



Therapy Partners, Inc.™

What's New

Spring 2004
Issue 28

3301 9th Ave. • Huntsville, AL 35805 • 256/536-7123 • www.therapypartners.org
Therapy Partners, Inc.™ is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency honoring the human-animal bond to enhance the quality of life for all.

Welcome, Deb Crank, New Executive Director

Therapy Partners, Inc. is delighted to announce the appointment of Deb Crank as Executive Director. Deb brings to us a background in management, administration and nursing, as well as volunteer experience.

Co-founders Mimi Bynum and Connie Gates guided Therapy Partners from 1994, leading us to become a well-recognized organization providing nationally certified animal assisted therapeutic services to hospitals, residential care, rehabilitation centers, and a reading program in Title 1 schools. In 2003, Margie Wiesman took the helm as volunteer Executive Director.

But, volunteers have limited time and energy to devote. Our Board realized the need for paid staff; staff members who can devote their energies to maintaining




Deb Crank, Executive Director

and growing our organization.

Through a grant from the Jane K. Lowe foundation, a part-time position was made possible. The Board of Directors' search for our Director began in October, 2003. We had 38 inquiries from Alabama, Louisiana, and North Carolina.

Our newly hired Executive Director, Deb Crank, heralds a new era for Therapy Partners.

Deb is in the office at 3301 Ninth Ave. Monday through Thursday afternoons. She welcomes your calls for information or presentations regarding Therapy Partners, at 256.536.7123.

We welcome Deb to Therapy Partners, Inc., and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship. 


CAS awards Grant to Therapy Partners

In December, members of CAS Cares met with Therapy Partners' board members and working teams to present a check in support of the work done by our organization.

This cash award will be used to purchase books and Polaroid® film for children in our Partners Achieving Literacy (PAL) program at Terry Heights, Lincoln and West Huntsville Elementary schools, and signage for our facility.

CAS Cares is a non-profit corporation organized by the employees and management of CAS, Inc., supporting humanitarian needs in the local community through service and monetary donations.

CAS Cares has been a long time supporter of Therapy Partners, Inc., enabling the expansion of the PAL program and providing hardware to document our achievements. The photos that appear in our newsletter and on our website have been made possible because a prior CAS Cares grant purchased a digital camera for us.

Thank you, CAS Cares, for your continued support! 



Standing (l to r): Kate Markland, Anne Evans, Margaret Watson, Janet Brinkerhoff, Deb Crank, Jean Cline, Dr. R.E. Patton III. Front row: Karla Stults and Mo; June Hough and Maggie.



From
the
Director's
Desk

Hello ,

My name is Deb Crank and I am happy to serve as the new Executive Director for Therapy Partners, Inc.

I moved to Madison from Savannah, Georgia, approximately one year ago with my wonderful partner, David Storts. David and I are charmed with the Huntsville / Madison area as an ideal place to make our lives.

With twenty years of management success and a background in nursing, I am looking forward to contributing to the growth and success of Therapy Partners.

We have a great group of handlers who make positive contributions to our organization daily. Their partners connect with people in ways conventional methods cannot. It is wonderful to experience the hope and renewal found in the interactions between the animals and adults or children who feel displaced from their usual surroundings—whether in a hospital, nursing home, residential treatment center or other setting.

The work of Therapy Partners has been supported by generous individuals who believe in promoting the human-animal bond, by grants from foundations, and by charitable groups. We continue to welcome and need your tax-deductible donations to facilitate helping children and adults, and to improve their quality of life.

I'm excited about the possibilities before us, and honored to have the opportunity to share the future with Therapy Partners, Inc.

Deb Crank

Kind Hearts Behavior Center Schedule

Puppy ABCs

Saturday	9:45 - 10:45 am	Feb 7 - Mar 20 FULL
Saturday	9:45 - 10:45 am	Apr 3 - May 15
Saturday	9:45 - 10:45 am	May 29 - Jul 10
Saturday	9:45 - 10:45 am	Jul 24 - Sep 4
Saturday	9:45 - 10:45 am	Sep 18 - Oct 30

Level I

Tuesday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Feb 3 - Mar 16 FULL
Saturday	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Feb 7 - Mar 20 FULL
Tuesday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Mar 30 - May 11
Tuesday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Mar 30 - May 11
Saturday	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Apr 3 - May 15
Tuesday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	May 25 - Jul 6
Tuesday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	May 25 - Jul 6
Saturday	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	May 29 - Jul 10
Tuesday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Jul 20 - Aug 31
Tuesday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Jul 20 - Aug 31
Saturday	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Jul 24 - Sep 4
Tuesday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Sep 14 - Oct 26
Tuesday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Sep 14 - Oct 26
Saturday	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Sep 18 - Oct 30

Level IA

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of Level 1
Call for schedule

Crossover K-9

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of traditional Beginner's or higher
Call for schedule

Level II

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of either Level 1 or Crossover K-9

Tuesday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Feb. 3 - Mar 16 FULL
Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Apr 1 - May 13
Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	May 27 - Jul 8
Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Jul 22 - Sep 2
Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Sep 16 - Oct 28

Level III

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of Level II

Thursday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Apr 1 - May 13
Thursday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	May 27 - Jul 8
Thursday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Jul 22 - Sep 2
Thursday	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Sep 16 - Oct 28

Performance Team

Pre-requisite: Completion of Level III

Wednesday	7:15 - 8:30 pm	May 26 - Jul 7
Wednesday	7:15 - 8:30 pm	Jul 21 - Sep 1
Wednesday	7:15 - 8:30 pm	Sep 15 - Oct 27

* Schedule is current as of 2/15/04.

For information on classes and prerequisites, please call
Kind Hearts Behavior Center at 256-536-7123
or check our website at www.therapypartners.org

MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

City of Huntsville, Recreation & Landscape Management Department, in memory of Myrtice Vaughan, mother of Layne Vaughn

Donations by:

Rose Barnes
Catherine Lang
Cherie & Mark Orcutt
Donna & John Taylor
Jan & John Wells
Tommy Woodroof

Raj & Janeen Patel, in memory of Cinnamon

In memory of Bart, beloved canine companion of the Paul Seeley Family:

Priscilla & Fred Seeley
Mimi Bynum
Larry Bingham & Rusty Bynum

Connie Gates, in memory of Riggs, beloved canine companion of Michelle, Chad, Abby, & Millie Steed

John Berg, in honor of his adoption of Oreo

In memory of Mr. T, beloved feline companion of Alice Lawler:

Bonnie Hamner
Connie Gates

Lynne Berry, in memory of William Carl Cook, uncle of Margie Wiesman

Sallie Berryhill, in memory of Andy Hamilton

Connie Gates, in memory of Spot, beloved companion of Kathy, Tim, Thompson, & Mitchell King

Connie Gates, in memory of Gussie & Gabby, beloved companions of Julie, Harold, Jordan, Caroline, & Harper Stevens

In memory of Mac Gates, beloved nephew of Connie Gates:

Tom & Tzena Gauldin
Diane & David Rodgers
Alta Morrison
Jeaneane Moore
Larry Bingham & Rusty Bynum
Mimi Bynum
Wynlyn Doherty

Layne & Norma Vaughan, in memory of Sam, loving and loyal Dalmation of Tammy Waddle

Layne & Norma Vaughan, in memory of Buddy, beloved feline companion of Diane & David Rodgers, & Buddy's buddy, Lady

Susan Palmer & John Tedesco, in honor of Margie & Michael Wiesman

Susan Palmer & John Tedesco, in memory of Jordy, beloved Bernese Mountain Dog of Andy, Tess, Ben, & Leah Wald

Friends of Eva Public Library in honor of Linda Cherry & Cyrus speaking to their group

In memory of Frances, beloved canine companion of Helen Fraser by

Helen Fraser
Susan Phelan

Ginger Fail, in honor of Nancy Doud Thibodeau & Lady

In memory of Annie, beloved companion & partner of Connie Gates:

Margaret Ann, Alan, & Preston Bibb
Bonnie Hamner
James & Lucille Hargrove
Daphne & Ronnie Reed
Dorothy & Ken Woodis
Alice Lawler

In memory of Walter Montgomery, very special dad of R.E. Patton, III:

Mimi Bynum
Larry Bingham & Rusty Bynum

In memory of Dorothy Rodgers, mother of David Rodgers:

Mimi Bynum
Larry Bingham & Rusty Bynum
Mary Weaver
Lynn Gentry
Norma Vaughan

Wynlyn Doherty, in memory of Ashley, best canine friend of Nancy Truesdale

Beth Daniels Guides Animal Assisted Therapy for Huntsville Hospital

Beth Daniel, Child Life Specialist for the pediatric unit at Huntsville Hospital for Women and Children, spends each day with her staff caring for the emotional and developmental needs of patients and their families. Her program provides a variety of activities to help reduce stress and to help children and their families cope in a positive manner with the hospital experiences facing them.

Certified as a Child Life Specialist, Ms. Daniel came to Huntsville after 13 years at Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. In her 18 years of working with hospitalized children, she has comforted children recovering from elective surgery, calmed anxious parents, and guided families through the stress and trauma of caring for a child with a life-threatening chronic illness.

When she learned of Therapy Partners, Inc., Ms. Daniel was eager to schedule a meeting to learn as much as she could about the Huntsville organization and to evaluate the qualifications of our certified teams. Representatives from Therapy Partners "jumped at the chance," Ms. Daniel recalls, "and provided us with *tons* of information." Aware that bringing the first animal-assisted therapy program to Huntsville Hospital would be a groundbreaking responsibility, Ms. Daniel was determined to provide these services for her patients.

"I feel very strongly that our patients, families and staff deserve to experience new, innovative therapeutic programs just like

pediatric patients in larger, free-standing children's hospitals." Ms. Daniel's commitment was firm, and in the spring of 2002, Therapy Partners, Inc. scheduled the first certified therapy dogs and their handlers to visit her young patients.



Beth Daniel

For almost two years, Ms. Daniel and co-worker Michelle Cooper have followed the same, stringent procedure prior to the therapy dog's visit. Orders must be obtained from each physician and each patient's parent must sign consent. On the day of the visit, a Child Life staff member accompanies the therapy team to each room—confirming that the child wants to see the visiting dog and then taking a Polaroid picture, which is tucked in a card to leave with the child. True to Ms. Daniel's requirement, every patient who wants to see the therapy dog does indeed get a visit.

The benefits to her patients are evident, she says. "It *always* bring smiles," she notes, "and has provided a wonderful distraction for a young patient having leads placed

for an electroencephalogram (EEG). There was one patient who reported a lower pain score after spending time with the therapy dog. This allowed her to decrease her pain medication." The teams bring a great positive energy to the floor, Ms. Daniel added—an energy that benefits staff as well as patients!

Thanks to the courage and vision of Beth Daniel, these benefits will continue to be part of the services offered to the children at Huntsville Hospital for Women and Children. 🐾

Mimi Bynum

Struttin at the Dog Ball

From Chihuahua to Great Pyrenees and every size in between, the 2004 VID's (Very Important Dogs) were presented Friday, February 27, to a crowd of over 800 at the 'Mutt Strutt,' the Greater Huntsville Humane Society's Dog Ball of 2004. Over 40 different breeds and 8 shelter dogs made their runway debut to the commentary of local celebrities Amy George and John Malone.

The evening started with a social hour when attendees could visit with the dogs, bid on over 130 items at a silent auction, and have their pictures made with a professional photographer. This was followed by a candlelight dinner
(continued on page 5)

Struttin at the Dog Ball

(continued from page 4)

and then the highlight of the evening - the Runway Walk and Path of Paws.

Looking regal and calm in her green Delta Society® Pet Partner® vest, the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Abbey and her partner Mimi Bynum represented Therapy Partners, Inc. at this annual event.



Mimi Bynum and Abbey
at the 2004 Dog Ball

For 15 years the Greater Huntsville Humane Society has sponsored the Dog Ball to raise money for the shelter, feeding and care of homeless animals.

Thanks to the hard work of VID Chairs Daphne Reed and Amy Brooks, along with the tireless help of committee chairs and workers who have spent hundreds of hours throughout the year, the 2004 Mutt Strut was a dazzling success. The Dog Ball has grown in size each year, and every shelter dog presented has been adopted. All involved agree: "This is what it's all about!"

Linda Cherry



The Vet's Corner

by
R.E. Patton III, DVM

Scratch, scratch ... lick, lick ... AAAAAHHH!!! Why does my dog do that all the time? It's driving me crazy!

The answer is, your dog is probably allergic to something. Dogs suffer from allergies as frequently as people, and their allergies fall into 3 categories.

Contact dermatitis. This is a common local skin reaction similar to the one people have to poison ivy. Dogs can become allergic to anything (wool, polyester, grass etc.), but the most common allergen is insect saliva, which is injected into the skin when a flea, mosquito, or fly bites the dog. This allergy shows up at the site of the bite (i.e. the rump, back, or ear tips) and results in hair loss, scabs, and a thickened "elephant-like" skin. The best treatment is to avoid contact with the allergen, so aggressive insect control is important. Some dogs may require symptomatic treatment with antihistamines, corticosteroids, antibiotics, or medicated shampoos.

Atopy. This is a skin allergic reaction to things the dog breathes in, like tree, weed, or grass pollens, molds, and house dust mites - all the things that cause hay fever symptoms in us. With atopy, dogs primarily get redness, itching, and secondary infections in their ears, in between the toes, in the under-arm and flank areas. The most common complaint by owners is chronic ear infections and constant

chewing and licking at the feet. This allergy is most common in the spring and fall. Treatments include antihistamines, or allergy testing followed with hyposensitization shots.

Food allergy. Dogs don't become allergic to Dog Chow, or any brand of food as a whole, but become allergic to a food component such as beef protein, wheat, corn, soy, or chicken. This is why changing to another brand may or may not make the dog better. If the new food has the same allergic protein, it will cause the same problem. These dogs have severe itching and infections anywhere on the body, or may have chronic vomiting, weight loss, or diarrhea. It can show up as early as 4-6 months of age and is one of the most common allergies in dogs less than 1 year of age. Treatment involves changing the dog's food to a hypoallergenic food made from micro-proteins or novel proteins like venison or duck. Strict diets must be continued for at least 8 weeks to rule out food allergies.

So don't assume the licking and scratching is simply an annoying behavior. Have your dog checked for allergies. 🐾



Therapy Partners Named a Favorite in W A A Y-TV Christmas Parade

If you ever feel that you need a "boost" to get into the Christmas spirit, then the annual WAAY-TV Christmas Parade is a must! This year, spectators were able to see not only clowns, dogs, horses, dancers, bands and twirlers, but also elephants! What a treat for all ages!

Remember the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words?" On the Therapy Partners' Christmas Parade float were eight beautiful pictures showing our partners at work in area hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. It was an ideal way to share with the community what we do in our facilities!

Walking behind our festively decorated float were our handlers and their partners, smiling and waving along the parade route. The crowd was very excited to see us, clapping and waving back with shouts of, "Merry Christmas!"

Within the next few days, it was announced that Therapy Partners Inc. won Parade Favorite for the Non-Profit category.

Thank you, WAAY-TV, for organizing such a wonderful holiday event for the citizens of North Alabama.

In addition, Therapy Partners would like to thank John, Deanna, and little Hank Bayless for providing the trailer and driving us in the parade. 🐾

Diane Rodgers

p.s. Therapy Partners, Inc. also issues Diane Rodgers a special thanks for coordinating our participation in this year's Christmas parade. This is Diane's fifth year as parade coordinator, and we are grateful for her work. Many thanks, Diane!

Editor



Therapy Partners brave the cold in the 2003 WAAY-TV Christmas Parade. Jeff Grimes with Buddy, Diane Rodgers with Lady, Judy Carden with Sadie, Margie Wiesman with Summer, Deanna Bayless with Millie, and Karla Stults with Mo.

HELP WANTED:

Teams of extra-special humans with loving dogs and/or cats.

Job Description:

Bring moments of joy to elders.

Give hospitalized children a 'happy break'.

Restore a sweet memory to an Alzheimer's patient.

Help a struggling reader learn the joy of books.

Count the smiles that blossom as you walk down a hallway.

As Therapy Partners, Inc. enters our tenth year of work in the Tennessee Valley, the need for certified Animal Assisted Therapy exceeds our ability to fulfill. Though we've added new teams every year, the waiting list for our services has outstripped our growth.

If your heart sings at the idea of working as a teammate with your beloved companion, helping enhance the lives of others, give us a call. Being a part of Therapy Partners, Inc. is a heart-full opportunity.

You can learn more about our work and requirements at www.therapypartners.org .



*Amount of
Contribution*

\$ _____

***Thank
you!***

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

**Yes, I want to participate in the wonderful work done by
Therapy Partners, Inc.**

Use my contribution wherever it is needed by Therapy Partners.

If the address label information is incorrect, please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Therapy Partners, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation. All donations, gifts and in-kind services are tax deductible.

Therapy Partners, Inc.

Post Office Box 10013

Huntsville, Alabama 35801-0013

Donations to Therapy Partners, Inc. can also be made through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Therapy Partners' CFC number is #9042.

Next Room . . . Bear

When Bear and I first get to EdenBrook, we find 'Bryan.' He likes to walk so we go with him. Some days, we have several people walking with us so that they are getting some exercise. Bryan sees Bear's visits as a reward for the nice things he does for others during the week.

One of the very first people we met at EdenBrook was a man we'll call 'Dave.' His wife lived in another facility and he was having trouble making friends. No one wanted to accept him. Bear, however, thought Dave was a perfectly fine man! After seeing Dave visiting with Bear, another resident invited Dave to walk with


him to lunch. Bear was able to help these two men find something in common. Mission accomplished!

Another special friend of Bear's is 'Steve.' He really liked Bear and would tell me wonderful stories about the dogs in his life. Bear never seemed to notice the tremors that moved through Steve's whole body. Some days, I'd have to get Bear right next to Steve's wheelchair so that he could feel Bear's soft fur. One day, he announced that he wanted to "walk" Bear. We headed off down the hall—him in his electric wheelchair, leash in hand, Bear by his side, and me walking behind them with another leash in hand.



We were a sight to see.

Bear proved to me recently that he is a true Therapy Partner, and a real trooper. On a normal day's visit at EdenBrook, we usually visit with five to six residents. This particular day, as we started to walk out of the building, Bear didn't want to leave because he had only visited with three people.

I guess he hadn't gotten and given enough love that day...

MariBeth Hill



Therapy Partners, Inc.™
 P.O.Box 10013
 Huntsville, AL 35801-0013

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 US POSTAGE
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 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
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Hats off to ...

Deborah Burton, of Crestwood Medical Center, for allowing us to hold our annual retreat in your facility.

David Storts, for helping at the temperament tests.

Pamela Donald, R.S.V.P. Director, Senior Center, Inc. for recruiting Volunteer Escorts for our PAL program.

Bobbie Scroggins, Beta McIngvale, & Patricia Shaw, our new PAL Volunteer Escorts.

John Bayless, for providing the trailer and truck, and driving our float in the Christmas parade.



Therapy Partners, Inc. is an affiliate member.



*Spring Hello from
 Therapy Partners, Inc.*



Handlers

Deanna Bayless
 Gloria Bink
 Mimi Bynum
 Rusty Bynum
 Judy Carden
 Linda Cherry
 Elizabeth Christian
 Connie Gates

Jean Greenwood
 Jeff Grimes
 MariBeth Hill
 June Hough
 Sue Morgan
 Sharon O'Neil
 Cherie Orcutt
 Ted Parker
 Diane Rodgers

Karla Stults
 Margie Wiesman
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