





A Letter from our President



What Does "Many Hands Make Light Work" Mean?

This expression is used to say that when many people help with a project, the undertaking gets accomplished much faster and easier than it would with fewer people involved. In other words, it encourages people to come together...work together...complete a task.

This is why I am asking more of our members to get involved. This includes both meeting the needs of increased request for visits and in helping with the administrative, educational and promotional part of Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati.

As you are all aware, there is an enormous demand for pet therapy visits post Covid and our group admirably continues to meet the demand. These efforts are led daily by Heather Hauser who often appears at these events whenever enough teams are not available.

In addition, there is an enormous amount of work connected to evaluations, workshops, mentoring, membership tracking, and promotional Mini-Workshops/Presentations. Some positions need volunteers every other month or once a month for 3 to 4 hours in order for these events run smoothly. Other positions will vary on time, dates, etc.

Positions currently open are:

Assistants at evaluations

Membership Assistants at evaluations

Assistants at Workshops (morning or afternoon)

Become a speaker for recruiting (1 to 3 times a year, day or evening)

Become a speaker for the benefits of pet therapy (1 to 3 times a year)

Help members with setting up Google email

Help members with signing up for Evaluations and Registrations

Help to mentor new handlers

Serve on the Board of Directors or be a Chairperson for a Committee

Become an evaluator or instructor

We will provide training and support in these roles. I personally have volunteered in all of these positions and have found it very rewarding.

One of the things not mentioned about the expression "Many Hands Make Light Work" is that it also creates and builds strong friendships over the years and the feeling of accomplishment for a job well done.

Let me know if you have any questions or interest in volunteering with PPGC, your community partner in Greater Cincinnati. I'd love to hear from you!

Marilyn Edwards

President, Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati marilyn.edwards@tpgcpets.org





Treasurer's Report



Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati dba Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati FYE 06/30/2023 3rd Quarter

3rd Quarter Year to Date 3/31/2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$20,718.97	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$19,075.58
Income	\$6,801.08	Income	\$15,817.70
Expenses	\$1,251.88	Expenses	\$8,625.11
ENDING BALANCE	\$26,268.17	ENDING BALANCE	\$26,268.17

INCOME INCOME

Dues/Membership	\$440.00	Dues/Membership	\$1,330.00
Donations	\$5,121.08	Donations	\$8,997.49
Evaluations	\$600.00	Evaluations	\$1,560.00
Shirts	\$120.00	Shirts	\$480.00
Workshops	\$520.00	Workshops	\$2,480.00
Other/CC Refund		Other/CC Refund	\$970.21

TOTAL INCOME \$6,801.08 **TOTAL INCOME** \$15,817.70

EXPENSES EXPENSES

AACR Reimbursements Booth Fees Evaluations/ General/	\$99.00	AACR Reimbursements Booth Fees Evaluations/ General/	\$396.00 \$300.00
Workshops	\$871.42	Workshops	\$4,889.94
Insurance .		Insurance	\$887.00
Donations-Glenna	\$250.00	Donations-Glenna	\$250.00
Shirts		Shirts	\$1,720.34
Bank & PayPal Fees	\$31.46	Bank & PayPal Fees	\$150.37
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,251.88	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,593.65





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PPGC Membership - How You Can help

In this issue of our newsletter, I would like to make you aware of the enormous amount of work it takes to manage our Membership list and communication channels (email and website).

As you may be aware, in 2019 the Board made the decision to abandon our Microsoft email system and switch to Google for Nonprofits. There is a lot more functionality within the Google Suite and as a nonprofit, we can use these services at no charge. Our team has invested significant time to complete that transition while also leveraging the Google Suite to transform our processes and filing systems. This has increased collaboration between board members, our evaluators/instructors and chair positions and allowed us to consolidate all our documentation and reduced our paper usage.

000 We have also been making changes to our database to further streamline our reporting abilities which will allow us to expand on the capabilities of our website.

We have a lot of exciting plans that are being designed behind the scenes including a member portal where you will be able to create profiles, log volunteer hours, sign up for visits and access shared documents.

How Can You Help?

1. Send in your acceptance letter to membership@tpgcpets.org

Forward your acceptance letter from Pet Partners to Membership@tpgcpets.org as soon as vou receive it. This helps keep up to date with expiration dates and maintaining your name on our distribution list.

2. Activate and use your @tpgcpets.org email

For those that have done this, thank you.

Regrettably, many of you have not done this yet. And it is because of this that we are not able to leverage the full potential of the Google Suite and our website. The amount of time and effort our team spends accounting for members who decline to use their @tpgcpets.org email has become overwhelming and can no longer be supported. We will be retiring any exceptions for personal emails in the coming months. We will be with you each step of the way as you make this transition. We will be sending out additional communication in the coming weeks outlining how you can get the additional support you need to get switched over.

Susan Steinhardt, PPGC Board Ex-Officio

susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org









It is with sad and grateful hearts that we say goodbye to our beloved founder Glenna Mockbee. She died peacefully on March 12, 2023.

Glenna founded Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati, later renamed as Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati, in 2004. The organization then achieved not-for-profit status in 2005. She is responsible for bringing comfort, love, and support to thousands of people through their interactions with therapy pets. Glenna's vision and hard work inspired, and continues to inspire, hundreds of volunteers to join in her quest. Her insight and dedication provided the foundation for years of mental health aid to come.

We will miss your ready smiles, compassion, and inspiration. We will continue your work as you pass the baton to us, the grateful recipients of the fruits of your labor. Rest in peace, Glenna.

To see Glenna's Obituary and tributes, go to: https://www.shortenandryan.com/obituaries/glenna-mockbee







Words cannot express the extreme loss Greater Cincinnati has felt. Glenna Mockbee was a tireless crusader who fought an uphill battle starting in the early 2000's when she knocked on doors and educated staff and administrators at hospitals, assisted-living facilities, libraries, schools, and countless other facilities on the benefit of the animal-assisted human-animal bond. Most facility administrators turned their noses up at the thought of an animal in their facility. But she wouldn't give up. Now, Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati (formerly known as Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati) are contacted daily, several times a day, requesting our members and their furry partner to attend their facility.

Glenna tried for several years for our members to be able to attend the V.A. Hospital.

Eventually, in 2015, they agreed. Members had to attend an Orientation, be fingerprinted, have a T.B. shot, etc. But eventually, the VA doors were open. I took a picture the first time Glenna walked through the V.A. doors. I was so happy for her that when I took the picture, my hands were shaking, I blurred the picture. LOL The first attendees were Anita Burtosky and Prince, Glenna and Jonah and Baxter and I. It was April 20, 2015. We enjoyed our visits for five years. Then, the pandemic hit in 2020. The V.A. therapy program, as we knew it was over. Now, with new administration, plans are being made to reinstate it.



We are all proud of Glenna and the work she has done to forge a path for any and all handlers who want to perform therapy visits. Otherwise, without her, who knows? We may still be knocking on doors!

Glenna believed that any person in the hospital or other facilities should be able to have a therapy visit if they want one. My faith teaches me that Glenna knows how we all feel about her. She knows that her legacy is solid and that Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati is in good hands. We will continue to honor her. We thank you, Glenna; we will remember you always!

Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati





Glenna was a phenomenal woman and friend. A great leader determined to help others be successful and make a difference.

She took Sparky and me under her wings in 2004 after Sparky earned his Canine Good Citizen certification and helped us prepare for our pet therapy evaluation.



Amy, Sparky, Dr. Edith Markoff (Head of pet therapy program at Cincinnati Children's), Jonah and Glenna

After our pet therapy evaluation and successfully passing we did many events together (schools, P&G, Mason Community Program - reading program) as well as visited hospitals (Shriners, Cincinnati Children's, Christ, B-North, VA). One of our favorite hospitals was the VA where we visited for many years.

Glenna was determined everyone would be successful who wanted to do pet therapy. She was determined to bring happiness to individuals of all ages some of whom were disabled, ill, had learning disabilities.

There aren't enough words to express what she has done for Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

We are committed to continue her legacy.

I will miss her beautiful smile and sometimes her mischievous ways.



I have known Glenna for over 20 years. She did so much good by getting pet therapy established in the hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, and businesses. She has touched and changed so many lives for the better. She will be greatly missed in the community by so many. Love you Glenna. Rest in Peace. Say hello to all the therapy pets that I know have greeted you now.

~ Tracy Kinney



I first met Glenna at a workshop where you could clearly see her passion for therapy work. Her energy was delightfully positive and her excitement about therapy work came shining through during her training. She certainly helped me decide that I was joining the right pet therapy organization. Glenna was there at my first evaluation and guided me through the entire process. Shortly after Gazoo and I passed our evaluation, we started visiting Mason schools where Glenna was known to make many of her visits. She was gracious during those visits and wanted to make sure that each child was showered with all the pet love they could absorb. I'll always be thankful for how Glenna made me feel at home during those visits. She will be missed. (Kathryn Louis & Pet Partner, Gazzo).

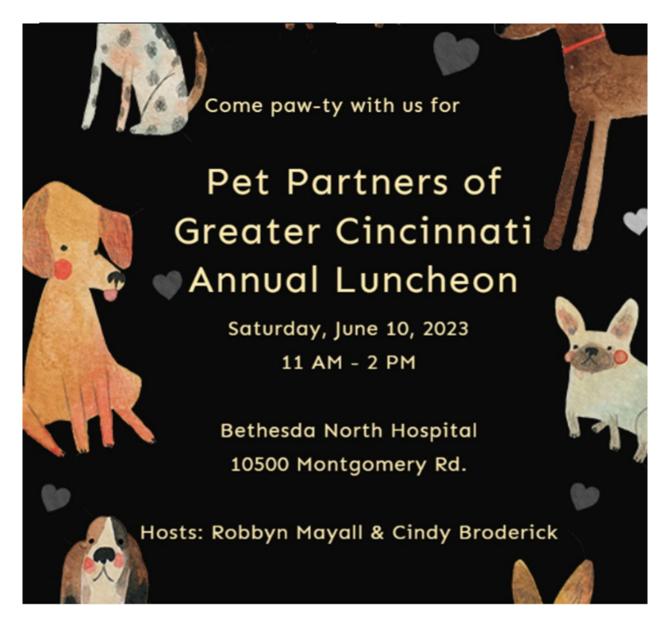
~ Kathryn Lewis

Thanks from Glenna's Son, David Mockbee

" I am overwhelmed by the love shown and the professionalism shown by Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati. I am positive that the continued visits resonated with Glenna while she was ill. I can also say our family was touched by PPGC's teams who visited today at the funeral.
 Know that y'all made today Special."

PPGC ANNUAL LUNCHEON 6/10/23 DON'T MISS IT!





Shirts will be available for sale at the luncheon for \$40





Are You Logging Your Visits?



Home / Volunteer / Volunteer Center / Log a Visit

Log a Visit

If the facility you visited was not listed at the time of your first visit entry, please check our drop-down listing next time you have visits to log! A staff member adds facilities to our database on a regular basis after this happens, you won't need to enter the facility information again.

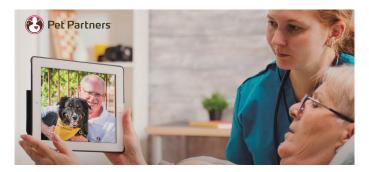
By logging your visit, we're better able to tell the story of volunteers just like you positively impacting thousands of lives each year. A summary of your visits is available to you upon request.







Home / Animal-Related Engagement



Animal-Related Engagement

While nothing can replace the impact of visiting with a therapy animal in person, Pet Partners is built on the knowledge that the power of the human-animal bond far exceeds any single circumstance or situation. When therapy animal programming simply isn't available, there are still creative ways in which animals can positively influence our wellness. These opportunities can be defined as Animal-Related Engagement (ARE), a term created by Dr. Taylor Chastain Griffin with Pet Partners.

Animal-Related Engagement is any engagement opportunity that allows participants the benefits of the human-animal bond by encouraging the remembrance of feelings that are commonly associated with interaction with an animal.

This new initiative is supported by foundational research on the topic, as well as by some of the top leaders in the AAI field. ARE is widely applicable, both in settings in which it is called for and in populations in which it might be well-received.

To read more about this initiative, download our white paper. In this document, you'll find empirical support for ARE, notes from AAI professionals, and practical ideas for how you can bring this intervention to life.

DOWNLOAD THE WHITE PAPER

Go to https://petpartners.org/animal-related-engagement for more info.

* Some New Members of PDGC *





I joined Pet Partners in October of 2022. I was told about a Pet Therapy team that is affiliated with the Tri-State Peer Support Team for First Responders. After I learned more about the group, I decided Aspen and I would be a great asset to the team. My husband is

a firefighter/paramedic so I feel I know a little bit about what the first responders go through. Aspen is a 4 year old Australian Shepherd mix.

I am looking forward to getting AARC trained. We plan on visiting local fire-houses. I would love to also visit the Ronald McDonald House and local Veteran hospitals & homes.

~ Amanda Kinman





ing others, especially children. He even has visits with my niece who just turned 1 year old. I am a teacher and am able to bring Tucker with me, especially when my students have tests/final exams. The amount of joy Tucker brings to my students pales in comparison to how much joy Tucker displays while being petted. Being a teacher, Tucker and I will have more time in the summer to explore other possible visitation options. We are very excited to be a part of this wonderful organization bringing joy to others through our pet teams!

~ Michelle Schmahl



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati



I am Sue Brown, and my partner is Gunner, a 4 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. We are so very excited to now be a member of Pet Partners. I am a retired RN from TriHealth. I moved back home to Cincinnati 5 years ago from the Dayton area, where I had a certified therapy dog there, who passed at age 14

My love and compassion is to serve others. Gunner is a very loving, compassionate dog, who can sense when someone is in need of support. He has worked with two children who have severe ADHD and brought them great calm and joy when he was with them. We are proud to be serving at TriHealth and in this great community.





My name is Tim Costigan. I work at the Newport Aquarium. I also had a past job with Petco as the assistant manager of the dog and cat area. When I lived in Colorado a couple years after moving back home I was working as an assistant manager at CVS drug store.

One day my wife was taking me to work in the morning when a small kitten ran out in front of the car. The kitten went across the road and I got ahold of her and took her home. And she is now a registered therapy cat.

That cat's name is Cuddles. She will turn 10 in June and I'm now taking her to the Fort Thomas Saint Elizabeth hospital. She is so laid back that when I took her up there last week she was letting

I picked Pet Partners because I have heard nothing but good things about them, and so far the people that I have dealt with have been great!



~ Tim Costigan

the patients hold her.



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Allergies and Fleas and Ticks, OH MY!

(March-December in Ohio)



Ahh, beautiful Spring! At long last we can put away our winter coats, scarves, hats, and gloves and enjoy the outdoors. Walks and playtime with our pets outdoors are front of mind. But this comes with a price for us and our pets: allergies, fleas, and ticks.

Allergies

Allergies are very common in dogs, which may be from pollens, flea bites, bees, spider bites, and food. How do you know your dog has allergies?

- ⇒ Inflammation of skin, ears, eyes, feet: Your dog may scratch, shake her head, or chew on her paws or other skin area "hot spots" which can become extremely inflamed, even infected if not treated.
- Watery eyes and/or nose: This may be accompanied by sneezing.
- Gastrointestinal problems: Vomiting and/or diarrhea may occur.

Fleas



Fleas can jump a distance of 100-200 times their size, right onto your pet (or you!). They can lay 50 eggs a day, up to 2000 in their lifetimes. The best defense is a year-round flea protector.

Ticks



These pesky parasites sit on blades of grass and shrubs, ready to jump onto your pet when he brushes through or past them. They latch on and suck blood, and can transmit diseases to your pet like Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Babesia (new to Ohio), and others. Tick season is May-August, but they can be active any time the temperature rises above 40°F. Cases of Lyme disease in humans are up over 1000% in Ohio since 1998.

As soon as you bring your pet home, check for ticks by running your hands all over him, checking for small lumps. Remove the entire tick with a fine point tweezers or tick removal hook within 48 hours to prevent infection. Then swab the area with rubbing alcohol. Where might these pests be found?

- On the head or in the ears: Head shaking and ear scratching are signs that there may be one hiding there.
- Between the toes or the bottom of the feet: Licking or chewing the feet is a sign.
- The tail, particularly the underside: Use a fine comb to find and remove them.
- Groin area: This dark, moist area is a favorite hiding spot.
- Eyelids: Ticks there may look like skin tags or discharge. Don't be fooled!
- Under the collar: This is an easy spot to miss.
- Armpits: Check where the dog's legs meet his body for these stealthy creatures.

Baxter, the Fundraiser



Baxter and I spend the winter in SW Florida. Our son and family live in Naples. My son works at a beautiful community in Naples called Quail West Country Club. It happens that a lady named Kay Mooney is a member at Quail West. Kay is on the national board of directors of Pet Partners. Kay organized a fundraising event for Pet Partners at Quail West, and invited Annie Peters, CEO, of Pet Partners to speak.

By coincidence, Kay found out from my son that Baxter and I are a registered PP therapy team, so we were invited to the fundraising event along with some other local PP teams. After Kay and Annie spoke to the group, Baxter and I shared some of our best pet therapy stories with the group.

The event was very successful, raising over \$17,000 for PP.

BTW....Annie told me that our PP group is one of the largest in the country.



~ Sam Gingrich





********************************** Trish Smith and Rosie on Official Business



Proclamation Issued by Ohio Governor Mike Dewine

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Proclamation Issued by City of Montgomery



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Proclamation Issued by

Clermont County Commissioner Bonnie Batchler



PROCLAMATION

"National Therapy Animal Day" April 30, 2023

WHEREAS, there are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners has designated April 30th as National Therapy Animal Day; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams in the town of Cincinnati and surrounding counties play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams make millions of visits per year in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools and hospice; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students facing literacy challenges, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed, that we, the Board of Clermont County Commissioners do hereby declare April 30th, 2023 as

"National Therapy Animal Day"

in Clermont County, and encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers. Further, we publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and across the nation.



Board of County Commissioners,

Bonnie J. Batcher, President

Clare B. Corcoran, Vice President

August Student David L. Painter, Member



Providing Stress Relief at UC





Anderson Township Fire Department





Firefighter, Amanda Kinman & Aspen, Amy Hudoba & Chipper, Sharon Newman & Roxie, Sheila Schroeder & Sweetpea, Karen Spradlin & Baxter, Kenny Schroeder

Springfield Township FD with Firefighters and UC Mobile Stroke Team



Rear: Amanda Kinman & Aspen, Nancy Mulvey & Minnie Front: Roxie



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HELPING, EVEN WITHOUT A PET PARTNER



Our Pet Therapy Support Team, which provides "Stress Relief" visits and "Critical Incident" responses for Fire, EMS, Police, Corrections and 911 Dispatchers, has someone who provides extra, above-and-beyond assistance to the team. *Debbie Bauer* has been assisting Kenny Schroeder with the organization of those visits. While she does not yet have

her own pet partner, she creates advance flyers customized with each department's logos such as the one shown here. She also attends many of those visits to offer her support. We thank Debbie for her help, and hope to see her recently acquired puppy in full Pet Therapy uniform next year. Good luck, Deb and pup!

Are You Having a Challenging Day / Week / Month?

Time to Take a Break!



Join us for a relaxing, informal Stress Relief visit with the best "therapists" around!

Pet Partners therapy animal teams are a welcome respite from the everyday pressures of your job. No tasks, no judgement - just unconditional love and companionship to improve and brighten your day.





Join us Wednesday, March 15th @ 10:00AM 9150 Winton Road Cincinnati, OH 45231

For further information or to schedule a visit, contact: (513) 788-1570







Indian Hill Fun Fair

Nancy Mulvey & Minnie, Trish Smith & Rosie,
Barb Haintl & Fiona, Shelia Schroeder& Sweetpea















The Lovin' Never Stops



Vermont Primary School: Rosie (Trish Smith) & Popcorn (Jen Richardson)

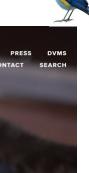


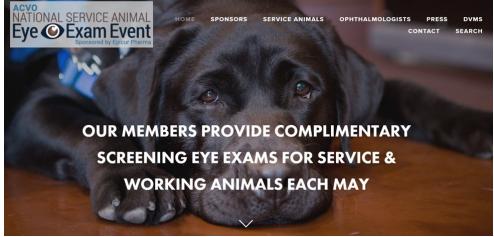
City of Montgomery Mental Health Fair: Rosie & Mayor Craig Margolis





Thank you, ACVO!





The ACVO/Epicur National Service Animal Eye Exam is a philanthropic event that provides free, ocular screening eye exams to qualified Service & Working Animals each May. These exams are provided by those members of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists who choose to partici-

pate and volunteer their time and resources. The program benefits formally trained working animals who selflessly care for us all. Approximately 8,000 eye exams are provided across America, Canada and Puerto Rico each May. Registration closed 4/30/23.

Editor's note: I have taken Roxie, my Golden Retriever. to this event for several years. This year she was given a very thorough eye exam by a Veterinary Opthalmologist. It was at one such event that Roxie's age related deteriorating eyesight was diagnosed, enabling me to understand that she is not frightened, she just has difficulty seeing in darkened areas. It allowed me to provide her needed accommodation for walking in dark corridors and stairwells (turn on more lights!). I highly recommend you to take advantage of this service next year.





Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the

trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together...

Author unknown.









It is with heavy heart that I share we lost our Bailey girl on Friday, March 3, 2023. She was a Christmas present from my husband, Mark in 2011. She was a beloved family pet but also a wonderful therapy dog.



Our favorite places to visit over 8 years were Our Lady of Visitation school where we participated in a reading program struggling children read to Bailey every week

and their progress was gratifying; the other place was Kings High School where, along with other teams, we met with the special

needs classes and had them "walk the dogs". Over the years we visited many, many people and places bringing joy and relief from stress.





Bailey became ill quite suddenly while Mark & I were in Australia. My close friend Kathy (Bailey's caregiver as we traveled) handled the urgent situation and devastating decision with great grace and care. Thank you Kathy!

Bailey was a well mannered, gentle and small golden retriever loved by many but she was and will always be "mommy's girl".

We love you Bailey and will miss you terribly.

~ Susan Steinhardt











Athena and Linda Hartmann became a Pet Partner team in December 2019. After pandemic restrictions eased, Athena and Linda visited every week with Queen City Hospice patients, The Legacy at Liberty Ridge, and sometimes at Lakota Schools. Sadly, we lost Athena to osteosarcoma in March, 2023.

~ Linda Hartmann





Board President Marilyn Edwards

Board Vice President Heather Hauser

Board Secretary Julie Johnson

Board Treasurer | ouise Nathanson

Trustees Karen Howell

Denise Sebastianelli

Sam Gingrich

Ex-Officio Advisor Susan Steinhardt

Editor's Note

How can we not love Spring? Plants, trees, and flowers are blooming everywhere, and Greater Cincinnati is beautiful everywhere you look. Unfortunately, allergies come with it and this year is a doozy! With my itchy, watery eyes and Roxie being prone to hot spots this time of year, we are quite a pair.



I hope you had a nice Easter, and will enjoy a lovely Mother's Day on 5/14 and Father's Day on 6/18.

Many thanks to all who contributed content for this newsletter. And now...on to mowing and weeding!

~Sharon Newman