

# Pets for Life



7240 Wornall Road • Kansas City MO 64114

816.363.3665 • www.kcpetsforlife.com

## Pets for Life's Toby and Jessica Janis

Toby and Mike, Therapy Dogs, work side-by-side with their schools' counselors, bringing comfort to students who may be suffering anxiety, panic attacks, or other mental and emotional health challenges.

"Toby is really good at helping calm and comfort students," said Jessica Janis, a counselor at Pleasant Hill. "He sits beside them and they pet him. His rhythmic breathing and the petting calms them until they are at the point where they can talk face-to-face."

Jana Burns, a social worker and the director of community life at St. Michael, agreed that the dog's presence—it's steady panting, warmth, and the touch of its coat—are key elements in the care these dogs bring to students facing personal, academic, and other obstacles or challenges.

"Toby attracts children from all different ages and draws them together in conversation that they may not have without his presence initiating it," Janis said. "He's also really good at starting conversations with special-needs students. They aren't nervous around him. They take time to listen and speak. It's very sweet and their nervousness abates."



Toby, himself, is a special-needs dog. Shortly after Janis adopted him from Unleashed Pet Rescue and Adoption in Mission, Toby was diagnosed with vitiligo, a condition in which the skin and hair loses its pigment cells.

Vitiligo, which can effect other parts of the body, creates a wide range of symptoms. During the past three years, Toby has lost all of his skin and fur pigment along with his eyesight.

Certified as a therapy dog through KC Pets for Life, Toby's own disabilities have deepened his awareness of others in need.

"His own disabilities enhance his therapy abilities," Janis said. "His other senses are more fully developed and he's so sensitive. He knows when someone is upset and seeks them out, even though he cannot see."

*By Anne Marie Hunter, The Kansas City Star*

# A Big THANK YOU

*to our Wonderful Donors*

Roetheli Lil' Red Foundation Challenge Grant	\$ 20,000
Harold & Marilyn Melcher Foundation	\$ 5,000
Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation	\$ 5,000
Enid & Crosby Kemper Foundation	\$ 5,000
The Kerr Foundation	\$ 2,500
Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign	\$ 661.91
Hallmark Corporate Foundation VIP	\$ 600



## Hey Volunteers!!!!

Pets for Life could use some publicity! Ask your Veterinary Clinic, Groomer, Boarding Facility, etc. if they would be willing to display some of our brochures at their facility. If they would be willing to do so, you can either pick up the brochures and a stand at the PFL Office or call the office and have some mailed to you!

They will be missed.....

It is with much sadness that we share with our PFL family the pets that have passed away since March, 2018. They were all amazing in so many ways and adored by numerous residents, kids, staff, and families. We send our condolences and share your grief. They will be truly missed.



Hank, loved by Cindy Cowherd

Jackson, loved by Julie Yoder

Archer, loved by Anita Boyer

Robbie, loved by Janet Durbava

## Volunteers....

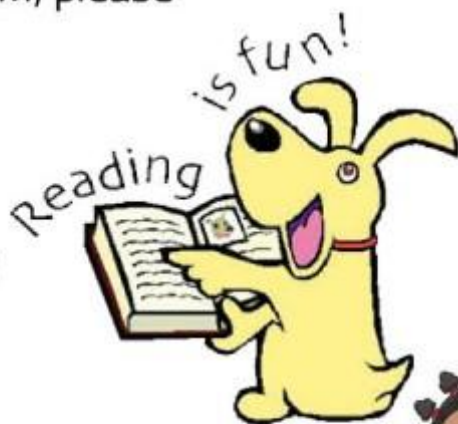
Would you like to be on the PFL Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Committee? Please contact Sharon Wilson to get more information. [sunnyd3@live.com](mailto:sunnyd3@live.com)

## Murphy & Cooper

Christine with Murphy and Marlyn with Cooper had a great time visiting at the Shawnee Mission Explore with Animals. There were about 200 children and adults. What a wonderful opportunity to interact with so many people!!

### Reading is Fun...

If anyone is interested in the READ PROGRAM, please contact the office. It is a great program and very rewarding to watch the kids reading to our non-judgmental dogs!



Remember our New email address is:  
[petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com](mailto:petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com)

Don't forget to like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Pets-for-Life-Inc](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pets-for-Life-Inc). We post lots of fun PFL updates and trivia, and occasionally we have giveaways! Stay in the loop, join us on Facebook!



<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Pets For Life, Inc., Executive Committee: Donna Amato, President; Judy Thomasson, Vice President; Marty Letourneau, Secretary; John McGee, Treasurer; Jack Sladkey. Pets For Life Staff: Sharon Wilson, Program Director; Mary Gorman Volunteer Coordinator.

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