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GABRIEL'S ANGELS CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY THIS MAY

Phoenix, AZ – April 19, 2010 – Gabriel's Angels, an organization whose mission is to deliver healing pet therapy to abused, neglected and at-risk children, nurturing their ability to love and trust; thereby freeing them from the cycle of violence, is celebrating their 10th Anniversary this May.

In December of 1999, Pam Gaber, who had recently left the corporate world, took her new Weimaraner puppy, Gabriel, dressed as Rudolph to the Crisis Nursery Christmas party with the thought of simply making the kids smile. That day, she saw the kid's demeanor and behavior change as they interacted with Gabriel. As a result, Gabriel's Angels was born in May 2000 out of a very clear, pressing and documented need in the community to enhance the lives of severely neglected and abused children through the application of Pet Therapy.

"I couldn't believe the affect this little grey dog had on the children that day," states Gaber. "Their faces lit up when they saw Gabriel, and I saw their tough exterior turn friendly and their anger become kindness. I knew from that day forward Gabriel and I had found our passion and a new career."

The organization began with Pam and her new "angel" Gabriel. She paid weekly visits to the children at Crisis Nursery in Phoenix. During these visits the children who were victims of abuse and neglect found an oasis of acceptance, love and trust. Gabriel offered unconditional and non-judgmental love which became life changing to the children. These children, who had learned not to trust, learned to trust once again through the love of that gentle grey dog. They learned empathy, respect, nurturance and the proper way to care for and treat other living beings, a critical step in ending the cycle of violence.

Since that day in December of 1999 Gabriel's Angels has grown to over 150 Pet Therapy Teams serving over 100 facilities in Metro Phoenix and Southern Arizona. Gabriel's Angels helps over 12,000 abused, neglected and at-risk children each year. The volunteer teams, owners and their dogs, visit children in crisis nurseries, domestic violence and homeless shelters, group homes and at-risk children in after school programs and self-contained classrooms. Kids range in age from infant to 18 years old. The ability to form attachments early in life is crucial to the development of every child. The dogs in our Pet Therapy Program help these children form these crucial attachments.

Founding dog, Gabriel retired in January this year after 10 years of helping children. His brother Noah, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, retired from pet therapy work a few years ago. Their younger brother Jack, a Weimaraner like Gabriel, picked up the very important duties as a Therapy dog and continues to bring smiles to the kids faces each week.

Gabriel's Angels will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary at the upcoming Pets Helping Kids fundraising breakfast on May 7, 2010, 7:30-8:30 am at the Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale. Admission is FREE but you must reserve a seat. For more information about Gabriel's Angels, becoming a volunteer or Pet Therapy Team or upcoming events please call 602.266.0875 or visit www.GabrielsAngels.org.