



# PAW PRINTS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

## YOU ARE INVITED

### DFL ANNUAL DONOR & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS CEREMONY

Re-Scheduled for January 21, 2012 11 AM ~ Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion

"Volunteers don't get paid because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Sherry Anderson

It is critical for a non-profit organization to stay engaged with its donors. Although training service dogs is our passion, we cannot do it without our donors' and volunteers' help. Without people who are willing to give of their resources as well as of themselves, DFL's assistance dog, pet assisted therapy, and community outreach programs plus the off-leash dog park would not exist.

Steve Higgins will be the guest speaker for the DFL Annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation & Awards event, originally scheduled on December 10, 2011, but due to rain has been rescheduled. Steve is on the Board of The Indian River County Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and The Education Foundation of Indian River County. He is the Vice President of the Bob Carter Companies, an international consortium of fundraising companies and has over 20 years experience working in non-profit consulting and business development.



**Past-President's Award 2009 - 2011:  
Al Turner**

Al Turner joined the Dogs For Life Board of Directors in February of 2008. DFL was on the cusp of losing the dog park and could not have saved it through purchasing the property if it had not been for people like Al Turner who came

forward at the final hour. Having only one dog at the time, Al and his wife, Pilar, had only recently joined the dog park at the time. Al recognized the value of the park as well as DFL's assistance dog program and stepped up to the plate.

Not only did Al help DFL with a financial commitment, he also immediately took Shelly up on her offer to join the Board of Directors, served for a year and he has now served as President since 2009. During this time, Al has led DFL through the dog park property purchase and the four and a half acre expansion project, and launched a three year President's Challenge to donors, resulting in over \$76,000 for Dogs For Life Programs.

Al will continue to serve as Vice President in 2012, and serves as co-chair of the Dog Park Capital Campaign Project. He and his wife have added a second dog to their household, so we are confident that he will be around for years to come. Thank you, Al, for your continued service to Dogs For Life, Inc.



**Volunteer of the Year Award:  
Eleanor Bengyak**

Although Eleanor Bengyak has served on the DFL Board of Directors since April 2008, she has been instrumental in the development of the dog park from its inception.

Once the dog park was open for business, Eleanor and Victor were some of our first members with their then Golden Retriever, Taffy, and are now with their Springer Spaniel, Mitzi. Eleanor joined the DFL dog obedience class and acquired an AKC Canine Good Citizen Certification. She and Mitzi became a DFL Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Team and have visited many facilities over the years, bringing joy and comfort to others. Then Victor decided he might need a "paw around the house" when Eleanor was away, so Eleanor helped to train Mitzi to tap the K-9 911 phone.

Eleanor currently serves as Chairperson of the Dog Park Committee and has coordinated two Bridge Tournaments for DFL over the years and a third one is being planned for March of 2012. Thank you, Eleanor, for being such a dedicated volunteer and friend to Dogs For Life.



**Individual Philanthropist Award:  
Robert G. Bowman**

Bob G. Bowman has been a supporter of DFL since 2006 when DFL had a cute little Schnauzer named Robbie available for adoption. Not only did Bob give Robbie an excellent new home, but Bob has now helped give

DFL an excellent home, too. He has supported every Annual Appeal since 2006 and helped to purchase the dog park property, as well as the expansion project. To date, he is the largest contributor to the Capital Campaign to build the Dog Park Training Center.

When Bob was asked what had inspired him to be so generous to DFL, his answer was that he wanted to help train more service dogs for people with disabilities. Thank you, Bob. Your kindness will be remembered by many people and for many years to come.

*(continued on page 2)*

## DFL ANNUAL DONOR & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS

(Continued from page 1)



### Corporate Philanthropist Award: Suzie Gomez and Beech Annuals

Suzie and Jeff Gomez of Beech Annuals and Coast to Coast Landscaping have been "Best Friends" of DFL's since May 2006. Eddie and Gail Boatwright donated the memorial pavilion and then last year, the Garden Club of Indian River County donated the eight beautiful bald cypress trees to the dog park's memorial garden. Suzie then decided that she wanted to add flowers, a St. Francis statue in the garden, and the bleeding heart vines to the Memorial Pavilion. Her magic touch has transformed the dog park memorial garden into a beautiful, tranquil place where people are able to gather and remember their beloved family members who have crossed the rainbow bridge. Thank you, Suzie, for your contributions to the dog park memorial garden.



### Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award: Norine Coody and Abby, DFL Certified Hearing and Service Dog Team.

Norine contacted Dogs For Life in May of 2009 and applied to have a hearing dog trained. She did not own a dog at the time so the selection process began. We interviewed, temperament tested and then adopted a dog from the Humane Society of Vero Beach. Norine named this young female dog, Abby. Training began immediately with trainers Patty Ruble, Pat Scott and Beth Stryker. In January of 2010, full public access was granted and Norine and Abby became a DFL Certified Hearing and Service Dog Team.

Norine has been a joy to work with. Her dedication to training her own dog with patience and humor has been an inspiration to the trainers involved with this team. Norine is active as a volunteer trainer, giving her time and expertise toward two additional hearing dog teams. She helps with public demonstrations when needed and with stick, seal and stamp mailings in the DFL office. She most recently served on the 10th Anniversary Howl-o-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade committee and recruited her daughter, Karla, too. Thank you, Norine, for giving back what you have learned in order to help others. You are an inspiration to all of the assistance dog teams.



### Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Team Award: Nancy McCusker and Buford

Nancy McCusker and Buford joined the Dogs for Life Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Program in 2008. They have serviced people at the Mental Health Association for the past

four years. Many Pet Assisted Therapy Volunteers come and go over the years and few are as dedicated as Nancy has been to her adopted facility. DFL appreciates your service and we know that the folks at the Mental Health Association appreciate you and especially, Buford. Thank you, Nancy and Buford.



### Broadcast Media Award: Jill Roberts

DFL first became acquainted with Jill Roberts in June of 2011, when she interviewed Winks Kremer and "Bun," a DFL Hearing and Service Dog Team, on their certification date. Her story was broadcast on National Public Radio and Jill received a first place Associate Press award in the category of Public Affairs. She joined WQCS in 1987 and also contributes stories to Florida Public Radio.

DFL appreciates the personal interest Jill has taken in our assistance dog program by attending, recording and airing the certification ceremonies of two service dog teams last year. Jill's interest in the off-leash dog park and the veteran dog training program is evident by her recently inviting Shelly to accompany her to a veteran dog graduation ceremony at the Martin County Correctional Institute, whose format may hold some possibilities for DFL's future training program. Thank you, Jill.



### Journalism Award: Mary E. Schenkel

Mary Schenkel has been a friend to DFL for many years after moving to Vero Beach 14 years ago from Manhattan, NY. She is the Society Editor for the weekly newspaper, "Vero Beach 32963," where she featured Dogs For Life, President Al Turner, and US Army Retired, Jim Taylor, and his DFL Certified Hearing and Service Dog, Pia Pia, in June of 2011. Mary was able to capture the post traumatic stress of this veteran of Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom in words that only his service dog, Pia Pia understands. Mary quoted in her story that "merely leaving the house could cause Jim to have a panic attack and having Pia Pia by his side has given him independence and freedom, freedom that this brave soldier has helped America to maintain." Thank you, Mary.

*A special thank you to the AMVETS for serving refreshments to our guests during this event; Chris and Kim at Reliable Poly John for donating the Port-A-Potty; and Steve Higgins for being our guest speaker.*

**David S. Johnson, President**

*Co-Chair: Dog Park Training Center Capital Campaign Committee, Standing Member of all Committees.*

**Al Turner, Vice President**

*Co-Chair: Dog Park Training Center Capital Campaign Committee, Fund Development Committee.*

**Kelli Beal, Treasurer**

*Chair: Finance and Fund Development Committee, Advertising & Marketing.*

**Eleanor Bengyak, Director**

*Chair: Dog Park Committee. Member all dog park sub-committees.*

**Karen Mann, Director**

*Chair: Special Event(s) Howl-O-Ween Committee, Member Dog Park Memorial Garden Committee.*

**Darrell Horn, DVM, Director**

*Chair: Assistance Dog Program and all sub-committees, Member Dog Park Training Center Capital Campaign Committee.*

**Margaret Wall, Director**

*Chair: Pet Assisted Therapy Program, Member Dog Park Training Center Capital Campaign & Veteran Dog Training Committees.*

**Ben Humphries, SSGT, US Army, Ret., Director**

*Chair: Veteran Dog Assistance Dog Program, Member Dog Park Training Center Capital Campaign.*

**Kattis Stengard, DVM, Director**

*Member Assistance Dog Committee, Member Community Outreach Companion Dog Program.*

**Shelly Ferger, Founder/Executive Director**

*Member Board of Directors/Standing Member of all Committees.*



Director Kattis Stengard, DVM, owner of Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital pictured with 2012 DFL President David S. Johnson, owner of HR Dynamics, and Maggie Johnson, just along for the fun.

**Update....****Training Center Capital Campaign**

By: David Johnson, DFL President

The Capital Campaign continues to grow and has given the Board of Dogs For Life the confidence to move forward with plans to build the new Training Center at the Dog Park.

To date, the campaign has received \$290,000 in donations. More is needed to assure that there are on-going operating and maintenance resources. However, the Board is confident that donors will respond as they see the project unfold.

The first step has been completed, the architectural design and drawings, thanks to the wonderful generosity of Tony Donadio and his firm, Donadio & Associates, Architects P.A. This work was 100% donated and Tony has volunteered his personal services to oversee the entire construction process. Thank you, Tony!

The next step is the engineering work, which will include the submittal of a site plan and obtaining all the permits required by Indian River County. DFL solicited bids from four local engineering firms and will select the finalist in early January. Finally, DFL will request bids from four local construction firms with a goal of putting "the shovel in the ground" by September/October, 2012.

The more the Board works on the Training Center project, the more it realizes the importance of the project to the long term health and growth of DFL. Not only will the Center greatly increase our ability to train more service dogs, it will also provide a true "headquarters" for the growing volunteers, staff, and provide a daily presence at the Dog Park to inform and welcome potential new members.



Proposed Training Facility  
for  
DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.  
Vero Beach, Florida



## Service Dog With Baggage Seeks Soldier with Baggage

Hi, my name is Carly Simon and I am looking for a veteran with baggage. I am a 1 ½ year old, Wimeraner Lab mix rescue dog that is being fostered and trained by DFL as a service dog and perhaps as a service dog for a veteran with (PTSD) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Let me explain a few things. I just cannot stop “counter surfing.” The chance that I just might find something there to eat, keeps me going back again, again and again. And, my energy level makes me think “jump first, think later.” Most people don’t like this, maybe it’s because I weigh 60 pounds, I dunno. When I get overly excited, my mouth goes totally out of control. So you see, I have some baggage, but I just know there is someone out there who can “relate” to me.

I am naturally a “working dog” and there were many kind people associated with the Humane Society of Vero Beach who helped me find Dogs For Life. I’ve had to learn a few things, and fast. First, what the word “no” means. And I’ve learned that people don’t like it when I shove a toy at them, they try to take it and then I hold it with all my might and shove it at them again. I love to do this over and over and over. For some reason, they just want to throw it. Go figure!

I am being trained to tap a funny phone called a K-9 911 phone, it makes a funny dialing sound. But, that’s ok, because when I’m told to tap it, I do, and I always get a good treat. And, I do not understand why my trainer keeps dropping things for me to pick up. All kind of things, every day, all over the house, how clumsy can one person be? I do my fair share around the house, I carry laundry, take out the recycling, and every morning I bring in the newspaper.

I am on the go, all of the time, to the post office and the bank. People always look and talk to me, but they cannot pet me while I am wearing my “service dog in training” jacket. I go to meetings, ride in elevators, and visit restaurants in and around Vero Beach. You probably didn’t see me, because I stay quietly under the table. Sometimes, when I’m under the table, my trainer will say “lap dog.” Then I get to put my head in her lap. It makes her feel better and I do it ‘cuz I get petted the whole time.



Carley with Tony Donadio, of Donadio & Associates, Architects, P.A., working on the Dog Park Capital Campaign Training Center Plans.

I’m also learning to “go out,” which means to make a semi circle around my trainer, to bark on command (with a hand signal), and to do a “perimeter search” of the home, which I can do in 10 seconds. All of this is ok with me, because I always get a good treat.

At the end of the day, I have a chance to go to DFL’s off-leash dog park, where I’ve had to learn a few doggie manners. The older dogs are teaching me a thing or two.. like don’t run when I tell you. Whassup with that?

My trainer tells me I am very smart, too smart – could there be such a thing? I just know there is someone out there who needs me. Call DFL ASAP, I want a forever home and fast!



Carley on Veteran's Day at Jetson's Appliance Celebration with DFL Volunteer, Linda Liss.



(Left to Right) Rhonda Myrick, LCSW, Pilar Turner, Ben Humphries, Al Turner, Margaret Wall, Carley Simon and Doug Pietrafetta.

## Annual Assistance Dog Workshop held January 10, 2012

Each year, Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor outlines the laws and penalties at a DFL assistance dog workshop at the United Way in Vero Beach. This gives residents an opportunity to hear first hand experiences of people who have trained their own dog as a service dog as well as how they may apply for a service dog. Businesses are educated on what qualifies a dog for public access.

Thank you to the State Attorney's office and to the United Way for donating their services and space for this valuable workshop.



## Channel 5 Video Goes National

When DFL received a request on December 27, 2011 from Rikki Klaus of Channel 5 News, to interview James Taylor and DFL Certified Service Dog Pia Pia, we never thought the segment would wind up on CNN. Support has been overwhelming and we sincerely appreciate Channel 5 having given us the opportunity to get the word out concerning service dogs for veterans. Donations were received from as far as Ohio, Indiana, Colorado, as well as across the State of Florida.



## United Way Day of Caring

Dogs For Life, Inc. is grateful for having been selected to participate in the United Way's Annual Day of Caring on Saturday, September 24, 2011, as an Agency Project Site. We would like to thank volunteers from the Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints for building shelves for the dog park storage shed, painting the doggie waste bag stations, and paint staining the memorial pavilion.

New Shelves for the Off-Leash Dog Park Storage Shed

United Way CEO Michael Kint, with Volunteers Sam Beers, Linda Bennett and Dog Park Member Jacque MacWilliam and Molly.



## 2011 DFL Donors, Members & Volunteers

Adams II, Nate & Eloise  
 Alberga, Bonnie  
 Aliyetti, John & Penny  
 Allen, Millicent  
 Anderson, Janet  
 Anderson, Tacie  
 Andonian, Dan  
 Boys and Girls Club of I.R.C.  
 Backer, Lenora Bell & Linda  
 Bailey, Diane  
 Bailey, Marge  
 Bainbridge, Beverly  
 Bakker, Arie & Judi  
 Bartkus, Chuck & Ellen  
 Barkett, Bruce & Janet  
 Bateman, Charles A.  
 Chuck Bateman State Farm Ins.

Baumann, Rick  
 Beal, Jason & Kelli  
 Becker, Jo Ann  
 Richard E & Lillian M Becker  
 Family Foundation  
 Becker, Lani  
 Beckwith, Alice  
 Bellezza, Peter & Rosalie  
 Benedict, Barb & Michael  
 Benedict, Nancy & Peter  
 Bengyak, Victor & Eleanor  
 Beuttell Jr., Richard & Denise  
 Beuttell, Richard  
 Bug Master  
 Block, Max & Gloria  
 Boatwright, Gail  
 Council of Catholic Women

Boatwright, Eddie & Gail  
 Bodnar, Michael & Barbara  
 Bonney, Laura  
 Bowman, Bob G.  
 Bradley, Mr. Charles A.  
 Abilities Resource Center  
 Brewer, Barbara  
 Brewer, Elizabeth  
 Brewer, Pinkey J.  
 Brown, Cindy & Tom  
 Brown, Gay  
 Garden Club of I.R.C.  
 Brown, Pat  
 Buchanan, Valencia  
 Burns, Lynn  
 Garden Club of I.R.C.  
 Burton, Debbie

Bybee, Dr. Elizabeth  
 Bykowski, L.A.  
 Callard, George & Laura  
 Calley, Robert & Judy  
 Campana-Arroyo, Sue  
 Campbell, Barbara  
 Campbell, Sally  
 Cannon, Pat  
 CJ Cannon Restaurant  
 Carey, Kirk  
 Carman, Brian & Eleanor  
 Carole, Jude  
 Carpenter, Neil  
 Vietnam Veterans of America  
 Casano, Beth  
 I.R.C. Fire Rescue  
 Catto, Jean  
 Ceely, Carol  
 Cennerazzo, James & Elaine  
 Chambers, Travis  
 Adron Fence Company  
 Chandler, Lisa  
 Hair and Company  
 Chavenello, Lou & Vickie  
 Chiqui-Condor, Ruth  
 TD Bank  
 Christoph, Rich  
 Clancey, Richard & Marion  
 Clark, David & Bonnie  
 Clinton, Ellie  
 Coleman-Spalding, Ruth  
 Colmey, Mrs. Kelly Jo  
 Collins-Tepool, Robin & Jon  
 Concha, Donna  
 Connelly, Roxanne  
 Conti, Angela  
 Coody, Norine  
 Cooksey, Byron  
 The Trading Post  
 Cornell, Deborah  
 Creal, Dee  
 Croom, David  
 Croom Construction Co.  
 Cumberland, Lottie  
 Cunningham, Charles & MaryBeth  
 Cybulski, Char  
 Hair and Company  
 Daniel, Ms. Ilka  
 Humane Society of Vero Beach and I.R.C.  
 Daniels, Patsy  
 David, Danica  
 Precision Kuts  
 Davidson, Dot  
 Davidson, Sherrie  
 Decaprio, Rita  
 Deganello, Guido & Pamela  
 Denny, Mark & Patti  
 Devitt, Francine  
 Dobson, Helen  
 Dolan, Kingsley  
 Donadio, Anthony  
 Anthony Donadio & Associates,  
 Architects PA  
 Drinkard, Don & Linda  
 Driver, David & Laura  
 Duffy, Carol  
 Duffy, Kayla  
 Happy Tails Books  
 Dunn, David & Sally  
 Dunn, Stewart  
 SAD Foundation  
 DuPree, Al & Phyl  
 Durbin, Fred & Judy  
 Durrell, John  
 Country Friends Band  
 Earring Point Properties  
 Gordon Michael  
 East Coast Canine Motel  
 The Nelson Family

### DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. ANNUAL REPORT

05/01/2010 — 04/30/2011

#### Board of Directors

President, Al Turner  
 Vice President, Kelli Beal  
 Treasurer, David Johnson  
 Eleanor Bengyak Darrell Horn, DVM  
 Ben Humphries, US Army, Ret  
 Karen Mann Margaret Wall

#### Honorary & Advisory Board

Robert G. Bowman Marie Gookin  
 Mary Jane Hanley Richard Leffew  
 Marge Owens Janet Riley  
 Beth Sexton-Stryker

#### Staff

Founder & Executive Director  
 Shelly Fergar

#### Trainers & Office Assistants

Debbie Burton Jay Harris Patty Ruble  
 Patti Schell Paula Via

#### Your Accomplishments In 2011!

- The Dog Park Training Center Capital Campaign raised \$174,000 in donations and pledges.
- DFL maintained certification and support for 18 Hearing and Service Dog Teams.
- DFL maintained certification for 10 Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Teams who service 11 non-profit organizations in Indian River County with 74 visits each month.
- The Dog Park has 158 members with 199 dogs.
- A record breaking attendance with 113 dogs in costume at the 10th Anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade & Pet Expo.
- Eighty-Seven Volunteers donated 2,554 hours of service to DFL.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

A Non-Profit Organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet assisted therapy dogs, and owning & operating an off-leash dog park.

#### Financial Management

Income \$125,669



Individuals 29%  
 Dog Park Members 27%  
 Grants 5%  
 Fundraising 25%  
 In-Kind 14%

Expenses \$134,075



Program 68%  
 Fundraising 25%  
 Administration 7%

Training Center Capital Campaign



Income \$92,925  
 Expenses \$20,570

#### Assets (as of 04/30/2011)

General Operating Account	\$ 8,964
Dog Park Account	\$ 6,440
Reserve Account	\$ 37,746
Endowment Account	\$ 16,647
Training Center Campaign	\$ 72,355
Dog Park Property	\$ 277,959
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 420,111</b>

Dog Park Location: 1230 16th Avenue  
 Vero Beach, FL 32962



DFL is a proud member of Assistance Dogs International, The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners and Indian River County's Association of Fundraising Professionals.

## 2011 DFL Donors, Members &amp; Volunteers (continued)

- Elliott, Therese  
English-Schwed, Mike & Sharon  
Grateful Pet  
Englund, Evelyn  
Eriksen, Joseph  
Faust, Wayne & Shannon  
Fennell, Donald & Linda  
Ferber, Shelly  
Fernette, Colleen  
Findley, Joanne & Shoshana  
Shelly  
Finton, Joe  
Vero Beach 32963  
Ford, Annie & Horace, III  
Franzel, Jerry & Page  
Franzel, Page  
Page 2 Design  
Frederick, Thomas & Alice  
Freeman, Joan & Al  
Garcia, Gabe  
Pet Supermarket  
Garfield, Sharyl  
Garmize, Richie  
Disabled American Veterans  
Garneau, James  
Gault, Barbara  
Geddes, Jean  
Generazio, Nancy  
Gervasoni, John & Elaine  
Gibson, Julie  
Gomez, Jeff & Suzie  
Beech Annuals Inc.  
Gomez, Jeff  
Coast to Coast Landscaping  
Goochie Pooch Pet Grooming  
David & Sandy Malito  
Gookin, Marie  
Gordon, Bill & Nancy  
Gordon, Theodore & Lee  
Grassano, Alan & Valerie  
Graves, Frances  
Graves, Mary  
Grice, Bob & Melvena  
Griesinger, Betty  
Garden Club of I.R.C.  
Grone, Fred  
I.R.C. Sheriff's Dept.  
Grymes, Joann  
Guinn, Cathy  
Habeshian, Richard & Martha  
Haines, Marie  
Hall, Terrence & Doris  
Halle, George & Marianne  
Marianne Halle Animal Support  
Foundation  
Hamner, Sr. George F. & Ann  
Hanifin, Bonnie  
Hanley, Christine  
Hanley, John & Mary Jane  
Hanson, John & Betsy  
Harding, Jim & Vicki  
Harris, Jay  
Harris, Nancy  
Harris, Susan  
Jetson TV & Appliance Center  
Harrison, Susan  
Hartwig, John & Carolyn  
Hatch, Mary Margaret  
Hatley, Julie  
Haynes, Dustin  
Heide, Mirja  
Hendry, Jim  
Hobo Jim  
Hennessey, Bill  
Invisible Fence of the  
Treasure Coast  
Hensick, Norman  
Higgins, Steve  
Hinger, Brittany  
Treasure & Space Coast Radio
- Hintzel, Edna  
Hitzel, Edna & Glenn  
Hoffman, Dwight & Barbara  
Hoffman, Jon & Barbara  
Hopkins, Ruthie  
Horn, Cathy  
Horn, Dr. Darrell  
Florida Veterinary League  
Horn, III Harold R.  
Horn, Nancy  
Horn, Patty  
Hubbard, Sally  
Humphries, Ben  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Ingram, Keri  
Ireland, Nancy  
Israel, Joseph  
Wells Pet Food Co.  
Jaap, Barbara  
Jameison, Tim & Sally  
Jarril, Tom & Joan  
Jetson, John  
Jetson TV & Appliance Center  
Johnson, David & Alice  
Johnson, Hugh  
Johnson, Samuel & Alice  
Jones, Fred  
Jones, Ken  
K9 Care LLC  
Jones, Robert & Peggy  
Jordan, Sigrid & Robert  
Jutras, Dr. Lisa  
St. Francis Animal Hospital  
Kadish, Mr. Michael  
Macy's Florida / L.R. Mall  
Kantner, Al  
Kealy, Tom & Ellen  
Kearney, David & Barbara  
Kelley, Bernadette  
Bernadette's Dog Grooming  
Kelly, Richie & Audrey  
Keresey, Bianca  
Kern, Joe & Kim  
Kint, Michael  
United Way  
Klein, Nancy  
Klob, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew  
Knight, Michelle  
Seacoast National Bank  
Kremer, Winks  
Krochmalny, Violet  
LaBadia, Michele & Tom  
LaFevers, George & Jeanne  
Lake, Peter & Sally  
LaPine, Fran & Bernice  
Larson, Susan  
Larson, Wade & Judy  
Latvaitis, Julie  
Lavander, Martin  
Blue Ribbon Grooming  
Lee, Gail  
Leegate, Ron & Bobbi  
Legate, Frederic & Susan  
Lester, Jim & Phylis  
Lewis, Mary Ellen  
Lewis, Tom  
Liapis, Toril  
L'Homme, Irene  
Lincoln, Frank & Martha  
Lind, Karen  
Link, Marilyn  
Liss, Linda & Marv  
Advisory Insurance  
& Investments  
Liss, David  
Liss Electrical Services  
Ludwig, Bill & Gaye  
Lunn, Ms.  
Luxury Nail Spa  
Lyons, David  
Croom Construction Co.
- Lyons, Richard  
Lyons, Trisha  
MacDonald, Carina  
Maclay, Barbara  
MacWilliam, Jacquie  
Maness, Donna  
Mann, Karen & Russell  
Mansell, Mark & Sandy  
Marksberry, Dianne  
Martin, Robert & Peggy  
Martin, William & Kelli  
Matthews, John  
John Michael Matthews  
Fine Jewelry  
Maxwell & Son Plumbing  
Maybeck Animal Hospital  
Mazarin, Yulin  
McAlarnen, Matt & Ginny  
McCall, Donna & Nick  
Barkers Healthy Treats  
McCann, Vince  
AMVETS  
McCormick, Rina  
McCullers, Bruce  
Reliable Septic  
McCusker, Nancy  
McGuffey, David & Cecelia  
McKenzie, Katharine  
McLean, George & Leigh  
McLeod, Mari  
McNally, Nancy  
Meehan, Phoebe  
Merchant, John  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 181  
Messex, Jean Palmer  
Michael, Gordon  
Earring Point Properties  
Miller, Carl  
DHI Advertising and Design  
Mitchell, Mary & Walter  
Mixer, David & Stephanie  
Montoya, Ana  
Moore, Doug  
Cindi's Pet Center  
Moore, Judith  
Morelle, Nilda & Rosa  
Morgan, Diane  
Mortin, Scott  
Merrill Lynch  
Moulton, Elizabeth  
Vero Beach Magazine  
Mueller, DVM Melissa  
Planet Pet Animal Hospital  
Myers, Tim  
Forever Family Pet Cremations  
Naclerio, Ron & Carolyn  
Neal, Tom & Margaret  
Nelson, Bert & Barbara  
Newman, Harry  
Newman, Kay  
Nichols, Lori  
Nowicky, Marcia  
Nowicky, Nathalie  
Nugent, Helen  
Och, Dennis  
Obl, Gene & Joann  
Oliver, John  
Oliver's Plumbing  
Olsen, Lee  
Waldo's Restaurant  
O'Neill, John  
Owens, Margie  
Palmer, Rhett  
Clear Channel Radio  
Parsons, Robert & Marion  
Pearsaul, Reagan  
Pelican Garden, ALF  
Pensch, Chris & Ramona  
Perrell, Edgar & Bobbie  
Petersen, Peter & Janet
- Petrone, Jacque  
Professional Animal World's  
H.A.L.O.  
Pfarr, Randy  
Pfarr Out Systems  
Phillips, Judy  
Pietrafetta, Doug &  
Margaret Wall  
Pirke, Dorothy  
Poziomer, Lisa  
American Red Cross  
Prado, Kim  
TD Bank  
Purcell, Joann & George  
Radford, Patti  
Reiff, Kathy  
Reis-El Bara, Lee  
Rexford, Jonathan & Ruthie  
Riley, Janet  
Ritchie, Lenora  
Association of Fundraising  
Professionals  
Ritchie, Lenora  
Robert and Eleanor McCabe  
Foundation  
Roberts, Abbey  
Roberts, Jill  
Rodd, Marjorie  
Spine & Sport Institute  
Rouan, Jimmy  
RPJ Septic  
Ruble, Patty  
Ruma, Kay  
Saladino, Arthur & Caroline  
Santorelli, Frank & Kathy  
Santoro, Bob  
Sarbak, Lisa  
Saucerman, Judy & Jack  
Schaub, Viki & Clem  
Schell, Patti  
Company for Pets  
Schenkel, Mary  
Schindler, Shirley  
Schlitt, Chris  
Reliable Poly-John  
Schmidt, Carla  
Schoemig, Nancy Jo  
Schoonover, George  
Schraub, Clem & Vickie  
Clem Bruns Schraub Architects  
Schwiering, Jonathan  
Vero Insurance  
Scott, Ron & Pat  
Scoville, Jessica  
Seahol, Nancy  
Seewers, Charles & Beverly  
Seewers, Larry & Jeannie  
Sexton, Eleanor  
Shaffer, Amanda  
Shugrue, Barbara  
Signs By Tomorrow  
Siket, Sue  
Simmons, Ashley & Joseph  
Simone, Suesan & Kenneth  
Simpson, John & Kathleen  
Slater, Tom  
Sleeper, Jonathan  
Smith, Nancy  
Smith, Dana & Mardie  
Smith, Richard & Caron  
Sparks, Barbara Feldman & Nancy  
Spitzmiller, Fritz & Bonnie  
Standley, Diane  
Docutrain Designs  
Starr, Ralph & Sandy  
Steffens, Mrs. Roger  
Steil, Jim  
Steil Oil Company  
Stengard, Dr. Kattis  
Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital

## 2011DFL Donors, Members &amp; Volunteers (continued)

Stenger, Michaela	Via, Paula
Stradley, Scott	Vosmer, Gorgetta
Stryker, Beth	Wack, Julie
Sturdivant, Kristy	Wagner, Gary & Chellie
Keep Indian River Beautiful	Walchli, Ed & Janet
Sullivan Jr., Charles	Walker, Gayle
Glendale Trade Center Inc.	Walters, Lawrence & Fay
Swanson, Bonnie	Warrell, Sherry & Norm
Vero Beach Elementary School	Wassenberg, Lee & Ann
Sweeney, Doug	Web Presence Partners
Swift, Bob & Macy	Daniel Grunddel, President
Swift, Margaret	Weissenborn, Alex & Shirley
Margaret M. Swift & Company	Welton, Jack & Ginny
Talt-Parlavacchio, Margaret	West, John & Debbie
Tanner, Jaime	White, Helen
Taylor, Betty	White, Sgt. Pat
Taylor, Beverly	L.R.C. Sheriff's Dept.
Taylor, Chris	Wild, Joe & Glenda
State Attorney's Office	Wilkinson, Hoyetta
Taylor, Chris & Sherry	Williams, Betty Jean
Taylor, Harry & Nancy	Williams, Christine
Taylor, Larry & Susan	Willis, Buddy & Pat
Taylor, James & Dawn	Wing, Amanda
Therault, Pat	Wingate, Jim
Thorne, Robin & Pam	Coast to Coast Pest Control, Inc.
Tiffin, Jillian	Winters, Jane
Torbin, Herb & Becky	Wise, King
Townsend, Dwight	Witty, Helen
Tri-Ford Foundation	Wood, Nancy
Bob & Annie Ford	Wood, Robert & Barbara
Tropf, Doris & Ken	Woody, Chip
Tucker, Mike	Smith Heating & Air Conditioning
The Trading Post	Woodruff, Jim
Turner, Al & Pilar	Youth Guidance Volunteer Program
Turner, Allison	Zeran Jewelers, Inc.
Turner, Marian	Zicket, Martin, Col. USAF, Ret.
Twitchell, Ted & Karen	Veterans Council of I.R.C.
Twyman, Jeffrey & Carol	Zissel, Angela
Tyrrell, Phil & Jan	Zuercher, Christopher & Emerald
VanNorrren, Dutch	
Web Design With Flair	
Vergara, Julie	

DFL apologizes for any names that may have been omitted from the list.

## DFL Loses A Best Friend

Every executive needs a right hand, and every dog owner knows what it is like to lose your best friend.

DFL is saddened to report Shelly's right-hand, Patti Schell, has said good bye to her best friend Chloe. Not only has Patti been Shelly's right hand for many years, but Chloe was involved in every one of DFL's programs.

Chloe not only was a dog park member, but a service dog for Patti's mother, Elsie, trained to tap a K-9 911 phone in case of an emergency. She was a certified pet assisted therapy dog at the Boys & Girls Club Read to Dogs Program in 2002, and in recent years, therapy dog at the Senior Resource Association and the Abilities Resource Center. Chloe attended many DFL events over the years, demonstrating her training in obedience and agility with Patti and Patti's assistant and 4-H Dog Master's Club Member, Kim Wise.



Chloe will be remembered at the dog park memorial garden, and forever in our hearts. Thank you, Patti, for sharing Chloe with Dogs For Life. She has joined her friends who have gone before her at the Rainbow Bridge, where bones rain from the sky.

## Memorial/Honorarium Gift Listing ~ Since September 2011

### Gifts In Honor Of

Ruby Becker  
Shelly Ferger

Barbara Gault  
Beth Stryker

Cassie & Tuck Gordon  
Beth Stryker

George & Ann Hamner  
Beth Stryker

Cathy Ann Horn  
Millicent Allen

Nancy Horn  
Millicent Allen

Harold R. Horn, III  
Millicent Allen

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew W. Kolb  
Millicent Allen

Marilyn Link  
Beth Stryker

Eleanor Sexton  
Beth Stryker

Beth & Tigger Stryker  
William & Nancy Gordon

Beth Stryker  
Barbara Gault

Al & Pilar Turner  
Marian Turner

Ann & Lee Wassenberg  
Millicent Allen

### Gifts In Memory Of

Tinka  
Jean Geddes

Lindsey Deacon Beuttell  
Shelly Ferger  
Beth Stryker

*Gifts "In Honor Of" may be made to celebrate Holidays, Birthdays, Anniversaries or just a "Job Well Done."*

*Memorial donations may be made in memory of a person or pet. The Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden is available as a final resting place for your pets' ashes, identified by a paw marker.*

### Gifts In Memory Of (cont.)

Maddux Bodnar  
Michael & Barbara Bodnar  
Jacquelyn Deaquair  
Shelly Ferger

Gavin Bykowski  
L.A. Bykowski

Sebastian & Shannon Corbin  
Bonnie Hanifin

Dorothy Couroyer  
Mari McLeod  
Lee Reis-El Bara  
Shelly Ferger

Donald Davidson  
Margaret Swift

Jasper Mitchell  
Shelly Ferger  
Walter & Mary Mitchell  
Daniel & Anne Parker

Lucky Morell  
Shelly Ferger  
Nilda & Rosa Morell

Rocco, Lady & Goldie Morell  
Nilda & Rosa Morell

My Beloved Husband  
Janet Riley

Hershey Newman  
Patti Schell

Debbie Santoro  
Karen Lind

Chloe Schell  
John & Elaine Gervasoni  
Ed & Gail Boatwright  
Debbie Burton  
Shelly Ferger  
Karen Lind  
Pat Scott  
Paula Via

Jake Schoonover  
George Schoonover

Lexi Seever  
Debbie Burton  
Charles Seever

Louie Wack  
Julie Wack



DFL Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden

## DFL Dog Park Members, Pet Therapy Volunteer Memorials

DFL would like to express our deepest sympathies to the following dog park members and Pet Assisted Therapy Volunteers whose dogs have recently traveled to the Rainbow Bridge.

Jasper, Mary and Walter Mitchell  
Maddux, Michael and Barbara Bodnar  
Sidney, Norman and Sherry Warrell



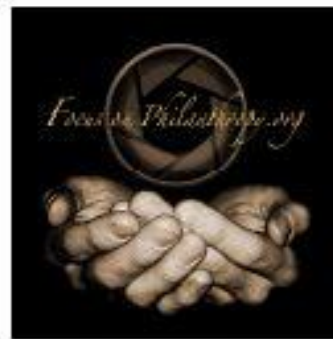
Jasper Mitchell



Maddux Bodnar



Sherry Warrell with Sidney



## Shooting Star Photographers Plan Fundraiser

Mark your calendars to attend this fun, free event that will include a silent auction of photographic prints specific to the Dogs For Life fundraiser. Although this is a FREE event open to the public, attendees are encouraged to bring either a can or bag of pet food to be donated to the Senior Resource Association, Meals on Wheels for Pets Program. Please join us and show your support for Dogs For Life and our mission.

FocusOnPhilanthropy.org and their "Shooting Star" photographers are organizing an exhibition to benefit Dogs For Life.

FocusOnPhilanthropy.org, a local organization of talented, charitable photographers, has created the "It's A Dog's Life" exhibition to help raise awareness and funding for Dogs For Life. The exhibition will be hosted by J. Scott Kelly, professional photographer and founder of the Gallery of Hope, at the Gallery of Hope on 14th Avenue (Main Street) in downtown Vero on March 2, 2012 at 7:30 PM. Wine and cheese will help to make this a terrific social event for DFL donors and dog park members. (No companion dogs in the gallery please.)

[www.FocusOnPhilanthropy.org](http://www.FocusOnPhilanthropy.org)

Ruby Becker invites you to

### "HAVE A HEART"

and support the  
3rd Dogs For Life, Inc.  
Bridge Tournament

*Committee Members:*  
Eleanor Bengyak ♥ Lani & Ruby Becker

*Benefitting the*  
DFL Assistance Dog Training  
Veteran Dog Training Program  
*and*  
DFL Off-Leash Dog Park  
Training Center Capital Campaign

Oak Harbor Club House ~ March 19, 2012

Registration 11:00 a.m.

\$75 Bridge/Lunch (\$45 tax deductible)

Lunch 11:30 a.m. ~ Bridge 12:30 p.m.

Silent Auction and Prizes!  
Master Points / First Overall  
Flight A, B & C

Limited Seating ~ Reply Early 567-8969

## Help Build a Bridge for DFL

This year's Bridge Tournament will be the unveiling of a Women's Giving Circle for Dogs For Life, one of a growing number of women's giving circles that have sprung up across the country over the past decade. Although they vary in their size and interests, their common thread is bringing together women who want to learn more about their community and leverage their charitable dollars for greater impact.

The Women's Giving Circle strengthens the spirit of women through a cycle of donations. Members with a vision pledge a minimum of \$1,000 a year for three consecutive years. Those under 22 may join at \$500 per year.

Join Lani Becker, co-chair of this year's DFL Bridge Tournament and match her \$1,000 annually for three years pledge. You will be building and encouraging philanthropy in other women, engaging all generations, while encouraging women to be more empowered and intentional with their giving. You will be directly involved in shaping the future of our community and DFL.

## DFL & Sara Perform Pet Assisted Therapy at Royal Palm Skilled Nursing

By Linda Liss

Shirley Schindler and her two year old Pomeranian, Sara, have been doing Pet Assisted Therapy for the residents of the Royal Palm Skilled Nursing in Vero Beach every Monday afternoon for at least two years. When she got Sara as a puppy, she joined the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park and started classes for Sara. Shelly Ferger said that they were organizing a "Pet Assisted Therapy" training class and Sara was a perfect candidate.

Shirley said that Sara loves to come and visit with the residents. The minute they pull into the parking lot, Sara knows exactly where she is and when she hears Marylisa Alfalla's voice, she runs right to her. "The kisses never stop for Marylisa," the Activities Director at Royal Palm, who also brings her nine year old dog, "Rudy," to work with her two days a week. When Rudy sees Sara, Marylisa says that he's a "happy boy because his girlfriend is here!" And when the dogs visit with the residents, "the residents' whole expression changes, the dogs make people happy. We're here for the residents and we're blessed when Shirley comes in with Sara."

She and Sara visit about 35 people depending on how many residents are there at the time. On a recent visit, she spent some time with Mary Jane Ryan who really likes to have the dogs come visit. She had a Maltese named Roxie at home and enjoyed having Sara stop by to say "Hello!" Said Jane, "she is darling and she must like me because she just gave me a kiss!"

Jane's roommate told Shirley that during her visit, Shirley is to wake her if she is sleeping, because otherwise, she would be disappointed at not seeing Sara. Sure enough, we stopped by, the lady was awake and Shirley said, "Sara wanted to stop by and see how you're doing today." The lady petted Sara and cooed as Sara greeted her with lots of kisses.

There's a warm, loving environment at Royal Palm Convalescent Center and Shirley and Sara are a welcome team that definitely brightens everyone's day! Thank you, Shirley and Sara, for your service to DFL.



Left to right: Resident, Jane Ryan, Activities Director, Marylisa Alfalla, DFL Pet Assisted Therapy Volunteer, Shirley Schindler, and her two year old Pomeranian, Sara.

## The History of Pet Assisted Therapy Dogs

By Jan Newcomb

A therapy dog is trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, people with learning difficulties, and stressful situations, such as disaster areas.

Therapy dogs come in all sizes and breeds. The most important characteristic of a therapy dog is its temperament. A good therapy dog must be friendly, patient, confident, gentle, and at ease in all situations. Therapy dogs must enjoy human contact and be content to be petted and handled, sometimes clumsily.

A therapy dog's primary job is to allow unfamiliar people to make physical contact with it and to enjoy that contact. Children in particular enjoy hugging animals; adults usually enjoy simply petting the dog. Many dogs contribute to the visiting experience by performing small tricks for their audience or by playing carefully structured games.

During World War II, under combat operations against Japanese forces on the island of New Guinea, Corporal William Wynne came into possession of a young adult Yorkshire Terrier abandoned on the battlefield. He named the female dog Smoky.

Smoky accompanied Wynne on numerous combat missions, provided comfort and entertainment for troops, and even assisted the Signal Corps in running a telegraph cable through an underground pipe, completing in minutes what might have been a dangerous, three-day construction job which would have exposed men and equipment to enemy bombers.

Smoky's service as a therapy dog began when Corporal Wynne was hospitalized for a jungle disease. As Wynne recovered, Wynne's Army pals brought Smoky to the hospital for a visit and to cheer the soldier up. Smoky immediately became a hit with the other wounded soldiers. Dr. Charles Mayo, of the famed Mayo Clinic, was the commanding officer who allowed Smoky to go on rounds and also permitted her to sleep with Wynne in his hospital bed for five nights. Smoky's work as a therapy dog continued for 12 years, during and after World War II.

The concept of dog-therapy has broadened to "animal-assisted therapy" or "pet therapy", including many other species, such as therapy cats, therapy rabbits, therapy birds and so on.

Shelly Ferger is founder and executive director of Dogs For Life, a non-profit organization in Vero Beach. Dogs for Life is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs and pet assistance therapy dogs and an off-leash dog park. In response to the growing needs in our community, Dogs For Life is expanding their assistance dog program that includes new specialized training of canines for combat veterans. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Dogs For Life.

Recently Angie Newcombe, a Yorkshire Terrier mix, owned by Jan and Geoff Newcombe was certified by Dogs For Life as a therapy dog. Angie loves his assignments and gets excited when it's time to go visiting.



## DFL Partners With The IRC Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit With A Donation Toward A New K-9 Dog



K-9 Deputy Brian Reimsnyder and canine partner Jando.

For the past 10 years, Sergeant Patrick White of the IRC Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, has coordinated multi-agency K-9 demonstrations at the DFL Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrades held in October at the dog park. Many of these years, the deputies and officers have donated their time to DFL. Plus, the IR County Sheriff's Department's K-9 unit has supported DFL's programs and off-leash dog park since 1997.

Kato is eight years old and has worked for Indian River County for the past six years in Patrol. He is both a narcotics detection and full service patrol dog. He has apprehended well over 100 felons during his time in Patrol, ranging from drug dealers to murder and robbery suspects. Kato has been diagnosed with spinal myopathy which has caused his handler, K-9 Deputy Christian Mathisen, to immediately retire him. Kato will be spending his retirement years at home with Christian.



K-9 Deputy Christian Mathisen with canine partner Kato.

The second handler is K-9 Deputy Brian Reimsnyder and he is shown with his canine partner, Jando. Jando is 10 years old and is retiring because of his age. He is credited for well over 150 apprehensions. Brian and Jando also taught the DARE program to our local fifth graders and they have been involved in hundreds of demonstrations, several of which were held at the DFL park.

When DFL was made aware of the current situation of the K-9 United program to obtain a new K-9 dog to replace Kato and Jando, we supported their efforts and we hope you will, too. Contact Sergeant White at the IRC Sheriff's office for additional information.



Sergeant Patrick White



We are so grateful for Daniel Grundel, President of Web Presence Partners for the website design and their very generous donation of in-kind service.

Check out the newly designed DFL website

[www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org)

The website will make it more convenient for DFL to update our members and prospective clients as well as inform potential donors to join our cause.

## It's Not Too Late To Give Toward The DFL Annual Appeal

It's never too late to give a tax-deductible donation toward DFL's Annual Appeal. You may have your donation designated to the training of an Assistance Dog, Sponsorship of a Pet Assisted Therapy Facility, Sponsorship for the Dog Park "Collarship" Program, or to the General Fund.

You could even join our monthly giving program and have the convenience of a automatic withdraw from your checking account.

Pledges are still being solicited toward the Dog Park Capital Campaign which will put DFL in a position to generate additional revenue through the dog park training center.

Enclosed is an envelope for your convenience, or you can give on our website, [www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org).



P.O. Box 650023 • Vero Beach, FL 32965

Website: [www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org)

E-Mail: [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net)

**(772) 567-8969**



Member  
International Association of  
Assistance Dog Partners

**Off-Leash Dog Park Location:**  
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960

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### MISSION STATEMENT

*"A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet assisted therapy dogs and owning & operating an off-leash dog park."*



**October 2011  
DFL Howl-O-Ween  
Dog Costume Pawrade  
Breaks Record With  
113 Dogs In Costume!**

