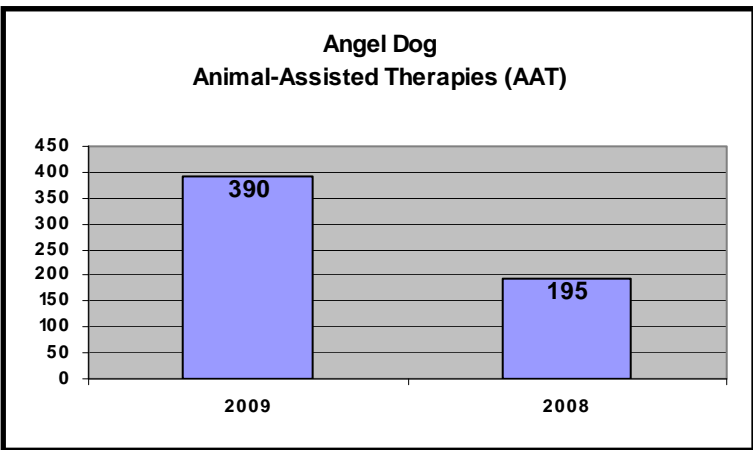
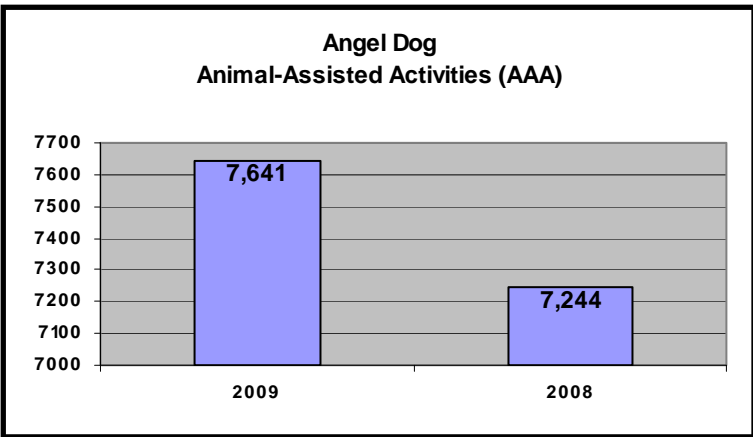




Angel Dog Tales

Angel Dogs Make A Difference

Jo Ann Druke, Manager of Volunteer Resources at Madonna, has compiled reports for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009. The statistics are outstanding! See the charts noted below. Thank you to the Angel Dog volunteers and their companions for the hard work, dedication, and ongoing commitment to Madonna's Angel Dog program.



Note: Angel Dog AAT and AAA combined for 2007 totaled 3,038 interactions. Beginning in 2008, AAT and AAA are tracked separately.

AAA stands for Animal-Assisted Activities, which provide opportunities for motivational, educational, and/or recreational benefits to enhance quality of life. Visit content is spontaneous and may last only a few minutes. Specific treatment goals are not planned for each visit.

AAT stands for Animal-Assisted Therapy. Some key features of AAT include: a) AAT is goal-directed; e.g., there is a specific end in mind, such as improvement in range of motion, social skills, etc. b) AAT is documented.

ANGEL DOG CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 2009

Saturday, August 8
COFFEE & CONVERSATION
 9:30 a.m.
 Denise Ewing's home

Saturday, August 29
ANGEL DOG GROUP VISIT
 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
 Madonna
 (meet indoors at 52nd Street entrance, the West entrance)

Tuesday, September 15
ANNUAL ANGEL DOG MEETING, DINNER & PROGRAM
 6:00 p.m.
 Madonna
 North Commons

Saturday, October 3
BLESSING of the ANGEL DOGS
 morning
 Madonna

Saturday, November 14
COFFEE & CONVERSATION
 9:30 a.m.
 Wilderness Perk
 (near Lowe's at 6125 Apples Way)

Tuesday, December 1
HOLIDAY PARTY & DINNER for ANGEL DOG VOLUNTEERS
 Early evening
 Madonna

Delta Testing dates/times before year-end to be announced.

Congratulations & Welcome

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

Barbara Ems & Vega\$

The residents at St. Anthony's look forward to the weekly visits from Barbara & Vega\$.

Brandi Kempf & Tiny

Brandi & Tiny were a huge success with the young students during the Bright Lights tour at Madonna.

Dian Peterson & Lexi

Dian & Lexi spent every Monday and Wednesday afternoon listening to the young readers at Madonna's summer reading program.

Julie Reed & Jobie

Julie & Jobie welcomed visitors to the Angel Dog display at Madonna during National Volunteer Week.

Upcoming Angel Dog volunteer orientation start date is Monday, Sept. 28, 2009

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!

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”

—Anatole France

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, jdrueke@madonna.org or Denise Ewing at dewing4705@neb.rr.com Thank you!

Angel Dog Tales

Grace in Action

By: Vega\$ Ems, an Angel Dog

Vega\$’s owner is Angel Dog volunteer Barbara Ems

Gather around friends, and I’ll tell you a story guaranteed to make your tail wag and your people give you treats.

My name is Vega\$ and I am a furry angel. Technically, I’m a Golden Retriever, but I am so much more than a mere canine, as are all dogs, but I digress. I’m a sixteen-month-old Angel Dog, and I want to share my story with you.

Mommy and I were invited to Madonna TherapyPlus to meet a young man who had physical challenges. We’ll call him B.G., for Best Guy. The young man displayed his excellent taste by expressing his preference for Goldens, so we liked him even before we met him.

The therapist had us wait in the room, out of sight, so I would be a surprise for B.G. when he walked back. He came back, saw me, lit up the room with his radiant smile, said “A Golden!” and hugged me. My friends, that was a moment of pure joy for everyone in the room. It wasn’t about therapy; it was about being loved and loving back.

My job was to walk with him outdoors on uneven ground, while he held my leash. Mommy instructed him to be very firm with me, and give my leash a sharp tug if I did not listen. We started off on the “right paw,” and being a Golden, I wanted to please him. I followed his instructions because he was firm and tugged my leash when necessary, so I knew who was in charge. Helpful hint, fellow canines: Let your people think they’re in charge. It makes them happy and you get praise and treats out of it.

Mommy walked behind us as not to be a distraction. I forgot Mommy was there, because I was trotting along nicely beside B.G., looking at him adoringly. He was so nice and praised me for being a good dog. I wanted to praise him back, but he didn’t speak dog. So I sent him a loving message with my eyes, telling him how proud I was of him.

We walked all over and then we went back inside so he could throw the ball for me. Sounds easy, but not when you have physical challenges that make it difficult to walk or bend down. B.G. threw the ball for me, which was Retriever heaven on earth. I raced to and fro to give him the ball, so I would be praised and petted. I like to think for a few minutes, he forgot about his physical challenges, and could just be a young man having fun with his dog.

(continued on page 3)

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Grace in Action *(continued)*

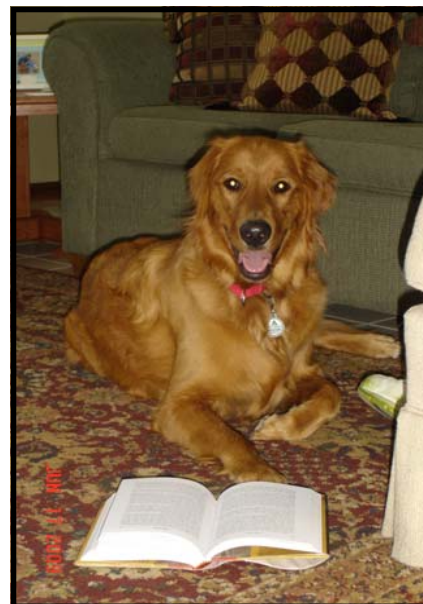
At the end of the session, we were asked to come back for an additional session. I said “yes” immediately, and my chauffeur agreed to bring me back. The next time we sat in the waiting room, and I lounged until Mommy said, “B.G. is coming.” I immediately sprang to attention and stood alert at the door, waiting for his arrival. Longest thirty seconds of my life. He came in and I let him know how happy I was to see him. The feeling was mutual.

We walked outside again, up and down hills. Easy for me, not so easy for B.G., but he was a trooper. We walked quite a bit and he amazed me with his courage and heart. I think he must have been a Golden in a former life. When it was time to say goodbye, I was very sad, but mommy told B.G. to let us know and we would come see him again.

It was so much more than a walk and throwing a ball. It was the opportunity to see real courage and grace in action, and a chance to reach out and help someone. For all of you who volunteer, Mommy and I salute you. All of us make a difference, and the world is a better place because of it.

B.G., if you read this, I love you.

Your friend, **Vega\$**



Angel Dog Leadership Team

Back in June, we said good-bye to long-time Angel Dog volunteer **Jacque McCullough** and her dog **Bailey Ann**. Jacque and her family relocated to Florida.

Jacque was on the Angel Dog Leadership Team for a number of years and was instrumental in organizing many of the Angel Dog events, such as the Patriotic Parade, and scheduling Angel Dog volunteer teams to help with Madonna’s summer reading program. We wish Jacque much happiness, and she will greatly be missed.



(Pictured from left to right: Nancy Lueking, Jacque McCullough and her Angel Dog Bailey Ann, and Theresa Garthright)

We are happy to announce that **Dan Kehler** and **Mary Heidrick** have joined the Angel Dog Leadership Team.

The Angel Dog Leadership Team is led by **Jo Ann Druke** and includes the following Angel Dog volunteers:

Dan Kehler	Denise Ewing
Mary Heidrick	Nancy Lueking
Theresa Garthright	

The Leadership Team meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.

Save-the-Date!
Tuesday, September 15, 2009
Angel Dog Annual Meeting
Dinner & Program
6:00 p.m.
Madonna’s North Commons
 (Watch for your invitation in the mail.)

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.