

The CONNECTION

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From the Director

Pawsitive Connection has seen lots of growth and the word seems to be getting out about what we do. There were three news articles written about Pawsitive Connection last year. In June, an article ran in the Fayetteville Free Weekly describing the organization and its goals; in November we appeared on the front page of the Morning News' Living section with some wonderful photos, and in December the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette did a *Help Wanted* in the NWA Profiles section. We received a lot of press for our first year and because of that press we have grown. What began as a brainstorming session

in the floor of Toni Thorn's office one afternoon, has grown to a core of 18 individuals with 23 registered Pet Partner Teams. Although we are still working toward that elusive 501(c)3 status, the prospects for continued growth are encouraging.

As for this year, we have already participated with HealthSouth in the NWA Mall's Health Fair, and coming up in March we will have a booth at the volunteer fair. Our first fundraiser (see article next page), is already in the works, and that 501(c)3 is going to happen.



I want to thank everyone for all the support they have provided both to me personally, and to Pawsitive Connection as an organization. To Harve Thorn and Lynn Hodges, who were my first registered volunteers and first members, I say thank you for having faith, and to Toni Thorn without whose help, advice, ideas, and ability to just listen, there might not be a PC...there are not words enough...
Thank you

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Points of interest:

- * Pawsitive Connection has 23 active Pet Partner teams serving NWA
- * Our teams include many dogs, one cat, one hamster, and one bird
- * Volunteer, Jennifer Yenawine, age 10, is the youngest Pet Partner in NWA

Program Update: Medi-Home of Prairie Grove

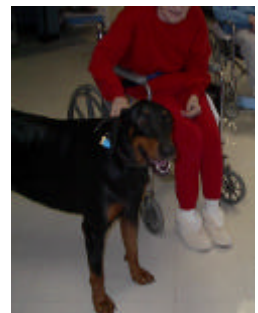
By Deanna Allen-Henry, Activity/Social Director

In April 2000, I contacted Pawsitive Connection requesting animal visitation. We had previously received visitation from an individual and her dogs, but she had moved to another town and no longer came. In May, we again began to

receive visits from PC volunteer Brandi Williams and her Doberman Pincher, Schultz.

Schultz is ideal for nursing home work. His demeanor is careful and low key.

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Schultz at work

Barkitect Ball

The Barkitect Ball will be the first ever fund raiser for Pawsitive Connection. Already in the works, this event is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, 2001 at Sas-safrass Wine Bar & Bistrot in Fayetteville. Local builders, contractors, designers, and architects will be invited to design and construct doghouses for live auction at the event. This year's theme is "Housing the 21st Century Dog". The doghouses will be displayed for the



public at the NWA Mall for the two weeks prior to the event; we also get to paint 'the horse'. On Saturday, October 6 the NWA Mall will sponsor a children's event along with the judging for a first, second, and third place doghouse design winner. In addition, a People's Choice will be selected by mall patrons and available to the public for auction. Local school children grades 1-6 will be invited to submit an essay explaining "Why My Pet Is Special". Essays will

be displayed along with the doghouses and the overall winner will be invited to be one of the judges.

Attendance for the cocktail party and auction on the 7th will be by invitation only. All Pawsitive Connection volunteers are invited.

We are also looking for corporate sponsors. So if you, or someone you know would like to sponsor, please contact Denise as soon as possible. There will be lots of opportunity for publicity.

Watch for more details.

Volunteer Profile: Jennifer Yenawine

Jennifer Yenawine is our youngest Pawsitive Connection volunteer. Not only that, but she is also the volunteer who is registered with the most pets. She can visit with her bird, Sunny, her hamster, Max, or her dog, Chloe. Those of us who know her, think she is pretty special, hope enjoy learning more about her.

Name: Jennifer Yenawine

Age: 10 1/2

Grade in school: 5th

School or extracurricular activities:

I like to play basketball and, of course, go to the Rogers shelter to play with the puppies. I have also been in Girl Scouts for 6 years.

How many pets do you have?

All together we have 17, but that includes about ten fish. We have a hamster (Max), a guinea pig (Racer), two dogs (Chloe & Maggie), a cocka-

tiel (Sunny), an anole (Godzilla), a frog (Casper), and two aquariums.

Where do you volunteer?

I volunteer at Butterfield Trail Village.

"It might sound stupid to visit some old people you don't know, but it's really fun...one person we met sold dogs in the Sears catalog"

What made you decide to volunteer?

We (my mom and I) decided to volunteer because we have a very laid-back dog and it sounded like fun.

What do you like best about volunteering with your animals?

The best thing about volunteering is listening to the people's stories. They're very interesting.

What do you think people like best about your animals?

The thing almost everyone says when they first meet Chloe is "Oh, what a

fat dog!", but I think they like how she just lays right down for a belly rub. They probably think Max's leash is funny, and that he is cute when he runs around in his basket.

What would you say to other kids your age in order to convince them to volunteer with their animals?

I'd probably say 'it might sound stupid to visit some old people you don't know, but it's really fun. Some people had cool careers and will tell you about it. One person we met sold dogs in a Sears catalog! Cool huh? So maybe you should just try it out; some people really like it. It made me feel good to know people like seeing our pets.'

Anything you want the other volunteers to know about you?

Well, I really love animals! I'm a very happy person and I /love school!!!! Science is my favorite subject. I have a little brother named Alec. He is not a registered Pet Partner -- yet.

Many Thanks

Pawsitive Connection would like to give special thanks and recognition to the many businesses who have helped us throughout our first year. Their support has allowed us to offer 'perks' to our volunteers, Christmas cards to our clients, and printing services to provide information to the public. Please acknowledge and support these businesses if you can.

McIlroy Bank & Trust

Provided mail service at the beginning of last year in order to let everyone know who and what we were. Many of you re-

ceived letters from PC because of their support.

Krughoff Custom Homes

Personal friends of Denise, they have allowed us the use of their computer and printer, in order to print better quality brochures, information packets, and this newsletter.

PetCo

PetCo offers free use of their dog wash for Pawsitive Connection volunteers with their Pet Partners ID badges.

Bedford Camera and Video

Bedford donated photo Christmas cards in

order for us to send holiday greetings to our clients, and program facilities.

Dogwatch Doggie Daycare & Boarding

Because PC was offered a discount rate, this year each of our volunteer dogs will receive a half day (any five hours) of doggie day care during the month of their birthday. Look for your certificate in the mail.

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He refrains from making noise or sudden movements. He is sensitive to the needs and individuality of our residents, spending extra time if a person is talkative, and leaning his warm weight against someone that is lonely.

Even individuals affected by Alzheimer's disease benefit from the unconditional acceptance Schultz provides.

Brandy is the dogs' owner and handler. She, too, is comfortable and effective in the nursing home setting.

She validates and reassures our residents during pet therapy.

Wednesday mornings have become something to look forward to at Medi-Home, and we hope that the bond we've formed will continue for years to come.

Special Events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming special events.

Saturday, March 31st is the NWA Mall's annual **Volunteer Fair**. This is a chance for organizations that utilize volunteer power to display their services and recruit volunteers from the general public. Pawsitive Connection will have a booth at this fair, and will need volunteers to help staff the booth from 10-4. Please contact Denise if you can help.

Saturday, April 28th is the date scheduled for the Humane Society of the Ozark's annual **Dogwood Walk**. This year's walk will be held at Gulley Park on Township in Fayetteville. Pawsitive Connection will have a display booth as well as a 'pack'. Each year groups of similar minded animal lovers get together to form packs of

walkers. As a pack you compete for pack prizes while showing support for your group. Our pack leader will be Jennifer Yenawine (see volunteer profile), and our pack name Pawsitive Connection. If you would like to participate in this walk and help raise money for the Humane Society call the HSO at 501-444-PETS (7387) for more information.

Sunday, May 20th will be the Pawsitive Connection **Potluck Picnic**. This event will replace the May meeting which should be on the last Sunday of the month but occurs on Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers, their families and of course, their animals are all invited. Location and time to be announced. If your house and yard is big enough-let Denise know!

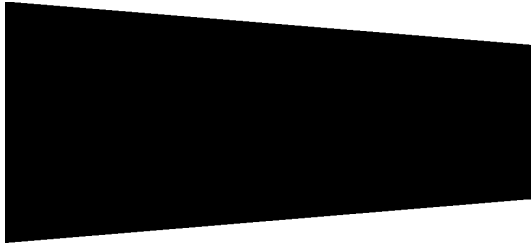
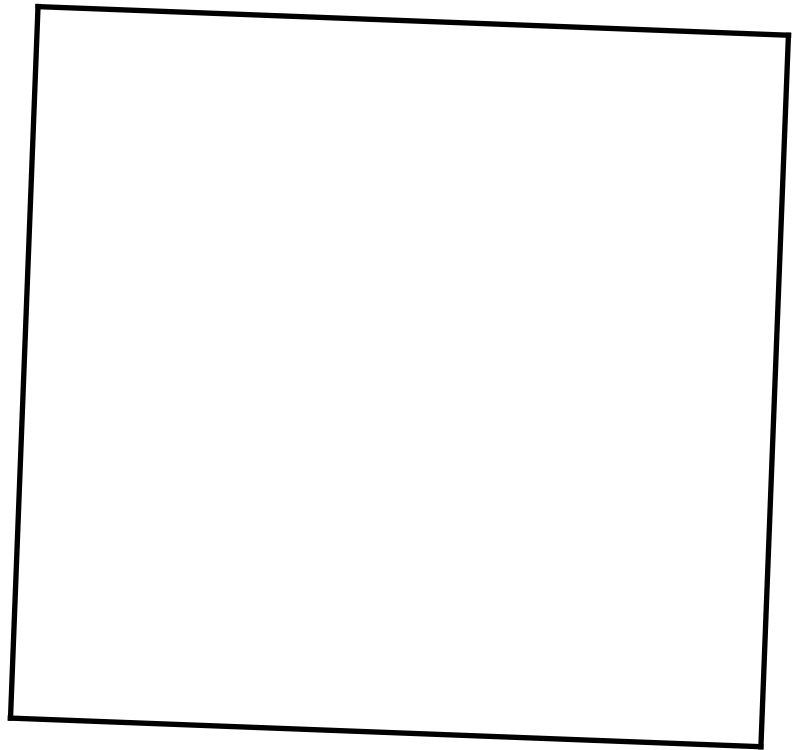
Don't forget that we now have a schedule for volunteer get-togethers. We will have the opportunity to share our experiences, eat, drink, and chat with one another on the **last Sunday of every odd numbered month**. Location is subject to change. If you are not on the email list, please call for details.

The first **K-9 Coffee** for Butterfield Trail Village has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 7th at 9:30 a.m.** This will be a special time for the residents of Butterfield to visit with the animals while socializing with other animal lovers who live in their community. Butterfield is providing coffee and pastries for this event, and we will bring the animals. If you would like to participate, please contact Denise.

Locate Us...

1207 E. Elm Street
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Phone: 501-582-2064
Fax: 501-527-0121
Email: pawsitiveconnect@aol.com



Updates from Delta Society

Currently, Delta Society is undergoing some internal restructuring. The purpose of this is to accommodate their tremendous growth and create a more functional organization. Several of the departments will have additions to personnel, with job duties divided in order to better meet the needs of Delta consumers, including it's Pet Partners.

During this restructuring you may experience some delays in having your needs met or your questions answered. Delta asks that you please be patient as this new structure will allow things to operate more smoothly in the long run.

In the meantime, the coordinators for the Pet Partners program are still Dianne Bell, Pet Partners Program Manager, Cora Bates, Pet Partners

Program Assistant, and Ruth Walker, Pet Partners Program Assistant. As a Pet Partner, if you have any problems or questions, you may contact one of these people for help. They are doing their best to serve you, and appreciate your continued patience.



DELTA SOCIETY


of the Delta Society team in Renton, WA then check out the job listings on their web site. Currently posted are openings for an AAT Services Director, Service Dog Education System Director, and Campaign Services Director. You can find out more by going to their newly updated web site at:

www.deltasociety.org.

Contributors:

Denise Holmes
Executive Director

April Harrell
Newsletter Editor



If you have a story or an idea that you would like to contribute, please contact Denise