



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the Founder/CEO

First of all, I want to thank all of our donors for your continued support! You have enabled us to serve 15,200 at-risk children again this year. These children are reached in three primary ways: our flagship Group Pet Therapy Program that focuses on building core behaviors in a group setting of 10-12 children in partner agencies such as domestic violence or homeless shelters; our Individual Intervention Program, that reaches individual children in crisis as part of a treatment plan written by a clinician; and our most recent expansion, the Animal, Books and Children (ABC) program which targets building the reading capacity of 1st-3rd graders in Title I schools who are reading far below grade level while building core behaviors. You can see over the years we have evolved and been innovative in how we instill important core behaviors in the children we serve. Trust, empathy, confidence and self-regulation are critical to a child's success as they navigate an uncertain world. Whether it is through our Group Program, Individual Intervention or the ABC Program our focus continues to be a behavioral development model that best meets the needs of the children. Without your support these programs would not be possible. We promise to continue to do our good work and serve the many children that are in need of our services. The real heroes here are the Therapy Dogs and their humans who work tirelessly to help our most vulnerable population. I say this with deep gratitude for all they do.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Leber". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Thank you!" text.

Our History

In 2000, a one-year old Weimaraner named Gabriel, visited the Crisis Nursery in Phoenix with his owner, Pam Gaber. That encounter drastically changed not only their lives, but those of thousands of children. Based on the impacting connection between Gabriel and the children—Gabriel's Angels was born!

In May of 2010, Gabriel passed away. However, his legacy continues with over 185 volunteer Pet Therapy Teams visiting approximately 122 crisis nurseries, domestic violence and homeless shelters, group homes, residential treatment programs, juvenile detention centers, and targeted school programs. Many agencies are anxiously waiting to have Gabriel's Angels Pet Therapy program in their facility.

Gabriel's Angels serves almost 15,200 at-risk children in Arizona through the application of innovative pet therapy. The program's goal is to increase the overall sense of well-being and happiness for children

in a safe environment, and to build critical core behaviors, such as trust, empathy, respect and tolerance. This includes our traditional group visits, seeing 10-12 children weekly or every other week; individual intervention, working one-on-one in a clinical setting; and our Animals, Books and Children (ABC) program, which provides not only literacy support to select 1st-3rd graders at Title I schools, but also helps them to build core behaviors such as confidence and affiliation.

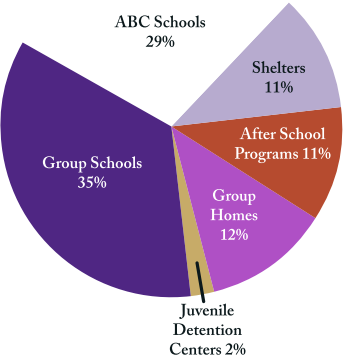


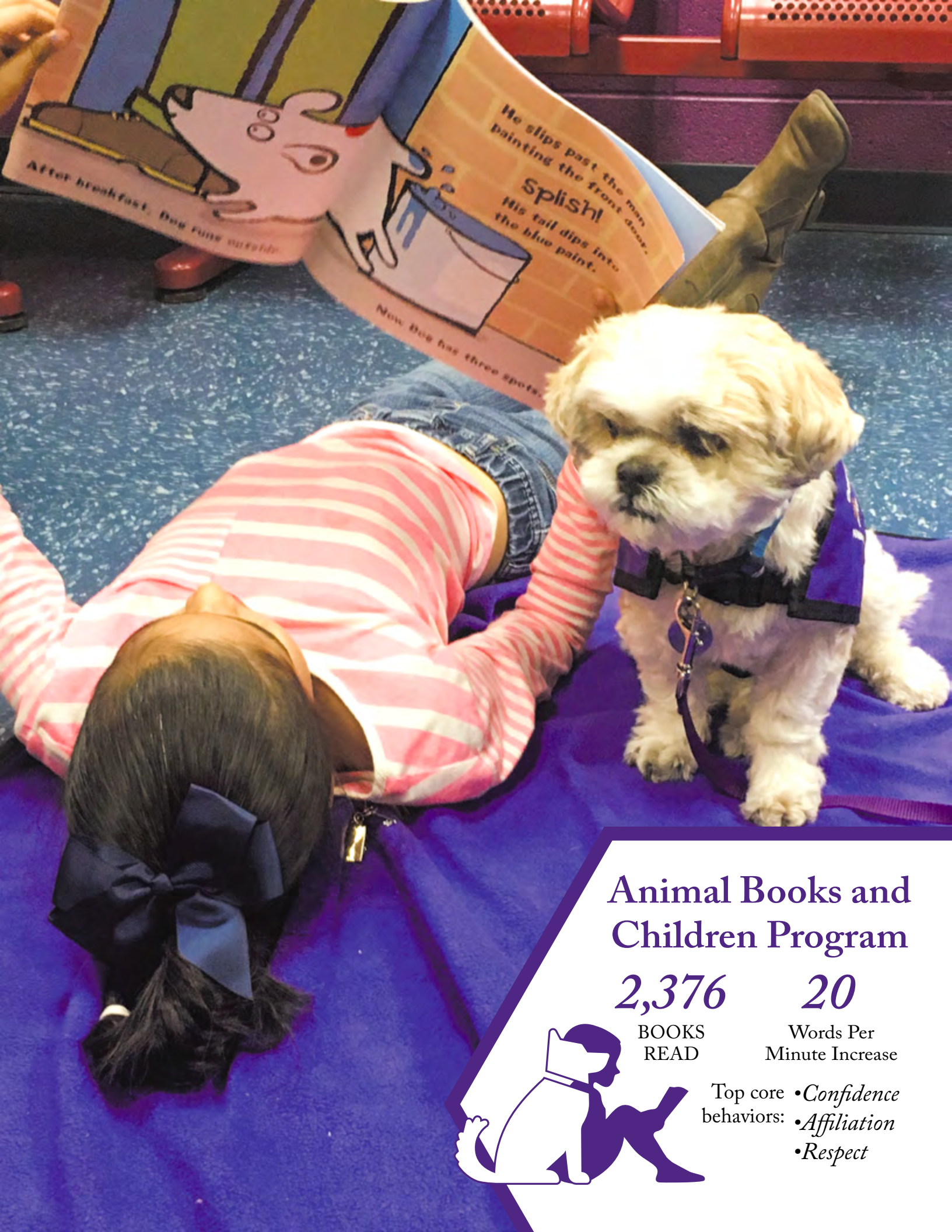


Group Therapy Program

Top core behaviors:

- *Empathy*
- *Attachment*
- *Respect*





Animal Books and Children Program

2,376

BOOKS
READ

20

Words Per
Minute Increase

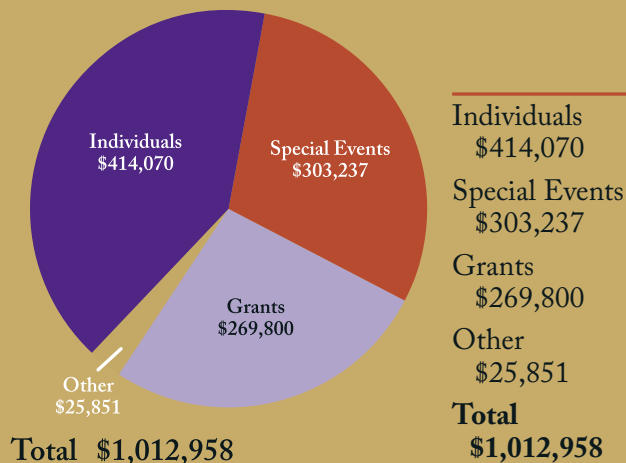


Top core
behaviors: •*Confidence*
•*Affiliation*
•*Respect*

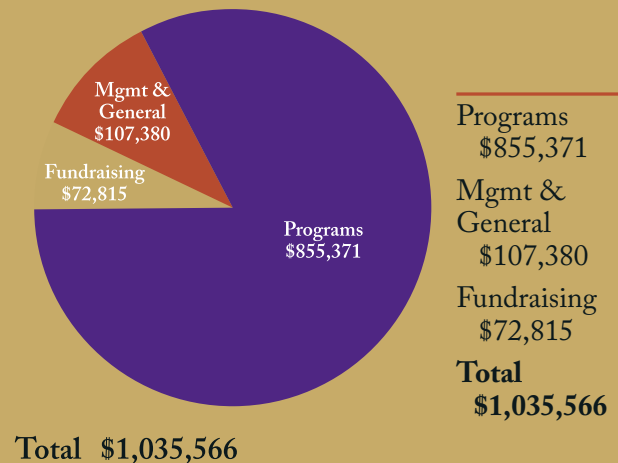
Our Impact

- Children who suffer from the immediate emotional effects of abuse and neglect or are at risk – fear, anxiety, mistrust, self-blame – can translate into lifelong consequences related to the child’s inability to develop core behaviors which impact the child’s ability to become a healthy, contributing member of society. Gabriel’s Angels’ Pet Therapy has been proven to be a successful intervention for these children.
- Gabriel’s Angels’ Pet Therapy visits create a bond of unconditional love between a therapy dog and child that allows for necessary core behaviors to be learned through consistent interaction with the dog.
- Gabriel’s Angels 2018 Facility Evaluation illustrates that a majority of children visited showed positive improvements in all seven core behaviors. Children displayed the most progress in the areas of empathy, confidence, and tolerance.

Contributions



Expenses





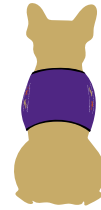
187

There are nearly 187
Pet Therapy Teams
visiting on behalf of
Gabriel's Angels.



12,500

Currently over
12,500 children are visited
by Gabriel's Angels
Therapy Teams



107

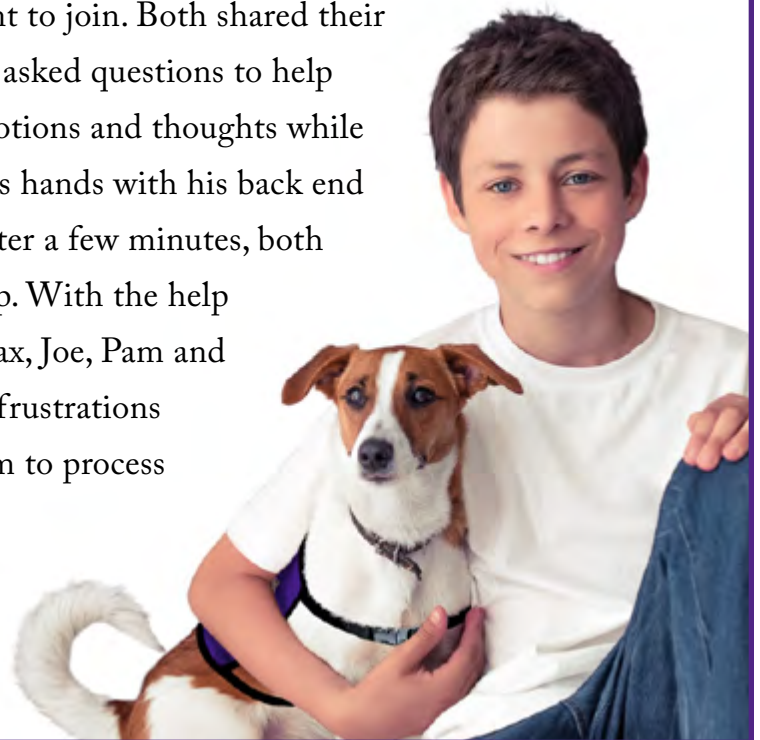
Pet Therapy Teams
visit over 107
Arizona child serving
agency facilities.

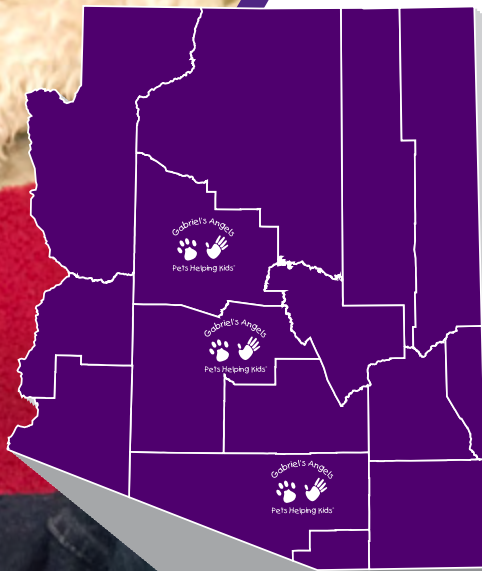




Impact Story

Pam and Joe and their dogs Charlie and Jax visit a behavioral health center that serves teens. Usually, the students crowded around them to say hi and give attention to Charlie and Jax but on this visit, the teens were scattered around the room. Pam asked one of the teens what was happening. Begrudgingly the teen explained that there had been a massive fight in the room, and the teens had to be separated because they could not get along. Another student asked if this meant that Pam and Joe would have to leave. Joe asked the group if it would be ok if they sat in the middle of the room and anyone who wanted to join the center could. However, each teen needed to accept anyone who sat in the center with Charlie and Jax. For 3 minutes, no one moved. Jax gave a big whine and dramatically plopped on to the floor. One of the young girls giggled and walked to the center. Within 15 minutes, all the students except two had joined the group. Joe and Charlie approached the two remaining teens away from the group asked why they didn't want to join. Both shared their frustrations about the other. Joe asked questions to help the boys self-reflect on their emotions and thoughts while Charlie had his nose in one boy's hands with his back end being scratched by the other. After a few minutes, both teens joined the rest of the group. With the help and redirection of Charlie and Jax, Joe, Pam and facility staff were able to defuse frustrations between the teen and guide them to process their own thoughts.





Gabriel's Angels' Locations

- Metro Phoenix
- Prescott
- Metro Tucson

Impact Story

Melissa and her therapy dog, Happy Hank, visit an elementary school. They visit second and third-grade students who are working on improving their literacy and social behaviors by doing activities and reading to a therapy dog, Happy Hank. Most visits, Happy Hank, snuggles to each kid as they read their books to him. During one such session, Happy Hank had put his head in a particular little boy's lap and closed his eyes. The little boy noticed and proceeded to put the book down gently. He tapped Happy Hank on his side, and when he didn't open his eyes, he flipped over one of Happy Hank's large floppy ears. "Hank," he said, "You can't fall asleep when I am reading to you. I need you to help me read this book." With Melissa guidance, Hank kept his eyes open for the rest of the session, but his head remained in the boy's lap. As they closed their session, Melissa asked: "Why do you want Happy Hank to help his eyes open while you read?" The boy replied, "He helps me see things like him, and I do so much better when I see like Happy Hank."

Melissa followed up with the teacher, giving details of what had happened. The teacher had smiled and explained that the little boy was using Happy Hank's eyes to not only read but to do math, science, and even solve problems with other kids. Happy Hank had provided stability and calmness in the little boy that gave him confidence to work through difficulties he faced in class and in day to day activities.



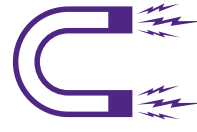
Program Results



Volunteer Onboarding
50
NEW TEAMS



12,815
Overall Volunteer
Hours



72% Volunteer
Retention
of volunteers who
have volunteered more
than 1 year

Focused Core Behaviors

ATTACHMENT

Healthy attachments allow a child to establish & maintain healthy emotional bonds.

SELF-REGULATION

This is the ability to recognize & control feelings such as anger & frustration.

AFFILIATION

This is where children master the capacity to join others & contribute to a group.

EMPATHY

The ability to imagine how someone else is feeling or what they are thinking in a particular situation.

TOLERANCE

The ability to understand & accept how others are different from themselves.

RESPECT

This enables a child to appreciate the value in themselves & in others.

CONFIDENCE

When a child demonstrates a belief in their own abilities.

Research indicates children need to develop specific core behaviors in order to establish a strong foundation for a healthy and productive future.



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#petshelpingkids



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