

Angel Dog Program
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
5401 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506



Madonna's Angel Dog Volunteer Program

The mission of Madonna's Angel Dogs Volunteer Program is:

To serve patients, residents and clients of Madonna as trained, skilled communicators and caring listeners.

To work collaboratively with Madonna's clinical staff where the use of pet therapy may motivate participation in rehabilitation or enhance outcomes.



For information about how you and your dog can participate in the Angel Dog Program or how you can support this special program contact:

Jo Ann Druke,
CAVS Manager,
Volunteer Resources
402-483-9500
jdruke@madonna.org

Madonna Volunteer Philosophy

Volunteers and the contributions they make are essential to the success of Madonna and the accomplishment of Madonna's mission and goals.

Volunteers enhance work and expand services as they compliment and partner with paid staff to efficiently accomplish goals and serve our patients and residents.

Madonna strives to offer each volunteer a satisfying, productive and rewarding experience and enable each volunteer to become an effective ambassador in the community.



MADONNA VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Angel Dogs

Compassion in Action

By Denise Ewing, Angel Dog Volunteer Coordinator

As we embark on 2010 and begin to make preparations to celebrate the Madonna Angel Dog Volunteer Program's 10-year anniversary, let's reflect on highlights of 2009 and the Angel Dog volunteer teams who were so giving of their time. Angel Dog volunteers recorded over 1,250 hours in 2009.

Jo Ann Druke, Manager of Volunteer Resources, conducted Delta evaluations on six different occasions last year. **Jo Ann** is a licensed Delta Team Evaluator and evaluates all prospective new and renewing Angel Dog volunteer teams.

Jo Ann was invited to present to various community organizations. One organization was the Association for Professionals in Infection Control. **Jo Ann's** presentation focused on therapy animals and how they meet infection control requirements. The Delta Society guidelines that the Angel Dogs adhere to and the protocols set by Pet Partners meet or exceed standards set by the CDC. **Kristi Felix**, Madonna's infection control specialist, acknowledges that the Angel Dog program is an excellent example for other hospitals and healthcare facilities to emulate.

Jan Porter & Kujo (a Jack Russell Terrier), **Daveen Renner & Missy** (a YorkiPoo), and **Theresa and Gregg Garthright & Charli** (a Black Lab) were among the Angel Dog Volunteer teams who delivered over 250 carnations to patients and residents at Madonna last February in celebration of Valentine's Day.

(continued on pgs. 2 and 3)

This article describes many Angel Dog group activities that took place throughout 2009. For brevity purposes, not all names of the Angel Dog volunteers who participated in a group activity are mentioned.

All Angel Dog volunteers who participated in the group activities deserve accolades. Thank you!
—Denise

Winter 2010

Congrats...

The following teams recently completed Angel Dog volunteer orientation and successfully passed the Delta Society skills and aptitude test. (See insert for photos.)

Velda Brady & Izzy
(Shih Tzu)

Wayne Foreman & Goldie
(Golden Retriever)

Wendy McCoy & Kia Marie
(Toy Poodle)

Lorie Roebuck & Boscoe
(Miniature Dachshund)

Olivia Wallace & Stasie
(Wire-haired Dachshund)

and welcome!



Page 2

Angel Dog training for new volunteers
Winter 2010
Start: Feb. 8, 2010
End: March 15, 2010

Fall 2010
Start: Sept. 28, 2010
End: Nov. 2, 2010

For more information, please contact:
Jo Ann Druke
483-9500
or
Denise Ewing
261-8042

Coffee & Conversation
Saturday, March 13
9:30 a.m.
Wilderness Perk
(near Lowe's at 6125 Apples Way)



Eight Angel Dog teams visited the residents at The Arbors on May 16, 2009, for an Angel Dog Spring Parade. The residents were entertained with some of the dog teams performing tricks. **Avery Klein & Pearl** (a Labradoodle) brought on lots of cheers and laughter as **Avery** pretended to be a cowboy, drew his hand at **Pearl**, and said "bang, bang." **Pearl** would jump back, turn her head and floppy ears, fall to the floor, and play dead. **Susan Fertig & Zoe** (a Beagle) performed the Puppy High Jump. In this trick, **Susan** holds out her forearm, and **Zoe** jumps over it. These tricks, as well as others, were followed with the comment, "more, more!" and applause.

On June 18, 2009, Madonna hosted a group of students from the Bright Lights Summer Learning Adventures program. Angel Dog volunteer **Nancy Lueking** captured the students' attention with her presentation about Angel Dogs. After her captivating presentation, the students had an opportunity to meet **Brandi Kempf and Tiny** (a Great Dane). **Tiny** adores the children.

The Angel Dogs program includes a cat. **Carol Olson & Pumpkin** (a feline) receive special requests from hospital staff for individual therapy sessions with patients who want a visit from **Pumpkin**, a special cat.

Barbara Ems & Vega\$ (a Golden Retriever) assisted a young gentleman with his therapy session at Madonna TherapyPlus. **Barbara and Vega\$** commented on how this was an opportunity to see real courage and grace in action, and a chance to reach out and help someone.

Linda Benton & Benson (a Labradoodle) fill a special role at Madonna with the Rehabilitation Day Program. **Linda and Benson** bring much joy to the people coming to Madonna for their outpatient rehabilitation.

In March 2009, the Angel Dog volunteers received a special request for ongoing visits with residents from St. Angela's Ventilator and Special Needs Unit. The volunteer teams were thrilled to receive this request and make it happen. This Angel Dog group visit takes place on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For the initial visit in March 2009, the residents helped the volunteers celebrate Angel Dog **Oscar Burke's** 8th birthday. **Oscar**, a black lab, is **Judy Burke's** Angel Dog. The residents assisted the dog owners in feeding their dogs a "frosty paw" treat.

Every other Tuesday, a committed group of Angel Dog volunteers visit with residents from St. Angela's. These committed and compassionate volunteers are **Pat Yates & Annie** (a Papillon), **Burdette Schoen & Reign** (a Keeshound), **Florafae Schoen & Pi** (a Pomeranian), **Jackie Gess & Mandy** (a Maltese/Poodle), and **Kathie Putensen & Zoe** (a Golden/Black Lab). The following compliment was received from a staff member in Madonna's Neuropsychology Department, "Thank you so very much for providing this awesome service to the patients on this unit. I was just talking with several therapists who noted how well the group has helped in getting our patients out of their rooms and how much the patients are talking about this new group."

Madonna celebrated National Volunteer Week in April 2009. Angel Dog volunteer **Denise Ewing** created a display board that depicted the health benefits of the human-animal interactions. **Julie Reed & Jobie** (an Airedale) were among the Angel Dog volunteers who greeted visitors at the display area.

We receive requests from community organizations for presentations about the Angel Dogs program. The Lancaster County Detention Center requested a visit from the Angel Dogs. On April 24, 2009, **Kathie Putensen & Zoe** (a Golden/Black Lab) and **Dan Kehler & Max** (a Golden/Yellow Lab) presented to the youth and staff at the detention center. In addition, **Denise Ewing & Millie** (a Golden Retriever) conducted Angel Dog presentations at the Palmyra Senior Center and Sterling Senior Center.



Angel Dog Tiny and her owner, Brandi, with Bright Lights students.

Page 3



Angel Dog teams marched to the music at the 6th Annual Angel Dog Patriotic Parade on June 27, 2009. This parade would not be possible without the organization and commitment of Madonna's healthcare staff who brought the residents outdoors for the parade. Residents baked treats for the Angel Dogs prior to the parade. Teams who enjoyed the parade included **Sara Klein & Pearl** (a Labradoodle), **Pat Bryant & Molly** (a Maltese), and **Kathy Phillip & Ali** (a Sheltie). The dogs proudly wore their patriotic bandannas!

The Angel Dogs were honored to receive a request to help with Madonna's Summer Reading Program. Students attending the reading program spent a portion of their class time reading to the Angel Dogs. The Angel Dog volunteer presented the young readers with a colorful bookmark and sticker with their dog's picture on it. **Dian Peterson & Lexi** (a Cockapoo) spent every Monday and Wednesday afternoon listening to the young readers. **Gloria LeMaster & Lacey** (a Sheltie) were also among the 11 Angel Dog volunteer teams who attentively listened to the young readers.

In August 2009, nine Angel Dog teams enjoyed playing the "Angel Dog Game" with over 40 residents from Madonna's Extended Care North unit. This is a fun, silly game that includes flash cards with specific tricks that some of the volunteers have trained their Angel Dogs to perform. **Dan Kehler & Max** (a Golden/Yellow Lab) and **Kathie Putensen & Zoe** (a Golden/Black Lab) were quite entertaining with tricks, including dogs bowing for applause.

On Saturday morning, October 3, 2009, the Angel Dogs participated in the Blessing of the Angel Dogs. **Jo Ann Druke** and **Deacon Dick Druke** prepared and led a special service that included prayers, a responsive reading, time for reflection, a scripture reading, comforting words, and a prayer of healing for the courageous Angel Dogs who are experiencing health challenges. A candle was lit in remembrance of retired Angel Dogs and our Angel Dogs who have crossed over the rainbow bridge.

We were honored to have **Andi Morris & Maya** (a German Shepherd/Rottweiler) and **Gloria LeMaster & Lacey** (a Sheltie). A special prayer of healing was recited for these two Angel Dogs and their owners. **Maya** underwent surgery and chemotherapy, and is now cancer free. **Lacey** was in an accident where the use of her back legs was compromised, but she is now doing well and walking. At the conclusion of the service, **Deacon Druke** blessed each Angel Dog by saying their name and reciting a blessing.

It was a 'spook'tacular time on Saturday morning, October 24, when the Angel Dogs wore their Halloween costumes and enjoyed visiting with the residents. Again, this activity wouldn't be possible without assistance from **Doris Lewis**, clinical supervisor, recreation therapy, and healthcare staff who ensured residents were brought to the North Commons area for fellowship with the Angel Dogs. **Donna Cordle & Sasha Rae** (a Pomeranian) were a hit as **Sasha Rae** wore a pink poodle skirt. **Jan Porter & Kujo** (a Jack Russell Terrier) received smiles from everyone, as **Kujo** was dressed as a butterfly. On Halloween, **Katie Schueths & Casey** (a Poodle) dressed up in a Minnie Mouse costume and spent time visiting with the children in the pediatric area of the hospital.

Two Angel Dog training sessions for new volunteers were conducted in 2009. Angel Dog volunteers **Mary Heidrick**, **Nancy Lueking**, **Theresa Garthright**, **Dan Kehler**, **Judy Burke**, and **Denise Ewing** facilitate the training sessions. Over the course of the training session, the Delta evaluation is conducted. At that same time, Angel Dog volunteer **Kris Reising** sets up a temporary photography studio at Madonna to photograph the Angel Dog teams for calling cards and Delta identification name badges. **Kris Reising & Zephyr** (a Schnauzer) spend hours visiting residents in the St. Angela's Unit.

In addition to the many Angel Dog group activities conducted throughout 2009 at Madonna, there are numerous individual Angel Dog visits conducted every week with the patients and residents. A heartfelt thank you is extended to **Judy Burke & Oscar** (a Black Lab), **Dan Kehler & Max** (a Golden/Yellow Lab), and **Pat Yates & Annie** (a Papillon). These three Angel Dog volunteers gave tirelessly of their time in 2009 by each volunteering more than 100 hours with their Angel Dog.

