



7/22/2020
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Dear Gabriel's Angels' Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times. With the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis continuing, I want to assure you that the health and safety of our community remains our number one priority.

Although this is not quite how we anticipated celebrating 20 years of inspiring confidence, compassion, and best behaviors in at-risk youth through Pet Therapy, I do want to promise that Gabriel's Angels remains committed to our mission while incorporating the recommendations of our local, state and federal public health officials.

Currently, many of our dedicated volunteer teams are providing virtual Pet Therapy visits and we are constantly seeking new ways to safely engage the youth we serve and meet the needs of our 123 partner agencies throughout the state of Arizona. Our volunteer Pet Therapy teams, staff, and community will continue to deliver virtual visits until it is safe to resume our in-person therapy visits. Look forward to more formalized, professionally produced, virtual visits featuring curated curriculum based on the seven core behaviors. We are also excited that this generates the opportunity for Gabriel's Angels to share our meaningful work with the whole of our community and create an occasion for all to experience the positive power of Pet Therapy.

As the last few weeks of summer vacation come to an end for the majority of the 12,500 at-risk youth we serve, we know from the experience of prior traumatic events like 9/11, as well as The Great Recession, that many youth, when able to return to their schools, will likely exhibit signs of unprecedented stress. The social, emotional, and economic impact of this pandemic will obviously have affected their home lives. Child welfare experts anticipate a significant increase in reports of abuse and neglect as students report back to school, and Gabriel's Angels will remain a source of comfort for all youth who need it.

For it is truly through the unconditional love of a therapy dog that a child can get the support they need. Even if we may not provide a traditional visit at this time, we will continue to seek meaningful methods of connection and comfort for Arizona's at-risk youth. When our partner agencies throughout Phoenix, Tucson, and Prescott are ready to safely reopen and welcome us back, you can guarantee that Gabriel's Angels Pet Therapy Teams will be there to meet the increased demand and continue to inspire confidence, compassion and best behaviors in Arizona's at-risk youth through Pet Therapy.

As we are all constantly adjusting to our "new normal", I want to personally thank each and every one of you who have continued to check-in with us to simply see how we're doing, have continued to support our mission with your generous financial contributions, and, of course, for the unwavering dedication of our volunteer Pet Therapy Teams. You, our Gabriel's Angels' volunteers, donors, and supporters, make everything we do possible. With all my gratitude – THANK YOU! If you have any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns, please direct them to me personally, Pam Gaber. I may be reached at PGaber@GabrielsAngels.org or 602.266.0875, ext 12.

Regards,

Pam Gaber
Founder & CEO

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