



Fairfax Pets On Wheels Summer Update

Summer 2016



Kye Abboushi is the Winner of the Latshaw Award and in the Volunteer Spotlight!

Kye Abboushi was born in Korea and had a career in retail with the Army/Air Force Exchange for over thirty years. Her career led to postings all over the world and she met her husband, Tarek when they were stationed in Japan.

Kye and Tarek's work led to a posting for her husband at the Pentagon and for Kye at Fort Myer's

Registration is Open! 21st Annual Paws for a Cause 3K Walk

When: Sunday, October 2, 2016 12:00/Noon
Where: Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030

HURRY! Registration is \$20 before September 12th - \$25 after.

To register, visit:
www.tiny.cc/walk2016

On October 2, 2016 at 12:00 noon, bring your friends, family and pets for this wonderful 3K walk through the shady streets of Fairfax.

All registered participants will receive a "Paws for a Cause" T-shirt. You must attend the walk to receive your shirt. Walk-ons encouraged, but shirts available only while supplies last.



(Continued on page 2)

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base exchange. They liked the area and wanted to remain in the area when they retired, through many postings to other places they always returned to Northern Virginia. Kye retired six years ago and her husband retired from the military four years ago.

Two of Kye's goals in retired life were to volunteer with the elderly and get a dog. She has always had a heart for the elderly since her mother died when she was 13 years old and she felt volunteering with the elderly would honor her mother.

She found a wonderful pet, Suhkee, a delightful mixed breed, and spent time training her to be an excellent FPOW volunteer. Everyone loves touching Suhkee's amazingly soft fur. Kye saw an article about pet therapy in the Maryland/Washington dog magazine and it mentioned FPOW. She thought this would be a good match and called us and started the process to becoming FPOW volunteers.

The team are dedicated visitors to Mt. Vernon Nursing Home and Goodwin House – Bailey's Crossroads. Kye brings her gentle, soft-spoken manner to her visits which emanates warmth and kindness. Kye believes a key to good visits is to start a conversation with those who look sad, ask if they want to visit with the dog, even if the person doesn't like pets they often respond to a kind word and a smile.

She sits down to visit with the resident if they would like to talk. Suhkee enjoys the residents and knows their names and she knows where to go in the facility to see her friends. She is excited when she knows that team is getting prepared to go out the door for a visit. In addition to her visits, Kye is a member of the Speakers Bureau and has volunteered at numerous FPOW public relations events. She has recently become the facility liaison at Goodwin House training new FPOW volunteers about the facility.

One of Kye's favorite memories is when Mrs. H moved into the Alzheimer's unit at Goodwin House from her apartment at the facility. She was a military wife and was able to tell Kye about her experi-

ences on her husband's international postings.

Mrs. H was very lucid initially and was a dog lover. She looked forward to the team's weekly visits. Suhkee knew Mrs. H and was very excited to get into the Alzheimer unit to see her friend. Mrs. H's memory deteriorated quickly but she always seemed to recognize Suhkee even after she had stopped recognizing Kye.

One week when the team came to the unit and Mrs. H. wasn't there, she had fallen and broken her hip. The team went to the rehabilitation unit to see her and saw that she was asleep. As the team was going to leave, she opened her eyes and was able to visit with them.

The next week the nurses on the unit let Kye know that Mrs. H had passed away the day after their visit. Kye called Mr. H, who was still living in his apartment at Goodwin House, to express her sympathies to him. Mr. H expressed his thanks for the team's visits and wanted them to attend the memorial service for his wife. Mr. H had Kye contact the pastor at Christ Church, the historic colonial-era Episcopal church, located in Old Town Alexandria. The pastor welcomed the team to attend the service. As far as the pastor knows, Sukhee was the first therapy dog ever to attend services at the church.

The team met with some surprised looks from people coming to the service but when the pastor welcomed the team from the pulpit as being a meaningful part of Mrs. H's life in the last months of her life everyone was glad to have the them there. It was one of the most wonderful experience the team had ever had.

Sukhee knew that she had a job to do at the service, she sat for an entire hour and half on her best behavior wearing a black ribbon and her FPOW bandana. At the reception after the service, many of the attendees made sure to stop by to visit with the team who helped with a calming presence at a stressful, yet joyous life celebration.

Kye stated that FPOW has provided a very mean-

ingful volunteer experience for her and Suhkee. When she sees the residents smile and respond to the team, “it means everything to me.” She would also like to thank her husband for being very supportive of her volunteer work with FPOW.

Mary Latshaw Winner, a Corporate “Soulmate”

The winner of FPOW’s 2016 Mary Latshaw Award for Excellence is Kris Higgins of Good Bye Films.

Kris Higgins originally contacted FPOW in 2011. As a graduate student at American University he was looking to do a short film on the use of animals for therapy. Working with Ruth Benker, Director of Communications at the time, Kris filmed and interviewed FPOW volunteers, staff and residents at Iliff Nursing and Rehab Center, ultimately producing a 7 minute video that captured the essence of the FPOW mission. He made extra copies of the DVD so that each resident who was in the video could give a copy to their family, all at no cost to FPOW. This video is used when FPOW is invited to make presentations about our program – it usually leaves at least one person in the room going for the tissue box.

FPOW had decided it needed a new training video for use at the monthly New Volunteer Orientations. Bids had been solicited in the past and due to budget constraints, getting a new video produced had been postponed.

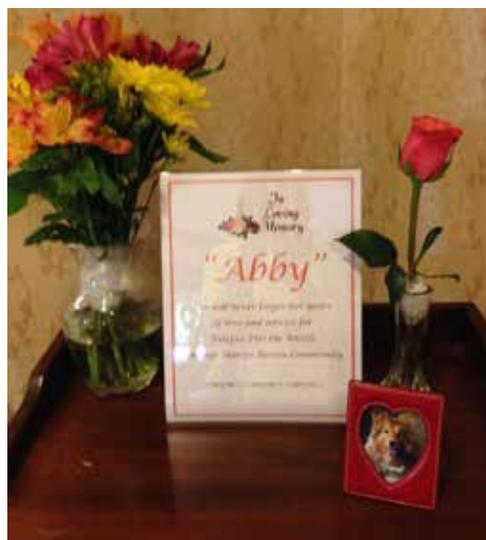
Based on the quality of the work of Kris’ graduate student video, as well as his easy going manner and ability to work with volunteers and residents, Ruth and Madelynn Arnold, President of FPOW decided to meet with Kris in July 2013 to see if he would be interested in doing a training video to replace the outdated video that was being used at New Volunteer Orientations.

Kris was not only interested, but his passion for his craft, was demonstrated by his suggestions for ways to present “boring” material and make the mission

Thanks for the Memories

On June 8, Abby, a Shetland Sheepdog owned by FPOW volunteer Kathi Baker, passed away. She had been a FPOW pet volunteer for 10 years and was the only FPOW dog to earn the highest AKC Therapy Dog Title, “Distinguished”. Abby helped her mom, Kathi, train many new FPOW volunteers at Cameron Glen Nursing Center, Herndon Harbor Adult Day Health Care Center and Sunrise-Reston.

Sunrise-Reston, upon hearing of Abby’s passing, set up a memorial in their lobby. Abby will be truly missed.



Visit www.fpow.org/tribute to make an online memorial or tribute donation.

come alive in a 30 minute video to new, potential volunteers while outlining all the steps required to become an FPOW volunteer. The price he quoted for the new training video was too good to pass up.

While our original timeframe for completion of the video slipped, the completed video exceeded our expectations in terms of composition, message, and price. At every step during the production, Kris was easy to work with – any edits or suggestions we made were welcomed. FPOW Speakers’ Bureau Presenters at the New Volunteer Orientations no

Dates to Remember

Newsletter Deadlines: January 31, June 30 and October 31, 2016.

New Volunteer Orientation

3 Aug 2016 7:30PM

Providence Community Center 3001 Vaden Drive Fairfax, VA 22031

New Volunteer Orientation

7 Sep 2016 7:30PM

Providence Community Center 3001 Vaden Drive Fairfax, VA 22031

Board of Director's Meeting

12 Sep 2016 7:00PM

City of Fairfax Library 10360 North St, Fairfax, VA - Meeting Room A/B.

Annual Meeting - All are welcome!

12 Sep 2016 8:00PM

City of Fairfax Library 10360 North St, Fairfax, VA - Meeting Room A/B.

21st Annual Paws for a Cause 3K

Walk ** REGISTRATION IS OPEN **

2 Oct 2016 12:00PM

Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030

Register at: tiny.cc/walk2016

New Volunteer Orientation

5 Oct 2016 7:30PM

Providence Community Center 3001 Vaden Drive Fairfax, VA 22031

Board of Directors Meeting

5 Dec 2016 7:00PM

Please check fpow.org for location

longer have to worry about having to talk about the “steps to becoming an FPOW” volunteer -- they can introduce the video, play it and answer a few questions from folks attending the orientation.

FPOW has found a soulmate in Kris – he gave us a free 7 minute tear jerker that “speaks” to audiences; our new 30 minute New Volunteer Orientation training video plays out our mission succinctly, demonstrates precisely what the temperament test requirements are for our dogs, and portrays our residents and facilities accurately. We could not have gotten these 2 quality videos without Kris.



By Ruth Benker

Years of Service Awards

5 Year -- Wendy Boiles, Janice Call, Dale Dunlop, Elizabeth Humphrey, Joan Huppi, Larry Lukatch, Shelley Matthews

10 Year -- Karen Beekman, Carol Chapin, Sheila Consaul, Carla Graham, Diana Ok, Joan Violante



10 Year Volunteers Karen Beekam and Sheila Consaul with Madelynn Arnold .

15 Year -- Patricia Winchester

20 Year -- Judy Mitnick, Pauline Narcavage, Debbie Zelten

2015 Hours Awards

50-74 Hours (Bronze Star)

Carol and Rain Chapin; Pat and Lily Dutton; Shelley, Sonny and Sadie Matthews; Karen and Charlie Pyeatt; Debbie and Jumoke Zelten



20 Year Volunteer Judy Mitnick with Madelynn Arnold

75 – 99 Hours (Silver Star)

Al and Mia Doehring; Denise and Sport Kloepfel; Charlie and Bella Viall



50 - 74 Volunteer Hours Pat Dutton with Madelynn Arnold.

Abboushi; Joe and Remington Ammann; Madelynn Arnold; Kathi and Abby Baker; Ruth and Teddy Benker; Paula and Maia Burger; Brian, Harley and Marley Bryson; Bonnie and Cindy Burnham; Jill Davidson; Carla Graham; Patty and Dolly

Kwapniewski; Terry and Lulu Patton; Beverly and Gretel Powell; Joan Violante.

CJ Stone Awarded Shauna

This year's Shauna award winner is CJ Stone, a Shih Tzu, who was Laurie Stone's beloved pet. CJ was a very gentle and laid back dog, the only time he ever got really excited was when someone offered him a treat or when Laurie put on his red FPOW bandana. He knew that he was going to visit. He knew that was his "mission" in life to put smiles on people's faces.

CJ and Laurie visited at Commonwealth Care Center for over 12 years until CJ's health forced his retirement from the program. He was a weekly visitor who brought love and care to the residents (and others in the facility) who were all smiles whenever they saw the team. He loved to sit on a resident's lap or next to them in bed and have his ears rubbed, CJ would just snuggle and close his eyes. CJ was just a puppy when he began volunteering and he enjoyed his visits throughout his life.

There was one resident who the team visited who had a severe stroke and had no body movement. She would sit in her wheelchair or lie in bed with no reaction or communication with anyone. Her

100 + Hours (Gold Star)

Kye and Sukhee



100+ Volunteer Hours

husband told Laurie that she had always loved dogs. When the team came to visit, Laurie placed CJ on her lap or next to her in bed and Laurie could see her eyes move. She knew that CJ was able to make a connection with this resident.

Lights, Camera, Action

In early spring, FPOW was invited by Grace Lynch, Manager of Communications within the Division of Adult and Aging Services of the Fairfax County Department of Family Services to be part of the Fairfax County Channel 16 Mature Living show focusing on older adults and animals. The show promotes the idea that animals are good for older adults for many reasons, i.e. companionship, exercise, stress reduction, socialization, etc. An in-studio panel discussion included Dr. D. Anne Garrod, from Great Falls Animal Hospital and veterinarian consultant to the FPOW Board of Directors, Shawn Crisp, Humane Educator with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Madelynn Arnold, President, FPOW Board of Directors, Ruth Benker, Chair, Speakers' Bureau, FPOW and Teddy Benker.

Dr. Garrod spoke to the benefits of older persons having an animal, Shawn Crisp spoke about senior outreach programs as well as concerns seniors may have when adopting a pet, Madelynn and Ruth spoke about FPOW's mission to providing pet therapy to seniors in long term care facilities and Teddy took in the whole presentation from his own chair, demonstrating how "chill" our FPOW pets can be.

Prior to the taping of the panel discussion, Channel 16 taped FPOW volunteers in action. Many thanks to the Herndon Harbor Adult Day Health Care Center staff and participants and FPOW volunteers Kathi Baker and Abby, Bonnie Burnham and Cindy, Mary Portelly and Anniebelle,

Karen Beekman and Teddy, Barbara Harding and Garfield and Teddy Benker. Also, many thanks to The Virginian staff and participants and FPOW volunteers, Madelynn Arnold, Kim Wilkerson and McGregor, Kye Abboushi and Sukhee, Brian Bryson and Harley, Carol Chapin and Rain, Al Doehring and Mia, Janice Lynch and Harry, Terry Patton and Lulu, Mary Irick and Cherie and Teddy Benker.

We do not have the show date yet, but will be able to be seen on YouTube and Channel 16. Stay tuned for the show date!

Many thanks to Grace Lynch for this opportunity to show off our wonderful program and hopefully recruit new volunteers!

By Ruth Benker



Vienna Arts Center Pet Expo

FPOW was invited to have an information table at the Vienna Arts Center Pet Expo on Saturday, June 11. With the temps in the 90's, the FPOW table was, thankfully, placed under a canopy so that our four-legged volunteers would have some relief from the heat. Many thanks to Sharon Celesnik and Penny,



Pat Dutton and Lilly and Doreen Peters and Harley at Vienna Arts Center Pet Expo

Pat Dutton and Lilly, Doreen Peters and Harley, Al Doehring and Mia, and Teddy Benker who supervised his Mom.

By Ruth Benker

Reston Pet Fiesta 2016

It has become an annual tradition that FPOW has an information booth at the Reston Pet Fiesta. While it is a long day, we have enough shifts so that pups don't get too tired and stressed while telling folks about our wonderful program. This year, we were lucky to have decent weather, not too hot and no rain. Many thanks to Sheila Consaul and Lucy, Nikki DiPalma and Sophie, Bonnie Burnham and Cindy, Carla Graham and Bella, Kye Abboushi and Sukhee, Doreen Peters and Harley, Christine Stout and Henry, Brian Bryson and Harley, Edie Norton and Hershel and Teddy Benker.



Left to right: Teddy Benker, Nikki DiPalma and Sophie, Cindy and Bonnie Burnham, Lucy and Sheila Consaul

By Ruth Benker

Shop to Donate to FPOW

Did you know that Amazon has a program that contributes a percentage of sales to nonprofit organizations? Here's how shopping can get FPOW contributions and it costs you nothing extra.

Instead of going to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), go to: [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and when asked to which nonprofit you want to direct your shopping credits, type in "Fairfax Pets On Wheels."

Each time you shop and buy from [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to FPOW.

If you want to learn more, visit, <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.



By Denise Elliott



Left to right: Christine Stout and Henry, Brian Bryson and Harley

Annual Picnic at Frying Pan Park

After what seemed like weeks of rain the sun came out and shined on this year's picnic. Over one hundred FPOW canine and human volunteers attended our annual volunteer appreciation event! The pavilion was busy a couple of hours before the kick-off of the event with those helping to set up the tables, food, the musical equipment, the photography studio area and our merchandise table.

Volunteer Fairfax's Meagan Richards and Anna Lachowicz were there early to help with all the set up and signs and stayed throughout the day to assist in numerous ways to help make our picnic a success. In addition, Mary Tamberrino and Eric Stewart once again volunteered at our registration table, greeting guests and handing out this year's swag – a portable microfleece blanket. Volunteers also signed up for their gift pet trading card photos which were taken throughout the day by Robin Burkett of Paw Prints Photography. These are always a special treat for the volunteers.

Our favorite DJ Michael Galvin did a great job of allowing us to jam to his tunes while also providing his expert photography skills throughout the day capturing all the activities. Judy Mitnick set up the FPOW merchandise table and sold numerous items throughout the day. King Creole Caterers provided the delicious food once again this year. The food and drinks were a welcome treat for everyone, especially the chocolate cake, yum! Thanks to Kathi Baker, Liz Breyer and Carla Graham for providing the pet agility and rally equipment set-up and pool the for the pups to frolic in.

Overall, the picnic was deemed a success and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all of our volunteers who participated not only in this event, but who give their time and energy to the FPOW program throughout the year.

Visit fpow.org/picnic to see a slideshow of all pictures!







Are A Breed Apart

Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
12011 Government Center Parkway, #708
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104



Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is a volunteer program working with the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, 12011 Government Center Parkway, #708, Fairfax, VA 22035-1104. FPOW Volunteer Hotline: (703) 324-5424. Visit www.fpow.org
Please use the FPOW Hotline number for nonemergency calls if you are an FPOW volunteer or currently in the pipeline. Someone will either act on your message or return your call if more information is required.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT FPOW NEWSLETTER: October 31, 2016

FAIRFAX PETS ON WHEELS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Committee:

President – Madelynn Arnold

Vice President/Dir. of Administration – Nikki DiPalma

Treasurer – Patty Kwapniewski

Secretary – Laurie Stone

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Director, Facilities Relations – Ruth Benker

Director, Volunteer Development & Education – Vacant

Director, Communications – Tracy Van Duston

Director, Volunteer Appreciation – Diane Ehrig

Director, Fund Development – Judy Mitnick

Director at Large – Debbie Zelten

Director at Large – Karen Beekman

Director at Large – Jill Davidson

Newsletter Editor: Denise Elliott

EDITORIAL POLICY

This is your newsletter. Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., volunteers may contribute articles for publication. Articles will be reviewed by the editors. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for publication. We cannot guarantee the return of documents or photos (if used). Because Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is under the sponsorship of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, the FPOW Newsletter must be approved by the FAAG prior to publication. Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. Letters must be signed, but if requested, your name will be withheld.

All correspondence should be directed to:

Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

Attention: FPOW Newsletter

12011 Government Center Parkway, #708

Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

(703) 324-5411

Email:

dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov



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