



Winter 2022

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Dear Friend,

As we roll through 2022, we continue to regain and rebuild the momentum we lost during the pandemic. Requests for pet therapy visits increased and training classes started to fill...all wonderful signs. The cherry on top will be the return of our training program to Congregational Home in January. We have missed working with the residents and they have missed us!

### Help us keep things rolling and rebuilding

Perhaps you've thought about supporting Pets Helping People (PHP). We invite you to engage with us and commit to our mission – delivering unconditional canine love to those in need – with a donation today.

We couldn't do what we do without support from you and our many volunteers, like Kathleen Dunn, a PHP board member and phenomenal pet therapy team with her boy Finn.

### Kathleen's story...

*During her 24 years as an award-winning daily talk show host on Wisconsin Public Radio, Kathleen Dunn interviewed presidents, scientists, authors like Maya Angelou and Studs Terkel, entertainers and people from all walks of life.*



*As often as she could, Kathleen talked with people involved in pet therapy work. "I always told them they had to bring their dogs," she said. **"To have a dog in the studio was just the best thing."** When Kathleen retired from her 44-year radio career in 2017, her farewell to listeners included plans to raise and train a pet therapy dog. She already had carefully chosen Finn, a Portuguese Water Dog puppy who seemed the most responsive, most loving puppy among a litter of 10.*

*"I hoped he'd be a suitable therapy dog," Kathleen recalled. "You never know if they'll have the right temperament, and at first I didn't think he'd work out. He was a handful — more than any puppy I'd ever had." But after "many, many" obedience classes, Finn calmed down. He and Kathleen went through assessment and training with Pets Helping People.*

*"I'm so glad this is the group I chose," she said. "The people here are wonderful. Everyone on the training team makes you feel like you can do this. So it was a perfect match. The organization has great people and great dogs."*

*Over and over, as Kathleen and Finn have regularly visited patients in nursing homes, they've seen how much a dog's visit can mean to people — a constant reminder of a very personal experience that reinforced her desire to have a pet therapy dog.*

*"I was visiting my dad, who was very sick," she recalled. "He was in an assisted living facility in Illinois, where I'm from, and he was in a coma. Someone had brought a long-haired coonhound to the facility. I borrowed the dog and put him under my father's shoulder. He woke up and smiled" before falling asleep.*

*Recently, Kathleen and Finn have found it rewarding to visit Kathy's House in Wauwatosa, where family members whose loved ones are being treated at local hospitals can stay and where some of the guests are recuperating from long-term treatments.*

*"They pet Finn and start talking about dogs, and then sometimes they talk about serious medical conditions and what they've overcome," Kathleen said. "To me, they're very inspirational."*

*Kathleen said she and Finn always (and often) enjoy Pets Helping People's special, one-time visits to provide stress relief to medical staff at hospitals and to college students at universities during exam weeks. "Nurses and doctors will take the time to come over and say, 'You really made my day.'"*



Finn gives and receives

**Please donate today to help us continue to train new dog and human angels – like Kathleen and Finn – so they can brighten and comfort others. (Continued on reverse.)**

## About Pets Helping People

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Pets Helping People is dedicated to providing pet-therapy opportunities to:

- The elderly in residential communities
- School children through our *Read to Rover* program
- People with special needs in day programs throughout Southeastern Wisconsin, and many more

Our certified dog/handler teams volunteer their time to more than 70 facilities, touching hundreds of souls. The good news is as the year has progressed most of these facilities are accepting our teams back!

### So why donate to PHP?

During the past 24 years, your donations have helped us train more than 750 dog/handler teams and reach thousands of people in need. PHP is **striving to meet the post-pandemic challenges** facing animal-assisted therapy. Our goal is to continue to recruit new teams, support our incredible certified teams and resume pet therapy visits by reconnecting with our partners.

When our donors are asked what motivates them to give, the most frequent response is they know their contribution will have an impact:

- Almost half of our budget goes to coordinating our training program so we can reach people in need
- More than a third is used to coordinate our Waggin' Tails/Comfort Paws group visits – we reached more than 4,500 people through this program in 2022.

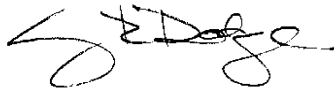
As you can see, your donation does matter. **Please donate today via one of these options:**

- **Use the enclosed envelope** for check or credit card donations
- **Go to [petshelpingpeople.org](https://petshelpingpeople.org)** and click the **Ways To Give** link for online credit card, PayPal or Venmo donations
- Or **Venmo** your donation on your mobile device by using **@petshelpingpeople**

Help us continue to do this important work for the many individuals and groups we serve through our volunteer dog/handler pet therapy teams.

On behalf of the PHP Board of Directors, Advisors and Training Staff, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Amy Dodge

Executive Director – Pets Helping People

(414) 393-1111



P.S. – Please visit [www.petshelpingpeople.org](https://www.petshelpingpeople.org), where, in addition to **donating**, you can see our community and training activities and read our stories. **We need and appreciate your support.**

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