

# PETS FOR LIFE NEWSLETTER

December 2024



## IN THIS ISSUE

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

---

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEER TEAMS

---

THANK YOU KC BIER COMPANY

---

PETS FOR LIFE PRESIDENT, JOHN  
McGEE

---

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

---

DOGTOBERFEST 2024

---

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

---

MANY WILL MISS SEEING JAKE

---

FACILITIES REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS

---

REMEMBERING SUE SHINKLE

---

UPCOMING EVENTS

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PARTY

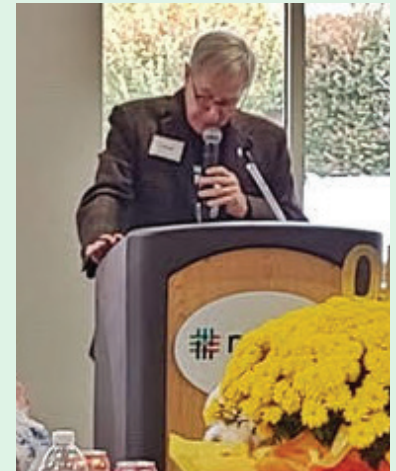
*Shared by Colleen Kennedy*

We had a wonderful turnout for the 40th anniversary party on Saturday, November 2nd at the Powell Community Center in Mission, KS. After welcoming the guest and pets, there was a blessing of the animals by Pastor Barry Freese followed by a catered lunch by Jack Stack. John McGee spoke about the beginning of Pets for Life by William and Harriett Snyder in 1984 and the accomplishments over the past 40 years. Awards and raffle items were then given out followed by dessert.

We look forward to another 40 years of Pets for Life bringing comfort and compassion to all those in need.



*William and Harriett Snyder,  
the Founders of Pets for Life*



# WELCOME TO PETS FOR LIFE'S NEWEST VOLUNTEER TEAMS

We are so very glad to welcome our new volunteers to help share our mission of “pets helping people.”

Kelly Crane and Bayleigh

---

Laura Engel and Ollie

---

Lindsey Myers and Goldie

---

Erin Lutz and Ivy

---

Sarah Reeves and Ernie

---

Sarah Reeves and Harvey

---

Joyce Harris and Millie

---

Kristi Divine and Samson

---

Theresa Clark and Fonzie

---

Nancy Hack and Frank

---

Jill Winger and Woody

# THANK YOU KC BIER COMPANY

Thank you to KC Bier Company for hosting Pets for Life Volunteer Teams on the patio and your generous donation, \$290.00, to support Pets for Life and our mission of “pets helping people.”



# PETS FOR LIFE PRESIDENT, JOHN MCGEE

I have enjoyed being your president these last three years. The Board of Directors have made great strides in 2024 as mentioned at last month's 40th Celebration...and what a PARTY!! Thank you to Colleen Kennedy and her committee for organizing a memorable event. Too, I want to thank Cindy Cowherd, Janet Dubrava, Julie Krogh, DVM, and Fran Lancaster for their many years serving as directors as they leave the Board this year end. These four ladies will continue to volunteer either in the R.E.A.D. program or remain involved at our organization's committee level.

I look forward to seeing you at the Upcoming December 14th Annual Meeting; our short business session will be followed by Holiday drinks and hors d'oeuvres. In closing, I thank all active volunteers for your facility visits that bring such joy throughout the year...we have come a long way since our humble beginning back in 1964.

Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year to all!

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Todd Bachamp	\$25
Jill Winger	\$100
Mo-Kan Border Collie Rescue	\$100
Carrie J. Loose	\$5,000
John McGee	\$500
Elaine Feld Stern	\$1,000
Gilbert Scott	\$500
Fairway Animal Hospital	\$340
Karol O'Brien	\$50
In memory of Irene Hummel	



## DOGTOBERFEST 2024

Thank you to all the Pets for Life Volunteer Teams that helped make it a GREAT day at Dogtoberfest.

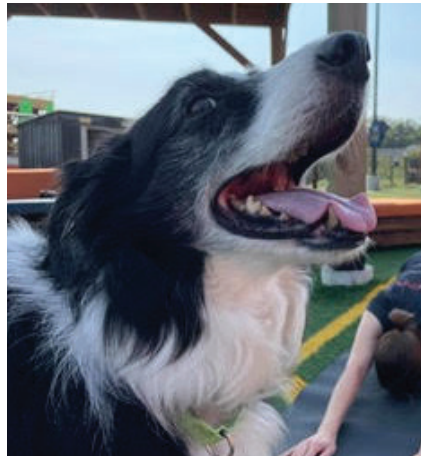


## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



## MANY WILL MISS SEEING JAKE

Thank you Terry Montgomery for sharing your precious memories about Jake.



I think one of my favorite memories was during a visit to Crittenton's inpatient resident population. A young teen patient was kneeling, petting Jake and looking at him adoringly. Patients only receive permission to sign up to visit the dogs if they have been on good behavior. The teen noted, "I've actually been here a while, but I've been "on color" (coded behavior violations) and haven't been able to come down. They sighed and said, "I know the rules are there for a reason, but I just think that I wouldn't get in so much trouble if I had a dog all the time."

When Jake's lump became palpable a few months after its removal in November 2023, I knew the kids would ask about it and I decided not to lie. I told them that all we could do was give Jake love and each visit with them were his best days. One cried and more than one shared their stories of grief, for a beloved grandfather and pets of their own; things that don't often come up, that were healing for them to share.



## FACILITIES REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS

### **Benton House of Raymore**

2100 Johnston Drive  
LRaymore, MO 64083

This facility requests visits in their memory care unit. There is a maximum of 24 residents and the visits will take place in the common room. Mornings around 10:00 and afternoons around 3:30 are preferred.

The residents will be assembled prior to the volunteer's arrival and aides will be able to assist if needed. Wednesday is not an open day for visits.

---

### **Rockhill Manor**

4235 Locust Street  
Kansas City, MO 64110

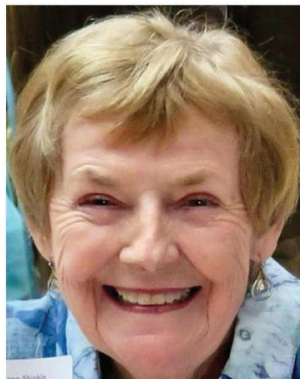
This is a large, assisted living facility whose clients are typically seniors with mental health issues. There are about 160 clients and visits would take place in several common areas on the first floor. A Courtside in the back of the facility is also an option. They prefer visits in the afternoons between 1:00 and 4:00, but there is room between breakfast and lunch, 9:30 to 11:00.

The facility used to have a therapy cat in residence. The coordinator states that residents form long lines when the director brings in his dog so a visit from a therapy team would be greatly appreciated.

## REMEMBERING, LONGTIME PETS FOR LIFE VOLUNTEER, SUE SHINKLE



*Shared by Fran Lancaster*



Sue and I met during a Pets for Life evaluation. Sue and her husband were part of the evaluating team. We chatted and went our separate ways. Meanwhile, I became involved with the R.E.A.D. Program. A chance meeting with discussion about our activities with PFL introduced Sue to the R.E.A.D. Program.

The R.E.A.D. Program suited her passion due to her incredible interest in reading. Sue and her Old English Sheep Dog, Buccleigh, became very active participants in the program. No matter where they went, the sight of this tiny pint sized woman and oversized dog entering a building brought the magic of books and reading to eager young readers. Buccleigh and Sue's teamwork was magic for the young readers. When the children said goodbye to the team, they knew the story they had just read to Buccleigh made him a very happy dog! Sue's part in guiding the young readers into the magical realm of children's fantasy blessed many struggling readers with confidence.

Sue's legacy is remembered and missed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

**Saturday, December 14**  
**1:30 p.m. Business Session**  
**2:15-3:30 p.m. Drinks/Hors d'oeuvres**

PFL Annual Volunteer Meeting  
Overland Park Oak Park Library  
9500 Bluejacket Drive  
Overland Park, KS 66214



@petsforlifelnc



@petsforlifekc



kcpetsforlife.com