

“THE UNIVERSE IS MADE OF LOVE
STORIES, NOT OF ATOMS.” ~ MURIEL RUKEYSER

LOVE ON 4 PAWS



2019 Fall Newsletter

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World War II
Vet Remembers

85 Lbs!
Golden Lap Dog

Therapy Dogs Help
Everyone; Owners
Included

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WORLD WAR II VET REMEMBERS

By Carole



One of the residents at the West Los Angeles Veterans home was the nicest older man who proudly fought for us in WW II. *He had dozens of photos of himself with our therapy dogs taped around his mirror and on his walls.*

I found at least 10 of him and Max! On one visit I commented how many nice photos he had and I was happy he had enjoyed seeing Max so often.

He sat as straight as he could in his lounge and said, *"Why, those are pictures of my buddies, all my friends who visit me". "Oh yes, they come by all the time, and when I look*

"Why, those are pictures of my buddies, all my friends who visit me. Oh yes, they come by all the time..."

up from my bed [to see the photos from each visit], I don't see me and a dog; I see love all around.



Feels so good and I fall right back to sleep, safely surrounded by all that love..."

"My angels"

"WHEN AN EIGHTY-FIVE POUND DOG LICKS YOUR TEARS AWAY,
THEN TRIES TO SIT ON YOUR LAP, IT'S HARD TO FEEL SAD."

~ KRISTAN HIGGINS

85 LBS! GOLDEN LAP DOG

By Jim

I learned about therapy dogs on a visit to the Sacramento airport, where they greet travelers who have anxiety about flying. My daughter has a bright Golden Retriever named Maya, who I thought would be a good therapy dog candidate for a similar program in Southern California. That is when I learned about Love On 4 Paws.

After being accepted into the program, we had our first hospital visit on July 19, 2019, at Providence Little Company of Mary in San Pedro. Although I felt a little apprehensive, prior to entering the hospital, not Maya! Once I put her vest on, in the parking lot, she was ready to "go to work". And, as a new volunteer, she was required to take a photo for her I.D. badge, to be clipped to her vest.

Once she was "official", we could begin visiting patients. As we

walked the corridors, Maya was continually stopped by people who wanted to meet her, pet her, or take a photo with her. And she seemed to enjoy every minute of it!



The highlight of the day was our visit to the Rehab area. There, we met a patient restricted to a wheelchair, but wanted to sit with Maya. So, one of the family members picked Maya up - 85 LBS! - and put her in the wheelchair! The photo shows the result.

By the end of our visit to Providence Little Company of Mary, I was convinced that Maya had found her true calling as a therapy dog! I will never forget our first visit!

"Maya was continually stopped by people who wanted to meet her, pet her, or take a photo with her. And she seemed to enjoy every minute of it!"

THERAPY DOGS HELP EVERYONE, OWNERS INCLUDED

By Tina

It all started ten years ago. After many years of not having a dog I decided that it was time to adopt. My mom was getting older and I thought she could benefit from a canine companion, and I needed more than a bird. I knew what I wanted was an older rescue dog who was calm and would patiently sit and enjoy being petted. It took one year to find this dog, but when I did she changed my life.

Tootsie was unlike any dog I ever had, and immediately I noticed that she would come up to everyone and want to make friends. In addition, she was always watching me and seemed to understand what I was saying and how I was feeling. How could I let this dog stay at home sleeping all day?



"Tootsie doesn't fetch and she can't run an obstacle course, but she has this unique ability to calm everyone in the room - including me."

Her calling was to be a therapy dog.

We studied hard, and Tootsie became a therapy dog. But I was the one who learned the biggest lesson. When an animal assisted therapy team visits a patient in the hospital, the owner must have the ability to approach strangers who may be missing limbs or have just heard they have cancer. For an introvert like me, this aspect of the work was truly frightening, but somehow having Tootsie with me made it possible.

Suddenly it became easy to talk to people because all conversation revolved around the dog and her special gifts.

Tootsie doesn't fetch and she can't run an obstacle course, but she has this unique ability to calm everyone in the room - including me.

THOSE INSTANT PHOTOS AT TIMES CROSS OCEANS

By Carole

On a visit in one of the hospitals, a nice, pretty young Asian woman invited us in but explained she was a little afraid of dogs. As we backed up to leave, she quickly asked us to stay, explaining we were and would be her *only* visitors. Not just that day, but during the entire time she needed to be in the hospital.

Seeing Max remain so calm, she asked about him and wanted to touch his pretty soft hair. So, he gently climbed up on the chair next to her bed and sat.



"She wanted to send it [the photo] to her worried family in Japan...to reassure them she was doing okay."

Max loved to have his photo taken so he was waiting, and she was petting him. With her permission, I took a photo; it was really lovely. She looked at it and started to cry.

Quickly she apologized and asked if she was "allowed" to have a 2nd photo. Of course! Then, she explained she wanted to send it to her worried family in Japan who could not afford to be here with her. She wanted to reassure them that she was doing okay, and what better way than seeing her happy in the hospital, petting a beautiful dog sitting next to her.

She was just so happy to have a real photograph to mail them, and she had an extra to keep for herself.

[Now, I wanted to cry ...]

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH." ~ HELEN KELLER

ADVENTIST WHITE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP

Patients of Adventist Health White Memorial have enjoyed visits from Mia and other Love On 4 Paws pets since we began our partnership with LO4P in 2012.



These therapy animals bring joy and comfort to our hospitalized patients and their families. Patients, visitors and employees alike all love seeing the therapy animals in their uniform and badge making their rounds on our campus each week.

Eva Myers, PhD, NP explains how pets like Mia supplement the treatment patients receive at Adventist Health White Memorial's Cancer Center: "Pet therapy helps to make the hospital feel more 'like home,' bringing a kinder, more personal therapy for the heart. It is a wonderful compliment to modern medicine and helps us treat

the whole person—mind, body and spirit."

We are honored to have Love On 4 Paws as part of our hospital's family.

"Pet Therapy helps to make the hospital feel more 'like home'..."

By Melissa Stephenson, Communication Manager, Adventist Health White Memorial



A WORD FROM OUR NUMBER'S GUY

By Andy

When Suni Cookson, the President of Love On 4 Paws, Inc. ("LO4P) asked me to write an article for the newsletter I thought to myself, "What would the organization's Treasurer have to say that could possibly be interesting to our volunteers, donors, and friends?" After all, as accountants like to say, "There are three types of accountant: Those who can count and those who can't!" As a practicing CPA, I think I can qualify under the former category, so here's my attempt to provide you with something interesting without boring you to tears.

My involvement with LO4P began in 2004 shortly after my wife, Janie, became involved with the organization and had been enjoying doing visits with our dog, Roscoe. One day she came to me and said, "Guess what?" My normal reaction to hearing that phrase was serious concern that bad news was coming (usually involving some shenanigans perpetrated by Roscoe – like eating 4 of the T.V. remote controls) or, on rare occasions, there was good news to impart.

I was delighted to hear that this time it was good news. We had been invited

to have dinner with Suni and her husband, Vance, and that she was serving prime rib! Well, a prime rib dinner is something that I just don't turn down! All went well and we had a delightful dinner. As we were enjoying dessert, the discussion turned to the financial operations of LO4P and the fact that they were in dire need of an accountant to keep the organization's books and file its tax returns.



Apparently, the former accountant could no longer continue. I suddenly realized that I had been fattened for the slaughter and that my fate was now inescapable...I was trapped!

"...I have never regretted the prime rib dinner. My association with LO4P has been one of the most rewarding of my career."

How could I possibly turn them down after breaking bread with the President of the organization that enlisted my lovely wife as a co-conspirator? In the brief space of one evening I went from meeting the President of the organization to being a candidate for Treasurer. I must have run an absolutely flawless campaign as shortly thereafter I was elected to office. I wonder if having no other candidates had something to do with it...Nah!

All kidding aside, I have never regretted that prime rib dinner. My association with LO4P has been one of the most rewarding of my career. Although the position of Treasurer is a lot of work, I know I am helping the organization achieve its goals, not to mention keeping my spouse in a relatively reasonable frame of mind.

Moving to the part of this exposé that you have all been waiting for, I will

"I am happy to report that the program is in good shape financially!"

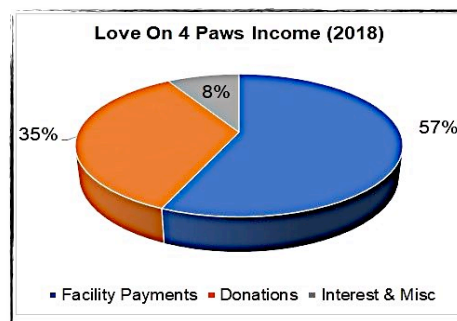
now answer the question that we get most often: What are the sources of LO4Ps funding and the nature of its expenses?

Our income comes mainly from donations and funding that some of the facilities we visit are able to provide. Of course, many of the facilities we visit are unable to pay - we go there anyway. A small amount also comes from savings interest and investment income.



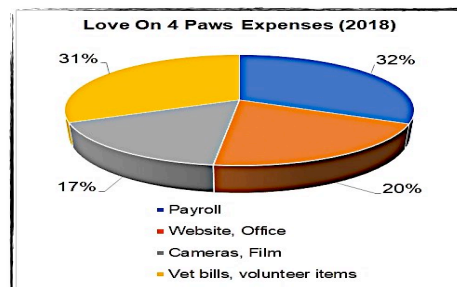
Expenses include payment to a part time program manager, office and website costs, vet bills & volunteer supplies, and camera and film.

The charts below summarize our income and expenses for last year.



We are designated as a non-profit corporation, and my goal as Treasurer is to insure that all the money is being handled appropriately.

I am happy to report that the program is in good shape financially!



LOVE^{ON}4 PAWSSM

Animal Assisted Therapy

VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME;
THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART.” ~ ELIZABETH ANDREW

OUR MISSION

Love On 4 Paws is a non-profit volunteer based organization committed to making a positive difference for those in need through animal assisted therapy. Our volunteers accomplish this by sharing the joy, comfort and healing power of their pet's unconditional love.

www.loveon4paws.org
310. 547.2200

OUR HELPING HEROES ARE
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



Love On 4 Paws is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, established in 1997, and provides services throughout the greater Los Angeles area and visits with approximately 50,000 people each year.

Editor | Mercedes Legaspi

