

ITA

SPRING 2018

VOLUME XXIV No. 1

News

INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS *Quarterly*

Wow! What a Year:

- ITA's 25th
- R.E.A.D.[®]'s 19th, and
- the Year of the DOG



therapyanimals.org



ITA Donkey Oliver relieves student stress at Montana State University in Bozeman (see pp. 3 and 7)

Who are Intermountain Therapy Animals?

We are a human service organization, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, headquartered in Utah, that brings the gifts of animal companionship and interaction to people in need. Our mission is to **enhance quality of life through the human/animal bond**. Our volunteers (people and their own pets) make regular visits to those who are physically or developmentally disabled, emotionally or psychologically impaired, lonely or suffering from depression. All services are free of charge to both client and facility.

ITA therapy animals and their handlers are screened, trained, licensed and insured to participate in animal-assisted interactions (AAI), which range from casual and informal to rigorous, goal-driven aspects of formal therapies. Successful teams have completed both health and temperament screening and volunteer training.

Now in our 25th year, we are one of the oldest and largest groups of our kind in the United States, with more than 350 volunteer teams visiting at more than 150 hospitals, counseling centers, nursing facilities, detention homes, extended care centers, and schools. Chapters of ITA now thrive in Montana, Idaho, and Kentucky.

We are also the founders of Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.®), a literacy support program to foster in children the love of books and the reading environment. R.E.A.D. has spread throughout the United States and beyond since we launched it in 1999.

If you would like more information about us and our work, please contact Executive Director Kathy Klotz at 801-272-3439. We welcome all who want to lend a helping paw! ♥



Intermountain Therapy Animals

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We're a
**Favorite
place
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Find ITA at:

www.facebook.com/IntermountainTherapyAnimals

Find R.E.A.D. at:

www.facebook.com/ReadingEducationAssistanceDogs

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Intermountain Therapy Animals' NEWS is sent to all members and contributors. Please call the ITA office at **801-272-3439** if you would like to receive it, whether by mail or e-mail.

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The Perils of *Stress!*

WE ALL HEAR THAT WORD A LOT LATELY—AND FOR GOOD REASON. Brain researchers now tell us that when someone is under stress, whether physical, mental or emotional, it is *literally impossible for learning to take place*. Whether it's learning to read, absorbing other school subjects, practicing music or sports lessons, enduring airline travel, or trying to heal after a grievous injury or diagnosis, stress is a formidable obstacle to progress.

This is one of the basic reasons why therapy animals are so valuable and effective: they literally help stress to melt away, lowering blood pressure, inducing relaxation, and making learning and therapeutic progress possible. Thus it's no surprise that ITA teams are in high demand to help students to "de-stress" during finals. The idea has spread throughout the country, and in addition to providing stress relief at the various colleges and universities where we have our ITA teams, we are now getting requests from high schools, as well. And of course, our R.E.A.D. teams have been providing this particular medicine to elementary students for 18 years already!

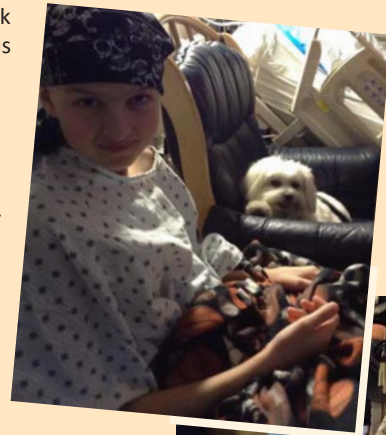


Britton Pugh is a young man dealing with a rare lymphoblastic lymphoma. He shared these images with us from his personal collection, which he built with all the various ITA therapy dogs who helped him endure long weeks in the hospital.



He says, "Just wanted to thank you all for the therapy animals 'cause I'm a cancer survivor and they helped me stay positive, and I always had a smile when they came to visit me at Primary Children's Hospital. My first stay was for 44 days. It was really hard to be in the hospital so long and to have to return for more treatments.

"The many dog visits helped to take away all my worries and stress about being in the hospital and having cancer. I'm now in the 7th month of my bone marrow transplant. When I return to Primary for my clinic appointments I still look forward to the dog visits."



From ITA's Board Chair

Dear Friends,

I have had the greatest honor serving as Intermountain Therapy Animals' Board President since 2015. I am especially excited about this being our 25th year of providing therapy animals to thousands of people, not only in our Utah communities, but in several other states and countries. ITA's mission is "Enhancing Quality of Life Through the Human-Animal Bond." Our exceptionally dedicated volunteer teams have certainly improved many lives throughout the past 25 years! I have a passion for the work that ITA does, and I thank the volunteers and their therapy animals from the bottom of my heart.

No matter what crises are going on in the world around us, individual people of all ages and socio-economic circumstances receive devastating diagnoses and injuries every day. Our teams are there to help them re-ignite their hope and enthusiasm for life, inspiring them to move for-

ward on the tough path to healing. Our therapists tell us over and over, year after year, that the animals inspire cooperation, participation and progress that they cannot otherwise get from their patients. And we are good medicine for families and staff, as well.

ITA has grown to be one of the most successful organizations of our kind. But it's a constant challenge, as for all charities big and small, to keep providing these crucial services during these challenging economic times. If you believe in the power of the human-animal bond, we ask for your support to continue helping our patient/clients in over 150 healthcare facilities to heal. Please do all you can to make room for ITA in your budget and your heart. Investing in animal-assisted therapy is a guaranteed Return on Investment—it succeeds every time!



Jane and Charlie

As Board President, I am hopeful that ITA can count on your support. We need you now more than ever, so that we can continue to serve thousands of people in our community every year!

With my most sincere thanks,

Jane Fischer
ITA Board President

Be a part of Intermountain Therapy Animals —With or Without Your Pet

Yes! I will help ITA teams continue to bless the lives of so many who need them. Here is my tax-deductible gift:

- \$25 Friend \$50 Supporter \$100 Partner \$250 Advocate
 \$500 Patron \$1,000 Benefactor \$5,000 The 4-Paw Circle

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

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- CHECK ENCLOSED CHARGE: AMERICAN EXPRESS
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Please send to Intermountain Therapy Animals:

4050 SOUTH 2700 EAST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84124 (or) PO BOX 17201, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84117

Your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thanks for your support!

You may be able to make your donation to ITA go twice as far. Check to see if your employer will match your contributions. **2x**



Intermountain Therapy Animals (#76194) participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, making it possible for all federal employees to donate to us through their workplace payroll deduction plans.

Animals on the beds of patients are often more effective than medications.

— Wolfgang Piotrowski
Director, the Neurological Clinic
Mannheim, Germany



About Both Ends of the Leash

Jim Pehkonen & Luna Salt Lake City, Utah

Bringing Puppy Love to HCI

[ED. NOTE: From time to time, the Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) invites guest commentary from the community. On April 24, 2017, this essay was published as written by our ITA team Jim & Luna. Note that the views reflected in these commentaries are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of HCI.]

I volunteer at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) with my dog, Luna. It is an honor to serve at HCI.

Let's go back to the moment the doctor told me they had found a large growth—a moment when time stopped for me. I stepped out of the office, looked up at the Wasatch Mountains, and wondered,



will I see these mountains a year from now?

Three weeks later, my kidney and the large tumor in it were successfully removed. As

I recovered under the incredible care of HCI's staff, I learned I would not have to go through chemotherapy. That is the moment I decided to get a therapy dog and volunteer in the Infusion Center, a place I would never have to visit as a patient. Now my amazing dog, Luna, and I are registered through Intermountain Therapy Animals.

The presence of a dog in the hospital creates a space of peace and love. There is magic in each visit. When I tie Luna's red scarf around her neck, she knows where we are going. She pulls on her leash as we head into the building. Luna loves walking up the stairs to the Infusion Center on the second floor. Along the way, we say hello to visitors, staff, and patients.

Somehow, Luna understands what a person receiving treatment needs. She sits with each patient for the perfect length of time. We talk about their pets and what they are going through, or we just enjoy the simple love that Luna brings. Together we have visited people from around the world that come to HCI for treatment.

One special visit was with a person who



was already in tears as we walked up to her. I asked if she would like to have a visit from a therapy dog and she nodded her head yes. As I sat down, Luna jumped into my lap and placed her head on the woman's leg. Tears streamed as the woman petted Luna. No words were spoken. After a while, a nurse came over to check the woman's blood pressure. It had lowered significantly. The nurse just pointed to Luna and smiled. For more than 20 minutes, the patient silently stroked Luna's head, then said a quiet "thank you" when we were done.

As a survivor, I feel honored to spend time with the staff, visitors, and patients at HCI. Cancer is a horrible condition that does not care who it affects. The work Luna and I do can help ease a patient's burden.

—Jim Pehkonen

Volunteering at the Huntsman Cancer Institute



“Oh, man, I’ve been WAITING for this – thank you for coming,” said Kozzy’s patient (see below).

Here (left), Mark Miller & Macy with their client at Park City Hospital. Smiles always beam across faces, no matter the pain and discomfort a patient may be experiencing. What a welcome distraction!

About Both Ends of the Leash

Beth Wolfer, Alvin & Kos Salt Lake City, Utah

We answered a request to visit a man in the neuro recovery unit, where people are under observation following strokes or brain surgeries. When I entered the room with Kozzy, my six-year-old Lab/Golden cross, the man was sooooo excited to see us. He lay on his side, a very recent scar on his scalp.

“Oh, man, I’ve been WAITING for this – thank you for coming,” he said. “This was my third brain surgery in two months, and this is gonna make being here a third time worth it!” He asked some questions about Kozzy, and then asked if he could jump up on the bed.

Kozzy gingerly hopped onto the spot I showed him, careful not to step on any of the IV tubes attached to the man’s arm. He settled in right next to the patient, who was overcome with emotion, both with comfort and with missing his own dog at home.

“This makes ALL the difference,” he said, as his wife took a photo.

Kozzy was more relaxed than on any visit I’ve ever seen him. He knew that this man needed comfort and calm, and I let him lie there for about 15 more minutes—quite a long time, compared to his more typical pop-in, pop-out pet therapy visit.

It’s miraculous the way the dogs read the needs of each patient or family member. My other ITA partner, Alvin, has had numerous similarly impactful visits with people. I remember we were visiting a lady who was on hospice, and her grown daughter Pam would greet us at the door. She’d lead us to where her mother was sitting, and Alvin or Kozzy (they took turns each week) would



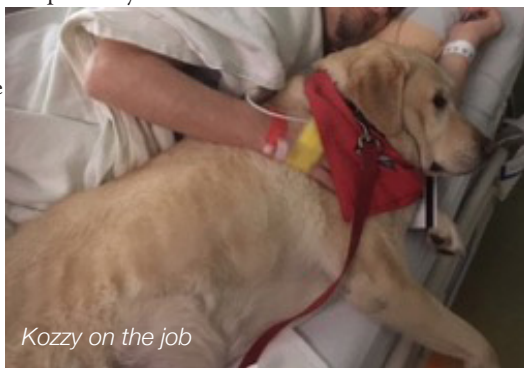
greet the patient, but then flop on the floor next to Pam.

Pam would rub their bellies

and coo over them – they knew that Pam was the person who needed them most that day. After we had been visiting for about three months, she decided she wanted to get her own dog, and I taught her how to look through Petfinder online.

I received a message from the hospice on the day that Pam’s mom was in steep decline, so I went to visit one last time. I’d been told that they’d adopted a dog, so I left mine home. Indeed, Pam’s mom was in her last stage of life, and their new dog, which they’d adopted from the Humane Society that week, was nestled right up next to her on the bed. I said goodbye and gave Pam a hug.

She had been caring for her mother for about 20 years, and this was going to be a



Kozzy on the job

(Continued on p. 10)

Every dog knows that this position invites pleasure and relaxation for everyone on the scene. And they are more than happy to indulge—it benefits them, too.



About Both Ends of the Leash

Stephanie Barnette & Oliver the Donkey

Bozeman, Montana

In April of 2015, at a horse sale in Billings, Montana, I saw a shabby little donkey standing knee-deep in mud, trying to stay clear of the horses and mules that milled anxiously around the small pen. Hundreds of horses are sold each month from this sale to “kill buyers” who then ship them to Canada or Mexico to be slaughtered. Mules and donkeys are no exception if they happen to find themselves in the loose pens at a sale barn.

All this was in the back of my mind when the scared, mud-encrusted, long-eared creature walked cautiously into the sale ring. Without thinking, my hand popped up and before I knew it, the auctioneer called “SOLD! For sixty dollars!”

Little did I know, that was probably the best sixty dollars I would ever spend and not only the beginning of a new chapter in life for that little donkey, but in mine as well. When Oliver arrived at his new home, he was covered in hundreds of ticks, and within days he became extremely sick with “shipping pneumonia,” a respiratory illness that frequents

highly equine-populated areas such as sale barns. After some TLC, Oliver bounced back and not only regained his health, but made his first public appearance, just two months later at Montana Mule Days, where he won Grand Champion Halter Donkey!

Since then, Oliver has been trained to ride as well as pull a cart, and he gives riding lessons to kids who are intimidated by the idea of throwing a leg over a full-sized horse. In addition to his riding lessons, Oliver has appeared in several parades pulling his cart and adorned with patriotic decorations. Throughout all of his human interactions, Oliver is always docile and kind, and has a magical way of bringing a smile to the faces of all those who encounter him.



In the spring of 2016, Oliver and I passed the Intermountain Therapy Animals assessment and became Montana’s first-ever therapy donkey team! On May 2nd, 2017, Oliver arrived at the Montana State University library during finals to participate in “Paws to De-stress,” or as Oliver prefers to think of it, “Hooves to De-stress.” Oliver was a huge hit with the students as he helped them take their minds off of finals for a moment and bring smiles to their faces as many of them got to meet and pet their first donkey.

Oliver has been able give back to the community and share his kind soul, humorous looks and calming presence with many people. From the tick- and mud-covered, forlorn little donkey in the back of a sale pen to a proud and beneficial member of society, Oliver’s journey reminds us that anything is possible! ♥

— Stephanie Barnette & Oliver the “Donk”

Stress Relief

ITA Therapy Animals are Great Medicine (cont.)

Students and employees alike have absolutely loved interacting with the Intermountain Therapy Animals. Having the dogs inside of the library has helped alleviate some of the stress that comes with the daily challenges of school as well as creating an inviting place for students to learn more about the resources available to them. We look forward to having the teams around midterms and finals every semester. We get feedback from students and employees that they want to have them even more often!

—Jordan Austin Hanzon
U of U Marriott Library



ITA Around Town

The Cadette Girls Scouts of Troop 790 in American Fork were working on their Animal Helpers badge. They had already toured a vet's office to learn about animal health and care, and next they wanted to learn about how animals help people physically and emotionally.

ITA team Nicky Bleggi and her French Bulldog, Wynston, were happy to oblige so the girls got first-hand experience with those benefits.



2018 is the Chinese Year of the Dog



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD TO MISS THE NEWS that on February 16, 2018, according to the Chinese calendar, the Year of the Dog began. The images and proclamations and special events are everywhere! Definitely more fuss than, say, the year of the snake? Or Monkey? We are convinced that's because surely dogs are humanity's favorite species.

Each of the twelve animals in the Chinese Zodiac has unique characteristics and each year corresponds to one animal. The dog is the eleventh animal. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which the animals arrived to his party. Monkey, Rooster and Dog were in another country, helping a god defeat evil spirits. Afterwards, they set off to the party together. Because they arrived at the same time, the Jade Emperor went by the order they met the god in the other country. Thus, Dog became eleventh.

In addition to the twelve year cycle corresponding to each of the animals in the Chinese Zodiac, there are Five Elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) which are associated with their own "life force" or "chi." In 2018, the corresponding element is Earth, so this is the Year of the Earth Dog, to be more precise. Dog and Earth energies blend to determine 2018's fortune.

So what happens when you mix the Dog with the Earth element?

There are endless opinions out there about what this year will promise, but generally, a loyal and hard-working Dog combined with the steady and sensible characteristics of Earth, heralds a secure, rewarding and profitable year. A year of blossoming, to achieve things, and to thrive.

We got a card from ITA dogs Max and Scout, who understandably think *every* year should be the Year of the Dog.

We will take that a step further, and say that for ITA's clients, not only is every *year* the Year of the Dog, but also every month, every week, every day, every hour. It's what we do. ♥



Both Ends of the Leash (cont.)

Beth Wolfer, Alvin & Kos (Cont. from page 6)

be a huge transition for her. When I learned that the funeral was a few days later, I attended it with Alvin, sitting in the last row. When the service ended, we walked up to the front, where Pam was sitting, and when she saw us, she gave Alvin a big hug around his thick neck and lit up with an enormous smile. She said, "Oh, THIS makes it perfect! Mom would have loved it, and I am SOOOO happy to see you guys."

These animals are such a gift, first to us, and then to those with whom we can share them. Both of my dogs had been on-track to become service dogs for Canine Companions for Independence, and each was pulled from the program prior to graduating (Alvin to become a breeder and Kozzy due to fear of fireworks and thunder). But their breeding and temperament make them such calm, willing companions, it seemed selfish of me to keep them to myself – that's when we became involved with Intermountain Therapy Animals.

Whether we are greeting stressed-out college students during finals week, representing ITA at a community event, or doing our regular "rounds" at University Hospital, the dogs are bringing joy, humor, strength, and relief to everyone who meets them. It never fails that, when you bring a dog (in uniform, of course) into a place where people aren't used to seeing them, people break into huge smiles.

The dogs enjoy the visits, although they will each let me know when they've had

enough. You have to appreciate the great deal of stimuli they receive and absorb in just a short time – from different smells and sights, to sometimes dozens of people touching them, not to mention the emotion and stress that are often present. When Alvin is ready to go home, he basically starts "moonwalking" backward away from people. And Kozzy's sign is that he lies down and puts his head on his paws and closes his eyes. Our first obligation as an ITA handler is to observe and respect what the dogs tell us, and make sure they are not asked to do more than they can bear while helping others.

Taking my boys (one at a time) on therapy visits is the high point of my week. I see the love, comfort and joy that people receive when we visit, and know that it is exactly where we should be in that moment.

At the end of our Saturday U of U Hospital visits, we get in line at the lobby Starbucks and Kozzy or Alvin anxiously shifts from one foot to another, because he knows what's coming. When it's our turn to order, he hears the word "Pup-piccino" and gets even more excited. I am handed a small taster cup of whipped cream, grab a LOT of napkins, and let my boy lap up his reward for a job well done.

It is my privilege to share these magnificent animals with the world through the fabulous ITA organization. ♥

– Beth Wolfer

Sometimes the News is Good

Dog Presumed Drowned Found Safe 5 Weeks Later

San Diego ~ Fishermen like to tell stories, but Nick Haworth will have a whopper of a tale. His beloved dog, Luna, has returned more than a month after she fell overboard in the Pacific Ocean and was presumed drowned.

The 1-1/2-year-old German shepherd was spotted Tuesday on San Clemente Island, a Navy-owned training base 70 miles off San Diego. The pup went missing as Haworth worked on a boat two miles from the island.

Navy spokeswoman Sandy DeMunnik tells ABC News that everyone thought Luna had drowned, but she apparently swam to the island.

She's now back home with her owner. ♥

Each of our 350+ ITA therapy teams is absolutely unique, since all the people and animals bring to their volunteer practice an endless kaleidoscope of ages, sizes, breeds, backgrounds and talents.

What about you and your companion animal? If you think you both might enjoy volunteering with ITA, providing animal-assisted interactions at one of the more than 150 facilities we visit:

- Call us to learn more: **801.272.3439**
- Or go to our website: **www.therapyanimals.org/volunteer**

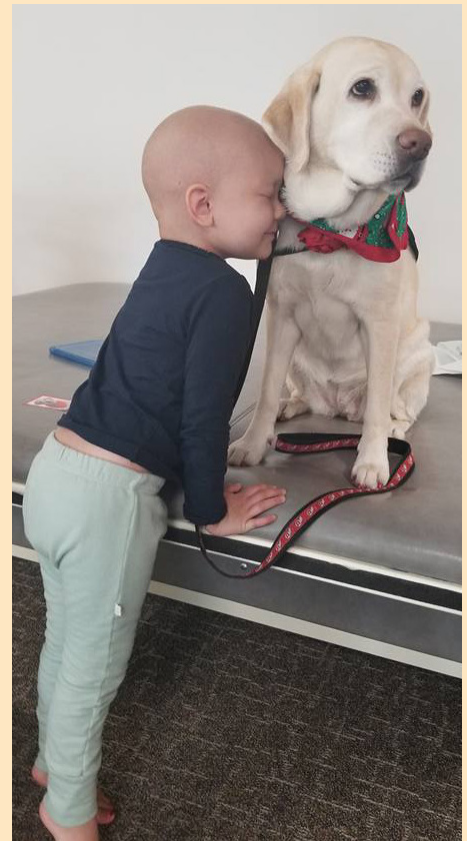
“Little Warrior Penny”

“Penny started round 5 of her chemo yesterday. She was able to do some inpatient OT and PT. Which was more fun than expected! The therapy gym is on the Neurotrauma Unit, which is where Penny and our family essentially lived after she was diagnosed. We got to see all of our favorite therapists and nurses. These were the people who took care of her (and us) when this nightmare started.

“Penny ran into another old friend, Diva! Diva is the ITA therapy dog who showed up and helped Penny with her first break-through a week after her surgery. Penny could not talk, she couldn’t hold herself up and couldn’t walk. But then Diva showed up and caught Penny’s eye right away. The first time Penny sat up was to reach for Diva.

“So these two are old friends. It was good to see them together again. They even had matching red nails!”

– Sachi Honjo Thornley (Penny’s Mom)





Leaving a legacy of love for the healing mission of Intermountain Therapy Animals

ITA has now been fulfilling our mission of **enhancing quality of life through the human-animal bond** for almost 25 years.

During this landmark 25th year, we are pleased to introduce the ITA Heart & Paw Circle, for those who have chosen to leave a legacy of love by including ITA in their estate planning.

Many of you who are reading this have already been long-time supporters of our work, which has been significant in helping us reach so many for a quarter of a century already, and would welcome an opportunity to help us assure our future.

Or maybe you believe in our mission but don't have the immediate resources to be a donor. Leaving a gift in your will or trust may be just the right donation option for you.

By including ITA in your estate plan, you will help our organization reach far into the future to extend our life-enriching services. At the same time you will leave an enduring expression of your values and vision of the world for years to come. It is a world that will include your descendants, along with future generations.

Here is the information you need to name ITA in your estate:

Intermountain Therapy Animals
4050 South 2700 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84124
801.272.3439
State of Utah nonprofit corporation
Federal tax ID # 87-0517629

Anyone, regardless of the size of their estate, can make a bequest to ITA. When you do, you provide vital resources for tomorrow. And when you let us know of your intentions, you will become a member of ITA's Heart & Paw Circle, a special group of members who are dedicated to our mission.

When you become a Lifetime Partner of ITA through the Heart & Paw Circle, ITA will recognize your extraordinary commitment with a certificate of appreciation, special recognition at our annual gala, and your choice of a beautiful crystal desk accessory or sterling silver pendant or pin. But most importantly, you will have the peace of mind of knowing that the compassionate services you believe in now will be carried on well into the future.

Please use the response form at right to let us know if you would like to include — or already have included — ITA in your estate planning.



Why we have joined ITA's Heart & Paw Circle

We discovered Intermountain Therapy Animals a short time after relocating to Salt Lake City from Texas in 1993. We arrived with two rescue dogs – including Taffy, a blonde terrier mix who loved to introduce herself to each person she met. After seeing a poster in a Salt Lake City bookstore about becoming a therapy team, I soon became the 24th member (in 1994) and began volunteering with Taffy. Tom has experienced dog training sessions, trips to the vet, ITA picnics, ITA holiday parties, and ITA galas. He has gone to Santa Rosa, California to pick up a retiring service dog who made a career change to be an ITA therapy dog. This 85-pound lab regularly accompanied Tom to work before that was common. Now, almost 25 years and 3 therapy dogs later (out of 10 dogs) and many years on the ITA Board, we are still as committed as ever to the work of ITA.



ITA has changed the lives of so many clients of all ages. The stories are often emotional and miraculous – and sometimes the stories are simply ITA volunteers and their animals doing good things together for other people. I have seen that ITA has changed the lives of many of the volunteers, as well, helping both humans and animals to use their talents for the common good.

ITA has certainly allowed us to go in a direction that we could not have imagined. ITA was pioneering the idea of therapy animals, and in the early years we never imagined ITA would become so widely respected and well known around the world. Even though the concept is so powerful and effective, we remain astonished that there are members, chapters and affiliates in all 50 states and many other countries.

We have donated to ITA for many years. Because we are committed to the mission, the work and the volunteers, it is important to us to include ITA in our wills. We believe that including ITA in our planned giving is a continuation of our support and will help to assure that ITA is able to do good work long after we are gone. Intermountain Therapy Animals will be a wonderful footnote to the last chapter of our lives.

– KAREN & TOM DUNCAN



HEART & PAW CIRCLE MEMBERS

2018

ITA's Heart & Paw Circle ~ for further information:

YES, I want to leave a lasting legacy to ensure that ITA can continue to bring the healing benefits of animal interactions to others long into the future.

- I have already included a gift to ITA in my will or estate plan.
 - I wish to remain anonymous.
- I am actively considering a gift to ITA in my will or estate plan. Please contact me with detailed information on my options.

Thank you! Please mail this form to:

Intermountain Therapy Animals ~ 4050 South 2700 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84124

Name _____
Street _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Gifts to Honor & Remember

In HONOR of . . .

Alfie, R.E.A.D. Dog
 Sharee Muench
 Chris Beck-McKay and Mark McKay
 Anita & Arthur Polner
 Bob & Dinah
 Christina Sanchez
 Boomer
 Connie Cowett
 Colonel & Miley
 Kathryn Waddell
 Susan Daynes, Colonel & Diva
 Julie Landeen
 Desiree
 DA Diaz
 Elizabeth Dranow
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 Cher Drage and her volunteering with
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 Morgan Stanley Founda-
 tion
 Susan Evans
 Lynn Whitman
 Pat Hemingway, in honor of her
 birthday
 Tim & Candace Dee
 Chaz Houpt & Millie
 Eastern Idaho Regional
 Medical Center (for the
 Frist Humanitarian
 Award)
 Carol Rae Jasperson
 Ann Brownlee
 Jenny & Tammy, my two R.E.A.D.
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 years as a R.E.A.D. dog)
 Linda Tipton
 Melissa Oberhaus and her volun-
 teering
 with ITA/Montana
 Morgan Stanley Founda-
 tion

Carol Prince
 Delores Blaser
 Anne Moskovitz
 Rosie the Goldendoodle
 Preston Chiaro
 Samantha
 Jackie & Roy Byrd
 Shasta and her 15 years of service as a
 therapy and R.E.A.D. dog
 Donna Conrad
 Emily Silver
 Amanda Semidey



In MEMORY of . . .

Ash, companion of Jackie & Chad
 Farnsworth
 Dianna Lee
 Bella, companion of Lisa Altman &
 Martha Amundsen
 Jane Lee Fischer
 Bob Gulliver, ITA companion of Jean
 Glaser
 Tracie & Carlee Garritson
 Boris, companion of Jodi &
 Pete Samsonov
 Jane Lee Fischer
 Bridget, my ITA therapy dog
 Virginia Harris
 Phillip Browning
 Debbie McAllister
 Brian Davis
 Brianna Davis
 Robert & Arlene Ellis
 Mark Ellis
 George, R.E.A.D. dog of Juliet Scott
 Primary Teachers & Stu-
 dents
 of Academy at the Farm
 Gigi
 Joan Firmage
 Dale Gilbert
 Logan & Christy Brinkley
 Crusher Rental & Sales
 Anne Diekema
 Voni & Gus DuBose
 Gail Eynon
 Pam & John Gazlay
 Gilbert Development
 Corp.
 Michelle & Gene
 Gregory
 Jefferson Gloeckner
 Moreton & Co.
 Jeff Jones & Josh Jardine,
 U.S. Bank of St. George

Marilyn & Walt Kidwell
 The Ledges HOA
 Michelle & Alan Mackel-
 prang
 Sandra McEwan
 Tiffany Morast
 Lisa Palumbo, Sadie &
 Gracie
 Karen & Eddie Phillips
 Donna & George Rusk
 LeAnn Sawyer
 Karen & Chris Schlieter
 So. Utah Dog Sports
 (SUDS)
 Cyndi, Sam & Jessi Sten-
 son
 William Tingey
 VT Construction
 Margo Wood
 Jake Brooke, beloved companion
 Penny & Sands Brooke
 Jane Lee Fischer
 Gabbie
 Eileen Ambrose
 Stan Hicks
 Chris Beck-McKay
 Nancy & Mark May
 Chris Beck-McKay
 BSP Thermal Systems
 (Rob,
 Lori, Adam and Lisa)
 Eric Montague
 Jason Meserve
 Gwen & Tom Morgan
 Gary Peterson, DVM
 Teresa Thomas and the
 Utah
 Manufacturers Associ-
 ation
 Staff & Board of Direc-
 tors
 Mighty Mouse, companion of Karen
 & Tom Duncan
 Frankie Gibbs
 Michelle Orcutt
 Connie Priesz
 Otter Pup, companion of Kerry
 & Dan Burton
 Christina Oh
 Stella Mary Packard
 Dwight Baldwin
 Erika Daines
 Douglas Fadel
 Peanut, companion of Cathy & Ed
 Cooper
 Jane Lee Fischer

Nelli Reynolds
 Elaine Reilly
 Deborah Riggs
 Shirley May May
 Bob Ryal
 Jane & Dave Staplin
 Scamper, ITA partner of Jane Peterson
 Jamilla McNeeley & the
 book
 group
 Jane Peterson
 Scruffy & Dusty
 Kay Miller
 Loriann Searle Stockinger
 Ali Barnes
 American Express Founda-
 tion
 Kristin Barris
 Chris Beck-McKay
 Caren Beeman
 Kathi Bernstein
 Marjean Bleazard and
 Neighbors
 Lisa Brown
 Sheri Campbell
 Ann Coleman
 Jeffrey Dye
 Lani Firmage
 Stephanie Franco
 Deborah Gamble
 DaShell Hansen
 Yvonne Herrera
 Charlie & Stacey Howe
 Karen Keeley
 Kathy Klotz
 Nancy Matro
 Kathy McNulty
 Nikol Mitchell
 Terilinn Moyer
 Subhashni Naidu
 Tami & George O'Quinn
 Carol Prince
 Ian & Rebecca Reid
 Dani & Jack Scheiss
 Anita Sjoblom
 JoAnn Stamper
 John Stockinger
 Pilar Vigil
 Jose Woodhead
 Tarra, therapy and R.E.A.D. com-
 panion of Merilee Kelley
 Kathy Klotz
 Tavish
 Linda Adams
 Carol Tico
 Janell Cannon

Understanding Important Differences

Toffee

- Judith Kaplan
- Vicky Whitney
- Becky Roeder
- Matthew Wright
- Carol & James Anderson
- Morag & Donald Baird
- Kathy Bryan
- Lisa & Andrew Buffmire
- Nancy & Darrell Burkland
- Joyce Gorrell
- Margaret An Kendall
- Fay McPhail
- Cynthia Stenson
- Doris Strozier
- Janet & Jim Strozier
- Julie Wambaugh
- George & Sandra Wright
- Ruby Wood
- Elaine Ellis, from Sophie, Cooper, Gracie & all their Roommates
- Yuki, ITA therapy cat extraordinaire
- Faye Alexander



There has been much news lately about the differences between the definitions and rights of the three recognized types of support animals. You have probably heard about major airlines trying to improve their policies after many unfortunate experiences during flights. Not only is there general public confusion, but there is also increased abuse, with some people fraudulently printing credentials off the internet for otherwise untrained, uncertified animals. Such abuse often makes things harder for legitimate service dogs.

We are providing the helpful chart at right to help clarify these differences between service/assistance, therapy, and emotional support animals. ITA obviously works exclusively with therapy animals; in fact, we no longer accept either service/assistance or emotional support dogs for training and participation in therapy volunteering.

It is our considered opinion that one such serious job is enough for any dog.

Also, our organization and our members carefully respect and support the laws. Any volunteer who tries to pass his/her dog as anything beyond therapy is dismissed from ITA. ♥

COMPARISON	SERVICE DOGS	THERAPY DOGS	EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
ADA covered: Rights to bring animal into public establishments	✓	✗	✗
Needs to tolerate a wide variety of experiences, environments, people	✓	✓	✗
May live with their Disabled owners, even if "No Pets" policy in place	✓	✗	✓
Primary function is to provide emotional support, through companionship	✗	✗	✓
Specifically trained to assist just one person	✓	✗	✗
Provide emotional support and comfort to many people	✗	✓	✗

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A few weeks ago a fellow ITA volunteer contacted me to say she had met a patient in the hospital rehab gym that day who was despondent and refusing to participate in his therapy. He was very sick indeed—he had broken his hip, and then experienced both a stroke and a heart attack. He was saying, “I will never be okay again, so why bother?” He talked about his Great Pyrenees, Bear, at home, and was sure he would never see him again.

Because my partner Flocki is a Great Pyr, they asked if I would go to see this gentleman. When he saw us, the transformation was dramatic. He broke into a bright smile, reached over with his good arm to stroke her head, and even tried to rise from his wheelchair. He started asking me lots of questions about Flocki and we compared the traits and idiosyncrasies of our dogs. Flocki settled down next to his wheelchair and he began to do his exercises.

He began to have hope, and started to do what he needed to do. By the next week, he was able to walk some in the hallways. When we went back to his room with him, Flocki laid on his feet. He had to stretch his arm a long way to give her treats, and the nurses were astounded at his huge efforts. We went to see him every other day until he had recovered sufficiently to go home.

It’s always nothing short of stunning to see how an animal can ignite that precious spark that inspires patients to participate in their vital therapies so they can heal. We know this in our heads, but every time we see it happen, it brings a leap of joy in our hearts, as well. It’s why we find our volunteering with ITA so rewarding.

— Erika Daines

ITA Team with Flocki the Great Pyrenees



Dear Kathy & Susan,
Your program on Intermountain Therapy Animals which you gave for our P.E.O. chapter was the highlight of the year, which I’m sure you could tell from the enthusiasm of our members. The knowledge we gained from your presentation was immense and shed a whole new light on our love of dogs. Watching the improvement of so many children, in particular Caleb, was absolutely amazing, and to see the love and dedication of those involved in your program serving patients was just incredible. How fortunate we are to have people like you, so devoted to improving the lives of others, especially those who are so very, very ill.

Many, many thanks to you both for your gift to our chapter and to the many others you help in a daily basis.

Sincerely,
Judy Dalgliesh



An angel from Intermountain Therapy Animals came to visit me during chemo at the Huntsman. This just melts my heart! It was such a warm and uplifting experience!

— Carrie Rasmussen



If you shop at Amazon, go to **Smile.Amazon**, choose

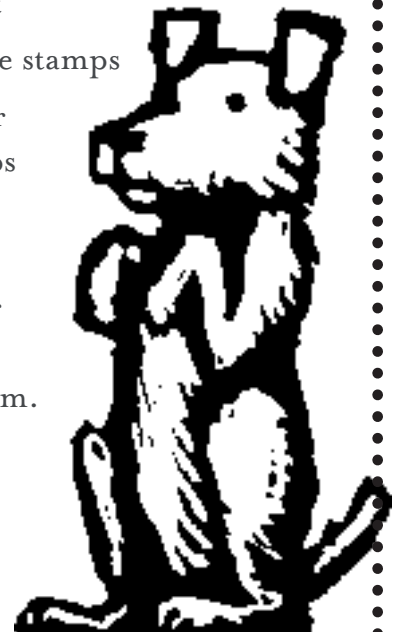
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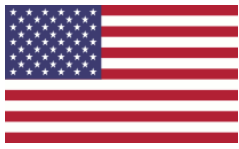
Shop at Smith’s and they will donate a portion of your total purchase price to ITA, too. Use our code: **90277**

Things ITA Begg for . . .

- 8.5 x 11 white paper by the case, for copying and printing
- Flash drives
- Gift cards to office supply stores, Costco and Target
- “Forever” postage stamps
- Sponsors for our training workshops and manuals
- New children’s picture books (for ages 4–8) for the R.E.A.D.® program.



The R.E.A.D.® Program: Our 19th Year



Here is where we R.E.A.D.!

These are all the countries and regions, in addition to the United States, where R.E.A.D. is currently flourishing:



Bosnia-Herzegovina



Iceland



Portugal



Canada



Italy



Republic of China / Taiwan



Chile



Kazakhstan



Slovenia



Colombia



Luxembourg



South Africa



Croatia



Mexico



Spain



Finland



The Netherlands



Sweden



France



Norway



The United Kingdom



Germany

ITA'S READING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOGS® PROGRAM continues to bring joy to ever more of the world's children. R.E.A.D. teams now work in 22 countries (*see above*).

In 2017, we welcomed first-time teams in Kazakhstan, Taiwan-Republic of China, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Luxembourg. We also saw a happy explosion of interest in South America—Colombia, Chile, and Mexico are now onboard with official chapters. We look forward to continuing to grow the program in these areas and to welcome more participants in more places.

In December 2017, two of our best representatives, Kim Grobholz from Germany and Merilee Kelley from Orlando (*they are the red-shirted ones on the front row in the photo above right*), presented R.E.A.D. at a university conference in Taiwan. In January 2018, we hosted a training for current and aspiring R.E.A.D. members from Taiwan and Mexico here in Salt Lake City (*see at right*), and we have been invited back to Taiwan this next November to teach R.E.A.D. to elementary school teachers. ♥



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Draper

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organizations participating in
Community Shares/Utah.



COMMUNITY
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UTAH

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MORE,
BARK
LESS.**



Facilities & Programs (Cont. from page 19)

MONTANA (cont.)

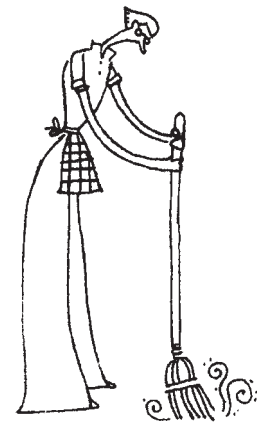
Radley School, East Helena (R.E.A.D.)
Eastgate School, East Helena (R.E.A.D.)

IDAHO

3B Juvenile Detention Center / Idaho Falls
Bridgeview Estates (long-term care center) / Twin Falls
Cassia Regional Medical Center / Burley
District 93 Schools (special presentations grades 9-12) / Idaho Falls
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC) / Idaho Falls
EIRMC Behavioral Health Center / Idaho Falls
Fairwinds - Stone Creek (assisted living) / Idaho Falls
Falls Valley Elementary (presentations grades 1-6) / Idaho Falls
Hansen Public Library (R.E.A.D.)
Harwood Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
Jefferson Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
Larsen-Saint Public Library / Preston (R.E.A.D.)
Morning Star Senior Living / Idaho Falls
Snake River Juvenile Detention Center / Twin Falls
Southern Idaho Learning Center / Twin Falls
Twin Falls Public Library (R.E.A.D.)

KENTUCKY/OHIO

Hospice of Hope / Maysville
Mason County Detention Center
Maysville Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility
Ohio Valley Manor / Ripley
Pioneer Trace (nursing home) / Flemingsburg
Women's Crisis Center (Domestic violence shelter) / Maysville



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UNA UTAH
NONPROFITS
ASSOCIATION
SERVING UTAH'S CHARITABLE COMMUNITY

ITA is a member of the Utah Nonprofits Association. We were in the first tier of organizations that accepted the UNA's Standards of Ethics for Nonprofits in 2002, and, through ITA Board resolutions, we have been recertified every year since then.

If you would like to know more about the Standards of Ethics and what they mean in ITA's practices, please call Executive Director Kathy Klotz at any time and she will be happy to tell you all about it.

ITA – The Facilities and Programs We Serve

Intermountain Therapy Animals team volunteers are currently participating in animal-assisted interactions (AAT or AAA), including R.E.A.D. programs, at the following facilities:

UTAH – SALT LAKE AREA

Aces Valley Behavioral Health
 Anderson-Foothill Library / SLC (R.E.A.D.)
 Avenues Courtyard (assisted living) / SLC
 Benchmark Hospital / Woods Cross (Adolescents in Residential Treatment Program for Drugs and Violence and R.E.A.D. program)
 Bonneville Elementary School (R.E.A.D.)
 Brookdale Care / SLC
 Canyon Rim Academy / SLC (R.E.A.D.)
 Canyon Rim Care Center (short- and long-term care)
 Carmen Pingree School for Autism / SLC
 Carrington Court (Memory Care)
 Cascades at Riverwalk
 Chateau Brickyard / SLC
 The Children's Center / Kearns
 City Creek Post Acute
 Columbus Community Center / SLC
 Columbus Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Copper Hills Youth Center / West Jordan (residential treatment)
 Cosgriff Elementary / SLC (R.E.A.D.)
 Cottonwood Place Senior Living (Assisted Living)
 Coventry at Cottonwood Heights
 DBI Day Treatment
 Draper Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Emerson Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Genesis Youth Center
 Girls Transition Center
 Glendale Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Grantsville Senior Center
 Harnson Pointe Healthcare & Rehab
 HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital / Sandy (Long-term Rehabilitation)
 Highland Care Center / SLC (Senior Care)
 Highland Cove Retirement Community / SLC
 Highland Ridge Hospital (Addiction Recovery)
 Huntsman Cancer Institute
 Inn on Barton Creek (Memory Care) / Bountiful
 Inspiration Hospice
 Intermountain Christian School
 Intermountain Medical Center / Murray
 Jordan Valley Hospital / West Jordan (Med Surg)
 King's English Bookshop / SLC
 La Europa Academy - Girls' Residential Treatment / SLC
 Lakeview Hospital / Bountiful (Senior Psych Unit)
 LDS Hospital (IHC) / Rehabilitation Services
 Learning Services / Riverton (Adult Males with Longterm Disabilities)
 Legacy House of South Jordan
 Liberty Senior Center
 Life Care Center of Bountiful
 Life Care Center of SLC
 Lifelong Learning Center (adults with special needs)
 Little Cottonwood Rehab & Nursing
 The Lodge at Riverton
 Matt's Place
 Meadowbrook Rehab
 Millcreek Center Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Millcreek Retirement (Assisted living)
 Mt. Olympus Rehab
 Murray Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Neighborhood House (Senior day care) / SLC
 ParkLane Senior Apts. / SLC (retirement housing)
 Primary Children's Hospital (IHC) / SLC (Inpatient Rehabilitation Services)
 Primary Children's Residential Treatment Center (IHC) / SLC (Children With Emotional and Abuse Issues and R.E.A.D.)
 Recovery Ways
 Riverton Hospital (IHC)
 Riverton Library / Riverton (R.E.A.D.)
 Riverton Transitional Rehab
 Rocky Mountain Care - Cottage on Vine
 Ronald McDonald House / Salt Lake City
 Rose Park Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Rosecrest Elementary / SLC (R.E.A.D.)

Rowland Hall School
 Salt Lake Behavioral Health
 Salt Lake City International Airport
 Salt Lake City Libraries / SLC (R.E.A.D.)
 Salt Lake County Youth Services
 Salt Lake Regional Medical Center / SLC
 Sandy City Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Shriner's Hospital for Children / Salt Lake City (Children Undergoing Orthopedic Procedures)
 South Davis Community Hospital / Bountiful (Long- and Short-term Rehab)
 South Valley Sanctuary / West Jordan (Woman & Child Center)
 Spring Creek Healthcare Center (Skilled Nursing Facility)
 St. Mark's Hospital
 Stonehenge Rehab Center
 Tooele County Senior Center
 Trailside Elementary School (R.E.A.D.)
 Turn Community Services
 Tyler Library / Sandy (R.E.A.D.)
 Union Middle School / Sandy (R.E.A.D.)
 University of Utah Marriott Library
 University of Utah University Hospital (Rehab Services, Burn ICU, MedPsych Unit and Surgical Waiting Room)
 University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute (Adult and Child Units)

UTAH – OGDEN / LOGAN

Archway Youth Service Center / Ogden
 Autumn Care Assisted Living / Hyde Park
 Bear River Charter School / Logan (R.E.A.D.)
 Bristol Hospice
 Canyon View School LIFE Program / Ogden
 Christmas Box House (Children in care of state services) / Ogden
 Clearfield Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Crestwood Care Center
 Dee Elementary / Ogden (R.E.A.D.)
 Fairfield Village of Layton
 Farr West Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 George E. Wahlen Veterans Home / Ogden
 Heritage Park Care Center / Roy (Alzheimer's Patients)
 Holt Elementary School / Clearfield (R.E.A.D.)
 The Inn at Barton Creek
 Logan Regional Hospital / Logan
 Lomond View Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 McKay-Dee Hospital (IHC) / Ogden (Transitional Care, Psychiatric, Oasis Program and Rehabilitation Units)
 Mount Ogden Junior High / Ogden
 Mountain Ridge Assisted Living / Ogden
 Mountainside Elementary / Mendon (R.E.A.D.)
 Newton Town Library / Logan (R.E.A.D.)
 North Ogden Jr. High (R.E.A.D.)
 North Park Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Roy

SOUTHERN UTAH – ST. GEORGE & CEDAR CITY

Applegate Home Care and Hospice / St. George
 Bella Terra - Rehab Center / St. George
 Cedar City Library (R.E.A.D.) / Cedar City
 Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis / St. George
 Dixie Montessori / Washington
 Dixie State University - Stress Relief / St. George
 Fossil Ridge Intermediate School / St. George
 IHC - Dixie Regional Medical Center / St. George
 The Meadows Retirement Home / St. George
 The Retreat at Sunbrook / St. George
 St. George Care and Rehabilitation Center
 St. George Library
 St. Rose Dominican Hospital / Las Vegas, NV
 Santa Clara Library / St. George
 Southern Utah University / Cedar City
 Spring Gardens Senior Living / Cedar City
 Sterling Court Assisted Living / St. George
 Sunrise Residential Treatment / Hurricane
 Washington City Library / Washington
 Washington County Crisis Center / St. George

MONTANA – BOZEMAN & BELGRADE AREA

Arrowhead Elementary School (R.E.A.D.) / Livingston
 Aspen Pointe / Birchwood
 Bear Creek Respite / Bozeman
 Belgrade City Court
 Belgrade Community Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Bozeman Health / Deaconess Hospital (cancer treatment center, dialysis unit and surgical waiting room)
 Bozeman Lodge (Retirement)
 Bozeman Public Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Bridger Rehab & Health Center / Bozeman
 Caslen Living Center / Livingston
 Chief Joseph Middle School / Bozeman
 Eagle Mount Camp / Bozeman
 Edgewood Vista (Retirement)
 Emily Dickinson Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Bozeman
 Epicenter Therapy Services / Bozeman
 Gallatin Gateway School (R.E.A.D.)
 Gallatin County Re-Entry Program
 Gallatin County Rest Home / Bozeman
 Hawthorne Elementary School (R.E.A.D.)
 Heck-Quaw Elementary School (R.E.A.D.) / Belgrade
 High Country Care
 Highgate / Bozeman (retirement home)
 Hyalite Country Care
 Longfellow Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Missoula Public Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Montana State University Career Services
 Mountain View Care Center / Bozeman
 Parkhaven Retirement / Bozeman
 RidgeView School (R.E.A.D.) / Belgrade
 Riverside Assisted Living
 Spring Creek Inn / Bozeman
 Springmeadows Assisted Living / Bozeman
 Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center
 Whittier Elementary School (R.E.A.D.)
 Winans Elementary School (R.E.A.D.) / Livingston



There are as many ways to enjoy reading together as there are R.E.A.D. dogs and kids.

University of Utah School of Medicine
 Utah School for the Deaf & Blind / Connor Street (Children With Multiple Disabilities)
 Utah State Prison
 Valeo Residence (Hospice care)
 Veterans Administration Medical Center / SLC (Rehabilitation/Hospice/Care Center)
 Volunteers of America
 Wasatch Charter School
 The Wellington
 The Wentworth at East Millcreek
 The Wentworth at Willow Creek
 Woodrow Wilson Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Youth Care (Residential Treatment Center for Youth)

UTAH – PARK CITY AREA

The Abbotting / Heber City (Assisted Living)
 National Abilities Center
 Old Mill Elementary School (R.E.A.D.)
 Parley's Park Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Park City High School (Special Education)
 Park City Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Park City Medical Center
 Summit County Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Trailside Elementary (R.E.A.D.)

Ogden High School
 Ogden Regional Medical Center
 Orchard Cove Rehab
 Our House Assisted Living / Ogden
 Pioneer Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Pine View Transitional Rehab
 Plain City Elementary School (R.E.A.D.)
 Polk Elementary (R.E.A.D.)
 Taylor Canyon Elementary / Ogden (R.E.A.D.)
 Wasatch Elementary / Ogden (R.E.A.D.)
 Wasatch High School North Campus
 Washington Terrace Elementary / Ogden (R.E.A.D.)
 Waterfall Canyon Academy / Ogden (students with cognitive disabilities)
 Weber County Library / Ogden (R.E.A.D.)
 Weber Valley Detention Center / Ogden
 Willard Elementary / Willard (R.E.A.D.)
 Youth Futures Shelter Home

UTAH – UTAH VALLEY AREA

American Fork Hospital
 Center for Change / Orem (Eating disorders)
 Courtyard at Jamestown / Provo
 Orem Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Pleasant Grove Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Springville Library (R.E.A.D.)
 Utah Valley Regional Medical Center / Provo
 Valley View Elementary / Provo (R.E.A.D.)

MONTANA – HELENA AREA

St. Peter's Hospital Behavioral Health Unit, Helena
 Veterans Administration VA Hospital, Helena (Fort Harrison, MT)
 Masonic Home Assisted Living, Helena
 Touchmark on Saddle Drive Assisted Living, Helena
 Hunters Pointe Retirement Home, Helena
 Bryant School, Helena (R.E.A.D.)
 Shodair Children's Hospital, Helena (R.E.A.D.)
 Broadwater School, Helena (R.E.A.D.)

(Continued on p. 18)

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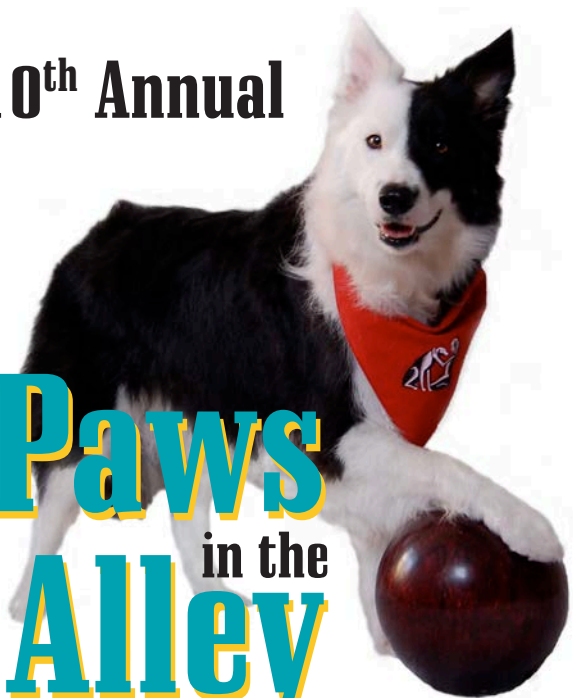


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