





# About Helping Paws

## **Our Mission**

The mission of Helping Paws is to further people's independence and quality of life through the use of Assistance Dogs. The human/animal bond is the foundation of Helping Paws. We celebrate the mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals, honoring the dignity and well-being of all.

## **Assistance Dogs International Member**

Helping Paws is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). We adhere to their requirements in training our service dogs. ADI works to improve the areas of training, placement and utilization of assistance dogs as well as staff and volunteer education. For more information on ADI, visit their website at www.assistancedogsinternational.org.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## Officers

Mike Urbanos, President Alison Lienau, Vice President Jim Ryan, Treasurer Mike Jacobs, Vice Treasurer Ryan Evers, Secretary

## Members

Ashley Groshek Judy Hovanes William Huffman Reid Mason Maryanne Mahowald Lynn Walker

# **OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO**

#### **Design & Production**

Grossman Design Associates

## **Photography**

Laura Gentry Jonathan Kramer Steve McCuskey Scruff Life Photography Harlow McPherson

## **MANAGEMENT AND STAFF**

## **Directors**

Alyssa Golob, Executive Director Sue Kliewer, Director of Training and Client Services

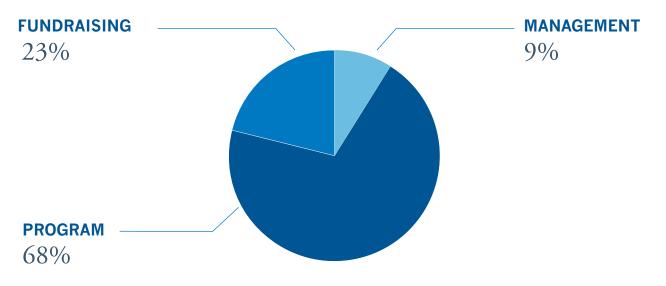
## Staff

Jenny Beem, Clieant Services Coordinator Chelsey Bosak, Foster Home Trainer Coordinator & Volunteer Coordinator Judy Campbell, Breeding Program Coordinator Tony Craidon, Veteran/First Responder Program Coordinator Laura Gentry, Behavioral and Canine Care Coordinator Mara Heck, Assistance Dog Puppy Class Instructor Pat Hook, Assistance Dog Puppy Class Instructor Marla Jean Huisman, Office Assistant Sam Kewatt, Career Change Coordinator Jonathan Kramer, Marketing Manager Reba Mackenzie, Dog Sitter Coordinator Barb Martenson, Development Assistant Kristie Niemi, Assistance Dog Puppy Class Instructor Linda Theil, Accountant Luis Ventura, Development and Events Manager

## **Training Department Volunteers**

Rob Chalmers Jan Friend Susan Hagel Jolene Jackelen Ken Kewatt Sam Kewatt Karen Quady Katy Shannon Nanci Shapiro Mary Tiegen Monica Vogel Chad Wood





If you want to view the complete audited financial statement or donor information, please visit our website, www.helpingpaws.org or call 952-988-9359 Ext. 101

# Income Statement

# Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
REVENUE			
Special events – contributions	\$221,701	\$ -	\$221,701
Special events – other	41,862	_	41,862
Less: direct costs	(97,196)	_	(97,196)
Net special event revenue	166,367	_	166,367
Contributions	1,096,529	500,000	1,596,529
Program services	13,919		13,919
Interest income	34,052	_	34,052
Net assets released from restrictions	7,180	(7,180)	_
TOTAL REVENUE	1,318,047	492,820	1,810,867
EXPENSES			
Program services	865,702	_	844,949
Management and general	112,625	_	112,625
Fundraising	295,772	_	316,525
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,274,099		1,274,099
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	43,948	492,820	536,768
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT	(92,500)		(92,500)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	92,500)	- 52,612	977,839
			,
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$876,675	\$545,432	\$1,422,107

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# Balance Sheet

# May 31, 2024

ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS	\$573,377	
Cash and cash equivalents	338,720	
Certificates of deposit	253,339	
Pledges receivable	60,743	
Prepaid expenses	1,096,529	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,226,179	
	_,	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and equipment	45,460	
Lease improvements	235,102	
Software	28,950	
Less: accumulated depreciation	(17,635)	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net	291,877	
OTHER ASSETS		
Service dogs	_	
Operating lease right-of-use asset	342,439	
OTHER ASSETS	342,439	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,860,495	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	43,948	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$35,270	
Accrued expenses	50,718	
Operating lease liability, current portion	39,778	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	125,766	
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Operating lease liability, net of current portion	312,622	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	438,388	
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions:	614.000	
Undesignated	614,209	
Designated by Board for future maintenance and operations	262,466	
	876,675	
With donor restrictions	545,432	
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,422,107	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,860,495	

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# Letter From The President MIKE URBANOS



So much has happened over this past fiscal year!

Helping Paws moved into a new facility located at 6569 City W. Parkway in Eden Prairie, which is 3,000 square feet larger than our previous Hopkins location. Construction and remodeling began in January 2024 and were completed in March 2024. Classes resumed in April at our new training center.

On May 5, 2024, we hosted a grand opening that saw hundreds of our community members celebrating the life-changing assistance dogs we provide. Eden Prairie Mayor Ron Case declared it Helping Paws Day in Eden Prairie!

As we moved into a new location, Helping Paws also expanded its staff to accommodate the new additional litters. We hired new Assistance Dog Class Trainers, a Career Change Coordinator, and a Dog Sitting Coordinator!

While all of this was happening, we continued to train and place our dogs, with 14 assistance dog

placements last year. Our breeding program saw three new litters of puppies introduced into our assistance dog training program. These litters are just the start of our breeding program expansion that will increase our impact and mission of furthering people's independence and quality of life through the use of Assistance Dogs.

Our message and mission resonated with many within our community, including local and national news outlets. We were featured in over 15 news reports. Helping Paws was featured on national TV on October 26, 2023! Good Morning America and GMA3: What You Need To Know highlighted Helping Paws facility dog Nova and handler Keli Trautman, victim-witness coordinator located in Stearns County. Nova was matched and placed in 2021.

We made history when Nova accompanied a young victim of sexual abuse as she testified on the witness stand, the first time this has happened in Minnesota. Since the trial, Nova has received a lot of media attention for her calming presence and skill at providing reassuring support to victims.

Building on the success of Nova, we placed two new facility dogs this past year. Hank is working with his handler, a School Social Worker for the School District of the Menomonie Area, and Herbie is at Falcon Ridge Middle School with a School Counselor. Their impact is felt all around the schools, improving the lives and mental health of their students.

We're grateful for our community's support, Eden Prairie's warm welcome, and our terrific volunteers. We're especially proud of the work of our foster home trainers who spend countless hours training our dogs in their homes and in classes at the training center, and to our caretakers, general volunteers, and classroom assistants. Our continued success begins with you.

#### Mike Urbanos

Helping Paws Board of Directors President

# Letter From The Executive Director Alyssa Golob



When we mention that it takes  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  years to train a dog, people are usually impressed. However, upon further reflection, they often comment, "Wow, that is a long time. Your waiting list must be long." Both statements are indeed true.

So, why does it take Helping Paws 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  years when others train dogs in much less time?

The answer lies in our confidence that our dogs are fully prepared, both physically and mentally, to work with an individual for 10+ years. This confidence starts with the puppies we bring into the training program. Therefore, our breeding program is crucial to the success of our mission.

Our in-house breeding program allows our staff to better anticipate the type of puppies we expect. Breeding for a purpose allows us to understand the lineage of the dam and sire, enabling us to predict and mitigate potential issues at a young age. Understanding the breeding lines helps us prevent

situations where a dog is placed and then returned. It's crucial to avoid disappointing a person who has been eagerly awaiting a service dog, only to restart the entire process due to unmet expectations.

The Helping Paws approach requires more upfront time and investment, but for the recipient, it means receiving a life-changing dog. For our stakeholders, it ensures that we have meticulously prepared and cared for the dog. Our approach aligns with strict guidelines as an accredited service dog provider by Assistance Dogs International. Currently, only one other agency in Minnesota shares this accreditation with us.

By now, you may have heard about our breeding expansion strategy, titled "More Dogs! More Impact!" In order to place more dogs, we need to bring more dogs into the program while also maintaining the revenue to cover our normal expenses. Over the next several months, we will continue to share our strategy with you and inspire you to help us raise the additional \$650,000 required to expand our program over the next three years. At the time of writing this, we are \$350,000 away from making that goal.

For over 35 years, you have entrusted us to further people's independence with the use of assistance dogs. We are confident that we will continue to provide excellent service dogs to more and more people each year!

Thank you for your partnership.

Alyssa Golob Executive Director

# Accomplishments

24 PUPPIES WERE BORN FROM OUR BREEDING PROGRAM.



STAFF WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF UP TO FORTY-NINE (49) DOGS IN OUR PROGRAM.





THE GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP COORDINATOR, VETERAN AND FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND ADDITIONAL STAFF CONTINUED FOLLOW UP SERVICES WITH SEVENTY-NINE (79) GRADUATES.



49 ASSISTANCE DOGS IN TRAINING CONSUMED MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND (2000) POUNDS OF DOG KIBBLE/FOOD.



NUMBER OF HOURS OF TRAINING: 32,200

NUMBER OF TREATS CONSUMED: INFINITY AND BEYOND!!!!



8

# Accomplishments







OVER \$9,000 WAS RAISED FOR THE CORBETT LAUBIGNAT VETERINARY EMERGENCY FUND TO COVER UNFORESEEN VETERINARY COSTS FOR ALL HELPING PAWS DOGS.



175+ - HELPING PAWS' 175 VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY ACTIVE, DONATING 95,000 HOURS. THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT TO 45 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES AND A VALUE OF \$2.9 MILLION (\$30.98 HOURLY RATE IS FROM THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR).



220 - HELPING PAWS INSTRUCTORS AND CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS TAUGHT MORE THAN 220 TRAINING CLASSES TO FUTURE ASSISTANCE DOGS AND VOLUNTEER FOSTER HOME TRAINERS.

340 KILOMETERS WERE WALKED, RAN, OR ROLLED DURING OUR ANNUAL PAWS IN MOTION 5K/1.5K



# Matthew Parrish & Georgy

After PTSD from multiple deployments, the loss of numerous brothers and sisters-in-arms, as well as my own wounds, I realized I needed help. Thanks to my amazing wife and a fellow warrior friend, who collectively bulldozed through my excuses, they compelled me to meet Georgy at Helping Paws. The connection was instantaneous.

My service dog, Georgy, enables me to go into crowded stores and venues without feeling the need to keep my head on a swivel. Instead, I am focused on Georgy, and she is focused on me. Also, I now work in a fast-paced environment serving people in a different capacity. This is possible because Georgy is by my side, or more often on my feet. She knows when I am feeling anxiety; she knows when I am experiencing nightmares/terrors, and so much more. In a short amount of time, Georgy has become an integral part of all facets of my life. She has enriched my life.

I don't think there is an amount of gratitude that adequately equates to what the entire staff at Helping Paws does for Veterans and First Responders. They legitimately exist to better the lives of those that sacrificed so much for so many.



Once outside with Hendrix, I feel safer and more visible, and I become a more sociable member of my neighborhood.

# Robert Ley & Hendrix

My name is Rob, and my service dog, Hendrix, has changed my life in both expected and surprising ways. I acquired my disability years ago when a driver didn't see me as I was riding my motor scooter. I was left with a spinal cord injury, head trauma, and several other souvenirs. A few years later, in an adaptive yoga class, one of the class assistants brought in her Helping Paws foster dog several times. My interest was immediate, but I wasn't sure I would qualify given that I am still ambulatory, if more than a little wobbly. Two things turned that around and prompted my application:

First, the volunteer trainer and then the Helping Paws staff encouraged me. They graciously explained that I was a legitimate candidate for an HP dog and that I could think it over during the matching process. Second, I experienced a minor stroke, which further eroded my balance. The stroke put me on a mission to maintain and improve my balance into my golden years through a regimen of walking my neighborhood (usually with walking sticks).

What I did not expect are the other, intangible benefits of being partnered with a Helping Paws service dog. There are too many to mention here, but most are related to the joy of having such a beautiful, intuitive, well-trained partner to experience all the little things with – like feeding, walking, playing with, training, and brushing him. That joy makes it easier to endure the aches and fatigue that are a part of aging with a disability. I've found that the sunny attitude of my remarkable partner is preventing me from becoming the crabby old man I thought I was becoming. On the contrary, Hendrix reminds me daily that life is about fresh air, deep friendships, and being friendly with neighbors.

# Shannon Moore & Herbie

A 7th grade student refused to go to class for multiple hours and became very upset when his parents were called to come pick him up. He was wailing, kicking the wall, and putting his head down on the table in front of him. The student had refused to use verbal communication all morning and would not communicate using words.

At this point, Herbie entered the room. The student's entire demeanor immediately changed, and he smiled for the first time all day! He immediately started petting and interacting with Herbie, and he changed from extremely upset to relaxed and calm. He began sharing about his own dog and talking about how cute she was. Herbie sat next to the student and even laid his head on the student's lap. The impact of a support animal in this situation cannot be overstated; Herbie's presence and engagement with this student completely changed his mood and de-escalated a tense morning for this student. The student also felt calm enough to use verbal communication with counselors like myself. Since that day, the student has been making continuous improvements with going to and engaging in class during the school day. Herbie is amazing!





# Donors

We are grateful to all the generous individuals, foundations, organizations and businesses supporting Helping Paws who share our passion for enhancing the lives of people with physical disabilities, veterans/first responders with PTSD and facility dog partnerships.

Donations listed are from June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024

# **BUSINESS AND FOUNDATION DONORS**

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David Rine Jan Rivers Jeannine Rivet Lauren Robbins Susana Robinson Victoria L. Rock Charitable Fund Joan Roe Arlene Roehl Kathleen Roer **Charles Rogers** Leanna and James Rogers Carey Romanelli Aija Ronis Carla Rose Brandon Rosenberg Ruth Rovner Maria Rucke Guillermo Ruiz Rico Maryanne Running Patty Runyon Sherry Ruohonen Steve and Nancy Rush Elizabeth Russell Ann and James Ryan Beth Rvan William Ryerse (Estate of) Nancy Sand David Sandberg Sandra and Joseph Sandler Becki Sanford Stephen Sanger Susan Saraquse Laura Saylor Crystal and Travis Scepaniak Gayle and Jeffrey Schaub Dian Schlichtmann Sharon Schlichtmann Mary Schoessler Mary Schrader Merri Schreiber Michelle Schultz Mary Schulz Jill Schwartz Joseph Schwartz Jenny Schwieters Doris Seely Marianne and Dick Seidenstricker Lvnn Sellnow Linda Semon Kent Severson Cory Shannon Katy and John Shannon Nanci and Jeff Shapiro **Christine Sheetz** Maxine Sheldon (Estate of)

Terry Shima Jonica and Kirk Shoger Kari Shogren Dan Short Theresa and Gary Short Susan Sieker Mary, Rob, and Alex Sigmundik Shawn Simonet Sandy Sinclair Lynn Skogstad Krista and Scott Skorupa David Skraba Paul Sleik Ann Beithon Smith Brendan Smith Hannah Smith Iretta Smith Jacqueline Smith Kathy Smith Ravelle and Bradley Smith Terry Smorch SNS Charitable Gift Fund Stacy Sola Gayle Solheim Janell Sommers Ankush Soni Darcy and Ted Sorlien Susan Souba Lori Spangler Louise Speck Curt Speller Renee Stapleton Janey Stark Joanne and Keith Starr Kathleen Statler Suzanne Steinhauser Nancy and Mick Stenson **Christine Stevens** Sharon Stevson Linda Stokes Debra and Paul Stoll Brian Stone Joan Stone Jane Stoufer Adam Stradtman Judy Strand Karen and Anthony Strauss Joan Summerside Darcie Sunnerberg Kaydell Sunsten Sue Suter Joni Sutton Sara Svenby David Swanson Joyce Swanson Sarah Wilson Sweatt Fund Herb Swedeen

Tina Sweesy and Laurie Jones Barbara and Jeff Sweet Hugh Swift Jessica and Jerome Sybrant Patricia and Bob Sykes Charity Tahmaseb Jenny and Tony Taschner Jerome Theis Vicki Thelen Chervl and Jim Thomas Beth Thompson Corie Thompson Gerald Thomson Mary Tiegen Keegan Tiernan Kate Tilney and Fred Kaemmer Randy Timm William and Sheila Tippie Lauren Toohey Renee Torbenson and Pat Waddick Kim and Ray Torell Dawn Torine Tanya Trader Carol Tragar (Estate of) Julie and Chris Trapp Peggy Trebesch Elizabeth Turner Elizabeth Van Oss Tymchuck Richard and April Uram Dan Uribe Kirsten Vaage and Tom Semple Bruce Van Sloun Lisa Vandenham Charlotte VanderHaeghen Julie and Dan Vanderheyden Jim Vandervest Julia Vaping Elizabeth and Robert Vavra Rebecca Vaysburd Nancy and Douglas Verdier Debra Vergin Kristin Vernon Paula Vesely Diane and Michael Vipond Monica Vogel Betsy and Paul von Kuster Kelly Vossberg Lisa and Richard Wagenknecht Robert Wakely Thomas Wakely Lisa and Gage Walker Susan Walker Lukas Wallerich Jennifer Walsh Teresa Walsh JoAnne and Dave Walvatne

Jane and Ron Ward John Martin Ward Lisa and Jerry Ward Sarah Ward Steve Warner Ware Washam Mark Watkins Tricia Watts Jean and Jim Way Treasa Weaver Webb Family Charitable Fund Karen Wehner Tammie Weinfurtner Kristina Weiss Marcia Welder Susan Wenberg Kelly Wentzel Brenda Werner Teri Werner Nancy Wessling Jennifer Westby Joan and Randall Wetherille G. Richard White Lorraine Whitesell Lynne and Robert Wicklund **Kitty Widdes** Miki Wiebold Theresa Wiese Sandra and Larry Wikelius Pam Willette Christine Severns-Williams and Terry Williams Marilyn Williams **Rob Williams** Tram Williams Margie Williamson Judy Windorski Katie Winkelman Ann and James Winsor Charitable Fund Howard Wittels (Estate of) Deborah Wittmann Sue Wolf Amanda Wolford Linda Wolford Marcia and Joseph Wolkerstorfer Lynda Wood Mary and Sherman Wood Gay Rene and Kent Woodgate Suzanne Wright David Zaudtke Lisa Zimmermann **Emily Ziring** Julia Zyla

# **IN HONOR**

Abby and Ryan Jirak Abby Jirak's Birthday Alice Vawter and Naya Alyssa Golob and all that you do Angie Folie Avi Herman's Bar Mitzvah and the work of HP Ben Simonett Bev and Herb Swedeen Bode Brenda Hegarty Carol Spawn Clay M. Manthey Cooper Zoss's Bar Mitzvah **Delores Skube** Doris Wang Eileen Hanson Bohn Ellie Martiny

Fr. Bob White and Arlo Freya Jack Carlos & Zara Jack Van Remortal James Brunmer (Kim's Father) Jay Heath John F. Kaufman Joni Palen Josie Foley Julia Strauss Karen Quady Kari Dominise's Birthday Katy Shannon Laura Gentry Laurence and Naomi Crepeau Leslie Guinee Lori and Ross Ruschmeyer Lori Hildebrandt

Lorrie and David Kantar Margie Austin Marian and John Bauercamper Mary Lou Kruse Mary Tiegen and Gala and Elska Mike Hatch **Miss Finch** Miss Ripley & Fritz Nancy Shapiro Nancy Cotter Olive Barin's Bat Mitzvah Schwartz Family at Christmas Our boy Murphee Our Dear Rooney Pam Fredrickson's Birthday Patty Kamas' Birthday Pete Jackson

Ryan Radunzel and Payton Scott Johnson Stanley O. Larson Steve Lentz Steven & Marie Lukes Susan Hallock Smith and Humphrey Tango Team Blue and Noel Team Hambone Team Kodak and Janine Rueter Terry Conn Hogan Family Thomas Waldman Tofte Virginia Stoen Virve Van Sloun Windy



# **IN MEMORY**

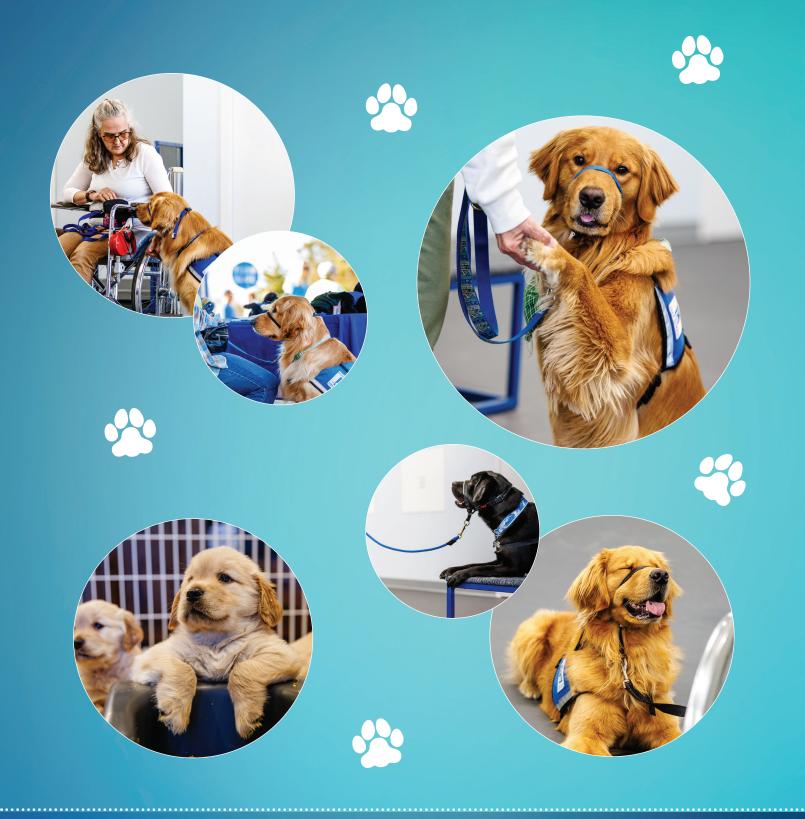
Annie, Susan Hagel's Best Girl Arden Fritz Astro Bauer Blue Baylee Belle **Bonnie Featherstone** Bonnie Wakely Brodie Brogan Cappy Dog Carl Caspers CPO Charlie, a Helping Paws distractor dog Colby Daisy

Darrell Shaw **Dick McGinnis** Dr. Gary Garvis Eileen and Glen Soderberg Elska Franny Gala Harley Ken Sweitzer lvy Jack Maypark Jan Leaf Jean Semple and Knut Semple Jerry Wiens Joanne Brown Verri Joyce Leslie June Bevins

Kaila Kristi Suronen Voeller Lager Odierna Levi Fredrickson Lucy Magic, Tigger, Theo, Sammy, Dweasel, Bear, Titan, Buddy, Bella, Izzy Mare Marilyn McGandy Ryerse Matthew Koch Meg Nichols Mia (my daughter's first HP dog) Michael Reis Millie Mae Marsh

Milly Terriquez Milo and Baylor Misty the Therapy Dog Opal Patrick Geiwitz Paul Dove Paula Dosland Penelope Sweitzer Shirley Krider Sisi Hutter Todd Nelson Tom Wolf and Ollie, O.J. and Wyatt Walter Dale Weyhrich William Ryerse Winston







Helping Paws, Inc. 6569 City West Parkway Eden Prairie, MN 55344 952-988-9359 www.helpingpaws.org







