PETS HELPING PEOPLE

THE LIVES WE TOUCH
THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

Recently we asked a few of our volunteers and facility partners to share thoughts and stories around the impact of animal assisted therapy from PHP certified dogs. Here are some of their stories.



Kalena and Yeti

I figured Yeti would make a wonderful therapy dog, but I couldn't have guessed the magnitude of the fulfilling, wholesome joy and comfort she brings to those in need. Yeti brings a steady stream of newcomers to each Paws for Relaxation event at St. Francis Public Library. Doing pet therapy with Yeti has been one of the best things I have ever done. It brings us so much joy to be able to give to people that need a little extra support, distraction, and fun. I'm so very thankful that Pets Helping People was able to prepare and certify us so that I get to share her with the world.

Beth and Koda / Mike and Sadie



At the Milwaukee County Courthouse, two girls in their early teens sat in a courtroom waiting for their molester to appear during a sentencing hearing. The dogs lay at their feet. As soon as he entered, tears started and the dogs responded by putting their heads in the girl's laps. They sat with the girls throughout the entire time providing much needed love and comfort. The judge recognized the emotional impact and said the dogs were welcome anytime.

Deb and Atlas



To see the guests at Kathy's House (a home away from home for families of patients) plop down on the floor with Atlas showering them with kisses is an indescribable feeling for me. It's an emotional release for the guests that help them cope with an already unbelievable stress in their lives. And yes, sometimes there are tears of relief and their days are just a bit brighter with Atlas at the ready!

Cortney and Tyson



Since being "on the job" I've watched Tyson's presence help with our student mental health objectives, but I've also witnessed impacts we didn't necessarily anticipate. I saw extremely shy teens who struggled with finding their place all year gain confidence as they'd stop by to pet Tyson and have him do tricks. I saw a dysregulated student in crisis calm down almost instantly when he was brought into our office as he was able to lay beside Tyson. I also saw marked improvement in attendance of some of our at-risk students who have struggled with truancy as they'd feel motivated to come to school knowing they could spend time with our therapy dog. The training from Pets Helping People helped make all of this possible.

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Lowell Elementary

The dogs by nature create a calmer environment and offer emotional support for ALL students.



When kids read aloud to a dog, they practice their literacy skills with a companion that makes them feel safe if they make a mistake or have trouble pronouncing a word. There is no judgement from a dog

Portal, Inc. Grafton (agency for adults with disabilities)

Animal-assisted visits like these do so much more than brighten a day – they create connections, reduce stress, spark conversations, and bring comfort to everyone they meet. A heartfelt thank you to PHP – you made our day unforgettable, and we can't wait to welcome you back.

Cory Schneider, PHP Volunteer Lead Trainer

Personally, being in a position to help pet-handler teams succeed and become certified therapy teams gives me a feeling of immense purpose and drive to continue to improve my training skills. Knowing the impact Pets Helping People has given to our community, and the feeling it provides me with makes me truly blessed to have been invited to be a part of PHP.



This holiday season, please consider making a gift to PHP

Did you know that a $250 gift supports a Waggin' Tails visit to a memory care facility? Or that a $1,000 gift covers two two-hour Comfort Paws visit to a local school where mental health support is urgently needed? Help us share the healing power of pet therapy with our community! In 2027 we have more programs we would like to implement and have increased the executive director position to full time to drive these programs. Reaching our goal of $30,000 will help us get there and sustain the heartfelt work we love to do. Your help is desperately needed to make our growth and increased community support a reality. Whether it is your first donation or an annual contribution for $5 to $5,000, every dollar makes a difference, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and paws!

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

Gratefully,

Lisa Hare, Executive Director, Pets Helping People

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