

# “Paws & Hearts”

## Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569



SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Board of Directors

#### President

Virginia Tillmannshofer

#### Vice President & Executive Director

Richard Waxman

#### Founders

“Lucky” & “Scruffy” Waxman

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Gobble

#### Members at Large

Karen Gebala

#### In Memorium

Valerie Zugates

Drew Marefos

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I had wrapped up this Newsletter, Karen had proofed it, Tara had zipped it into our new format and then the unspeakable happened, Drew suddenly and with no warning passed away on Friday April 28th. To say that I'm still in complete shock would be an understatement.

Those of you who follow us on Facebook saw the posting that I did and had a chance to look at those amazing pictures of our time together and his numerous contributions to our organization. I honestly don't know how I am going to carry on without him. He was my partner-in-crime for 16 ½ years.

Drew took such great pride in training the new volunteers and their dogs at their facilities. He took Maddie and Bingo to Lucy Curci Cancer Center every Wednesday for years. He came to so many presentations, luncheons, Big Horn Grant dinners with me, I've lost count of the times he was at my side.

*“Drew this Newsletter is pretty much devoted to you. You are very much responsible for so much of our success because of your years of tireless devotion. Whatever will I do without you??” (Ricky)*

- Richard Waxman

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Add to your calendar!

### **23rd Annual** **Dog Walk / Fundraiser**

Westin Mission Hills Resort  
Saturday, November 25, 2023

*This year in Memory of Valerie & Drew*

### **PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Monthly Meetings  
Second Wednesday of the Month  
@ 1:00pm

#### “Paws & Hearts”

42-600 Cook Street, Ste. 138 • Palm Desert, CA 92211

☎ (760) 836-1406

✉ Pawsandhearts@aol.com

🌐 www.pawsandhearts.org

📘 www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg

### “TERRY’S” VIEWS

(“Lucky”, “Scruffy”, “Maddie” & “Bingo”  
in thought)




So, Dad keeps referring to me as his Junior Executive—well, if I'm the Junior Executive I think a few more perks should come my way. First and foremost Dad needs to quit scolding me when I bark at people who walk by our office. This is my way of saying 'hello' to passersby.

And secondly, Dad seems to think that I'm interested in going on presentations to promote the organization. How many times do I have to tell him that my name is not Scruffy? I keep getting compared to those four dogs who came before me. They were unique, but so am I!

More importantly, it has been really nice to get a chance to meet so many potential volunteers when they stop by the office. While I'm not with Dad when he does the actual temperament tests, it is nice to meet everyone when they stop in to pick up their volunteer shirt and bandanna.

Here's to a busy summer..... with lots of barking at the office windows! LOL

 “Terry” Waxman

# Drew Marefos

## 1943-2023

Some very very sad news to share--you all know "Uncle" Drew Marefos, (Uncle to all my dogs since Lucky). For those of you who attended our December Office Party, Drew was right there at my side.

He passed away very suddenly on Friday April 28th.

His family, his late partner Emelio's family, his friends and I are still in shock. Those of you who saw us together know what an incredible friendship we had. He believed in our little organization and worked tirelessly doing whatever he could to help out. I have so many amazing memories of 16 ½ years of dear, dear friendship. Drew helped with each-and-every dog walk. He attended our board meetings and his insights and suggestions were invaluable. Drew trained so many of the new volunteers and their dogs, and he was the Wednesday morning volunteer at The Lucy Curci Cancer Center with my guys "Maddie" & "Bingo" for years.

Just look at the pictures of Drew at various times over the years of "**Paws & Hearts.**" He was always so proud to put on his volunteer shirt and talk up the organization!!!

I could not have asked for a better side-kick.

*"Okay Drew, just let me know you got to heaven safe and sound and that you are with your loved ones."-- signed--the one on earth who loved you the most--Ricky*



*Yours  
was a  
life  
well  
spent*



**LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT. AND YOU MADE IT BEAUTIFUL.**



## In Pursuit of the 'Perfect' Volunteer!

We have been very lucky this year that we have been inundated with inquiries from potential volunteers. While most of the calls and temperament tests have turned out quite successful, a few others were not that great.

While trying to be as diplomatic as possible, we need potential volunteers to understand the importance of going over our website, reading the information, watching the training videos, and then making a judgement as to whether this is the type of volunteer work to pursue. You need to ask yourself if 'taking a back-seat' to your dog and letting them be the stars of the visit is for you? The humans are only the drivers and at the end of the leash.

Our **Canine Ambassadors** truly do all the work.

It is very important that a potential volunteer allow me and Abril-the-trainer, impart our knowledge to you. We've had a few people come in this year who acted as though they had written the book on pet therapy visits and were not interested in taking direction from us. And a couple of dogs that came into the office for the temperament test hadn't been bathed for the meeting. Who would even consider bringing their dog into the office for a test without first having it looking its best? To say nothing of smelling its best!

We've been around a long time and know what we are doing. If you have a desire to volunteer with us, please come into the office prepared to listen, be gracious, and work within the existing guidelines that have proven to work incredibly well over the years.

## Barry Manilow's A Gift of Love VI

5 Christmas Concerts  
Benefiting 20 Special Charities  
December 12-13-15-16-17  
McCallum Theatre

***"Paws & Hearts" is one of the very lucky  
20 Special Charities!!!***

TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE AT [www.AGOL6.com](http://www.AGOL6.com)  
or scan QR Code



# ~ Volunteer Stories ~

Below you will find two Vintage Volunteer Reports, showcasing Drew's many years of Volunteer Visits!



## DREW, "MADDIE" & "BINGO"

visit The Lucy Curci Cancer Center

Today happened to be Halloween, and while Richard is not a big fan of dog costumes, he couldn't resist the matching dinosaur outfits! Maddie & Bingo were in their elements this Wednesday morning. As always Maddie took up residency on the ottoman that Dr. Khanna had provided for all the visiting dogs. Maddie likes to have the patients come over and greet her, while Bingo works the room. Little Bingo has all the energy of the young pup that he is! He loves nothing more than to jump up and sit beside the patients, but he is more than accommodating when invited to sit in someone's lap. Shy and retiring are not words used to describe Bingo.

After visiting all these years with Richards different dogs, I am still amazed at the difference a therapy dog can make when a patient enters the waiting room for the first time and realizes he or she will have a dog(s) to interact with. The words of thanks these guys hear are pretty amazing! What a great way to spend a Wednesday morning by giving back to my community.

*Uncle Drew Marefos*

## DREW, RICHARD- "SCRUFFY," "MADDIE," & "BINGO"

(Two different visits)

Many years ago, Drew, Richard, Scruffy and Maddie were guest speakers at the Rancho Mirage Women's Club. Maddie sat in Drew's lap all through the luncheon and Scruffy was the best boy sitting under Richards chair hoping that a few lunch crumbs would fall his way!



Here we were with Maddie & Bingo at a Girl Scouts presentation about 5 years ago. The girls and their Mom's wanted to learn about Pet Therapy and invited us to make a presentation. I remember thinking that for sure they'd have samples of their Girl Guide Cookies for us, but sadly, we were a few months ahead of the yearly sales. But, we all had a very good time!

## 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.



**"Paws & Hearts"**

42-600 Cook Street, Ste. 138  
*The Berger Foundation Building*  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

# 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL DOG WALK/FUNDRAISER

Is our yearly *Dog Walk/Fundraiser* really going to take place this year? **Yes!!** After missing the last two walks due to the pandemic we are going to have our Annual Dog Walk on Saturday, November 25th, 2023.

As always, our walk will be held at the Westin Mission Hills Rancho Mirage. This year's walk will be in memory of *Valerie Zugates* who was at the registration table for as long as I can remember and an integral part of our non-profit for just so many years, and *Drew Marefos* who volunteered with us for over 16 years will also be remembered. "Drew, how will I pull off this year's walk without you?"

Our amazing gift basket raffle will take place, Santa will be on hand for your dog's holiday photo, and a continental breakfast will be offered.

Please check our website for more information and our Registration Form. (We love pre-registrations!)

**LOOKING FORWARD TO AN AMAZING TURN-OUT THIS YEAR!**

## SAVE THE DATE!

FOR THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL DOG WALK FUNDRAISER



DATE: Saturday, November 25, 2023  
TIME: Registration begins at 9am | Walk at 10am  
PLACE: The Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa

For More  
Information Call  
(760) 836-1406