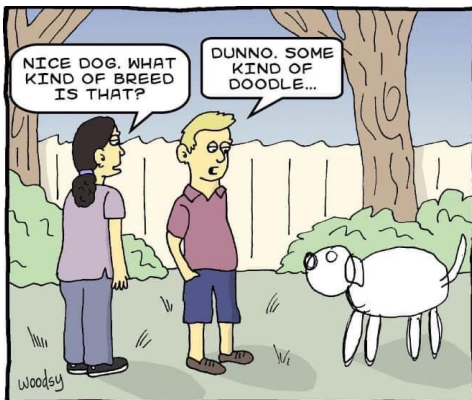




From our PAD Organizer Bobbi:

First, I want to thank all of you who helped with Pet Awareness Day (PAD) in one way or another. There were so many components prior to, during, and after the event that we pitched in to make it a success. Our Donations Team was stellar and not only got items for the silent auction but also got a lot of monetary donations. We also had other Companions, Inc. volunteers donate items and reach out to their friends, family, and neighbors for donations. Some people offered new suggestions that we tried out this year that proved to be very successful. And because we didn't have enough people to handle all the tasks during PAD, some brought their family and friends to help out, and others agreed to do more than what they scheduled themselves. Everyone's flexibility and dedication truly made PAD a success!



WE DID IT!

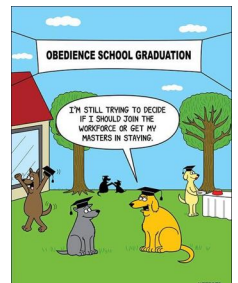
Pet Awareness Day (PAD) 2024 was the most successful yet!

We hope you will enjoy photos from Pet Awareness Day scattered throughout this newsletter. Remember, if you take photos on your visits (not showing patients' faces for confidentiality), please send them to pampace@mac.com so we can include them in our newsletter or on Facebook.

Speaking of Facebook, when we asked everyone attending PAD where they had learned about PAD and about Companions, the overwhelmingly most common answer was Facebook. So we have a couple of requests:

First, would YOU like to help us with our Facebook page, or for that matter with our website? We must admit, we are not particularly strong in those areas, and we just KNOW that one of you, maybe a new member, knows all about how to do this and can help us. Please? We keep asking.....

Second, will YOU please share our Companions info on your own Facebook page? You can do this by hitting Share on the Companions page when you look at it. Or you can post images on your own page. If you would like to promote us and would like photos or info to share, please contact me (pampace@mac.com) and I'll send it to you. This is true all year long, not just for Pet Awareness Day. Thank you!



So now for the specifics.. drum roll please.....

We grossed almost \$18,000 from Pet Awareness Day!!

Net was about \$16,000 so far! We had about \$5000 in monetary donations, silent auction made about \$8000, then the food booth, bake sale, Smooch the Pooch booth, CGC booth, Entrance Door and Companions, Inc. booth donations, vendor booth rentals as well as other generous people who added extra donations to their silent auction items, plus more monetary donations that came in after PAD balanced out the rest of our gross amount. There are still some costs that we will have to pay out, but overall, this was the best Pet Awareness Day ever!!

Our community has really come to know about Companions, Inc. and Pet Awareness Day and they look forward to it each year so it's important that we all come together to help out each year.

Please remember that PAD happens on the 2nd Saturday of May each year, *so please try to plan accordingly so you can help out in future years.* ***Even though many of our volunteers did help out this year, we still did not have enough to handle all the tasks so we really do need ALL of you!***

PAD 2025 will be different because there will be different people organizing it. We are open to ideas and suggestions to improve PAD, to help orient/educate our community to the various animal-oriented organizations and businesses available, and provide fun activities for the family. So, please think about how YOU can help!



You will continue to hear that we need every one of our members to step up and really help with PAD. The help we receive is not just limited to our members, however. This year the JROTC group from Lathrop High School helped with hauling, setting up, taking down and any duties we asked of them. What a group. of outstanding young men and women and their instructor, 1SG (R) Phillip Maxim, JROTC Army Instructor. We cannot thank them highly enough!

Bobbi Ross

Since starting work at FMH's Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) as the Occupational Therapist in 2003, I wanted the patients to experience the wonders of pet therapy. I have always been an animal lover and was fortunate enough to work in several hospitals in PA, MT, and CO that had pet therapy sessions. I wanted my BHU patients to experience the same therapeutic benefits and joy of pet therapy while they played with the dogs. After overcoming some barriers, FMH finally agreed to a pet therapy trial in 2009 so I started working with Companions, Inc. Unbeknownst to me, that was the beginning of the biggest change of my Alaska experience and it definitely changed my life forever.



Working with Chelsea Walker and Diana Lecorchick to get BHU pet therapy started was so easy; they were so welcoming and excited to have the opportunity to do visits at FMH because Companions, Inc. had been trying to get permission for years. Betsey Jacobs volunteered to bring her dog Yukon, so she and Yukon visited once a week for well over a year. The patient survey about the pet therapy sessions that I created resulted in 100% of patients finding the benefits of pet therapy as very helpful to their treatment, and many wanted visits more often during the week. Since then, the patients looked forward to pet therapy twice a week from 8 different volunteers and dogs. Other staff had also noticed that on pet therapy days, the patients tended to have a much better day, were more involved, and their moods were better. Now that is success!! And I also realized that my own mood and attitude was so much better on pet therapy days too!

I was asked to apply for a Board of Directors position in 2014 and was voted in which is when I became a Companions, Inc. volunteer; I have never had a dog in the program. Everyone on the Board was so welcoming, kind, and fun so it was easy to join in. I was soon asked to take the lead on Pet Awareness Day (PAD) so Diana Lecorchick trained me as we worked together with all the preparation for that year. Chelsea and Gary Walker were also instrumental in helping me learn the ropes. I hadn't known anything about the Fairbanks animal community, nor had I ever organized a community event, so there was a lot to learn. However, through Companions, Inc. volunteers and the Fairbanks animal community, I have met so many incredible people who were so helpful, and many have become friends. I also got immersed in other Companions, Inc. events and had so much fun in the process, I kept volunteering for more. Everything I did with Companions continually enriched my life. It truly has changed my life for the better by bringing a deeper level of purpose and meaning in my heart.

I retired in May which is something I have looked forward to for a long time. PAD this year turned out to be the best ever in terms of how much money we made for our organization! That, in addition to the fabulous luncheon that Pam Sprout organized in my honor that many of my Companions, Inc. friends came to, started off my new life of freedom with a bang!! I will be moving in August which is so bittersweet.. but I do have so many cherished memories of my life in Fairbanks that I shared with all my friends. Thank you all for enhancing my life!



Pam made Bobbi a doggy quilt to remember us by, and many Companions signed their names by a dog! Bobbi in a shot from PAD, doing one of her gazillion tasks that day.

Pet Awareness Day Photos







THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS TO PET AWARENESS DAY:

Please support these businesses and thank them for supporting our organization.

Then be thinking of which businesses YOU regularly support who can be donors next year!

Gold Level Donors

Marvin and Becky Hassebroek, Randall Compton, Willow Aviator Lodge, Bill Satterberg, Riverboat Discovery/Gold Dredge, Mt McKinley Bank, Foundation Health Partners, Arctic Sun Virtual Reality, Bailey's Furniture, Dr. Todd Wentz, Darla Theisen

Other Donors

Alaska Feed
Alaska K9 Center
Alaska Raw Fur Co
Alaska Salmon Bake
Alyeska Tire
American Legion Post 57
Animal House Veterinary Hospital
Ann's Greenhouse
The Bangkok Thai Food
Carena Banks
Batteries & Bulbs
Dan Callan
Tom & Denise Carter
Bear Creations by Betsey Bear
Black Spruce Brewing Co.
Cold Spot Feeds
Cookie Jar Restaurant
Co-op Market
Costco
Denali Dental
Denali Industrial Supply
Leonie DeRamus
DW Grill & Catering
Dr. Richard Elson
Shana Edwin
Kara Egresi
Elements Salon
Dr. Richard Elson
Enchanted Forest Toys
ENT Clinic/Hearing & Balance Ctr
Everts Air
Expressions in Glass
Fairbanks Childrens Museum
Fairbanks Water Co.

Dr. Leon Fazzio
Florcraft
Flower Pot Garden Center
Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum
Fox Lions Club
Fred Meyer East
Frosty Feet Running Co
Mary Gibbs
Gilmore House
Global Credit Union
Golden Heart Veterinary Services
Great Alaska Bowl Co
Great Alaska Pizza Co
Great Harvest Bread Co
Green's Bar & Grill
Melissa Hart
Heart Stream Yoga
Hungry Robot
Image Opticals
In My Element
Irondog
Scott Kawasaki
Kendall Auto
Lindy Kinn
George and Bobby Kirschner
Teresa Knezek
Sandy Lachman
Lane's Quickie Tacos
Lat 65 Brewery
Shawna Lauderach
Jim Lee
The Library Bar and Bites
Marlo's Bakery
Sarah McConnell

Micro Clean
Lilly Morrall
Gretchen Murphy
NAPA
Debby Long, New Look Salon
North Pole Coffee
Smokey Norton
Oasis Restaurant and Lounge
Odom Corporation and Southern Wine
& Spirits
Office Max
Pagoda Restaurant
Pakalolo Dispensary
Papa John's Pizza
The Peony Patch Uprooted
Dan Perrine
Petco
Pioneer Wells Water Delivery
Power and Transmission Inc.
Premier Ice
Pump House Restaurant
Kim Randall
Angela Ritchie Country Financial
Davin Rockstad
Running Reindeer Ranch
Safeway East
Safeway West
Scentsable Resources
Scentsy- Pam Watson
Doug & Debbie Smith
Sons of the American Legion
Spenard Building Supplies
Splash & Dash
Springwind Photography

PAD Donors, continued...

Pam Sprout
Spruce and Feather
Stan Stephens Cruise
Matthew Raymond State Farm Insurance
Ed Randolph State Farm Insurance
Charlene Stewart
Betsey Sturm
Sunshine Health Foods
Tanya
Taylors Gold-n-Stones
TB Salon
TDT Dog Sports
Thai House Restaurant
Tundra Girls Devine Designs
Lisa Voyt- Lisa Rae Massage
Walmart
Water Wagon
Debbie Wartes
Erin Parcher Wartes
Judy Warwick
Derrell Webb
Wendy's
Westmark Hotel
Shirley & Rick Winther
Kate Wood
The Woodway
Dr. Brian Yamamoto

Other Super Helpful People Who Contributed to PAD Success

Nancy Hummel
Lathrop High School JROTC Cadets led by Phillip
Maxim and Cindy Beadle
Tanana Valley Farmers Market
Tanana Valley Fairgrounds- Adam, Colleen
Cathy Erland
Keith Kimbrell
Dr. Christopher Leccese
Denise Miller
Laurie Miller
Raven Landing
ST Tong of Sound Solutions, LLC

**All Vendors
Companions, Inc. Volunteers
And the Fairbanks Community who came to PAD
and bought things and donated!**



Gatherings... of Companions

For the second time, on June 9 we held an informal gathering of Companions and their dogs, to discuss what we are doing well, what we'd like to add or change, what we need more help with (most everything!), and just getting to know each other. We will continue to hold these every few months, and hopefully one will fit into YOUR schedule. We know you filled out a sheet where you checked off what you'd be interesting in helping with, but then we filed away those papers! Oops! But now that you are a member of Companions and have done some visits and attended some events and read some Tailwaggers, hopefully YOU have a better idea of where *your* kind of interest and expertise can help us. We know we are all busy, but we also know we joined because we know pet therapy is valuable to our community and we want to help. So please don't wait for us to call you to ask for help (we all hate making and receiving those calls, don't we?). YOU know how you can help. So, 1) call or email us to volunteer, or 2) next time we send out an email asking for help, respond immediately so you don't forget (shall I tell you how many respond usually? Zero) , or 3) come to our next Gathering, meet new members and share ideas. The next date is not set, but YOU can make a difference. Have you visited the Denali Center for at least 6 months? Please let Tamara know and start visiting patient rooms in FMH! And remember, our Annual Meeting & Party is in October, and YOU can join the Board!

Welcome new Companions!!

Are you badged?

Whenever you are visiting with Companions, you need to wear your name tag. You got a paper one when you joined, but **if you have made visits for more than three months, you can get a permanent blue magnetic one.**

We ask that you always wear these AND your badge issued by FMH.

To order a magnetic badge, send an email to pampace@mac.com and tell me what first name you want and how to spell it.

Companions pays for these, and we will let you know when they are ready.

Welcome Larry King, Mary Sackinger and their adorable dog Fen!



And a reminder:

The Board has now seen these “calling cards” and they are WONDERFUL! They look just like the ones below for Shirley Winther’s dog (regular business card size and nice glossy stock), but with your dog and their specific info. Because they are a bit pricey, we have decided to offer you an incentive. This will also solve another problem we are having, *that folks are not all reporting the hours they did visits with their dogs.* **So, after you have reported two or more visits per month for six consecutive months, we will pay for a box of 100 calling cards of YOUR dog,** so you can hand them out on your visits. However, we think you may want to order them yourselves sooner (especially since we already pay for your shirt, bib and name tags!) because they are so fun to hand out on your visits. You can choose when to give them out, maybe at first only your “regulars”, but we know these are a great hit already.

Here is how to order calling cards for your dog.

Contact JILL MARSHALL at jmarshall@alaska.net

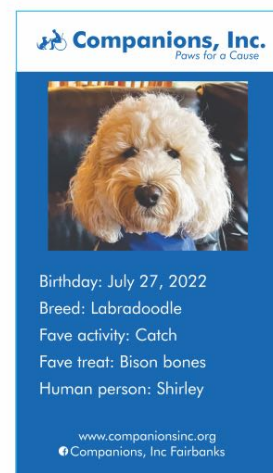
Jill will need two photos of your dog **with their Companions scarf on**, one full body and one that can be cropped for the back. She will need the information on the back, (dog’s birthday, breed, favorite activities, favorite treat, and human’s first name), the quantity you want to order, your credit card and mailing address (no PO Boxes) for delivery. Jill will put the basic Companions, Inc. info on all the cards (see samples).

Send all to Jill and she will send a proof back for your approval before sending off to be printed.

100: \$64.22 or 64¢ each

250: \$69.22 or 28¢ each

500: \$80.91 or 16¢ each



If you would rather just have some Companions, Inc. business cards, we will give you some. They are handy for when you brag about your dog and their great therapeutic abilities in Companions! Just contact us for a supply of cards.

Remember to report your hours!

Send an email to Susan Sauer at suzan_ecdf@yahoo.com

Tell her the date, time and location you worked. One reason we need to track time is because we may add sites to visit, but we can only do this when we know we have enough coverage available.

Also, we may be able to access other funding sources if we can show how much time our volunteers give.

And remember, **after six months of regular visits, you can start visiting within the hospital!**

Did your human promise you a car ride and take you to the vet?

You may be entitled to compensation.

DO NOT SIT, STAY, AND SETTLE. PAW US TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR PRO-BONE-O CONSULTATION



EST. 2024
Sniffem, Lickem, & Stickem
Attorneys at Paw

Auggie, ESQ.
(Founder and Good Boy)



Board Members

President Kate Lamal
katelamal@gmail.com
Text (907) 388-7102

Vice President Pam Sprout
Recording Secretary Jamie Marschner
Treasurer Shirley Winther

Other Board Members

Erin Parcher-Wartes Dave Stewart
Bobbi Ross Daisy Huang

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Volunteer Services,
Tamara Stumpf (907) 458-5599



Companions, Inc.
PO Box 73601
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
(907) 687-4247 call or text



Our dear friend
who has crossed the
Rainbow Bridge



Timmy,
beloved Companion of
Maria DeBaun and
Patrick Huff, lived to be
the oldest Companion
this year at almost 14
years old. He was a long
time, frequent and
adored visitor at all our
sites and will be sorely
missed.



"When we tell a dog to stay,
we really mean forever."