which we help vary widely. For example, one volunteer/pet team was asked to comfort and cheer up a patient, deep in depression and unresponsive to other stimuli. Another team was asked to encourage a patient, whose hand had been clenched for several months; to work at opening the hand in order to pet the dog. Visiting with pets also helps clients with speech fluency, physical skills and cognitive abilities.

The following story captures the impact that pet therapy can have on the people we visit. This event took place at *Gillis*, a facility that provides assistance to children with behavior disorders.

"While SMOKEY was being walked by two boys down the hallway, I heard the most violent, loud and continuously piercing scream of, 'Mommy, Mommy, Mommy'. This went on for nearly 15 minutes. As I turned, I saw a little girl, lying on the floor in the hallway, facing the wall. There were two adults standing over her, appealing to her to take her medication and go to class. I walked over, placed SMOKEY beside the small child and began talking to her about him. As she turned around to look at him, I told her it would be OK to pet him. As she reached out a timid hand, I asked her name. I gave SMOKEY the down command and soon, Annie was in a full body rollover, snuggled right up against SMOKEY. Annie stopped crying, stood up, took her medication and went to lunch with her teacher. The principal later asked me how much it would cost to "...rent SMOKEY".

The comfort of touching and communicating with a friendly dog, cat, rabbit, or guinea pig and the social stimulation of visiting with the animal's owner, provides an antidote to depression and creates a morale boost for those we visit. The joy of a pet visit to those in restricted environments is at the center of what we do and why we continue to provide opportunities to people who are unable to enjoy contact with animals.

<Contributed by Pets for Life Volunteer: Georgia Milliren>

## PETS HELPING People

### Going GREEN in 2011

Exciting news! The 2011 Pets for Life newsletter will be going green and will be distributed via e-mail. Making this move to employ technology as a resource for our organization, will help us save trees, paper, and most of all, dollars that can be better utilized to support our mission and our programs. Here's what you need to do:

Please join us in expressing our sincere gratitude to the following organizations for their important contribution to our continued success:

Raffel Family Foundation	\$ 500
Breidenthal Snyder Foundation	\$1,000
Elaine F. Stern Charitable Trust	\$ 500
Edward Stratemeir Foundation	\$ 300
Tension Envelope	\$ 750
CNA Foundation	\$1,030
Sam's Club, Grandview, MO	\$1,000

- Send an e-mail now to [petsforlife@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petsforlife@sbcglobal.net) with "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line. This will allow us to collect your email address for future newsletter distribution.
- If you do not have access to a computer, or prefer a paper copy, you may opt out of the electronic method and we will continue to send you a paper copy. Just call the Pets for Life office, (816)-363-3665 to let us know your preference. We hope you will join our Board of Directors as we make every effort to conserve Pets for Life's financial resources and minimize the carbon footprint on our environment.

## Kansas City MO Shows Appreciation to People and Pets

In a Special Action at city hall in Kansas City, Missouri on June 24, 2010, Kansas City's Mayor Mark Funkhouser and the City Council honored pets and people that together, help others.

Honored that day was: Iraq veteran, Troy Yocum, and his Shiba Inu, Emmie (a certified therapy dog), in gratitude for the 7,000 mile walk across the country they have embarked upon in order to raise money for the families of U.S. soldiers ([Drumhike.com](http://Drumhike.com)). Troy is banging his drum and sounding the call for \$5 million to help military families in need. With Emmie the SuperDog by his side, he took the first step of his 16-month quest on April 17, 2010.

Pets for Life ([kcpetsforlife.com](http://kcpetsforlife.com)) for the work they do to enhance the care and treatment of people in local hospitals, nursing homes, shelters for domestic violence, mental health programs, treatment centers for youth and corrections facilities through the use of certified therapy teams of pets and volunteers .

Three Dog Bakery, based in Kansas City for the good work of the Three Dog Bakery Foundation. Created out of a devoted love for dogs and a strong desire for ALL dogs to live a long, healthy and happy life, the Three Dog Bakery Foundation serves as a means to raise awareness of and support for dogs in need. Three Dog Bakery is also one of Troy and Emmie's sponsors, providing dog food and treats for Emmie throughout her 7,000 mile trek ([threedog.com](http://threedog.com))

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and Paw Prints the Magazine.*

## PETS FOR LIFE BEGINS LEASH PALS PROGRAM

This summer, Pets for Life volunteers participated in additional training to become Leash Pals teams. Leash Pals is a specially designed program with the goal of teaching young children safe behavior around dogs. Volunteers presented four, 30 minute sessions to several children's groups, including Johnson County Family Focus, a JCCC English as a Second Language (ESL), daycare program, and Operation Breakthrough focusing on children from kindergarten through 7th grade. The day following one of the classes, ESL children were enjoying recess on the playground. Two stray dogs wandered into the area. The adults were not aware of the dogs until they heard a child say loudly, "Be a tree!" The children had been taught during Leash Pals class to close their hands into fists, cross their arms over their chest, and stand quietly in the presence of a strange dog. All 10 children stood like trees, except one child who decided to tuck himself into a ball on the ground (Be a rock!). The teachers reported that the dogs sniffed each child, and then turned and left the playground without incident. Needless to say, the children were proud of themselves, and the adults were relieved and happy that the children had remembered their newly learned skills. If you are interested in becoming a Leash Pals volunteer, please email the Pets for Life office as soon as possible. Daytime availability and a flexible schedule are necessary. We welcome volunteers with and without their canine companions. A special thanks to the wonderful Leash Pals volunteers who worked so hard to present the program during this past summer!

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Whether answering the phone and responding to e-mail correspondence for the Pets for Life office, or tracking down those pesky contact numbers for the weekly volunteer team visits, Jane McDowell is building a reputation. A reputation of loyal, dedicated service, not only to the Pets for Life organization, but for the multiple facilities she visits and the volunteers who rely on her bright personality and administrative talent. Jane and her Kelpie mix, KIP, (who loves yogurt), have been a "non-stop, awesome team" for the last three and one half years. Jane and KIP have visited Alzheimer's care units, children's mental health programs, nursing homes and have served as Mary Buford's faithful assistant at volunteer orientation and training sessions. Jane and KIP are currently regular visitors at the Research Psychiatric Hospital and at a juvenile detention facility. Also active in the R.E.A.D.® program, Jane has been working with Alison Saunders in the newly, revamped *Leash Pals Program*. Jane was recently recognized by *Jake's in the Village* and *Jake's Summit* as their "Do-Gooder" of the month. This recognition is awarded to outstanding individuals in the community who go above and beyond to serve a worthy Kansas City charity. Jane received a \$50 gift card as part of her recognition and a \$100 donation from *Jake's* went to Pets for Life. Thank you, Jane and KIP, for all the hard work and devotion you provide through listening, sharing, and brightening the days of those you touch.

## MEET HARPER

I have always been an animal advocate. When I was little, it was obvious to my family that I had a special bond with animals of all kinds. I have always felt a connection; to dogs especially.

On a Sunday in April, 2008, while doing outreach with a Kansas City organization called *Chain of Hope*, we found a sad brown dog -- near death -- against a fence, in a ditch in Kansas City, Missouri. He was too weak to stand, so he was lifted him onto the tailgate of a truck, and offered some canned food. He would not eat and looked at me with great pain in his young eyes. He barely moved, but his tail wagged, just a tiny bit. This sad, dirty, emaciated dog did not have a collar or tags, so he was taken to the *Chain of Hope* clinic where he was found to have a high fever and a near fatal, intestinal infection.

Along with loving care, IV fluids and strong antibiotics, he was given a new name...HARPER. Although very sick, HARPER slowly began to recover. Despite his severe illness, he continued to wag his tail when he saw visitors approach his crate. When he was well enough, he visited the vet again to receive his vaccinations and to be neutered. Given a clean bill of health, HARPER was about 10 months old and would now be able to live a full life.

I felt drawn to HARPER; haunted by the look of pain, yet gratitude in his eyes on that Sunday when we found him. My husband and I decided to foster HARPER, so we took him home and introduced him to my poodle, MAVERICK, and to some of our close friends and family members. HARPER spent the first week at our house behind a chair in our living room. He was still weak and afraid.

Over the next few months, the true HARPER emerged. The strong, solid, 90 pound dog with the beautiful face, soft fur, expressive eyes, laid back personality and happy tail was a foster dog for only a very short time -- he became a family member very quickly. As an adult dog, he charms both people and animals. Someone asked me if I had ever considered doing Animal Assisted Therapy with HARPER. I looked online and found *Pets for Life* and it seemed like the perfect match, and HARPER would be the perfect Therapy Dog! HARPER and I did three levels of obedience classes and practiced hard for the *Pets for Life* certification test. In April 2010, just 2 years after we found this sick, sad little dog near death in the saddest part of Kansas City, my big, strong, happy boy passed his test with flying colors!

HARPER loves everyone, especially kids. HARPER enjoys his visits to Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center and to Research Psychiatric Hospital's Children and Adolescent units. I have to wait until just before we leave to put on my *Pets for Life* tee shirt and his *Pets for Life* bandana, because once we have on our official "gear," he knows its time for work! He whimpers and wiggles with excitement until we get to our visits.

HARPER doesn't just make people feel better, he helps other animals, too! I have continued to foster dogs for *Chain of Hope*, and I recently fostered a Boxer dog who was hit by a car. During his month-long stay with us, the young dog was socialized and cared for by HARPER. People who are afraid of dogs seek out HARPER for love and comfort, dogs who are shy come out of their shells for HARPER. HARPER's poodle brother, Maverick, would not tolerate anyone before HARPER came into his life, especially right now,

## 2010 PETS FOR LIFE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY!

Save the date, October 23rd, 2010 for the annual Pets for Life Volunteer Appreciation/Pet Party. Our celebration of Volunteer teams will be held at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, Ks. All certified Volunteer teams, including pets, can look forward to an afternoon of fun and frolic as we enjoy the annual pet costume contest, games, food. This year we are privileged to welcome local radio personality, Darla Jaye as our Mistress of Ceremonies, along with guest speakers Joe & Judy Roetheli. We hope to see you there!

### WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Stephanie Bonnett & ALLY MCDOG

Dan Dawdy & DONUT

Kelly Niemiec & PUDDIN

Ashlee Folsom & HARPER

Catie Callery & DARLA

Janel Davidson & CHANCE

Linda Beeson & HANNAH

Ray Beeson & HANNAH

Kerri George & TUCKER

Janet Whitehead & KIRRA

Joyce Logan & EMMA

Julie Kittinger & HENRY

Mike Kittinger & HENRY

Marsha Orrick & ARIEL

### IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we report that Pets for Life's only volunteer bunny has passed away. SNOOPY was a mini-lop eared rabbit that visited many facilities with his team mate, Kim Clevenger. SNOOPY loved to be held and petted. As you can imagine, his soft fur, quiet and gentle demeanor brought smiles to the faces of everyone who met him. SNOOPY will be missed by "every bunny".



during my husband's 15-month Army National Guard Deployment overseas, I couldn't live without HARPER. The sad little dog we found has gone on to heal the souls of all creatures, both human and canine.

*Chain of Hope KC is a 501c3 organization, formed in 2010 with the primary goal of alleviating the suffering of abused and neglected animals within the urban core of Kansas City. The ultimate goal is to break the chain of ignorance, break the chain of suffering and break the chain of unwanted litters. For more information on their amazing effort, contact:*

*Chain of Hope, 258 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Kansas City, MO 64105  
816-221-8080, [www.chainofhopekc.org](http://www.chainofhopekc.org) Submitted by: Pets for Life  
Volunteer - Ashlee RB Folsom MA*



Donna Amato  
& Mayor Mark  
Funkhouser; PFL  
Volunteer teams



— Judy Thomasson & BELLA, Gregg Loeser & BROOKE, Sue Shinkle & BEAU, Pam Graves & FRANKIE, Donna Amato & ROXY, Mary Buford and Sharon Wilson & LEXI; Present but not pictured: Julie Krogh & FIONA