



Gabriel's Angels



Pets Helping Kids®

IMPACT REPORT

2020-2021

NEW BEGINNINGS

A message from our CEO

This past year has been a season of new beginnings, and we are yet grounded by the legacy of our founding philosophy and passionate belief that the unconditional love of a pet can heal a child. In 2021 we celebrated two incredible decades of serving nearly 190,000 at-risk children throughout Arizona. I want to personally share how impactful your support has been to our community. Because of your support, we were able to innovate and continue to serve and heal some of our community's most vulnerable and isolated children.

The pandemic intensified the many challenges that at-risk kids already faced and added new barriers to accessing critical support services, including our Pet Therapy teams. Confronted with school closures, visitor restrictions, and a persistent need to keep all children, staff, and our volunteer teams healthy & safe, we adapted quickly and moved all of our programing online, thanks in part to *you*.

By utilizing Zoom, a technology that we're all too familiar with by now, we continued to work one-on-one with children who were struggling to read and provided the magic of Pet Therapy to our partners in whatever way we could. Knowing that the seven core behaviors our Pet Therapy teams instill in the kids we serve were needed now more than ever, we recorded and shared videos in our therapy groups. This bridged the distance created by being physically apart and continued to help kids make strides in developing healthy attachment, empathy, respect, tolerance, confidence, self-regulation, and affiliation, all of which are needed to thrive.

Of these core behaviors, empathy, affiliation, and confidence come to mind when I think about the generosity that supporters like you have shown, empowering our team, and most importantly our volunteers, to keep moving forward.

Your *empathy* for those we serve is unmistakable and you, too, understand the healing power of a pet. As the need for our program has grown exponentially, it is vital that we continue to innovate and recruit more therapy teams to serve Arizona's at-risk children.

We teach our kids that *affiliation* means having the capacity to join others, contribute to a group, and feel a sense of belonging. Your affiliation to us has enabled us to do amazing work--you are a part of our therapy family, and it is our desire to expand this family with more who are just like you, so that we can serve even more children.

As we look ahead, your continued *generosity* will help us evolve in our mission to inspire confidence, compassion, and best behaviors in at-risk children through pet therapy. Thank you for having enormous confidence in our ability to effectively serve & heal our community.

With immense gratitude,



Melissa Steimer
CEO, Gabriel's Angels



PETS HELPING KIDS

Our mission is to inspire confidence, compassion, and best behaviors in at-risk children through pet therapy.

Research indicates that children need to develop specific core behaviors to establish a strong foundation for a healthy and productive future. Gabriel's Angels pet therapy program is the *only* Arizona program that offers healing pet therapy to at-risk children. During each visit, our teams facilitate animal-assisted activities that focus on promoting these seven core behaviors.

7 CORE BEHAVIORS

taught to AZ kids through pet therapy



AFFILIATION

is the capacity to join others, contribute to a group, & feel a sense of belonging

HEALTHY ATTACHMENTS



allow a child to establish & maintain healthy emotional bonds, supporting a lifetime of resilience



SELF-REGULATION

is the ability to recognize & control feelings, such as anger and frustration, increasing problem-solving capabilities

CONFIDENCE



is when a child demonstrates a belief in their own abilities, laying a foundation for a lifetime of achievement



RESPECT

enables a child to appreciate the value in themselves and in others, essential for building a community



EMPATHY

is the ability to imagine how someone else is feeling or thinking in a particular situation, promoting supportive friendships



TOLERANCE

is the ability to understand and accept how others are different from themselves, promoting inclusion & diversity



A DOG CAN TURN A WHOLE DAY AROUND

12-year-old Alyssa was having a really hard day and needed connection more than she even knew. She'd had oral surgery that morning, tipping her over the edge of an already challenging time in her short life.

After a visit with Caymus, Alyssa wrote, *"I was having a bad day at first, until Caymus came. He made me feel a lot better. We read two books, played ball, I fed him water, and we cuddled."*

You see, Alyssa lives in a residential treatment center for children who are experiencing behavioral health challenges. As a survivor of abuse as a young girl who now struggles with self-regulation and confidence, Alyssa is now getting the support she needs—thanks in part to you!

Friday afternoons are a special time for Alyssa. That's when Caymus, the Goldendoodle, and his human therapy partner, Michelle, come for a visit.

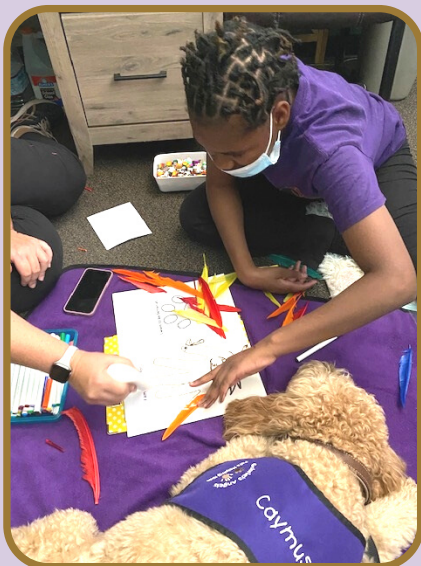
Alyssa says that she lives for Fridays...

...When she feels alone, Caymus snuggles up alongside her.

...When she resists comfort from others, Caymus loves her unconditionally.

...And when she is learning how to do something new, Caymus helps boost her confidence.

Today, Alyssa is on track to go home to her family next month and her parents are in the process of getting her a therapy dog of her own to help her continue to build on the skills she's learned from Caymus.



"I was having a bad day at first, until Caymus came. He made me feel a lot better. We read two books, played ball, I fed him water, and we cuddled"

— Alyssa, Age 12

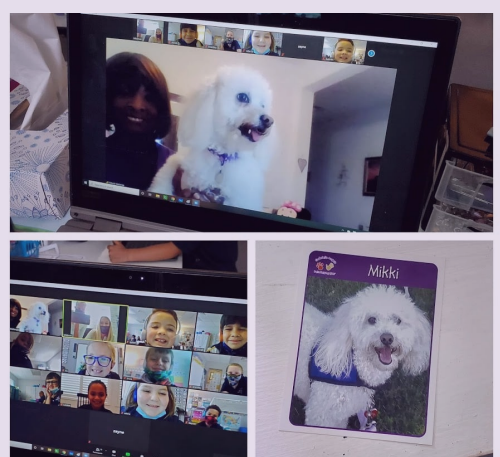
Caymus and Alyssa work together on their Thankful Turkey project during one of their visits in November



Stay Safe. Be Positive
Even it's hard to stay
Positive. You both are
beautiful and kind. I'm
Lucky To have meet you.
You have been so supportive
to me. Thank You For Your
support!



SERVING KIDS
THROUGHOUT
PRESCOTT,
PHOENIX,
& TUCSON



ABC Reading Program

Animal Assisted Reading improves a child's confidence, trust, empathy, and emotional development. Our Animals, Books, and Children (ABC) program teams visit schools weekly and provide one-on-one support to students with shared goals of improving reading comprehension and reading speed, developing core social behaviors that help kids to thrive.

551

Books Read
by Kids

+19

of Words per
Minute Increase

Group Pet Therapy

Gabriel's Angels' Pet Therapy teams visit schools, child crisis nurseries, family homeless shelters, after school programs, therapeutic group homes, residential treatment centers, and juvenile detention centers.

9

Arizona Schools
All Year

8

Therapeutic
Agencies

During Group Pet Therapy visits, our volunteer teams facilitate activities that strengthen positive behaviors; in developing a bond with an animal, children gain the experience of unconditional love, safety, belonging, and collaboration within a group of peers.



642

Volunteer Hours

1,287

Arizona Kids Served

120

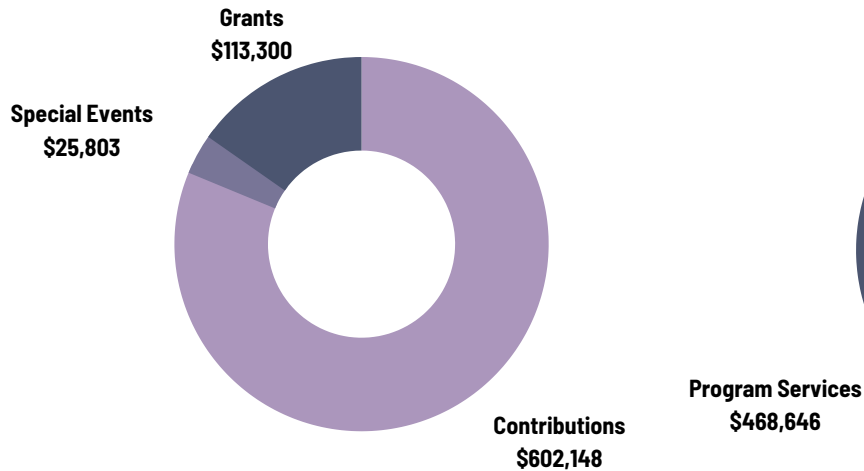
Pet Therapy Teams

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

May 1, 2020- April 30, 2021

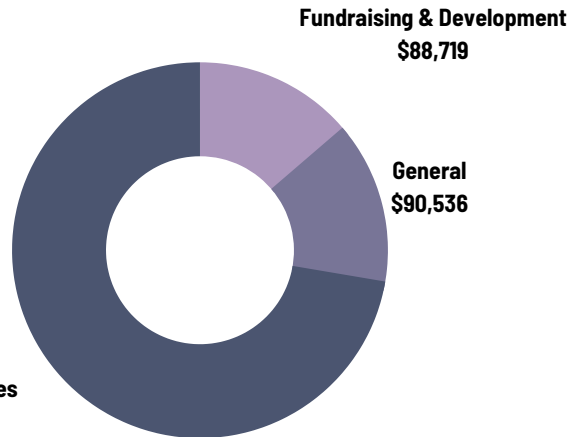
CONTRIBUTIONS

Total \$741,251



EXPENSES

Total \$647,901



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Gabriel's Angels



Pets Helping Kids®



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Couples can give up to \$800 and singles up to \$400 and get that money back on your state taxes.



FILE & CLAIM

Claim the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit using Form 321 with our QCO Code #20449



GET IT ALL BACK

Receive up to \$800 of your own money back in the form of a state liability tax credit!

PLEASE NOTE: Tax circumstances vary greatly. Please consult your tax advisor for specific questions related to your tax situation | gabrielsangels.org/tax



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give online!**



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