

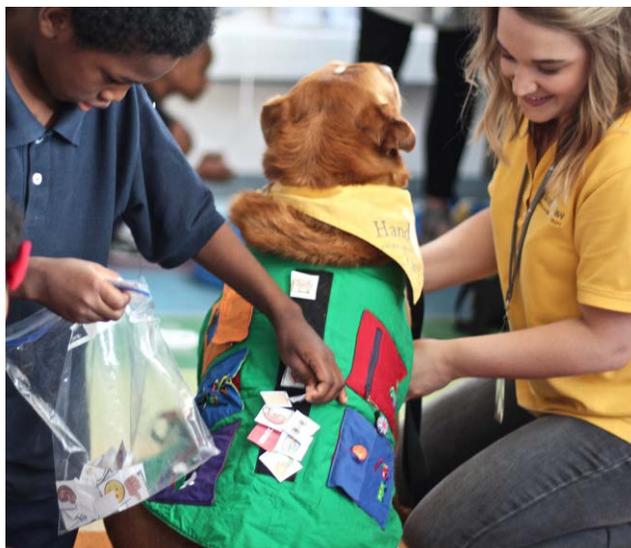


Hand in Paw

Program Information



Education



School's Best Friend

School's Best Friend offers a wide array of applications, allowing each school to tailor services to address the greatest challenges facing its students. Examples of this include reading comprehension, speech therapy, and school based occupational and physical therapy, with the therapy animal primarily serving as a motivator for the students in their individual learning experiences. This program also offers the chance for guidance counselors to incorporate Therapy Teams as they help children process grief, trauma, family upheaval, and a range of other challenges in order to help children become more relaxed and forthcoming with support from therapy animals.



Sit, Stay, Read!

Sit, Stay, Read! pairs reluctant readers ages 5-12 with our handler and animal Therapy Teams to make reading a fun, non-threatening, and positive learning experience. Research indicates that children with low self-esteem are often more willing to interact with an animal than with a person. Teachers, Counselors and Reading Coaches report an increase in self-confidence, classroom participation, and academic performance as a result. Our Sit, Stay, Read! program's strength lies in its simplicity – struggling students read aloud, on a weekly basis, to nonjudgmental furry friends and their caring handlers. Applications of this program include English as a Second Language classrooms, after-school programs for children experiencing homelessness or academic performance declines due to their family's circumstances, summer programs at group homes to combat summer learning loss, and partnering with Reading Coaches, Media Specialists, and other school personnel who select students most in need.



DID YOU KNOW

Especially in children, Animal-Assisted Therapy is a great way to release excess energy for better concentration.

Health



Petscription

Our largest and most broadly applied program, Petscription is designed to assist patients of all ages in reaching their therapeutic goals. Therapy Teams work with medical professionals to help patients learn or improve their ability to grasp, stand, walk, speak, or perform other functional activities. Teams also aid in creating an environment that allows patients to open up in counseling sessions or simply provide them with needed distraction from pain and fear. The program is delivered in hospitals, schools, early intervention centers, nursing homes, rehabilitation clinics and social service agencies. Services may consist of either Animal-Assisted Therapy, delivered under the direction of a therapist or other practitioner with monitored progress, or Animal-Assisted Activities, which have goals and benefits but are less structured and do not require the direction of a therapist or practitioner.



DID YOU KNOW

Animal-Assisted Therapy helps release endorphins that manipulate perceptions of pain and stress

Violence Prevention



Pawsitive Living

Pawsitive Living is a 12-week violence prevention program that helps find solutions to the challenges of life, from communication and conflict resolution to understanding self-worth. It serves youth in group homes who have been abused or who have exhibited violent behavior. Highly qualified facilitators follow an evidence-based curriculum and lead a number of handler and animal Therapy Teams equal to the number of youths. The pets serve as a bridge of communication and are used to empower the children, thereby teaching caregiving, responsibility and empathy.



No More Bullying!

No More Bullying! is a 5-session humane education program developed by Wayside Waifs and tailored for children in grades 4 and 5. Incorporating the expertise of professional educators, counselors and animal behaviorists, the curriculum combines character education with a strong anti-violence message. The program gives children the skill set to solve problems in a loving, caring and productive way for all involved and the courage to stand up for themselves and those who are weaker.



DID YOU KNOW

A bond between a pet and human is one of unconditional love, which can teach and support feelings of self worth and value, especially in children

Trauma & Grief Response



Trauma & Grief Response

Petscription for Trauma & Grief is available at no charge to schools, nonprofit agencies, and other community organizations following a tragic event. Hand in Paw Therapy Teams will deliver comfort, support, stress relief, and a sense of normalcy as survivors process their feelings. They will not serve to counsel or advise. Therapy animals will serve as a conduit for person-to-person communication, giving counselors at the site a highly effective tool for breaking barriers, building rapport, and making progress towards healing. Circumstances to which the program will respond include deaths of students, faculty members, and coworkers, shootings or other acts of violence, and natural disasters.



DID YOU KNOW

Petting a dog can be relaxing, which is measured by a slower heart rate and a drop in blood pressure.