



Angel Dog Tales

Sharing Moments, Changing Lives... Madonna's Angel Dog Program

By: Kris Reiswig, Angel Dog volunteer, & Doris Lewis, Clinical Supervisor of Recreation Therapy-Madonna

Doris Lewis, Clinical Supervisor of Recreation Therapy, can tell you quite a bit about pet therapy. Back in the mid-1980's she helped pioneer pet therapy at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska. I have known and worked with Doris for the past 8 years with my 2 Delta-registered miniature schnauzers. Doris recently shared her views with me on the impact pet therapy has on the quality of life for the residents and patients at Madonna.

Whenever Doris observes a pet therapy visit, she watches carefully to see how the pet will impact each resident's physical, emotional and psychosocial well-being. Doris looks to see how each pet will draw out the strengths and abilities of each resident, for example, their different senses. Some residents can see the pet, feed the pet, touch the pet and hold the pet. Some patients have a sense of "caring" for the pet as they stash treats for the therapy dogs that visit. I've noticed that Doris always makes people smile when she walks in, but there is an additional dimension to that smile when she announces that there is also a dog wanting to join her for a visit.

She shared that pet therapy visits are often included in the resident care planning at Madonna. It is often included with interventions that can help with residents' goals related to minimizing depression, anxiety and isolation and to uplift someone's mood. In the rehabilitation area of the hospital, dogs are able to help with goals related to gait, mobility and fine motor skills. If a patient has limited range of motion in their upper extremities, petting a dog or cat is often "just what the doctor ordered."

Another area Doris notices is the impact pet therapy has at the staff level. Having the therapy teams stop by the patient care station or in staff offices brings a bright smile to everyone. It is often a welcome break in staffs' day to just pet the animal and interact with the handler.

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Madonna is committed to having pet therapy for their residents and patients.

- Congratulations & Welcome**
- The following teams recently completed Angel Dog volunteer orientation and successfully passed the Delta Society skills & aptitude test. (See insert for photos.)
- Kit Boesch & Margo
 - Jordan Brasch & Willy
 - Donna Cordle & Sasha Rae
 - Jaime Gonzalez & Skyler
 - Maria Gonzalez & Skyler
 - Gloria LeMaster & Lacey
 - Brook Lichtenberg & Cooper
 - Kathy Phillip & Ali
 - Pat Yates & Annie

- ANGEL DOG CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 2009**
- Sunday February 8
VALENTINE SPECIAL DELIVERY
1:30 pm
Main Entrance
Madonna
 - Saturday, March 14
COFFEE & CONVERSATION
9:30 a.m.
the CUP
(located in the historic bottler's building at 25th & Randolph)
 - Tuesday, September 15
MANDATORY ANGEL DOG MEETING & DINNER
Early evening
Madonna
 - Sat. October 3
BLESSING of the ANGEL DOGS
morning
Madonna
 - Tuesday December 1
HOLIDAY PARTY & DINNER FOR ANGEL DOG VOLUNTEERS
Early evening
Madonna

Upcoming Angel Dog volunteer orientation session start date:
Winter/Spring class: February 16, 2009

Valentine Delivery

Come and join fellow Angel Dog volunteers spread some love and carnations! Meet in the front lobby at 1:30 p.m. for an assigned area. Volunteers without dogs are welcome to join in the festivities as you are needed to help distribute the flowers and valentines.

If you choose to enter your volunteer hours from home on your computer, here are the instructions:

1. Log on to www.Madonna.org
2. Look for the Giving & Volunteering page listed in the top banner
3. Click on Volunteering
4. Click on Volunteering Opportunities
5. Click on Submit Hours
6. Enter your name with capitals and no space (example: BillSmith)
7. Enter the password with capitals and no space (AngelDog)
8. Enter your hours and numbers

Thank you!

“Dogs are our link to paradise. They don’t know evil or jealousy or discontent.”

- Milan Kundera

If you have a story you would like to share in an upcoming issue of Angel Dog Tales, please send it to Jo Ann Drueke at Madonna, or Denise Ewing at dewing4705@neb.rr.com Thank you!

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Sharing Moments, Changing Lives *(continued from page 1)*

As nursing facilities are starting to experience a “culture change” from being institutions to creating a “home environment,” Doris sees the need to continue to incorporate pet therapy into the residents’ day. Madonna is committed to having pet therapy for their residents and patients. Their Angel Dog program has been training the volunteer pet Delta handlers for the past 8 years.

Pictured at right and below:

Doris Lewis, Clinical Supervisor of Recreation Therapy, Madonna

Zephyr, a miniature schnauzer, whose owner/handler is **Kris Reiswig**, Angel Dog volunteer & photographer



Note:

Kris Reiswig, Angel Dog volunteer, submitted this article to Delta Society’s magazine *Interactions*.

If you are interested in assenting with recreational therapy or physical therapy and haven’t let the office know, please contact Denise Ewing to be placed on the list. Currently there are nine teams that expressed interest and are able to visit during therapy hours.

Volume 4, Issue 1

Contribution from National Research Corporation

On Thursday, December 18, 2008, National Research Corporation (NRC) presented **Jo Ann Druke** with a generous contribution for the Angel Dog program in the amount of \$475.00. The contributions were received from associates at National Research Corporation in honor of former associate **Denise Ewing**. (Denise retired from National Research Corporation in December 2008.)

Pictured at left, with Jo Ann and Denise, are members of National Research Corporation's Community Involvement Team.

Back row:

Mysi Beckstead-NRC, Jo Ann Druke, Todd Jarchow and Kristi Oltman-NRC

Kneeling: Denise Ewing and Millie, Angel Dog volunteers

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A Horse in the Hospital

NOTE: The following article is a reprint from Delta Society's magazine *Interactions* (Volume 26, No. 1, 2008 — Page 17). The article is about **Julie Wood's** miniature horse, Lucky Boy. Julie and Lucky Boy visit at Madonna.

Miniature Horse Lucky Boy has made an impact on the many lives he has touched. Many of the patients at Immanuel Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital are farmers and/or ranchers, or grew up in the farming community. Seeing this little horse conjures up memories of the old days as they get in touch with the past or sometimes even present. His teammate, Julie Wood, tells of their experiences... "One elderly gentleman from Iowa took Lucky Boy's face in his hands and said, 'I'll bet you smell corn on this old Iowa farmer's hands!'"

Another gentleman spoke of his days riding his Paint, herding cattle at the stockyards. A farm wife spoke of growing up on the farm and her memories of her dad bringing the ponies into their huge farmhouse kitchen during a blizzard."

"Their stories, as they stroke Lucky Boy, bring laughter, memories and sometimes tears. Written treatment plans for the patients who meet Lucky Boy are implemented during his visits. The plans may call for working on physical skills such as range of motion, etc., but also cognitive growth. Socialization is another important aspect as many patients isolate themselves, but when there is a "horse in the hospital" that is motivation enough!"

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Dog Christmas Countdown Pattern

by: Pat Bryant

At last month's Angel Dog holiday party, **Pat Bryant** made an adorable dog-related item for the gift exchange. There were several requests for the directions on how to make this craft. Thanks, Pat, for providing the directions!

Supplies:
 1 yard burlap webbing
 25 dog biscuits
 Yarn
 Dowel
 Bow, bells, decorations

Directions:

Fold over top end of burlap about one inch, twice, to make a tube for the dowel.

Using a big-eyed needle, thread eight inch lengths of yarn up the middle of the burlap, every stitch should be about an inch and a quarter apart. Start about two inches from the top fold. Tie on biscuits.

Ideas:

Decorate top with buttons and fabric yo-yos, or a sprig of holly. Alternate red yarn with green for the biscuit ties. No dogs? Tie on wrapped candies and use as a countdown for your children.

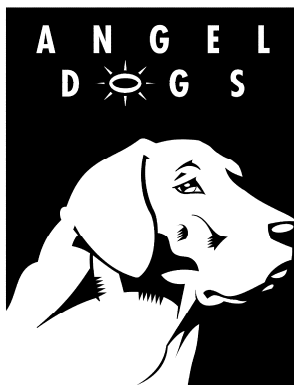
Angel Dog Program
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
5401 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506



Madonna's Angel Dog Volunteer Program

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

- 1) To serve patients, residents and clients of Madonna as trained, skilled communicators and caring listeners.
- 2) 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 Drueke, CAVS
Manager, Volunteer Resources

Phone: 402-483-9500
E-Mail: jdrueke@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.