

"Paws & Hearts"

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569



SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors

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Richard Waxman
Executive Director
"Paws & Hearts"

Vice President

Karen Gebala

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"Lucky" & "Scruffy" Waxman

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In Memorium

Valerie Zugates

Drew Marefos

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Virginia Tillmannshofer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Winter Newsletter isn't even printed yet and here I am penning the next one! Well, there is a reason for this. I am planning our **25th Anniversary Volunteer Luncheon** and wanted to put together a special Newsletter to commemorate the occasion. The luncheon will be on Tuesday, April 15 in a private dining room at The Classic Club!

Since the very beginning of **"Paws & Hearts"**, I have been taking pictures of our events so that I could document what we accomplished. Looking back at those pictures from those first few years, I honestly forgot some of those events, but there was one constantPhillip Valdez, the boyfriend at the time I started **"Paws & Hearts"**. The pictures reminded me of all the things we did together in the beginning and on the next page you can see just a glimpse of what the early years looked like.

As we celebrate this luncheon together, I want to thank everyone who helped shape the organization and make it into something that the Coachella Valley has come to rely on year after year!

- Richard Waxman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Add to your calendar!

PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month 1:00pm

VOLUNTEER BOOK CLUB

Last Wednesday of the Month 1:00pm

25th Anniversary Volunteer Luncheon

Tuesday, April 15th @ The Classic Club

"TERRY'S" VIEWS

("Lucky", "Scruffy", "Maddie" & "Bingo" in thought)



It seems like Dad & I just did this column only a few weeks ago. Sheesh, talk about having to work for those Milk-Bone mini-treats!

I'm guessing that come the middle of April we are having some special luncheon as Dad is already rehearsing a speech. I pity the guests that have to listen to that Yiddisha whine of his! This is where Valerie and Drew would have come in to make major edits!

Almost every day we've been in the office Dad has been going through albums of pictures and pointing out this, that, and the other to me. Does he think I understand? And I keep hearing about this guy Phillip.....Phillip did this, and Phillip did that! Okay, I get it Dad, Phillip helped a lot! And what am I chopped liver? Let's move on here shall we?!

 "Terry" Waxman

"Paws & Hearts"

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📘 www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg

Some pictures from the early, early years!



PHILLIP & "LUCKY" ON A CHRISTMAS VISIT AT VALENCIA PALMS



FUNDRAISER AT RUBY'S DINER



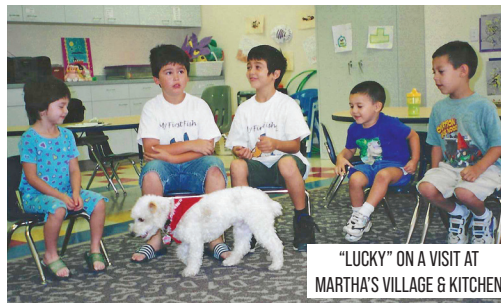
PHILLIP & "LUCKY" ON A HALLOWEEN VISIT



PHILLIP & "LUCKY" AT A VERY EARLY DOG WALK



ONE OF THE VERY FIRST DOG WALK FUNDRAISERS



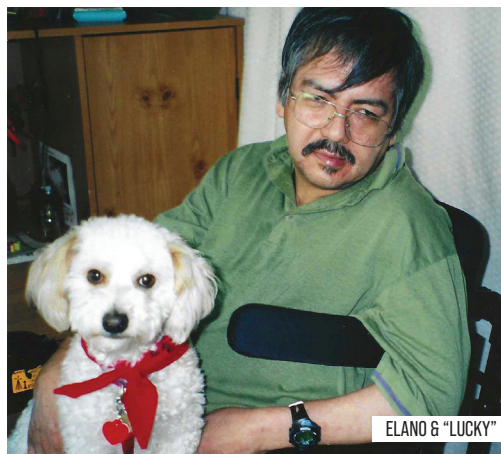
"LUCKY" ON A VISIT AT MARTHA'S VILLAGE & KITCHEN



THE PALM DESERT GOLF CART PARADE



"LUCKY" & JAMES AT VALENCIA PALMS



ELANO & "LUCKY"



A HALLOWEEN PARTY AT PALM SPRINGS HEALTHCARE

~ Volunteer Stories ~

In looking back at so many amazing pictures from the early years I wanted to share my remembrances from a couple of the visits that I had made with "Lucky." Many of the visits Phillip came along on.

VALENCIA PALMS, INDIO

This is where it all began, the very very first visit. My path crossed the Nursing Director of this facility and when he met "Lucky" he told me I should bring him to visit his residents. Little did this gentleman know that Pet Therapy was a passion of mine. I clearly remember asking if 'tomorrow was too soon to visit?' Lucky and I went down to Valencia Palms and he was just such a natural at this. I was totally amazed at the little Poodle/Terrier who was so gently cuddling with the patients on their beds. The Desert Sun article came immediately after this first visit, and that's how this all began.



A few months later Phillip came along and he was enchanted by what we were doing with our weekly visit at Valencia Palms and offered to join us. Little did I know that Phillip spoke fluid Spanish and many of the residents only spoke Spanish. Phillip was so charming to the residents, and there was one resident Elano who got quite a kick out of Phillip and me. To this day I swear that Phillip was sharing stories of our antics because he always had Elano in stitches!

There was one patient who stands out in my memory, Edith. She would wait for us out front in her wheelchair puffing on a cigarette. We would say hello to her first, and then finished up our visit sitting chatting with her for the longest time, with Lucky firmly planted on her lap. I remember being heart-sick when Edith passed away because she was just so lovely to visit with every Wednesday.

INNER IMAGE, PALM SPRINGS

This was an Alzheimer's facility, and as I recall I met the owner/director Pat Kaplan at some function and got to telling her about my new little non-profit. She immediately asked if I could start visiting, and every Friday morning for many years, Lucky and I visited the residents. Talk about a lesson in the disease and the lessons to just really listen, be incredibly patient, and to answer the same questions over and over again.

I remember one resident in particular. She was pretty far into the disease, sitting all day long in her wheelchair with her head slumped into her chest. However, on Friday mornings when I would put Lucky in her lap, her head snapped up, her eyes opened, and for a very few precious moments she understood that a dog was there to visit her, and she would miraculously pet Lucky. Her dear husband was there every day, and he told me that he cherished those few minutes on Friday mornings because he had a glimpse of what his wife used to be. The power of Pet Therapy!

Thank you for the education and on-the-job training Pat! It is been so useful these past 25 years!



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

A few final thoughts...

**As I've said all along, by no means
did I accomplish anything without
a whole lot of help.**



Let me start out by thanking Chris McGuire from the H. N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation for his continued support.

Let me also thank Ginny Tillmannshofer our Board President Emeritus. Ginny made those 20 Dog Walk Fundraisers a major hit with those amazing Raffle Baskets, and she was available for each and every board meeting!

Karen Gebala our current Board Vice President, who for 20+ years has proof-read and made every single Newsletter a whole lot sharper than what was originally written!

Jeff & Tish Gobble. Tish was our first CPA and secured our 501 C3 non-profit status. Her husband Jeff is now our Board Secretary-Treasurer.

And the hardest and the most heart-felt thanks go to Valerie Zugates and Drew Marefos who are sadly no longer with us. Both Valerie and Drew passed away in 2023. Not only did they leave a huge gap with their loved ones, but they left a legacy with our organization that can never be matched. I pray they are with us in spirit today because a great deal of our success is because of their love, devotion, and hard work year after year. I miss them so very much!

I'd like to think I could do this for at least another 15 years! Here's hoping!