

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

A Non-Profit Organization

Fed. Tax ID # 91-2096569

Fall 2014

I know I say this every year, but it is true . . . Fall is just around the corner, and our **Annual Dog Walk** on **November 29th** is fast upon us. This walk will be very special, because December 1st begins the first day of our celebratory 15th year. I am speechless (and that rarely happens to me!) when I think that we are starting our 15th year of service. Who'd have ever thought?!

To touch on a subject from our Summer mailing in which I talked about planned-giving and my 5-year funding plan, my dream goal was to have at least one donor say, “Richard, I have included you in my estate planning.” Darned if it didn't happen just that way! The gentleman knows who he is, and I can't thank him enough for getting my message. I've had two inquires on the subject, so keep talking about this and asking questions.

We've had some wonderful new volunteers start with us this summer, and the teams are already out, visiting their assigned facilities. I think the nicest compliments I have ever received happened quite by accident. I was visiting a dear friend in rehab at a local facility. Imagine my surprise when her therapist asked if I had a dog on the program as well. I told him I did, and he told me that he also worked at a facility in North Palm Springs and the therapy dog there was quite something. With that, another therapist said, “I really like Gus who visits Palm Springs Healthcare!” And then another therapist said, “The best day here is Sunday, when “Waldo,” “Emerson,” and their Mom Karen come to visit. It's an amazing day for our residents and patients because Karen lights up the halls and the rooms with her personality!”

I was so tickled with the rave reviews that I'm still grinning about them! We are 40-volunteer-teams strong, and we make a huge impact in the health and well-being of seniors in long-term care facilities and hospitals in the valley. What a great way of giving back to the community!

“Paws & Hearts” 74-854 Velie Way, Ste. 7 Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 836-1406 fax (760) 836-1426

E: Mail pawsandhearts@aol.com
www.pawsandhearts.org

As you think about a donation for the upcoming dog walk, please go to our website and check out the videos of our **Canine Ambassadors** at work. This isn't just about Lucky and Scruffy and Maddie, but **all** the amazing dogs that make those who are less fortunate smile and feel just a bit better from their visit.

If you are local, please plan on attending our walk. We have updated our website, so you can actually pre-register on-line. Go to www.pawsandhearts.org and right on the opening page you will find, Dog Walk Registration.

As we work to come into the 21st Century electronically speaking, we are still planning to send our newsletters out via email. Please email us at: pawsandhearts@aol.com and we will add your email address. And if you think of it, please share our website with your Facebook and Twitter friends and followers.

We love what we do, and it shows in our work! Thanks everyone for your continued support.

Respectfully yours,

 
Richard **"Lucky", "Scruffy" & "Maddie"** Waxman
Director **"Founder" & "Ambassadors"**

Encls.

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FALL 2014

NEWSLETTER

Executive Director's Message

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Virginia Tillmannshofer

Vice President:

Richard Waxman

Executive Director

“Paws & Hearts”

Founder:

“Lucky” Waxman

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Executive Director

Vista Cove at Rancho

Mirage

Although the newsletter indicates it's fall, I am sitting here writing it on a very hot and humid summer day in August. Oh for fall to get here!

I want to start out by thanking our donors who made our Summer Newsletter the most profitable to date in terms of donations. So many of you were kind enough to send in a donation, and a few of you even requested information on planned-giving. I truly thank those of you who are taking your donations one very important step farther.

Fall, or mid-summer as is the case right now, is always the time of year when I begin to plan the upcoming dog walk. It always seems as though I just put away the boxes of notes and materials and it is time to set them up again. But I love putting together the dog walks and this is the 14th one I've planned. The one in 2015, the 15th, will be a big milestone for all of us at “Paws & Hearts.”

We spent part of our summer at the Palm Springs Library providing our Canine Ambassadors as part of their Paws to Read Summer Program. For seven Friday's a group of us sat on the floor in the children's reading room while young children selected a book, selected a dog, and sat down to read aloud to the dog. It was great fun for all involved and the library has asked us back one Saturday per month for the remainder of the year. Hopefully the library will include us again next summer.

Enjoy our Fall Newsletter and for those of you who are local, please plan on attending our **14th Annual Walk on Saturday, November 29th!**

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

“Take Your Dog to the Movies”

Cinemas Palme D'Or

Fall 2014

(Check our website for date!)

**14th Annual Dog Walk/
Fundraiser
Saturday November 29th
Westin Mission Hills Resort**

“Paws & Hearts” 74-854 Velie Way, Ste. 7

Palm Desert, CA 92260

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E-Mail: Pawsandhearts@aol.com

Website: www.pawsandhearts.org

“Scruffy & Maddie's” Views

I really think it is high time that Dad properly thanked the volunteers at Eisenhower Medical Center who make our weekly visits so special. For about a year now, we've had Jack on Tuesdays as our escort, and he is just wonderful introducing us to the rooms on our schedule.

And Wednesdays we have Jill with us who has been our Wednesday guide for three or four years now. Jill knows exactly what to say when introducing us in the rooms and when it is time to bring a visit to a close.

And lastly we need to thank Uncle Drew for filling in this past summer. While Dad has been training new volunteers and attending seminars, Drew has been taking us on our visits. The big difference between Dad and Drew is that Dad has us on a tight schedule because we have to go to the office after our visits. Drew takes a much more leisurely approach, and at my age, walking slow and taking bathroom breaks is a good thing!

Over the summer we've heard from patients who have been in assisted-living or rehabilitation facilities, wonderful praise for so many of the other **Canine Ambassadors** who make their own weekly visits. It is always incredible to hear such heart-felt feedback about the goodwill we are all providing as a group!

Until Maddie and I see you at the next dog walk.....

“Scruffy & Maddie” Waxman

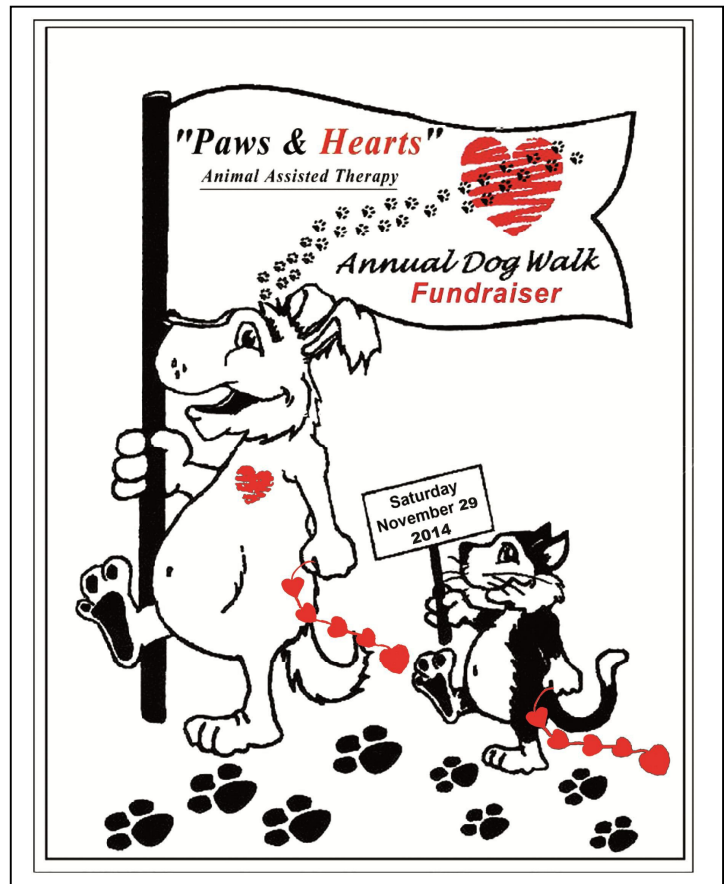
Our 14th Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser

Saturday, November 29th, is coming up very quickly. Who can believe it is the **14th Walk** already?

As always, the Westin Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage is hosting our event. Same wonderful event as always—spectacular raffle, beautiful walk, lovely continental breakfast, and holiday photos with Santa!

Don't forget to save up your loose change and turn it in at registration time. For every loose bag of change donated, you will be given an extra raffle ticket!

This is our one big annual fund raiser and we ask all our volunteers, donors and walkers to really work hard at filling up their pledge forms. This money has to last for many months in order to help us keep doing what we love to do!



Corporate Sponsors to Date:

Vista Cove at Rancho Mirage
 BBVA Compass Bank
 Bones-n-Scones
 Country Villa-Rancho Mirage Healthcare
 Eisenhower Medical Center
 The Comprehensive Cancer Clinic at
 Desert Regional Medical Center
 Palm Springs Volvo
 Sunrise Senior Living
 (Fountains at the Carlotta)
 Burgess North America
 Windsor Court Assisted Living
 Bill Knapp-Coldwell Banker

Every year our list of corporate sponsors keeps growing. If you are local and have a business and would like to participate on a corporate level and have a table at our walk, please contact Richard at (760) 836-1406. We are always grateful for those 'big checks!'

Please check out our website: www.pawsandhearts.org for the rest of the Fall Newsletter.

Palm Springs Library 2014 Summer Reading Program

“Paws to Read”

This past June and July “Paws & Hearts” was included in the Palm Springs Library “Paws to Read” summer reading program. For seven Friday mornings five or six of our *Canine Ambassadors* and their handlers were parked on the floor of the children’s reading room while the most adorable kids from the community picked out library books and read aloud to the dogs. Many of the dogs became so proficient at this, that half an hour into the reading, they were fast asleep from all the petting and all the attention.

Our visits were best summed up by one of our volunteer’s, Megan, and her amazing Basset Hound mix, “Lug-Nut,” in their final volunteer report of the season:

What a great group of kids to end our time at the library with! I had some really great readers, and best of all the kids really found joy in reading to “Lug.” It was exciting to have a repeat reader this week. The same boy that read A Very Hungry Caterpillar to us last week came to “Lug” with that same book-in-hand telling “Lug” that he knew he liked this one so he wanted to read it to him again! The highlight of today was at the very end when the boy, rather than playing computer games came and read to “Lug.” He was a very good reader and kept looking at “Lug” while he was reading to gauge his reaction. The fact that he really had fun reading to “Lug,” not just because his parent told him to, shines a very positive light on the reading program. Giving the kids a fun and positive environment in which to cultivate their confidence and love for reading is really what these past seven weeks have been about. I am so proud that “Lug” was there to motivate the kids to work on their reading skills and that his kisses of encouragement made reading a cheerful summer experience for all!

Megan Wolfson & “Lug-Nut”



Megan & “Lug-Nut”

Love Without Boundaries

Four-legged friends provide service to & therapy for desert residents

By Judd Spicer (Reprinted with permission of the author)

As appeared in Palm Springs Life Magazine—August 2014



Lifting Spirits

The red bandannas donned by the "Canine Ambassadors" of Paws & Hearts (pawsandhearts.org) animal assisted therapy wave as flags of elation for the tens of thousands of people every year who welcome the nonprofit's four-legged bedside guests.

Founded by Palm Desert's Richard Waxman in 2000, Paws & Hearts works to enrich the lives of frail and special care patients with a team of volunteer therapy dogs who visit patients at Eisenhower Medical Center, Desert Regional Medical Center, and 90 percent of the long-term care facilities across the valley.

"The real training for this type of work is on the job," says Waxman, who coordinates a team of 40 human volunteers and their 46 Canine Ambassadors, who must first pass a temperament test. "The first week, the dog doesn't know why the heck you're taking it to a nursing home and putting it on a bed with a bunch of strangers," he says. "On about the third or fourth week, the dog goes into the facility and remembers folks that like him or her the most. Patients know the dog by name, and it really is amazing to watch clients say to the dog, 'I waited all week to see you. I saved you a bit of bacon from breakfast.'"

Paws & Hearts' human handlers make a commitment to visit an assigned facility every week at the same time. Waxman estimates that 2013 brought 110,000 bedside stops, with each individual visit lasting approximately seven minutes.

With the group nearing its 15th anniversary, Waxman continues to marvel at the effect a dog can have on a patient in need of a smile. "Some years ago, my dog Scruffy and I were at Eisenhower visiting a woman who had lost almost all her hair from chemo treatment," Waxman recalls. "Scruffy kisses hands, but this woman was sitting up in bed, and Scruffy walked up behind her, stood up, put his paws on her shoulders, and started to lick her earlobes. I said, 'Scruffy, what are you doing? Get down.' And the woman said, 'How does your dog know my earlobes are so sensitive from the chemo? This feels so good. Please, don't make him stop. I haven't felt this good in a long time.' There were many tears all around from that visit."

Volunteer Stories

Many of our readers have asked where our Volunteer Stories come from. Our volunteer teams visit their assigned facility each and every week and part of their commitment is to email into our office a weekly report, complete with their visitation story. Some day, these stories along with photographs will be turned into a book because the stories are heart-warming and the patients/clients we visit truly treasure their weekly visit.

Vista Cove at Rancho Mirage, Nancy, "Quincey" & "Higgins": One of the day-visit ladies was thrilled to meet the dogs and told me about several of the dogs she had had in her life. Bob was hugging "Higgins" for the majority of our visit to Building 1, while "Quincey" communed with several of the more talkative women. When our visit was over, I went to take "Higgins" from Bob, but nothing doing! Bob held "Higgins" tightly to his chest while we had a silent tug-of-war. "Higgins" never became upset or scrambled to be free, and Bob finally released the bear hug he had around "Higgins", so that he could jump down, give himself a shake, and turn back to smile at Bob as if to say, 'thanks for sharing all that love!'

The Fountains at the Carlotta, Cathy & "Zoey": Great visit today! There was a lot of 'Zoey's here' when we entered and she went from patient to patient in the community room. "Zoey" has a favorite man and he says that she is the most beautiful girl he has ever known. Today "Zoey" kissed his nose and the man put his hand on his nose and with a big smile said, 'I got a kiss!' I whispered to him that only "Zoey's" favorite friends get kisses, and he told me that the kiss really made his day!

Atria Palm Desert, Joan & "Breezy": A very touching moment today with Joanne. She is new to Teddy and even though she said she did not like dogs, we gave her a try anyway. I took a picture of her and Teddy and returned it this week. When she saw the picture she lowered her head and started to cry, and told me that she couldn't believe we remembered the picture. She wants to show her family the picture with Teddy sitting on her lap!

Eisenhower Medical Center, Drew, "Scruffy" & "Maddie": Today's visit was the best one I've ever been on! Each and every room was so incredibly appreciative of our visit. "Scruffy" and "Maddie" were totally in-sync with all the patients and just made all of them feel a little better. As always "Mr. Scruffy" spent his time kissing hands to make the patients feel better, and little "Ms. Maddie" was the consummate flirt (mostly with the male patients) rolling on her back, batting her little brown eyes and coaxing smiles and laughter from everyone. Never have I heard such words of praise and heart-felt thank-you's for our visits. "Maddie" had a special treat today because she got to see her two favorite men at the hospital, Greg the nurse on 2E, who is a neighbor at home, and Dr. Michael in Physical Therapy. "Maddie" and Dr. Michael have an incredible bond and it is always amazing how she knows when she is entering Greg's area, or Dr. Michael's.....she starts to squeal with excited anticipation to see her buddies!

Our Mission Statement

"Paws & Hearts" is a leader in the field of "Animal Assisted Therapy" (AAT) and it is our mission to enrich the lives of the frail and special care cases that require the loving attention and affection that only a 'four-legged' healer can provide.

Our 14th Annual Dog Walk is just a couple of months away!



Saturday, November 29, 2014