

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569

WINTER/SPRING 2014

NEWSLETTER

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Richard Waxman
Executive Director
“Paws & Hearts”

Founder:

“Lucky” Waxman

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Executive Director’s Message

You’ll notice that I’ve combined the Winter and Spring issue of the Newsletter and this time it wasn’t to save a few bucks, it was to save some time. This year there was very little rest time after our very successful dog walk (more on that later). We’ve had an influx of new volunteers these last few months which is always wonderful.

I’ve been working on grant applications and updates to the website. Speaking of the website, as of this writing we are feverishly working to bring our site into the 21st Century to enable dog walk registrants and donors a very simple way of registering on line. I’ve been told repeatedly that we need to make it easier for walkers to pre-register, and it is being done!

Our last dog walk truly was amazing. By moving it up one week, to Thanksgiving Saturday, we had a better turn-out, better TV coverage with KMIR 6 live at the walk and there was just a really festive, holiday mood in the air. We have included a collage of articles and pictures from last year’s event as a remembrance of how special the morning was. So this year the walk will be held on Saturday, November 29th, at the Westin Mission Hills.

Most of you know that “Lucky” has been gone for almost 3-years now but the memory of his visits are still very much alive. While visiting Eisenhower a few weeks ago a gentleman came over to me and said “Richard, you used to visit my wife Dixie at Valencia Palms years ago. You had “Lucky” up on the bed kissing her and that was the only time she could communicate with her eyes. She lit up every Wednesday when you, Phillip and “Lucky” paid a visit and I’ve never forgotten it. He was some special dog!” *I sure did love hearing that!*

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

**“Take Your Dog to the Movies”
Cinemas Palme D’Or
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
(760) 836-1406 fax (760) 836-1426
E-Mail: Pawsandhearts@aol.com
Website: www.pawsandhearts.org**

“Scruffy & Maddie’s” Views

Okay, I guess that after having “Maddie” go on visits with me to Eisenhower Medical Center and fill-in visits at Lucy Curci Cancer Center it is about time that I shared my by-line with her! I’ll tell you though, it is tough sharing the spot-light when you like to be the star!

All kidding aside, it is nice to once again be the Ethel Mertz to “Maddie.” She is exactly like “Lucky” was with the patients. She stands right up on them and gives them kisses if requested and lays right down across their chests. All I have to do is lay beside the patient, look handsome, and kiss hands.

We’ve had a fairly busy winter season with the extra traffic at Eisenhower, but have had great help with “Andy” taking our Tuesday visits for the season. “Andy” the Westie and his Mom are a great help visiting rooms and it is always cute when a patient says to us, “I saw one of your buddies yesterday in that red bandana when I was on a different floor.”

My sister and I have seen some really lovely patients this season and as always it is our greatest pleasure to make people feel a bit better with our visit. I think it was summed up best by a patient who was upset that his grandchildren hadn’t been able to visit. He started to cry holding both “Maddie” and I in his arms and said, “You guys sure do give great kisses and take away the loneliness.”

“Scruffy & Maddie” Waxman

Highlights of the 13th Annual Dog Walk

Taking One Giant Step for Pet Therapy

Paws and Hearts to hold annual dog walk to raise funds for therapy programs.

by Richard Waxman
Community contributor

On Saturday, Nov. 30, Paws and Hearts will hold its 13th Annual Dog Walk fundraiser at the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa. The yearly fundraiser will celebrate the work that the Canine Ambassadors from Paws and Hearts' Animal Assisted Therapy program are doing.

The canines work very hard throughout the year, visiting local hospitals, long-term care facilities, cancer hospitals and Alzheimer's centers. The patients and residents that these therapy dogs visit really love the time they spend with the dogs. Last year alone, a group of over 40 teams made over 110 thousand bedside visits to people in these kinds of facilities.

Once again, it is time to make plans for the Annual "Paws & Hearts" Dog Walk. It's to lend a paw in support of the therapy dogs who visit all of these hospitals, health care facilities and cancer centers, by coming out.

Walkers are asked to raise donations in their dog's name. Pledge sheets are available on the Paws and Hearts' website. Each walker who participates will receive a commemorative dog walk T-shirt and dog bandana.

Television stations KMIR6 and KPSE My13, home of the Valley's Pet Finder, are also supporting the cause. KMIR6 Today hosts Gloria Rodriguez and Thalia Hayden will serve as the Grand Marshals of the walk.

Paws and Hearts invites all Palm Desert residents and their well-behaved dogs to attend our two-mile walk around the lovely grounds of the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa. Donation sheets can be found at most pet stores in the valley, or by visiting pawsandhearts.com. The organization asks that participants get sponsors in their dog's name and turn in their pledge sheet and donations the day of the walk.

Paws and Hearts also offers a wonderful continental breakfast for all the walkers, and a ton of water and dog treats provided by Bones-n-Scones for dogs big and small.

In addition, Santa Claus will be on hand for holiday pet photos, and raffles for various gift baskets will also be held during the event. Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m., and the walk officially sets off at 10 a.m.

Richard Waxman is the executive director of Paws and Hearts, which is located at 74-854 Velie Way, Suite 7 in Palm Desert. For information on the event, and to inquire about volunteering, please call Waxman at 760-836-1406.



The Paws and Hearts Dog Walk raises donations for the organization's pet therapy program, which sends friendly dogs to various hospitals and health care facilities to brighten a patient's day. This year's walk will be held on Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa.
Photo courtesy of Richard Waxman

PAUSE FOR PETS



◀ Lend a paw in support of therapy dogs who visit hospitals and more as you and your four-legged friend participate in the Paws & Hearts 13th Annual Dog Walk Fundraiser on **November 30** at The Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa. Raise donations in your dog's name online and receive a t-shirt, dog bandana and treats, and continental

breakfast. Santa will be on hand for pet pics. Register 9 a.m., walk at 10 a.m.; 71-333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage; (760) 836-1406; pawsandhearts.org

Pet lovers share their Heart in annual walk

The recent 13th annual "Paws & Hearts" Dog Walk fundraiser hosted by The Westin Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage enjoyed weather that was as spectacular as the turnout. An estimated 300 walkers and their four-legged pooches participated in this great two-mile walk, breakfast, raffle and photo session. This year's walk exceeded its goal and guaranteed that it will take place again next year. Information: (760) 836-1406; www.pawsandhearts.org



MICHAEL SNYDER/IMYDESERT FILE
Walk to help animals: "Paws & Hearts" 13th annual Dog Walk fundraiser, featuring a two-mile walk, continental breakfast and raffle, gets under way at 9 a.m. Saturday at Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa, 71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage. Cost is \$25. (760) 836-1406 or PawsAndHearts.org

Therapy's for Dogs, Too

by Doug Gausepohl
 Editor

Pet therapy can be beneficial for children, adults and senior citizens. According to the Paws and Hearts website, pet therapy can help diminish physical and emotional pain, reduce boredom and teach its younger participants to be caring and interact safely with a pet.

Paws and Hearts is a nonprofit that focuses on providing pet therapy to people in hospitals in Palm Desert. The organization is encouraging people of Palm Desert to bring their dogs if they believe they would be good pet therapy dogs. For more information on pet therapy, visit pawsandhearts.org.



Pet therapy can help relieve physical and emotional pain and teach children to be kind to animals.
 Photo courtesy of Paws



GIVING BACK

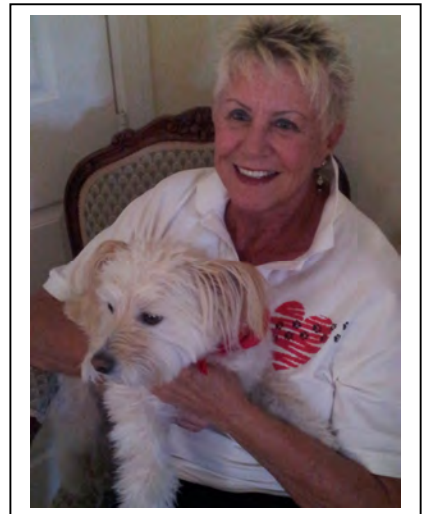
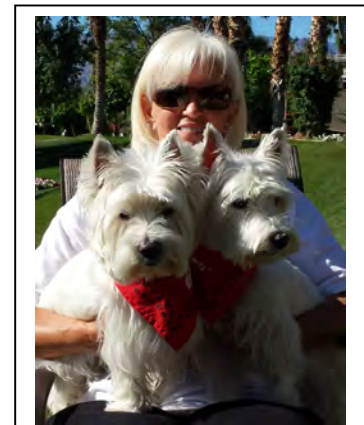
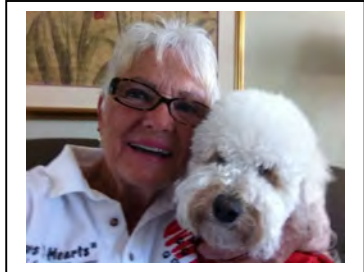
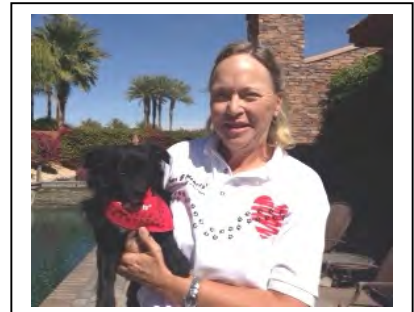
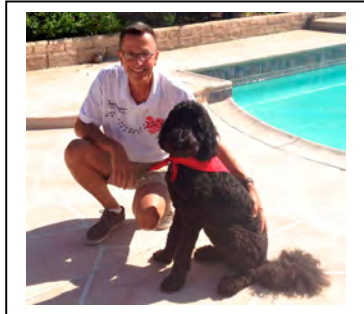
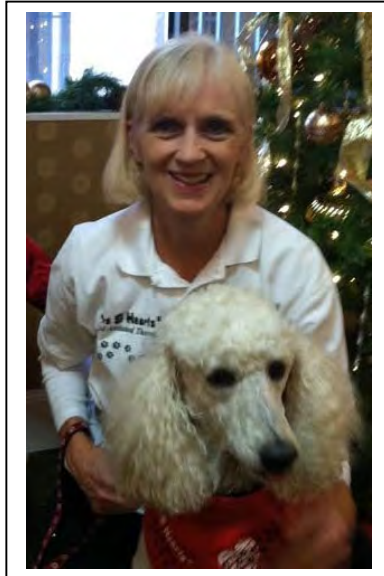
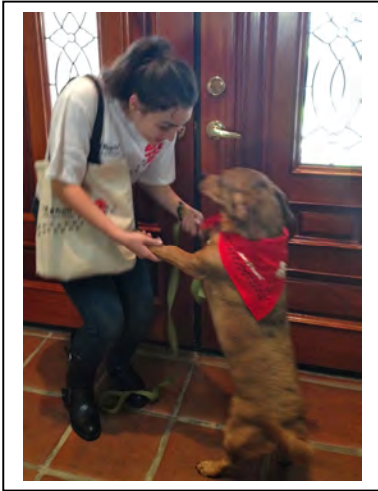


Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial has matched funds in the amount of \$5,000 for the "Paws & Hearts" Animal Assisted Therapy Annual Dog Walk fundraiser held in November. Randall C. Miller, left, financial representative for Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial presents the donation to Richard Waxman, executive director of Paws & Hearts. SUBMITTED BY PAWS AND HEARTS



National Volunteer Month

Some of our dedicated 2-legged & 4-legged Volunteers!



So many wonderful photographs, just too many for one page. For all the pictures, please continue on our website, www.pawsandhearts.org

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.

California Nursing & Rehabilitation, Megan & "Lug-nut": It still amazes me how much our visits mean to the residents. "Lug" brings a smile to everyone's face and it is incredible as the mood of the facility changes from being more doleful to joyous. Today a woman was so ecstatic to see "Lug" that she invited him up on the bed to snuggle with her and she embraced him in a big hug. "Lug" calmly laid beside her and let her pet him as she told me how much she missed her own dog.

Desert Springs, Kevin & "Bear": This week's highlight was when "Bear" snuggled up to David. David has been at the facility for several months, but is seemingly unresponsive so we had rarely approached him in previous visits. The time when he touched "Bear" he let out a series of giggles. It was so heartwarming to see "Bear's" attention bring out such joy in the patients he visits!

Lucy Curci Cancer Center, Sheri, "Maddi" & "Nikki": Today "Maddi" really helped two patients and one husband caregiver. One of the patients put "Maddi" on her lap and let her love her so much that it really made a difference. The caregiver spent most of the time being with "Maddi" while his wife was in for treatment. All the patients remember the 'girls' and thanked me for being there. Now I thank you "Paws & Hearts" for giving me this opportunity to give back. THANK YOU!

The Fountains at the Carlotta, Cathy & "Zoey": We spent a longer time than usual today because we had patients that wanted to talk and spend extra time "Zoey." It was wonderful! There were two patients in a room and "Zoey" ran right in and gave them both a kiss! The ladies started laughing, and one said that she had just eaten cheese and crackers and that "Zoey" must have sensed that. We spent a lot of time visiting and the ladies thanked us over and over for coming.

Vista Cove at Rancho Mirage, Nancy, "Higgins" & "Quincey": The new relaxation room/therapy program in Building A is a wonderful destination for both residents and "Higgins" & "Quincey." Even when asleep, the residents will open their eyes and coo at whatever dog is cuddled up on their laps or chests. The dogs rest and stretch their paws to touch the person they have been placed on or near and both patient and dog sigh in great contentment! A total atmosphere of harmony and caring.

Martha's Village & Kitchen, Kay & "Bennie": This was a very fun day with the babies, 4 – 9 months old. They were all very excited to see "Bennie". One of the little boys, about 8 months old brought his face right up to "Bennie" with a big smile. When he got right up to "Bennie" he opened his mouth wide with his tongue out and at that "Bennie" gave him a big kiss on the tongue. The little boy laughed very hard, and tried to get "Bennie" to do it again!

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.

April is National Volunteer Month

We truly have the best volunteers of any agency in the valley, with the most dedicated 2-legged and 4-legged volunteers. Please help to celebrate our volunteers by checking out the pictures of our volunteers in this issue. You can also see the pictures on our website at:

www.pawsandhearts.org

Our 14th Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser

Saturday, November 29th may be many months away, but we are already planning for our next walk!

As always the Westin Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage will host our event. Same wonderful event with our beautiful walk, spectacular raffle, great 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!

More on the dog walk/fundraiser in coming Newsletters!