

Electronic Message Board

Want advice about a challenging visit you've had? Looking for training tips? Want to share a triumph? Need information about nutrition and grooming?

Now you can log onto the Good Dog website and chat with your fellow volunteers. Visit the new electronic message board on the "For Good Dog Teams" page, sign up, and connect with others who are doing therapy dog work!

Thoughts about the message board? Direct your comments to info@thegooddogfoundation.org.

New Email Address?

Help Good Dog stay in touch with you. Please inform your trainer if your email address changes. And look for updates and other important Good Dog information in your inbox.

Best of Breed

Congratulations to Sonia Han, a Good Dog volunteer and new board member, on her Good Dog Dreamer, a Chow Chow (right), winning Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show this year.

Photo: Kathy Landman



Transitions

We are sad to announce the passing of some very special Good Dogs this year. They brought joy and healing to many people, and they will always be remembered:

- ♥ Jane Bender and Bonny Hart's Mabel, a Golden Retriever
- ♥ Rosa-Lee Emerson's Maggie, a West Highland White Terrier
- ♥ Peter Howe's Bobby Blue, a Samoyed
- ♥ Molly Jenks's Boomer, a mixed breed
- ♥ Carron Leon's Morgaine, a Greyhound
- ♥ Sarit Majhor's Freddie, a Pomeranian
- ♥ Pam McKenna's Seamus, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever
- ♥ Diane McNulty's Charlie, a French Bulldog
- ♥ Marilyn Mode's Lil, a Bichon Frise mix
- ♥ Mary Jo Page's Amber, a Jack Russell Terrier
- ♥ Catherine Paukner's Iggy, a Cairn Terrier
- ♥ Vanessa Piselli's Bella, a Bernese Mountain Dog
- ♥ Mary Rojas's Osita, a Labrador Retriever mix
- ♥ Eliot Russman's Gundy, a German Shepherd
- ♥ Gretchen Tanenbaum's Rosie, a mixed breed

These pooches are taking a well-deserved retirement from therapy dog work. Thanks go to these Good Dogs and their humans for their years of service!

- ♥ Ruth Bonnet's Jack, a Border Collie
- ♥ Barbara Chapman's Winnie, a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
- ♥ Mary Eccles and Mary Romanillo's Bootsie, a Labrador Retriever
- ♥ Kevin Neenan's Mugsy, a Chinese Shar-Pei

Beginning this year, we will list the names of Good Dogs who have retired or passed in this section of the newsletter. Please notify the Good Dog office if your Good Dog has retired or passed away. Thank you.



How can a severely abused child learn to trust adults again?
With the help of a Good Dog. See inside for more.

www.thegooddogfoundation.org
718.788.2988 | 888.859.9992
607 Sixth Street | Brooklyn, NY 11215

the good dog foundation
dogs helping humans heal



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 8048
New York, N.Y.



the newsletter of
the good dog foundation
dogs helping humans heal

dish

FALL
2007

the good dog dish

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars for three upcoming Good Dog fundraisers:

October 4, 2007 Pochron Studios
20 Jay Street, 11th Floor, Brooklyn

November 6, 2007 Barneys New York
660 Madison Avenue
(60th and 61st Streets)
Manhattan

November 10, 2007
The Stissing House Restaurant and Tavern
Corner of Routes 199 and 82
Pine Plains, New York

In This Issue:

Message from the Founder & Executive Director **PAGE 2**

A Good Dog Pack on a Mission **PAGE 2**

Society Page **PAGE 3**

Board Profile **PAGE 3**

Giving **PAGE 3**

Volunteer News **PAGE 4**

Children undergoing medical treatment experience less anxiety when a dog is present. Just so you know.

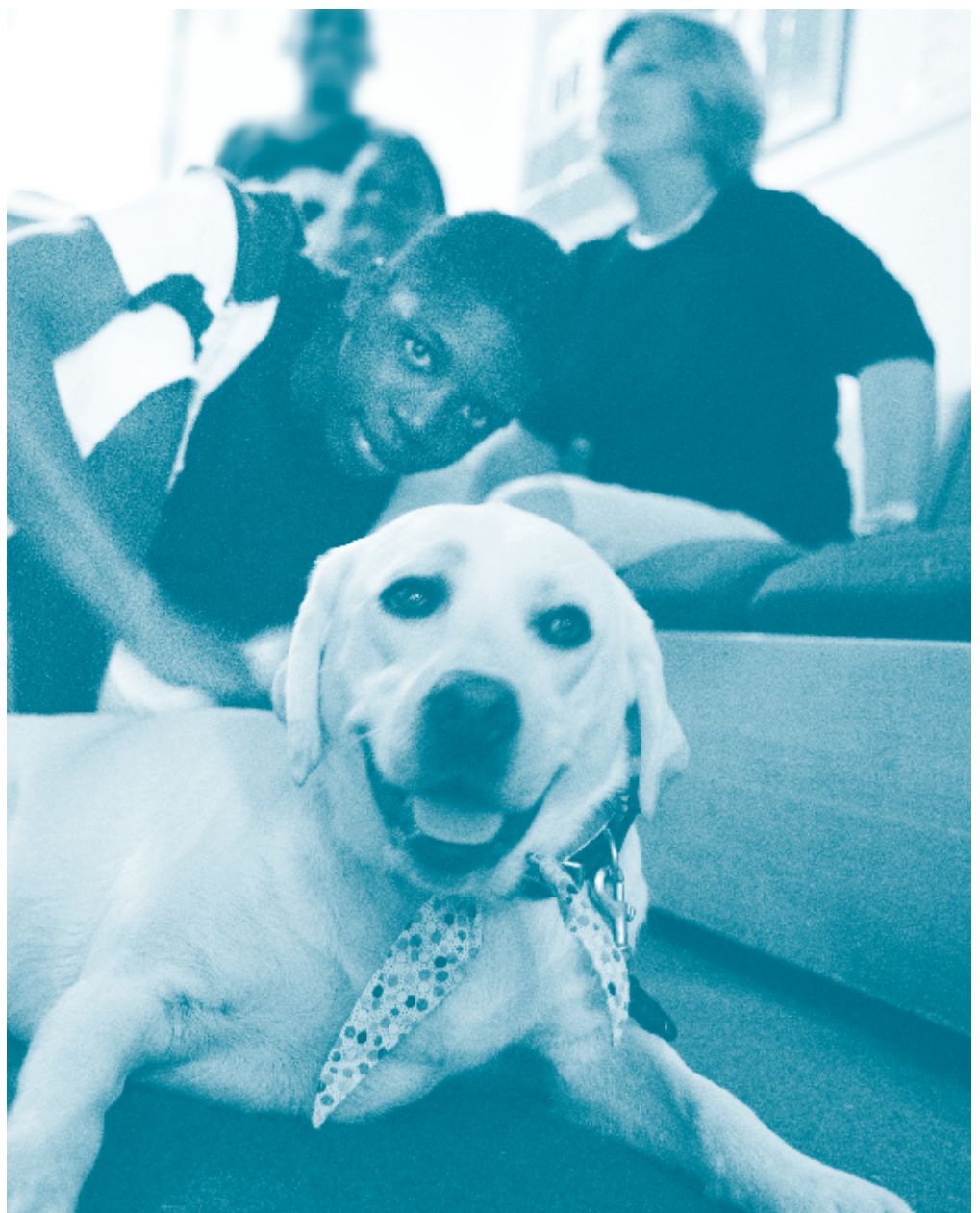


Photo: Kathy Landman

Good Dog Lina with children from the Astor Home. Background right: volunteer Pat Cortese.

Good Dogs Bring Healing to Abused Children

Innovative Uses for Therapy Dogs

Nelson, now ten years old, was sexually abused by a family member beginning when he was five. The resulting trauma necessitated his placement at the Astor Home for Children in Rhinebeck, New York. Today, with the help of a Good Dog team, Nelson is beginning to heal.

Good Dog's partnership with the residential treatment center at the Astor Home is having a profoundly healing effect on Nelson and many of the other 74 abused children who live there. Since November 2006, when Good Dog teams began visiting, they have helped the children to verbalize their traumas, learn life skills, and begin to trust adults again.

"The impact that Good Dogs and volunteers have had on the children at the Astor Home has exceeded our expectations," says Rachel McPherson, Good Dog's founder and executive director. "It's the kind of innovation in therapy dog services that we're proud to foster."

< CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >



Volunteers: Our Greatest Asset

From the Founder and Executive Director

There is so much to be proud of at The Good Dog Foundation. As this issue's cover story illustrates, Good Dog is advancing innovative ways to employ therapy dogs in the service of abused children. We're very proud of our volunteers at the Astor Home, whose creativity and commitment have enriched and expanded traditional therapy dog services to include new teaching and healing modalities. There's much more to the story than we have room to print, but we thank the volunteers who visit there for their exceptional commitment.

In all of the regions we serve, Good Dog volunteers maintain a level of professional service that we are very proud of. Their commitment remains impressive: our 375 volunteers will make more than 150,000 visits this fiscal year alone. To accommodate all the new volunteers who have recently graduated, we continue to open new facilities to visit, now exceeding 120 in four states.

Continuing our growth, we are now resuming our visitation program on Long Island. Look for training classes and facilities to visit in Nassau and Suffolk Counties coming soon.

Last year, 35 volunteers participated in focus groups, which provided Good Dog with very helpful feedback. In response to some of the suggestions made, we have launched an electronic message board on the Good Dog website, which will provide volunteers with a means of sharing ideas, questions, comments, and triumphs with each other. Soon we'll be creating support groups and a mentor program in each region.

In the last year, we have held three very successful fundraisers—in Dutchess County, Westport, Connecticut, and Manhattan. Volunteers have been key to these events, serving on the committees, securing silent auction items, and helping with coordination. These events would not have succeeded without such a strong commitment from our volunteers. As we look toward a busy fundraising season ahead, we hope that volunteers will join us with an equal or greater enthusiasm.

As we have grown, our fundraising needs have only increased. You may know that Good Dog has no source of reimbursement for its services. Instead, we must rely on the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations to cover our budget each year. As we innovate and expand, please consider increasing your giving to The Good Dog Foundation.

Best wishes for a beautiful and successful fall season,

Rachel McPherson

Rachel McPherson

The Good Dog Dish is published twice a year by The Good Dog Foundation. The Good Dog Foundation provides therapy dog services to people in health care, social service, educational, and community facilities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, and at disaster sites around the country. A nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that provides services entirely free of charge, it advances research and promotes awareness about the human-animal bond.

W. Patrick McMullan III **PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
 Rachel McPherson **FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
 Raymond L. Rigoglioso **EDITOR**
 T.R. Nimen **DESIGN**

The Good Dog Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Volunteers in Action

A Good Dog Pack on a Mission: Jane Landis, Bob Ipcar, and Denali

Jane Landis and Bob Ipcar make a big splash at New York Methodist Hospital where they visit with Denali, their 100-pound Italian Spinone. "When we're waiting for the elevator and the doors open, everyone in the car gasps and asks, 'Oh, what kind of dog is that?'" Bob says.

Neither of them seems to mind. Nor does Denali, who is all too happy to greet the patients and staff. And everyone, even people who are afraid of dogs, comes to love him.

A Family Tradition

Therapy dog service has become somewhat of a tradition for Jane and Bob. Volunteers since 2001, they now have a second Good Dog. Their first, a Neapolitan Mastiff named Yuffie, also visited at New York Methodist until she died three years ago at age five.

"We loved doing therapy dog work so much that we wanted to find another dog that was equally well-suited," Bob says. When they attended the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, they overheard someone saying what great dogs Spinones are and how it's surprising they're not more well-known. "We went online and found out they make great therapy dogs," Jane says. "Then we got Denali."

Big Dog Lovers

To say that Jane and Bob are dog people would understate their commitment. As Good Dog volunteers, they visit the rehabilitation unit at New York Methodist Hospital together with Denali each week. They are also active members of the Fellowship in the Interest of Dogs and their Owners (FIDO), a Prospect Park-based advocacy group.



Bob Ipcar, Denali, and Jane Landis on their stoop in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

Jane sings with Bark the Herald Angels sing, a Christmastime event in which carols are modified with dog-related lyrics. Bob campaigned with other dog advocates for years to allow dogs to be off leash in New York City parks, an effort that was ultimately successful last year. He even attended a press conference in front of the New York City Department of Health last year with Denali to advance the cause. Yet amid the busyness of their lives, they continue to make time each week to visit people in need of physical rehabilitation at their local hospital.

Recently, they encountered a man with aphasia, a condition that makes it difficult for people to communicate verbally. The man was refusing to participate in physical therapy, so the therapist asked Jane and Bob to come to the man's room with Denali. When they walked in he lit up, started petting the dog, and tried to speak.

"The man couldn't say much," Jane recalls, "but eventually he was able to utter two words: 'Good dog.'" After a session with Denali, the man consented to begin physical therapy. "The next week, he looked so much better and was much more talkative."

A Prescription for Healing

For Bob and Jane, volunteering as a Good Dog team serves a greater purpose—that they're creating positive change in the world. "You're doing something that's so helpful for people," Jane says, "and it's so simple. It's like you're Dr. Feelgood."

"Our prescription?" Bob jumps in. "Take two dogs and call me in the morning."

Society Page

Dogs and donors turned out for three events that supported The Good Dog Foundation this year.

All society photos by Photo Bureau



Bronxville, New York

In March, a cocktail party at the Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville announced Good Dog's visitation program at Lawrence Hospital.

Back row: Andrew Paul, managing general partner at the Enhanced Equity Fund; Rachel McPherson, Good Dog founder and executive director; Patrick McMullan, Good Dog president; Vincent DeGiaino, Good Dog treasurer; and Edward Dinan, president of Lawrence Hospital. Front row: volunteers Andrea Guttman with her Good Dog Emily, and Liza Rizopolous with Roxy Mae.

Westport, Connecticut
In April, Good Dog held its first Fairfield County fundraiser in Westport, Connecticut at Paul Newman's new restaurant, The Dressing Room.

Good Dog volunteers Charles Hurty of Darien and Lucy Danziger of Greenwich.



Volunteers with gusto! These ladies helped make the fundraiser a reality: Nancy Stillerman of Greenwich; Debbie Dyson of Westport.



Carole Cusumano of Cloak and Dawggie with Good Dog Uno; Susy Nastasi, Good Dog's director of training and program; and volunteer Barbara Zobian, Uno's handler.

Good Dog volunteer Alyson Kanney with Claire; master of ceremonies Lana Wechsler of the Paws for Patients program; Rachel McPherson; and Sebastian Korytowsky, interpreter at New York-Presbyterian.



Hammacher Schlemmer

In June, the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Paws for Patients program, The Good Dog Foundation, and Hammacher Schlemmer held a fundraiser and volunteer appreciation event at the store.

Board Profile

William Patrick McMullan III PRESIDENT

Pat McMullan has served on Good Dog's board since its inception in 1998. Husband of Rachel McPherson, the founder and executive director, Pat has been a critically important supporter of Good Dog, helping grow the organization from an inspired idea to a four-state provider of therapy dog services with 375 volunteers. Last year he became board president.

"Good Dog was created at the right place and the right time," Pat says. "We're advancing therapy dog work at the moment when health care professionals, school administrators, and lay people everywhere are beginning to understand the value of this powerful, healing service."

In Pat's professional life, he is the senior managing director and co-head of Healthcare Investment Banking at Bear Stearns & Co. Previously he has held senior positions at Credit Suisse First Boston and Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette.

Among his other civic activities, Pat serves on the boards of Scenic Hudson, Gilda's Club Worldwide, Lincoln Center Consolidated Fund, Project Reach Youth, and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. Wed for 25 years to Rachel, a fellow Mississippian, he has a son Pace, 18 and a daughter Isabel, 15. Pat is a competitive mountain bike racer, an avid reader and traveler, and a connoisseur of fine wine.



Patrick McMullan with future Good Dog, Grace.

Giving

Making a Gift to The Good Dog Foundation

As the summer winds down and thoughts return to work and school, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to The Good Dog Foundation. Many employers match gifts made by you or your spouse/partner. If your employer matches gifts, please remember to include your matching gift form.

Foundation Support

A special thanks goes to the foundations that have made major gifts to Good Dog since last fall: the Double R Foundation; the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Fund; the Fludzinski Foundation; the Thanksgiving Foundation; the Newman's Own Foundation; and the Ian McTaggart Trust.

New Memorial Fund for Good Dog

Rachel McPherson, Good Dog's founder and executive director, has established a new fund in memory of her family's Scottish Terrier Charlie, who passed away in July at the age of 11. The Charlie Merrily Most Happy Fella Fund, benefiting The Good Dog Foundation, will begin accepting donations in memory of cherished dogs who have passed. Please consider making a gift to the Charlie Fund to remember your beloved friend.

Good Dogs Bring Healing to Abused Children

< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 >

A Fragile Population

The Astor Home for Children is a refuge for children who have experienced some of the worst abuse. "At least 80 percent of the children who come here have a documented trauma," says Kathy Hagan, Psy.D., senior clinical coordinator. "That means they've either experienced sexual or physical abuse or severe neglect by caregivers."

For these children, their traumas have resulted in severe emotional problems and mental illnesses—aggression, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, attention deficit disorder, psychosis, anxiety—that make it impossible for them to live with a family or function in school. Their disruptive behavior has also meant that they have not learned many basic life skills, such as how to get along with others.

Enter the Therapy Dogs

Every Tuesday afternoon, Kathy Hagan and George Traver, M.A., school psychologist at the Astor Home, assemble the trauma group for boys ages 8-13 in the living room outside the boys' bedrooms. Sitting on the couches, they take turns petting Lina, a patient, relaxed Labrador Retriever, and talking about the trauma they have experienced. It wasn't always this way.

"A big part of healing from trauma is talking about it," Hagan says. "Before, the kids in the group wouldn't participate. But since the dog started coming, they've begun speaking about what happened. They say that they can trust Lina because she won't repeat what they've said to anyone. Learning that they can let their guard down also helps them begin to trust people again."

Lina has become, in many ways, the glue that holds the trauma group together.

Her calmness and unconditional love, Hagan says, help the boys focus and minimize disruptive behavior. "The kids stay in the room and participate on a more regular basis," she says. "It helps them control their emotions and learn how to be with others in a social setting."

The human part of the Good Dog team, Pat Cortese, has also become integral to the trauma group. Recently, Cortese and Hagan decided to have the boys help "train" Lina as a way of teaching them life skills. "The boys have to be upbeat and positive when they're giving Lina commands, otherwise it won't work," says Pat. "It gives them something in their lives over which they have some control."

The other Good Dog volunteers visit different units at Astor, participating in those units' therapeutic recreation activities. Sheila Sanders and her dog Muffin, for instance, engage in storytelling, arts and crafts, educational activities, and sometimes just a game of fetch. During the holidays, the volunteers held a party for the children, which was very well attended.

The staff and Good Dog volunteers agree that the key factors to the success of the program are the dogs' unconditional love and the volunteers' consistent, non-judgmental presence. "These kids have been judged all their lives," Hagan says. "The Good Dogs and volunteers make all the difference."

Good Dog Volunteers Who Visit the Astor Home

Pat Cortese and Lina; Pat Harth and Sweet Pea; Patricia Jean and Violet; Sheila Sanders and Muffin