

2020 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

GOLDEN

a peek into

pawsitivity

Hand  Paw
ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY

A very special letter of thanks

Your gifts helped a woman going through a difficult time, so much so, that she wrote a letter of appreciation!

Mrs. Ann Hemphill,

Don't know if you remember me or not, as I know you and Roxzie meet a lot of people, but I met you at Hospice of West Alabama on November the 2nd. You talked to me and my mother Sue, and daughter Jenna. My daddy, Danny Hallman was out there. He had battled cancer for 3 years, and passed away only a few hours after you left.



A photo of Roxzie taken by Wendy at Hospice of West Alabama - YOU made this moment happen!

You were so very kind, and I of course being in animal rescue and loving all animals, I just adored beautiful, sweet, and smart Miss Roxzie girl. I got on the floor and got some big old fluffy lovings, and took a bunch of pictures of her. **She is just so fantastic, and I just wanted to thank you for sharing her with us and so many others, for being so kind, and for helping to take our minds off of everything for a while. It was such a blessing!**



This has been the hardest thing I have ever been through losing my wonderful daddy, but I know he is in heaven and is finally cancer free. So even though my heart is hurting so bad, I do rejoice in knowing that. So thank you again, and I hope you and my girl have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas. Keep me and my family in your prayers that we get through it, as I know it's going to be so hard without him here with us all.

God bless,

Wendy Hallman Beams

Mission moments like these are made possible **EVERY SINGLE DAY** because of your generosity and support.

Thank you!



Furry Motivation

How your support helped a young boy make strides in school

Therapy Teams are powerful motivators for struggling students. They help children release energy for better concentration, provide comfort, and support feelings of value and self-worth. **Thanks to donors like you, students in early intervention centers, K-12 schools, and after-school programs have been visited by furry motivators every single week!** One school that recently saw the true impact of your support is Avondale Elementary School.

Every Monday, Julia-Rae Hanson and her dog Larry visit Avondale Elementary. During these visits, a student named Sam formed a strong bond with Larry. Sam is a kind, smart, loving boy who sometimes acts out in class. Their visits became a very important part of Sam's week encouraging learning and improving his emotional well-being

One Monday, Julia-Rae noticed Sam was absent. When asking about him, she was told that he had gotten in trouble earlier and was not allowed to participate in the visit. Larry and Julia-Rae continued with their visit when suddenly they heard crying and yelling from the hallway. It was Sam, who was so distraught over missing his time with Larry. He couldn't be restrained and burst through the door of the classroom. In even more trouble than he was before, Sam was ordered to the principal's office.

As Julia-Rae and Larry were leaving the school, the principal approached them asking if they could stay for an extra 15 minutes. They agreed and the principal led them to her office where Sam was sitting at a desk with his unfinished math homework. As Larry walked in, Sam's tear-stained face turned to a smile and he calmed down. The principal promised him that he could pet Larry after each math

problem was solved. Sam successfully completed his homework with Larry's support.

“The patience the principal had and her creative way of incorporating Larry into this situation blew me away,” said Julia-Rae. “It showed the impact of these visits, along with the difference between making a therapy visit a reward, versus withholding visits as punishment. Larry and I were so grateful to be a part of this special moment.”

Your contributions allow students like Sam to excel academically and socially. Hand in Paw relies heavily on donor support to drive all of our initiatives, including our education-based programs. **We are so grateful for your generosity through which we are able to continue our mission.**



Sam was motivated to finish his math problems thanks to you!

Charlie's Comforting Touch

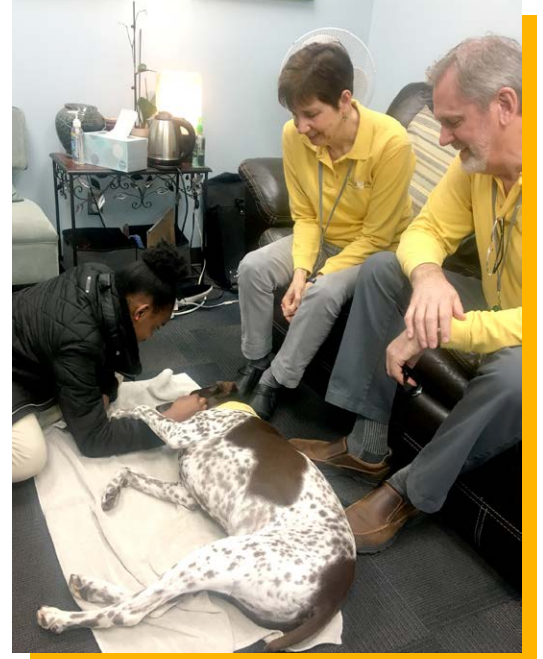
"Charlie brings a little bit of joy to those going through a difficult time," says Janet Bedsole, Hand in Paw Therapy Team Handler.

Paulette Rowe, Restoration Academy Counselor, couldn't agree more. She sees first-hand the beneficial impact of incorporating Charlie into her counseling sessions with students who are reluctant or nervous. Charlie's visits often help the children relax and be more forthcoming, helping them to process a range of challenges such as grief and trauma.

Recently, Paulette was counseling a young boy who was facing a huge change in his life. The boy had been taken away from his family and siblings and put into foster care. He was understandably very upset and sad.

Paulette then did something amazing. She told the boy that Charlie the therapy dog had been taken from his family too, and that he was put in the home of the Bedsoles and he was doing just fine. **The student was surprised and said, 'Charlie had that happen to him too?' and Paulette told him 'Yes, and he is okay.' The boy thought for a moment and then said, 'Wow, then I am going to be okay too.'**

Your donations and support make it possible for Hand in Paw to work with counselors, educators, and healthcare workers to provide meaningful therapeutic interactions to those in need. Hand in Paw staff and volunteers thank you, as well as our program partners. As Paulette so kindly said, "It would not be Restoration Academy without Hand in Paw."



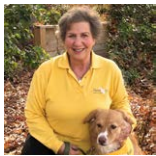
WELCOME NEW HIP TEAMS!



**Amber +
Cooper**



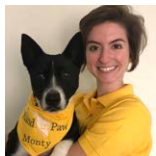
**Angela +
Cash**



**Carol +
Tilly**



**Jen +
Partner**



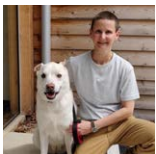
**Julie +
Monty**



**Kerry +
Mata**



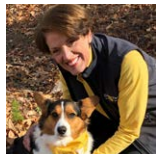
**Margaret +
Lexi**



**Melba +
Nikita**



**Michael +
Blayze**



**Michele +
Taylor**



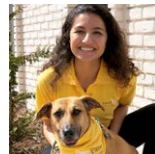
**Paul +
Macey**



**Ronnie +
Kenzie**



**Sherry +
Sally**



**Victoria +
Stella**

RETIRED TEAMS

Amy and River
Beverly and Keelah
Lannie and Kodi
MC and Remy
Melannie and Gracie

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Annie Vance
Saben Hallmark
Zoe Hallmark
LuLu Gosney
Banjo Adams
Demi Davis
Nancy Daws (Visit Assistant)

it's nice to have you at Hand in Paw