



SPRING/SUMMER  
2017

## Off The Couch... The Pet Therapy Prescription



### Paws for Thought...

By June Golden

Hi there, Bright & Beautiful Pet Therapists!

Hope all of you, your family and four-footed family are well.

I know it's been a while since our last newsletter... keeping up with all of you has kept us very busy.

Thank you for everything you do for B&BTD!

So! We have lots of news and stories to keep up with in this issue. It makes us proud to see the warm ways our beloved therapy dogs help so many others. Let's continue to let them inspire us to do more.

Check this out ... our gifted volunteer Candace April Lee does more than help keep the office going! Look at page 19 ... we used our own Elvis Aron Pawsley as our subject. You can win a fabulous commission of your very own therapy dog while supporting your favorite charity. Good luck to all of you!

We are refreshing our online store. Stay tuned for the latest developments. We've enclosed a sampling of items we thought you'd like here. The shirts are the first of new items; keep an eye out for new "stuff" coming to our website soon.

There's a new website in the works as well, so keep sending us stories and pictures. We love seeing them and need them for future newsletters and the website. We'll pick our favorite one each month and you'll get a free gift! Be sure to let us know your submission is part of our free offer: use the code "Pet-therapist of the month!"

Enjoy Spring and have a safe Summer!

Best,

*June*

P.S.: All too frequently, the telephone rings in the office and a dismayed person on the other end of the phone frantically says, "I have one of your dogs here and he's lost."

The only identification on the dog is the Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dog tag. Now I know, many of you use special equipment while handling your working therapy dogs - make sure all of your collars and/or harnesses have your dog's complete ID.

Usually we reunite the dog and owner, but I have to tell you, this can be daunting for all of us concerned.

Sometimes it's impossible to identify the dog and the animal warden has to be called in to help.

***Please be sure your dog has your current identification at all times.***

# Donate and Support Your Favorite Charity!

## The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. General Fund!

Donate to our general fund: you'll support our programs (those leashes, bone tags and certificates have to come from somewhere.)

You will help defray the cost of insurance (there's 4 policies...) and the office expenses (phones, office supplies, postage, etc.).

No portion of your funds will ever go to anything frivolous.

Did you know we're all volunteer and our offices are in our director's home??

### The Kirsten Fund

Kirsten Santiago was one of our greatest handlers. We lost her at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Dedicated and sensitive, she worked miracles with her therapy dog, Lady Sailor. Her family recognized her love of helping others with Sailor and bestowed the proceeds of her memorial fund from her employer to B&BTD.



*Kirsten & Sailor  
(September 10, 2001)*

We, in turn, founded The Kirsten Rees Santiago Memorial Fund and continue to administrate this fund in her name.

The Kirsten Fund provides monetary assistance to help our sick and injured therapy dogs. This fund is supported solely by donations, so our ability to help B&BTD dogs with this fund is dependant upon the resources in the fund.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee coverage of expenses for any specific therapy dog at a particular time.

***Donate to this special fund!  
Keep it going to help others!***

### The Frenchie Fund

Frenchie was one of our first therapy dogs. She was a beautiful Greyhound, rescued off the track and handled by Betty Kish and Ann Watson. She was a hard-working pet therapist. She was a test dog: helping to evaluate and train new therapy dogs. She attended most of our events, loving and comforting patients through many traumas, while also guiding our other therapy dogs.



The Frenchie Fund was established to provide assistance for the cost of euthanasia for Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs at their final veterinary visit. This fund is supported solely by donations, so our ability to help B&BTD dogs with this fund is dependant upon the resources in the fund. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee coverage of expenses for any specific therapy dog at a particular time.

The Frenchie Fund was created in her name to reflect her beauty and spirit and established to ease our members' way through this painful decision.

***Donate to this special fund and help other members  
with this most difficult task!***

### Honor/Memorialize a Friend, Pet or Family Member

B&BTD is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

We are often the charity a family or individual chooses to receive donations for, in memory or in honor of a family member, friend or pet in lieu of flowers and/or a gift.

We are often the recipient of gifts at celebrations, such as weddings, birthday parties or religious ceremonies.

Contact us and we can help you with the arrangements.

#### **Your Donors will receive:**

Personalized B&BTD thank you cards and tax-deductible receipts.

#### **We'll send you:**

An acknowledgement for each donation and a list of your donors for you to personally respond to with thank you cards and calls.

# Dog Therapy, A Rewarding Experience

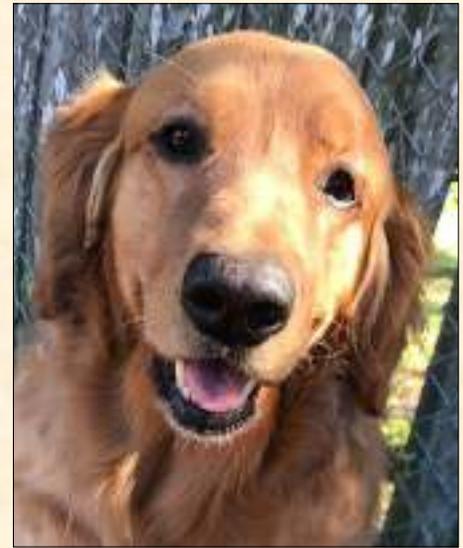
By Donna Smith



*Benny (2006)*



*Chudleigh*



*Dalen*

When I first began, I really didn't know if I would be an effective pet therapist.

However, during the years I have been at the Hospice House, I loved it, with my wonderful dogs showing me the way. At one point I had 4 Tidewell Hospice dogs; now I have 2 dogs. My original golden, Benny, was the very best hospice dog that I have ever seen. Benny taught my current goldens, Dalen and Chudleigh, how to do therapy work. I am amazed how intuitive the dogs are.

Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota, Florida is a remarkable corporation; all of the staff are amazing.

I have discovered how much the patients and visitors love the pet therapy visits.

As we come to a patient's room and wait for permission to enter, Dalen sits at the door and waits for me to give her the command to "Go and Visit."

I am not sure how she knows, but she always picks out the patient and the family members in most need.

I saw Dalen during one visit of a 12-year-old boy watching his 30-year-old father in a coma and dying. He had not moved or talked to anyone. Dalen walked right over to him and sat up, never taking her eyes off him. The boy got down from the chair to pet Dalen, and rub her belly. He talked with her a lot and hugged her. After about 5 minutes, he returned to his chair and Dalen came back to me.

I was nearly in tears from that moment. I was so amazed at how Dalen knew what to do. What a great girl she is!

Dalen and Chudleigh are sweet, warm, friendly and very intuitive with patients, family and friends.

Thank you, Tidewell Hospice, you have made a huge impact in my life.



*Dalen, Donna & Chudleigh*

## A Super Star Member: Deanna Cuchiaro!

I have known Deanna Cuchiaro for 13 years. She was the Team Captain at the Eastern Star Home when I started visiting, and she continues to amaze me with her dedication, not only to her dogs, but to the Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs organization! Deanna takes this role seriously, and she's happy, willing, and accommodating to everyone. She also welcomes all of my newly certified teams to come on visits with her and her dogs to get some hands-on experience, which is a comfort to newbies!

All of Deanna's therapy dogs (and non-therapy dogs!) are adopted. Her main visitation facility is the Eastern Star Home, in Finderne, NJ. She calls it HER therapy! Deanna loves seeing the smiles on the faces of the people she visits, and also loves hearing all the stories that residents have of their own 'long ago' dogs. There are a few residents that are still there from the first day she started visiting in 1999. Doreen, a resident of Eastern Star, has a picture of her and Patrick (Deanna's beloved Irish Setter, who has passed) framed in her room. These memories are treasures for not only the residents, but for her too! Seventeen years with 7 different dogs and she's still going strong! Hopefully for many more years.

Deanna and her husband volunteer and coordinate Irish Setter Rescue on the East Coast, from Maine to Virginia, and have placed 914 dogs since they started volunteering in 1998. Most are Irish Setters, with some English Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, Gordon Setters, and mostly all hunting dogs. They also help with Irish Red and White Setter rescue for the East Coast, and Bracco Italiano rescue for the entire United States.

Deanna and her husband initially lived in Manville, New Jersey, and they work with all of their dogs to pass the Canine Good Citizen Test. If they have the temperament for it, she also makes sure they take the B&BTD test! They were at a dog event where they first saw the Therapy Dog certification testing, and felt it was something they would like to do. Deanna's first therapy dog was Rocky, a huge male Irish Setter.

They often visited The Eastern Star Home after adopting Rocky. He passed his test in August 1999, and continued visiting until December 31, 2005 - a wonderful 6 years!

Once Rocky could no longer participate due to health issues, they decided to continue training and testing some of their other dogs. Next up was Patrick, another male Irish Setter who passed his B&BTD test in August 2001 and visited until February 12, 2008. Another 6 1/2 wonderful years of visiting residents.



*Gina, Brie and Bingo - Deanna's 3 current Therapy Dogs*



*Patrick during an Eastern Star visit to Deanna's home*



*Bingo at BINGO!*

Over the years, Deanna has certified an *army* of dogs; Andy, another very large male Irish Setter, visited for 8 years; then along came Bingo, a female Spinone Italiano. She visited until September 24, 2015. When Bingo came, all of the residents wanted to know, "What happened to your big, hairy, red dogs?" Bingo was white with short, coarse fur and a short tail. Bingo would go play BINGO with the residents and they surely never forgot that!

Next came an Irish Setter named Liam. He visited for 2 years before they lost him way too young to a dreaded cancer. At the same time, they rescued another female, Gina, a Bracco Italiano, who eventually also started participating in visits. Theresa, a resident at Eastern Star, always waits for Gina. When we ask, "How are you today, Theresa?" She always responds: "I am much better now!"

Brie is Deanna's seventh therapy dog. Brie is a German Wirehaired Pointer. She passed her test in November 2015 and continues to enjoy the visits. Deanna tries to take Gina and Brie on visits each month - the contest is "Who wants to be dressed up?" and "Who is the first one to the car?" That decides it!

There are times when Deanna is at work or on call and shouldn't leave, but she always will ask for someone at work to cover for her so she can make it to a scheduled visit. She rarely, if ever, misses a visit! There are a lot of other Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dog teams from *Make Sit Happen* training school classes who have joined Deanna over the years. This gives Deanna's Eastern Star Team a huge variety of dogs, including Glow, the huge Kuvasz, Kaydee, the Beagle, and Alee, the tiniest black dog you've ever seen! The variety makes the visits great for the residents.

Over the years, Deanna has visited Carrier Clinic, Somerset Medical Center, and Runnells Rehabilitation in Berkeley Heights, NJ, to name a few. The residents also visit her home. They used to ask all the time: where do the dogs live? So, AnnMarie, Activities Coordinator at *Eastern Star*, arranges to bring residents of the facilities to visit her home, many times!

When Gina and Brie go on visits, they always dress up if it is a holiday, including St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Halloween and Christmas. One year at Eastern Star they were all chosen as Volunteer of the Year and were presented with flowers and a beautiful wooden plaque.

Deanna works full time at AT&T. Besides the rescue work and pet therapy, she enjoys running. Of course, she always has a dog or two with her! Right now, Brie is her running partner. Deanna also currently has 11 of her own dogs - the proverbial foster failure! They have a pond, so the dogs can also swim, but canoeing is her dog, Mario's favorite thing to do! Biking also keeps all of the dogs happy and tired. Many of the dogs Deanna and her husband keep have health issues, so they will stay with them the rest of their lives on their farm.



*Deanna & Gina on St. Patrick's Day*

Deanna is a tremendous asset to the B&B Organization!

(Editor's note: Thank you Gail for this great article; we can't agree with you more! We love Deanna and her dogs.)

## Ripley, Believe It Or Not!

By Kristen Andrada with William Schadt

Snoopy. That was the name the (about) ten-year-old cocker spaniel came with when he was adopted from the Humane Society in Port Jervis, New York. Before his rescue, he struggled in a home where he was left alone for long periods of time after his original owner passed away.

At this shelter, William and Norma Schadt had adopted several rescued, female Newfoundlands for years. It had been awhile since their last newfie passed away, and they thought it would be a good time to drop by the shelter and check out a dog. They instantly fell in love with Snoopy. "We always had female Newfies, so when we said we would adopt him, the worker who knew us, said 'I can't believe you're adopting him!' And so his name became Ripley (believe it or not)." September 24th, 2011 became his "birthday."

The Schadts took Ripley everywhere to decrease his anxiety, and took him to obedience, scent work, and agility classes to improve his social skills. Therapy work with Ripley brought out his best traits, as he now visits Orange Regional Medical Center in Middletown NY twice a week. "He loves to go to work, and his scent training has come in handy; he knows every drawer in the hospital that holds a dog treat. It is a never ending privilege to witness the continuing joy, pleasure and relief that his visits bring."

***This past holiday, Ripley helped the Employee Health Department at Orange Regional Regional Center with a drive to support local shelters.***



***Picture on Left: Before donations....  
Picture Above: After donations!***



*Luann Topp & Ruby Begonia*



*Left to right Gail Bell with Sunshine, Luann Topp with Ruby Begonia, Caroline Hoe with Gary, Eileen Fitzgerald with Raven & Diane Zellman with Fiona. On the floor are Allie Phillips and Danielle Hughes.*

In July 2015, Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs' Ruby Begonia and Sunshine, both Bull Mastiffs owned by Luann Topp, participated proudly in the Krimes against Kids Conference, put on by the Florida Network of Child Advocacy Centers in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Ruby and Sunshine are members of the P.A.W.S. Program through the Child Protection Center, Inc. in Sarasota. They work with the State Attorney's office of the 12<sup>th</sup> District Court; providing support to children as they progress through the court system. The P.A.W.S. Program provides comfort and aid to children and families in times of trauma and crisis through Certified Pet Therapy Animals and Screened Handlers.

Florida is one of only a few states in the country to have statute, allowing a child to have a therapy dog present while on the witness stand during their testimony. The inclusion of the dogs in the presentation was an overwhelming success.



For Crime Victims' Rights Week, Ruby Begonia recently received a proclamation from the Venice, Florida city council and another from the Sarasota County Commission for her work with the Child Protection Center.

## A Time of Crisis

On July 18, 2016, a contingent of Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs members and their dogs made the trip from Houston to Dallas, a 250 mile drive, to show their support for the fallen and wounded police officers, along with their colleagues and families. These officers came under attack in the downtown area on July 7, 2016.

Five were killed and nine suffered serious injuries.

The group visited the site and two of the local precincts.

They were greeted warmly and the dogs' mere presence provided comfort to everyone in this difficult time. They are why we are called Bright and Beautiful!



*From left to right: Janet Sophie with Lexy, Rita Young with Leopold, Debbie Perrotta with Samson, Two Police Officers, Joy Sweeney with Honey, and Hollie Greene with Mercedes.*

Photos from the event in Dallas (Continued from page 8)





Hey Everyone!

Just wanted to follow up on Debbie Perrotta's article to let you know that because we are a nationwide organization, you and your registered therapy dog can go ANYWHERE for therapy work (although therapy dogs do not have the same flight privileges as service dogs.) Sorry, you gotta drive!

We do our best to strive for a better world, but sometimes tragedy strikes; anger, pain, sorrow immediately comes after.

If there is anything that happens that you feel strongly about and you think you and your dog can help, **go**.

Remember, you are all CERTIFIED PET THERAPISTS.

You don't need our permission to go; all we ask of you is to bring your ID and copies of our guidelines to the places you visit so coordinators respect our policies.

Be sure to contact local authorities for permission first, tell them you are insured and part of a nationwide organization.

***Make sure they want therapy dogs first.***

Let's show the world that compassion and love can strike back tenfold!

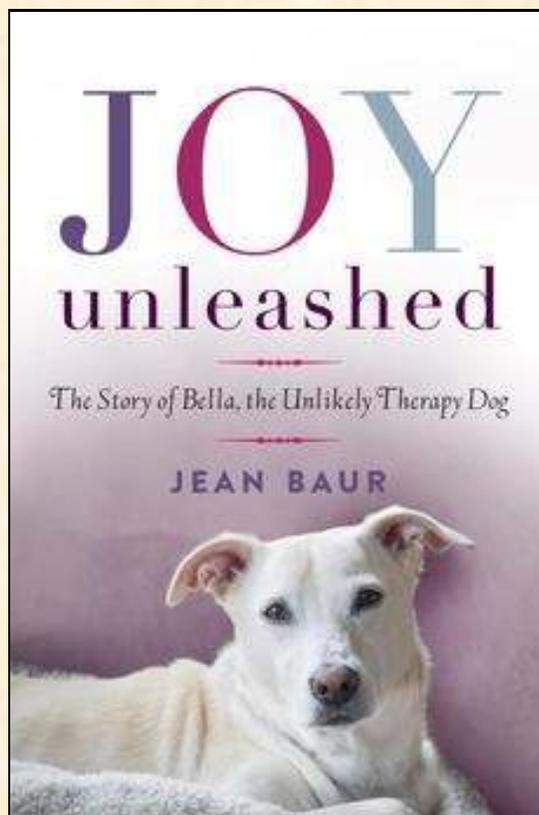
## Joy Unleashed

One of our members, Jean Baur, has recently published her novel about her experiences with therapy dog work, entitled: *Joy Unleashed, The Story of Bella, the Unlikely Therapy Dog*.

It's the true story of Bella's rescue from Dead Dog Beach in Puerto Rico, her journey to become a therapy dog, and the wonderful impact she's had on Jean and many others since then.



*Bella and Jean*





*Silver and Mouse*



*I'm meeting some incredible writers and artists!*



*Let's check out some books and go on a shopping spree!!*



Many of us have probably heard the saying "One Moment Changes Everything." As therapy handlers, we get to see it firsthand. From our visits in nursing homes, to hospitals and even schools, watching someone light up when they see the dogs leaves an unbelievable feeling in your heart. But what if you were given the chance to grant a child's wish with your dog - even if it's a very small part of a huge wish?

On October 22, 2016, two Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs were given that chance. Barnes & Noble and The Make A Wish Foundation reached out to The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. for help in fulfilling a child's wish. Erika has life-threatening medical conditions and loves books, shopping, and dogs. Her wish was for a shopping spree, so Barnes & Noble and The Make A Wish Foundation decided to add a little twist to Erika's wish and invited two very special personal escorts for her shopping spree: Silver the Siberian Husky and Mouse the Great Dane.

Silver and Mouse made it their mission to help Erika with the first part of her wish, a shopping spree in the Bridgewater Barnes & Noble bookstore. Together, Mouse, Silver and Erika got to meet young adult authors Charlotte Bennardo and Yvonne Ventresca. They got to watch artist Tony Ojeda draw images from *The Walking Dead*, and even helped decorate cupcakes with Karen from the Blue Sheep Bakery. And through it all, Mouse and Silver were there to lend support and comfort to Erika. They were there to help her shop, and for a few hours, help her be a kid again.

For a moment in time, two therapy dogs, Barnes & Noble, and The Make A Wish Foundation helped fulfill a young girl's wish. The small part that Mouse and Silver played in making Erika's wish come true was truly one *moment that changes everything*. The power of unconditional love helped Erika experience a wonderful start to her wish.

## Hudson, the Railroad Therapy Puppy

When we hear about rescued animals, they all come with incredible, heart-wrenching stories. On Saturday, September 8, 2012, railroad workers found three pitbull puppies nailed by their paws to the railroad tracks in Albany, NY. The three puppies (three weeks old) Carina, Pearl, and Hudson were all in rough shape. The people caring for them didn't think they would survive the drive to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society for treatment. Within 24 hours, Carina passed away while the other two puppies survived—Pearl with missing toes and Hudson with a missing paw. Hudson's leg was fit for a plastic prosthetic to help him walk.



*Hudson at 3 months old, without his paw*



*Richard Nash and Hudson*

After being nursed back to health, Pearl and Hudson found homes, after the shelter received many phone calls and essays from families eagerly wanting to adopt them.

Richard and Rosemarie Nash got the chance to adopt Hudson and their lives were changed forever. Although he endured nightmares after settling in a home for the first time, Hudson was quick to unconditionally love others and the Nashs' saw that Hudson could make a positive impact in the world.

He's been everywhere visiting adult day care facilities, nursing homes, and children in shelters & foster care.

As Hudson grew, new prosthetics came in to refit his leg. Unlike other dogs who have trouble adjusting to strange contraptions on their bodies, Hudson immediately took to all of them, even his first one, as if it were his own leg.

Who says dogs aren't smart?



*Hudson is a Hero Dog!*



In 2015, Hudson received the Hero Dog Award by the American Humane Society in which he was acknowledged for overcoming the trauma he's been through and providing light for those who are struggling in their daily lives. He changes hearts and minds about pitbull breeds everywhere he goes.

Around the same time he won the Hero Dog Award, Hudson and Richard became official, certified pet therapists through The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc!

After two years with us, the team is still going strong.

Hudson continues to live happily in his warm home with his loving family, inspiring others to be great while being different, and is quite a celebrity on Facebook.



Hudson displaying his stance on Breed Specific Legislation, which are laws that either regulate or ban certain dog breeds to decrease dog attacks on humans or other animals.

## Jester IV J4 Psychiatric Unit

By Joan Lawrence

The Jester IV J4 Psychiatric Unit in Richmond, Texas, houses some of the most mentally ill inmates, some of which are considered violent offenders. Some offenders at Jester IV J4 are housed for long periods, while most of them are housed for short periods of time until their behavior and mental health are stabilized, at which point they return to their original unit.

Since December 2015, one of the Houston Divisions of The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs began visiting the unit. This group of 70 caring Texans visits nursing homes, schools, hospitals and prisons. "We know what effect dogs can have in general," Joan Lawrence, The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs Houston Program Director, said, "I think, with these inmates, we are doing a public service."

One of the participating Jester IV J4 patients shared, "When I pet the dogs, I feel like I am at home again with my own dogs."

The dogs put a smile on everyone's face as they wagged their tails into Jester 4 J4 Psychiatric unit. Ruff work for our pet-therapists.

The volunteers pictured below made the 3rd journey to Jester 4 J4 on February 27, 2016.



*Pictured from left to right:  
Juanita Jordan & Gabby the Golden Retriever, Janet Brinks & Skipper the Golden Retriever,  
Sharon Carlin & Casper the West Highland White Terrier, Joan Lawrence & Ginger the Goldendoodle,  
Doty Olson & Abigail the Standard Poodle, Linda Johnston & Artemis the Whippet,  
and Susan Lipka & Bogie the Irish Wolfhound.*

# Unending Gratitude

shared by Chuck Ellman and Banjo, By Kristen Andrada

We get weekly emails and calls from our handlers telling us ALL about the great work they do with their dogs and how incredibly rewarding therapy work has been for them and their dogs. We love it!

Chuck Ellman and his amazing therapy dog Banjo have touched us with his stories of people and patients at Somerset Medical Center (now RWJBarnabas Health, Somerset) and St. Peter's University Hospital in New Jersey.



In their own words, they tell below how Banjo helped heal them.

From Ellen, a family friend of a 34-year-old organ donor who passed away early February 2017 at Somerset Medical Center :

*"Hi-Our dear friends and neighbors lost Nicole, their 34-year-old daughter this week, a young woman who I've known since she was 14.*

*Hers is the family that you sat with as they were harvesting/procuring her organs. We were at the wake on Wednesday night, and I happened to be standing by the young patient's mother-in-law. She was saying that as the family was sitting and waiting during the procedure, Chuck and Banjo came by and she asked the team to sit with the family. Banjo was such a comfort, and it was as if he knew exactly what was going on.*

*He sat as if he were an honor guard.*

*Nicole has two young children, ages five and three - and you and Banjo were able to provide some solace at a much-needed time. Bless you..."*

Chuck and Banjo also visited a 13-year-old pediatrics patient from St. Peter's University Hospital.

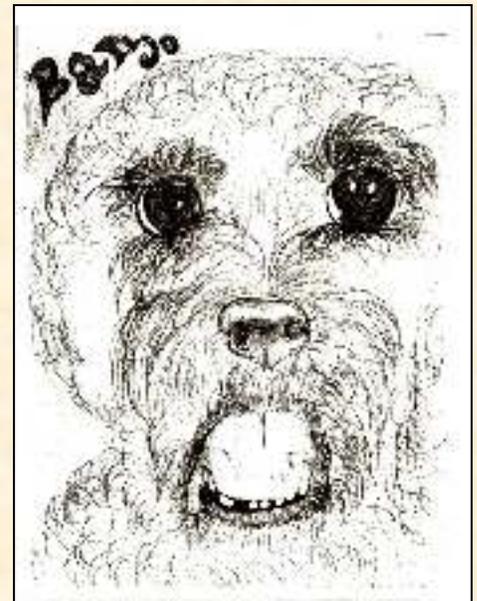
The boy was hooked up to a brain EEG with video monitoring.

In his note to us, Chuck Ellman related: "The interaction between Banjo and his patient was very special, and we knew the visit made a difference to this young boy."

The young patient reported:

*"Banjo is a therapy dog that visits patients at the hospital. He is very nice and well trained. He made me smile when I was very sad, due to my consistent seizures. You can't move a lot when you are on a video EEG, but knowing that a dog can visit you, sit on your bed and make you smile, makes your stay in the hospital more pleasant."*

*(Editor's note: "Thank you Chuck and Banjo for such ongoing incredible work!")*



*The patient's very own beautiful portrait of Banjo, so resembles his photo above.*

## Trent the Fur Angel



*Trent passing the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Test!*

I never thought to have Trent become a pet therapy dog. I was judging my two-year-old pup against my seasoned Weimaraner Hannah, who volunteered for several years with The Fur Angels in Michigan as a pet therapy dog before she passed away at age 14. Sure, he had passed several obedience classes and earned his AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate. But Trent liked to jump and play with his brother, Blue, at home and I wasn't sure he was ready. "Maybe someday," I'd say.

Then one day in 2015, I took Trent to The Friends of the Dearborn Animal Shelter's Mutt Strut. I had him take his CGC test a second time that day, just to see if he would pass it again. He did. Why was I surprised? The outdoor event is a dog lovers' paradise, with lots of fun events and booths to explore. Trent was a perfect gentleman and walked patiently with me as I explored it all. That's when Trent was recruited by another pet therapy group, Pet-a-Pet, who said he'd make an excellent pet therapy dog. Christopher McCollum, the leader of the group that visits the Special Tree facility in Romulus, was at the booth that day with his dog, Tiffany. Meeting Christopher was pleasant and professional, and

Trent liked Tiffany. We felt a "calling" to accompany them on their monthly visits to patients with brain injuries. Visiting felt close to home, because Trent had been diagnosed with canine epilepsy.

With newfound confidence, we decided to rejoin the Fur Angels group and passed the testing given by Michigan Director Diane Schuler. Trent was now able to go to some of the same facilities that Hannah had visited with Martha Hall, founder of the Fur Angels, such as the Rivergate facilities for patients with dementia in Riverview. We also visited some assisted living facilities near our home where we visited Rocky, a World War II veteran who loved Trent's visits. Sadly, our friend Rocky passed away last year.

We then started to volunteer at the Michigan Freedom Center that serves active and retired military and their families travelling through Detroit Metropolitan Airport. We passed the required testing and received our needed security clearance.

Trent had to learn how to ride a bus; I can't say he enjoys that part of the adventure. But, Trent is a trooper going through the airport security and proudly marches through the airport, sometimes wearing his stars-and-stripes ears to cheer on people we meet on our journey.



*Cindy and Trent*

Trent helps the time pass more quickly for weary travelers. We've gained much more than we've given as we meet military people and their families who travel the world. We made new friends like Steve Cherko, a veteran and airline pilot with Weimaraners in his own family. We were privileged to welcome the Rosie the Riveters Honor Flight that flew from Detroit to DC and back in March 2016. We met professional singer Jill Charles, who was on her way back from entertaining the troops. Trent is one of three members of The Fur Angels (including Shadow and Marsha Harkai, Sassy and Michelle Neu) who volunteers at the Michigan Freedom Center, and was honored in June 2016 as Volunteer of the Month.

I wasn't sure how much time we would have together since Trent had gotten epilepsy at a young age. So we decided to make the most of every day. I helped Trent write *Love is a Dog and Some Crayons - Weimaraner Coloring Book* as a fundraiser to give back to Great Lakes Weimaraner Rescue, the group that helped Trent find his forever home with my husband, Rick, and I. We have given copies of the book to people we have met on our pet therapy visits. Trent especially enjoyed hearing a child read it to him when we volunteered with the Fur Angels at the Taylor Library. Everyday is "someday" now.



Trent with Rocky, a WWII veteran



Trent and his close friend, Steve Cherko, a veteran and pilot

*"Trent has been a devoted volunteer therapy dog at our McNamara Freedom Center twice a month for approximately the last year and a half. Our four Freedom Centers in Michigan collectively serve almost 10,000 guests every month - about half of those guests come through the McNamara Freedom Center alone. Trent, along with our other volunteer therapy dogs, play an integral role in serving our military personnel who are traveling and in need of hospitality and comfort during what can be a stressful time."*

-Kate M. Hude, Executive Director  
Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc. (MAFHC)

## Retired, But Still Giving

By Kristen Andrada

The following content came from a retiring member's email and, with her permission, we wanted to share it with you all:

*"I wanted to let you know Ivan and I will not be renewing our therapy certification at this time. I loved my time doing therapy work, but our last venue was one of long term sickness, issues, hospice, loss of limbs and long term recovery. This is a place where a therapy dog is a very welcomed sight, but after 2 years of bi-weekly visits here, Ivan seemed to totally dislike this venue. He's now 8, and I think the total negative energy here, the death and illness, has taken its toll on him. We all know you cannot make a dog do therapy work. He still loves to perform at community events so we'll stay active there, but pet therapy certification isn't needed for that. So, I'm retiring him from therapy. It's the right thing to do, given he's provided so much happiness and humor for so long. He is my AKC Rally Rock Star with the highest levels of titles, my AKC obedience dog. My incredible companion, my personal therapy dog who helps me with anxiety issues, but no longer a therapy dog for others.*

*In the meantime, we still give. Ivan has a very much needed Universal Blood Type, so Ivan is an active blood donor for the University of Penn Vet Hospital. We have standing appointments every 8 weeks for blood donation. So while Ivan drops out of the field of help and love, he fills a huge hole in another field and potentially saves 3 lives with each pint of blood given.*

*I'm sure you didn't need to know all of that, but I struggled with this decision and needed to say it. I will be back down the road as new dogs are trained. This was my first therapy dog and he served well for 6 years. But things do change with them, and I love my boy and want him to love life too. Sadly, the therapy life isn't loved by him any longer."*

**-Jill Connelly  
and Ivan the German Shepherd**



*Ivan with a heart sticker on his head that says: "I gave blood!"*



*Jill and Ivan on the right with their friends Karen and Radar on the left.*

# WIN A COMMISSIONED PORTRAIT OF YOUR DOG BY ARTIST CANDACE APRIL LEE AND SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY!

June Golden commissioned this portrait of Elvis Aron Pawsley. This example of Candace's work was done from this dog photo! The commission will be an acrylic painting on a 16"x20" canvas! Tax-deductible receipts will be sent as payment confirmation per entry.

A \$500 VALUE!!!

See her work on [www.facebook.com/CandaceAprilLeeIllus/](http://www.facebook.com/CandaceAprilLeeIllus/)

DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON

VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017!!!

MAIL ENTRIES & CHECKS TO:

**THE BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL  
THERAPY DOGS, INC.**

**80 POWDER MILL ROAD  
MORRIS PLAINS, NJ 07950**



	<b>RAFFLE TICKET</b>	
<h1>Original Commission</h1>		
Candace April Lee for The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc.		
Tax Deductible Donation of \$20 per Ticket/Entry must be received by 11/01/17		
Name:	Tel.# :	email:
Mailing Address:		

	<b>RAFFLE TICKET</b>	
<h1>Original Commission</h1>		
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Name:	Tel.# :	email:
Mailing Address:		



**The Bright & Beautiful  
Therapy Dogs, Inc.**

80 Powder Mill Road  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Phone: 888-738-5770  
Fax: 973-292-9559

e-mail: [info@golden-dogs.org](mailto:info@golden-dogs.org)



*GET THAT DOG OFF  
THE COUCH!*



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Facebook!



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**THE BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL THERAPY DOGS, INC.**

SPRING/SUMMER  
2017

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*Contributions to "Off the Couch" are welcome and may be sent to [info@golden-dogs.org](mailto:info@golden-dogs.org)!*

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