



# CARING CANINES


The Upstate Therapy Dogs Official Newsletter  
January-March 2024 (Fourth Edition)

## Elaine Hardin Retires after 38 wonderful years at Shriners Children's - Greenville


An Upstate Therapy Dogs group gathered in December to bid Elaine Hardin, the head of Child Life at Shriner Children's Hospital for 38 years, a bittersweet farewell as she headed into retirement. Her impact for the hospital and for our group will not go unnoticed - one of her many legacies includes starting the therapy dog program. Initially, teams had to meet the children on the patio because they were not allowed in the hospital! We thank Elaine for her tireless work in helping hospital administration realize the positive impact the dogs have on the children and their parents, and we look forward to many visits for years to come. Thank you, Elaine!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

 **Michael Matson** with his Great Dane, **Kane**  
(pictured)

 **Michelle Ozog** with her German Shepherd, **Tonks**

 **KJ Peavy** with her Anatolian Shepherd, **Harry**



If you meet them at a visit, please make them feel welcome.

## KUDOS KORNER

A special thank you to **Anthony Agnello, Michele Brinn, Michelle Chastain, George Harakas, Elaine Galladay, Maria Marier, Kaye Martell, Kim Nelson** for attending the Clement's Kindness event.

**Wanda Roberts and Richard Stolz** began helping with ATD Testing along with their Standard Poodle, Blaze. They were members of ATD through 2022 with their previous therapy dog, Diesel, and remained supporting members until they adopted Blaze in 2023. We appreciate their dedication to ATD.

**Michele Brinn** is stretching her wings to volunteer at Service Dogs for Veterans. She said it is so rewarding to share her love for animals with this organization.

**Keith Dammann and JoJo and Joan Gilreath and Leo** volunteer on a regular basis at the Woodlands. The residents look so forward to their time with JoJo and Leo.



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**ATD VISIT TIP:** The best way to make visits a habit is to schedule them at least once a month. Check the monthly calendar and contact the visit coordinator to lock in your commitment for 1-2 visits per month. Reminder that Alliance of Therapy Dogs requires 1 visit every 3 months for your status to remain active!

## NEW VISITS

**Traditions Health** - Traditions Health provides Hospice Care to homebound patients and individuals in over a dozen facilities in the Greenville/Easley/Pickens areas. To volunteer, you must complete their extensive onboarding process and commit to a monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly visitation schedule. If interested, contact Eleanor Russ at 864-417-4978 or [eleanor.russ@traditionshealth.com](mailto:eleanor.russ@traditionshealth.com) for more information.

**Terra Bella Summit** - Terra Bella Summit is a retirement community whose residents look forward to therapy dog days, even while being a pet friendly community! Join us on the second Saturday of every month at 11 AM at Terra Bella Summit - 414 Summit Dr. Greenville, SC 29609. Contact Jennifer Singling if interested in joining these visits: [Jenniferdumouchel@mac.com](mailto:Jenniferdumouchel@mac.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10AM** - McMillan Pazden Smith (400 Augusta St), a local architectural firm, is seeking our services for their mental health day for sixty plus employees. If you are interested, please contact Kaye Martell [kayemartell5@gmail.com](mailto:kayemartell5@gmail.com).

### Email Etiquette: Reply All

Please only use "Reply All" in group emails when you need to address ALL Upstate Therapy Dogs Members. If you would like to reply to the sender, simply use the "Reply" option. This prevents unnecessary communication from reaching everyone's inbox. Thank you!



Upstate Therapy Dogs participate in the Halloween Parade at Shriners Children's Hospital







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## VISITS TO TRY



### **Furman University**

Visits occur once per semester. Students often remark how much they miss their dogs at home, resulting in extra love and snuggles!

### **We're All Ears Reading Program - Pickens County Schools**

If you're interested in reading with students, reach out to the guidance counselor at your local Pickens County School. Michele Dickson visits West End Elementary and Cathy Ronald visits Dacusville Elementary every week, and love meeting with the staff and children!



### **Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital**

On the 4th Wednesday of the month, Upstate Therapy Dogs visits Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Greenville, an inpatient rehabilitation facility. Patients and staff alike eagerly await therapy dog visits. Teams visit the physical therapy gym, chat with patients and assist in rehabilitation efforts (including fetching bean bags)! Petting a dog can even help patients who need assistance with sensation or motor skills in their hands! Many of the patients miss their dogs at home, and love the visits from our teams. Please note: This center is NOT affiliated with Prisma, so you do not need to have Prisma volunteer status to visit. Contact Cathy Lagerman for more information.



### **Prisma Health Senior Care - PACE at Greenville**

Join us the first Thursday every month at 10am at PACE Senior Care! We have fun with these visits, often dressing our dogs for the month's theme. Contact Cathy Ronald if interested in next month's visit!

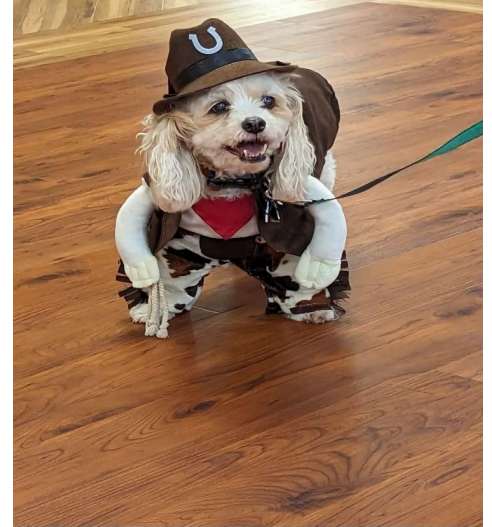


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## Team of the Quarter - Lisa and Oscar

Lisa Thomas moved here over thirty years ago as a sales rep for Max paper distributors. When she decided to get her Cavachon, Oscar, many of her friends thought she was too busy to have a dog! Despite their hesitations, Lisa decided to bring Oscar into the family. Oscar has brought so much joy to her and her husband for the past 14 years. Oscar loves people and other dogs and loves visits at Shriners Children's Hospital. They also enjoy visiting the Cascades. We're surprised he has yet to come to visits dressed in a Gamecock suit as he and his family are avid fans. Thank you, Lisa and Oscar, for sharing your love with so many!



## WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHIES



Laurel Wanner, child life handler at Prisma, lost her facility dog, Kenzie, on Friday, January 19. She is pictured here visiting with children who had lost a parent - she will be missed terribly. Our sympathy to Laurel with much love and hugs.

Cathy Ronald lost her sweet dog, Riley, on January 23rd. For over 12 ½ Years, Riley brought joy to seniors, patients, nurses, other medical staff and doctors, read with children at four different Elementary Schools, and visited with patients at Patewood Children's Hospital. He always had a doggy smile on his face and his tail wagging. Riley went to doggy heaven to play with all his other buddies. He will be greatly missed by Cathy Ronald and his family and all that he touched and loved.

