

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569

SPRING 2020

NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors

President

Virginia Tillmannshofer

Vice President

Richard Waxman

Executive Director

“Paws & Hearts”

Founders

“Lucky” & “Scruffy”

Waxman

Secretary/Treasurer

Valerie Zugates

Members at Large

Drew Marefos

Karen Gebala

It is very early in the year, (actually Christmas holidays 2019!) and I am working on this Newsletter because when Ann & Andy II sent in their holiday note they reminisced about some of the memorable visits they had over the years. I thought what a great way to celebrate even more amazing volunteer stories. So on page 4, you can read what Ann shared.

Again, the theme of all of this year’s Newsletters will center around the celebration of our 20th year. We had some very positive feedback from the Winter Newsletter, and we hope to continue sharing stories from the past.

To say that we made it this far, to **Year #20**, is very special for me. There are so many people to thank and foundations to acknowledge, and we will mention everyone throughout the course of this year! Three cheers to us!

Richard Waxman

Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendars!

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month, 1 pm

20th Annual Dog Walk/Fundraiser

Pancake Breakfast!

Saturday November 28th

Registration begins at 9 am, Walk at 10 am

Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa

“Paws & Hearts” 74-133 El Paseo, Ste. 7

Palm Desert, CA 92260

(760) 836-1406 fax (760) 836-1426

E-Mail: Pawsandhearts@aol.com

Website: www.pawsandhearts.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg

“Maddie’s” Views (“Lucky” & “Scruffy” in thought)

I’m guessing that for the next 12 months Bingo and I will have to listen to the words, ‘20 years, 20 years, 20 years over and over again.’ What a shame that dogs understand more than they let on!! OY!

Can we get back to talking about the visits that Bingo and I do every week? Even big-shot Dad filled in a couple of times recently! We know that you like hearing from the patients how much they appreciated all the therapy dogs who visited each and every morning at the Lucy Curci Cancer Center. And what about that special Christmas Day visit we made to Father John and his Mom Suzie? That was truly the highlight of our Christmas/Hanukkah season.

And all the new volunteers to come our way in the last couple of months. I know you are thrilled that so many potential volunteers are finding their way to our door. Adding Canine Ambassadors to the program and making more visits is so special for all of us!

Keep up the good work Dad, and keep talking about the 20th Anniversary!

“Maddie” Waxman

And it all began.....Chapter Two

So now you know the very origins of how this all started so we'll pick it up with that office that Phillip helped me find. I remember the day we found the office like it was yesterday. It was on Velie Way in Palm Desert on an industrial/commercial street. The owner of the building was this very nice gentleman who thankfully had a large dog and said there were no problems with dogs in the office.

The rent was then \$400.00 and as unsure of this as I was, Phillip jumped at it and said, "We'll take it!" We cleaned and painted that office, and I remember constructing bulletin boards using Bristol board and a hand-made wooden frame because I couldn't afford the actual bulletin board, much less the first and last months rent. But somehow we got the office opened up with mostly donated furniture, and if memory serves, I think Phyllis Harkins donated a used computer. We were all set for business!

I can clearly remember thinking, "What have I gotten myself into? How am I going to pay the rent and utilities, much less carve out a small salary for myself?" But I had great training from Jack & Pearl and just thought, "Keep at it. Something will go right!"

About the time we opened that office, I had heard about an organization called RAP (Regional Access Program) and how they provided training and leadership to start-up non-profits in the valley. Their office was right around the corner from ours, and I went right over and signed up! I think I took every single class they offered over the next few years. Talk about an amazing *free* mentoring program! My favorite instructor was a gentleman by the name of Eldon Baber. Eldon was about my age at the time and had years of non-profit experience. His classes were instrumental in molding me into becoming an Executive Director. I can still hear his words of wisdom in my head when I'm solving a management issue to this day.

I took grant-writing classes, joined the CA Association of Non Profits, and attended their meetings and seminars. And whenever an instructor would say to the class, "Who wants to talk about their non-profit?" my arm would shoot up. I'd stand up holding our brochure with the picture of "Lucky" and "Scruffy" on it, and talk away. I remember once in LA at one of these classes I must have struck a cord with some of the others attending because the woman sitting beside me pulled out her checkbook and gave me a donation!

I started researching foundations that funded programs such as ours. I wrote letters, made phone calls, made presentations, I would do anything to raise funds and to heighten the awareness of our growing organization. I think that in those first years I must have spoken at every Rotary, Kiwanis Club, and service organization in the valley. It didn't matter if it was a sunrise meeting, luncheon, or dinner meeting, "Lucky" and "Scruffy" and I were eager to tell our story. And we always came away with a few bucks and a potential volunteer or two!

The next chapter of this in our Summer Newsletter!

(Please continue reading our Spring Newsletter on our website, www.pawsandhearts.org)



Our Velie Way office that we were in for 16 years! I still can't believe we were there all those years!

Other Articles that have been published about us over the years!

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. 26, Paws and Hearts will hold its 13th Annual Dog Walk fundraiser at the Western Mission Hills Resort and Spa. The yearly fundraiser will continue the work that the Paws and Hearts Animal Assisted Therapy program is doing.

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

One goal is to raise money for the Animal Assisted Therapy program. It is to hold a special in support of the therapy dogs. The walk is to be held at the Western Mission Hills Resort and Spa. Each walker who participates will receive a commemorative dog walk T-shirt and dog bandana.



The Paws and Hearts Dog Walk raises money for the Animal Assisted Therapy program, which sends therapy dogs to senior hospitals and health care facilities to brighten a patient's day. This year's walk will be held on Saturday, Nov. 26 at the Western Mission Hills Resort and Spa. Photo courtesy of Richard Waxman.

PAUSE FOR PETS

Taken from the KIMB and KIMB My 13, home of the Valley's Pet Parade, are also supporting the cause. KIMB and the Grand Marshall of the walk, Paws and Hearts, invite all Palm Desert residents and their pets to join the walk. The walk will be held on Saturday, Nov. 26, at the Western Mission Hills Resort and Spa. Donations can be made at most pet stores in the valley, or by visiting pawshirts.com. The organization also has a website, pawshirts.com, where you can find more information about the walk.

Paws and Hearts also offers a wonderful community benefit for all the walkers, and a way of water and dog means provided by Paws and Hearts for dog big and small. In addition, some cases will be on hand for holiday pet photos, and offers for various gift baskets will also be held during the event. Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m., and the walk officially starts at 10 a.m.

Richard Waxman is the executive director of Paws and Hearts, which is located at 11441 Valley View, Suite 100, Palm Desert. For information on the event, and to inquire about volunteering, please call Waxman at 760.436.4466.

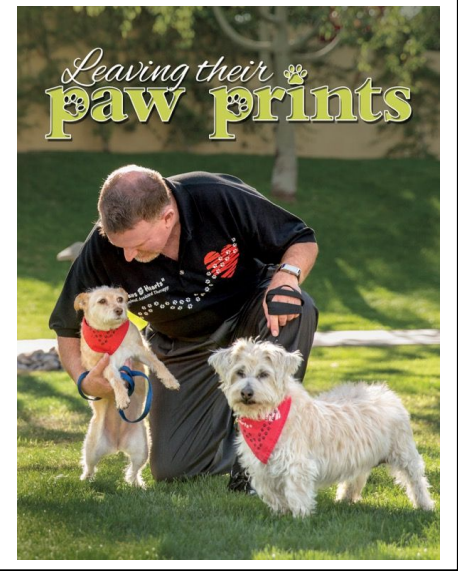


Pet lovers share their Heart in annual walk

The annual dog walk is a wonderful community benefit for all the walkers, and a way of water and dog means provided by Paws and Hearts for dog big and small. In addition, some cases will be on hand for holiday pet photos, and offers for various gift baskets will also be held during the event. Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m., and the walk officially starts at 10 a.m.



Richard Waxman is the executive director of Paws and Hearts, which is located at 11441 Valley View, Suite 100, Palm Desert. For information on the event, and to inquire about volunteering, please call Waxman at 760.436.4466.



Ann Role of Rancho Mirage.



Angela Maciel, 6, of Cathedral City.



Katelyn Villagomez, 7, of Thousand Palms.



Carlos Villapudua, 7, of Thousand Palms.



Austin Wilcox, 6, of Thousand Palms and Richard Waxman of Palm Desert.

Thousand Palms

Thousand Palms Library presents reading program at local school

Thousand Palms Library brought their Paws to Read program to Della S. Lindley Elementary School in Thousand Palms in celebration of National Library Week. The library has teamed with the Paws and Hearts Organization, to encourage children to read by reading aloud to animal therapy dogs. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students read to dogs on April 11 and 12 in their classrooms. The "Paws to Read" program is ongoing at the library on Saturdays through May 7.

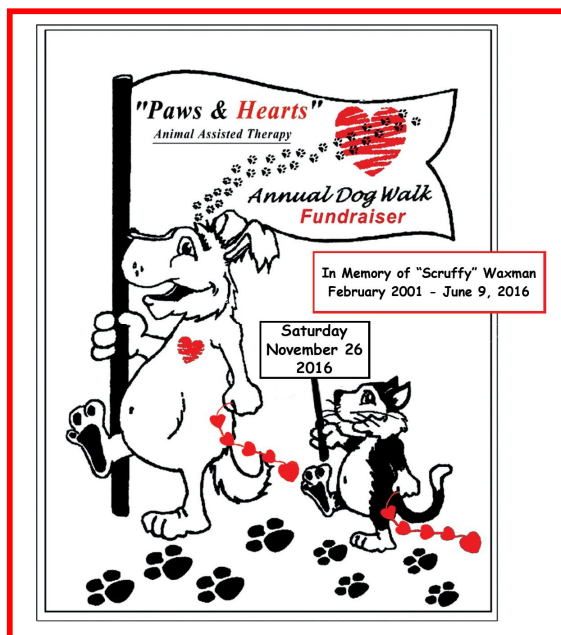
Our Mission Statement

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



"Lucky" & "Scruffy" *schlopping* at the old office!

The Dog Walk t-shirt the year "Scruffy" passed away



*A few more vintage
Photos !*

Phyllis Harkins at most likely
our Second Annual Dog Walk

"Nutmeg" at Vista Cove!



This was at Sacred Hearts Church, 2001 I'm guessing



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.

Let's go back in time and share some amazing Volunteer Reports from the past!

Ann, "Gus" & "Andy": Over the last years—

Christmas is a time to reflect and some of my more memorable moments were with **"Paws & Hearts."**

The big tough male volunteer/escort who really didn't want to escort Andy and me around at Eisenhower Medical Center. After about our third visit I noticed he was crying and he told me he was now a believer.

I remember the wife of a stroke patient at EMC who burst into tears when her husband moved his hand for the first time to pet Andy.

Then there was the dementia patient in PS who did not want to let go of Gus. Always the gentlemen Gus sat quietly until I could trade him out for a stuffed animal.

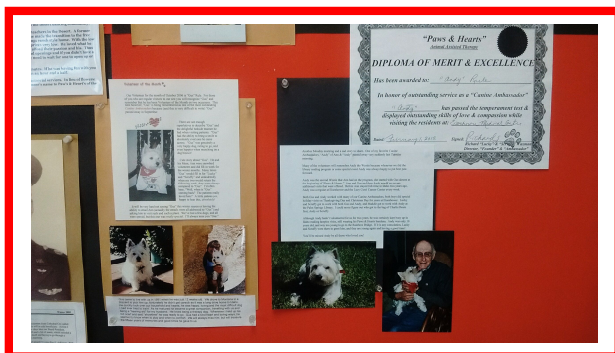
Christmas visit when a man was sitting by his wife's bedside as she was in her final coma. He said she had been a nurse in LA and loved animal therapy. He asked to have Andy lay down next to her and he wrapped her arm around him.

Then the Hispanic family who had everyone crowded in the Grandma's room, and they invited us in to share the mounds of food they had brought to celebrate Christmas.

The doctors who always deferred to us when we were in the room and said "the visit is important, we will come back." They also were believers!

And the amazing kids we read with. One boy came back as a teenager because he remembered how great the dogs were.

So congratulations on your years of comfort and joy to all the people in the desert area. Ann & Andy II



Both "Gus" & "Andy" are on our Memorial Wall



Ann & "Andy" at the Thousand Palms Library

Pet Bereavement Support Group

Our group meets the second Wednesday of every month, 1pm, at our office in Palm Desert. Each participant is asked to register on our website, www.pawsandhearts.org, and to bring a photograph of their beloved dog or cat (not on a cell phone). The group is starting its fourth year, and we have seen many faces from the valley come into the office and share love stories of their beloved 4-legged companions who have passed away. We are here to listen.

