



WHO is Gabriel's Angels?

Fifteen years ago Pam Gaber brought her young Weimaraner, Gabriel, to meet and mingle with the children of the Crisis Nursery. What happened that afternoon was groundbreaking and forever changed the lives of Pam and Gabriel. Children reverted from aggressive behavior and shyness to showing kindness and giving hugs to the gentle gray dog. Community support rallied behind her, and in 2000 the organization was founded and received its 501(c)(3) status.

MISSION and DISTINCTION

The mission of Gabriel's Angels is to deliver healing pet therapy to at-risk children, nurturing their emotional development and enhancing the quality of their lives forever. The charity currently serves 13,700 children annually through 122 partner agencies throughout Arizona. Gabriel's Angels holds the recognition of being the sole organization in Arizona offering behaviorally focused pet therapy.

WHY and WHERE

Nationally, Arizona ranks **fifth** in the rate of children with substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, almost twice the national average according to the Child Welfare League of America. Gabriel's Angels serves children from birth to 18 at no cost to our agency partners through the generosity of our donors. We cultivate partnerships with organizations that provide a variety of services to children. Our agency partners range from domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, group homes, residential treatment centers, and outpatient clinics to Head Start and other school classrooms. All children are served equally without regard to gender, ethnicity, or income level.

HOW – Pet Therapy Teams and ACT

Gabriel's Angels has approximately 178 volunteer registered pet therapy teams. The goal of our therapy program is to help children develop healthy core behaviors crucial to normal childhood development – all through the interaction with therapy animals. The seven core behaviors are: affiliation, attachment, confidence, empathy, respect, self-regulation and tolerance.

In 2003 we developed the innovative Animals & Children Together (ACT) Learning Project. When a child directly engages with a therapy animal the cycle of violence may begin to break down. Activities that help the children interact with each other and the therapy animal include using stethoscopes and soft brushes, offering water, teaching skills, and assisting the handler in walking the therapy animal. Along with these activities, lessons on humane education and over 250 ideas on the Gabriel's Angels website all contribute to helping the children develop healthy core behaviors.

SUSTAINABILITY

Gabriel's Angels is dependent on donor support to serve our partner agencies and the children. We hold two major fundraising events annually, the Unleash the Love Fundraising Breakfast and our Salud! Signature Wine Dinner. We are also the reciprocal charity for numerous 3rd party fundraising events. Gabriel's Angels future vision is to bring our pet therapy program to 7,000-10,000 additional children throughout Arizona.