# THE VALUE OF **PET THERAPY** THE VALUE OF **YOU**

1

U



Pets Helping Kids

cobriel's Angel



Above: Pet Therapy Team Daphne and Lacey help bring a feeling of calm to struggling students like Melody who need a little extra support.

### Through the life-changing power of pet therapy, we enhance the social and emotional development of vulnerable children.

I am delighted to share with you our annual Impact Report for 2022-23 at Gabriel's Angels. Your steadfast support and dedication have played a pivotal role in making this year truly remarkable as we continued our work to bring comfort, healing, and joy to children through the power of pet therapy.

Together, we achieved significant milestones that would not have been possible without your belief in our cause.

Your generosity enabled us to launch new initiatives, including Community Support Visits and Extra 30s, amplifying our impact and broadening our ability to serve. Witnessing the transformative impact of these interactions on the faces of children experiencing stress and adversity reaffirmed the importance of our work.



As we move forward, we remain committed to our belief that the unconditional love of a therapy pet can truly heal a child. Your continued support will be integral to our success, enabling us to reach even more children in need and creating lasting change in their lives.

I invite you to explore our full Impact Report in the following pages, which provides an overview of our achievements, the financial stewardship that ensures your donations are used effectively, and, most importantly, stories of the lives touched.

Thank you for standing by our side and being a driving force behind our journey. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

With deep gratitude,

Melin & Sterner

Melissa Steimer, CEO

## Love Unconditionally

We value kindness, compassion, and empathy

Gabriel's Angels is one of the few organizations that deliver healing pet therapy services to vulnerable children throughout Arizona. Our Pet Therapy Teams deliver unconditional love and goal-oriented activities that improve the child's life through the power of the human-animal bond.

These visits help children develop seven core behaviors that are vital for success: attachment, self-regulation, affiliation, respect, tolerance, empathy, and confidence.

> Thank you for the service that you provide to students at our elementary school. Its gentle and natural approach to calming anxiety and building self-assurance in our students is superb.

-Mrs. Alvarado, Bologna Elementary Teacher

Dear Charlie on ahr

Above: The unconditional love of a therapy pet can be invaluable in helping a child succeed socially and academically. Charlie has received many admiring notes from young students who learned to enjoy school after spending time with him and his owner/handler Sheryl.

Additionally, the presence of these furry companions has been shown to create a comforting and supportive environment, fostering a sense of security and emotional well-being in children facing various challenges.

Isaiah, a student at Bologna Elementary, had been struggling academically for two years due to having high levels of anxiety and low self-esteem. His teacher, Mrs. Alvarado, and his parents felt that the Gabriel's Angels Animals, Books, and Children (ABC) program might help him by providing a safe space where he could be himself while getting additional support from Pet Therapy Team Sheryl and Charlie. He loved participating and looked forward to reading time with his furry friend every week, always working very hard to do his best. All of his hard work began paying off, and his confidence and reading ability both improved significantly over the course of the semester.

The heartwarming impact pet therapy has on these children's lives is evident in stories like that of Isaiah. The transformative power of pet therapy is undeniable, helping children overcome obstacles and flourish. From enhancing core behaviors to providing a comforting and supportive environment, the difference these furry companions and their dedicated handlers make in the lives of vulnerable childrenwork is truly remarkable.

## **Best in Show**

We value results

Supporters like you are the heart and soul of our mission, making it possible for us to focus relentlessly on achieving meaningful results. Your unwavering commitment and generosity provide us with the essential resources to not only provide pet therapy services for no charge to our partner agencies but to continuously improve our programs as well. Your belief in our cause empowers us to channel our efforts into creating real, tangible impact in the lives of children. With your support, we can dedicate ourselves fully to delivering the healing power of pet therapy without distraction, ensuring that every moment we spend makes a lasting difference. Thank you for enabling us to turn compassion into action and dreams into realities. 2,145 children served in structured programs

**109** Volunteer Pet Therapy Teams

**16** Helping Hand Volunteers **74** Schools and Nonprofit Agencies

### Animals, Books, and Children Program



average increased words per minute



books read by students during visits



improved motivation to read

## **Make New Friends**

We value relationships

While our main focus is structured pet therapy programs that support childhood development, sometimes things happen in our community that aren't part of our plans. Our **Community Support Visits** make it possible for our partners to request extra support whenever children are in need. When a Phoenix high school contacted us for support after a student brought a firearm on campus, we were deeply thankful for our dedicated pack of supporters

who made it possible for us to respond by sending in ten registered pet therapy teams to offer comfort and support to students and faculty alike.

#### 66

She sat down on that cement floor, and he just about sat in her lap, while she cooed and petted him. He made her feel so much better.

-Sandy Luke, Pet Therapy Team Volunteer describing a community support visit with her dog Jax

Our new **Extra 30s** program has helped us reach even more children in need this year. During Extra 30 visits, Pet Therapy Teams spend an additional half hour before or after their scheduled shift to visit with an extra group of children. Not only are these surprise pet therapy visits a joyful experience for the children, it gets them excited to participate in their school or group activities the rest of the day.



66

Thank you to Gabriel's Angels and all of the volunteers that came to support our campus. Words cannot express our gratitude.

-Michelle Gutierrez De Jimenez, Principal

**7,306** additional children served in Community Support Visits and Extra 30s

### Be Loyal

#### We value a sense of purpose and belonging

At the heart of our mission to provide pet therapy to vulnerable children lies a profound sense of purpose and belonging. We firmly believe that every child, regardless of their circumstances, deserves a chance to experience the transformative power of the human-animal bond. This belief fuels our unwavering commitment to fostering emotional healing and growth through our Pet Therapy Teams. Our staff members, volunteers, partners, and supporters are all united by a shared dedication to creating a positive impact on these children's lives. This sense of purpose not only drives us forward but also fosters a deep sense of belonging within our community, as we collaborate tirelessly to bring comfort, joy, and vital life skills to the children who need them the most.

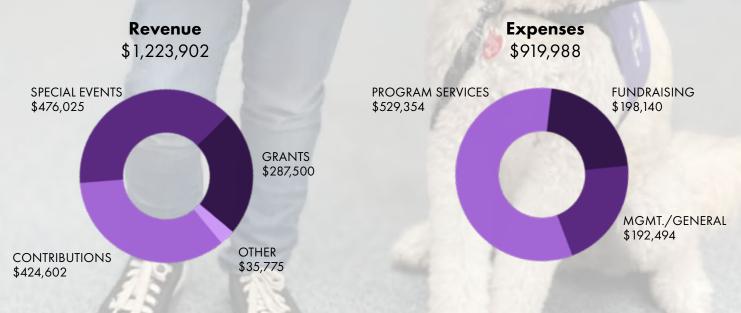
It is truly rewarding to see how Lacey's weekly visits can give a child happiness, love, and improvement in their coping skills in just a few months. We both get tremendous joy in giving a bit of ourselves to these children.

-Daphne, Pet Therapy Team Volunteer

### **Financial Overview**

We are dedicated to maximizing the impact of every donation received by our organization. We uphold a strong commitment to transparency and accountability, ensuring that funds are efficiently allocated to directly benefit the children we serve. Through our proven track record of successful programs and testimonials from families who have experienced the positive outcomes of our pet therapy services, donors can see the tangible difference their contributions make. We prioritize open communication with our supporters, providing regular updates on our initiatives, financial stewardship, and the heartwarming stories of transformation that unfold as a result of their generosity. Your donation is not just an investment in our cause; it's an investment in the future and well-being of children in our community.

ABC PROGRAM



## Learn New Tricks

We value growth mindset



Added Community Support Visits, one-time community events designed to serve more children during a time of need.



Initiated Extra 30 visits for Teams to spend an additional 30 minutes in a classroom or location to offer pet therapy to additional children.



Changed our mission and created values for our organization to better share the impact we are making for vulnerable children in our community.

#### **Board of Directors**

Ed Cochran – Chair Karla Fisher – Vice Chair Leah Friedenberg – Vice Chair Joe Maslick – Treasurer Katie Pompay – Secretary Tami Bartelt – Member at Large Micalann Pepe – Member at Large

#### Members

Annette Bouwer Brent Cannon Norm Dominguez Xavier Gonzalez Catherine Harmon Ronda M. Kelso Charles Lowry Sue Pearl Amy Rebenar

#### Steering Committee

Nan Ater Dr. Wayne Anderson Robert Burghart Julie Ernst George W. Fleming Jennifer G. Gadow Samantha Hagan Mary Holman Kathleen Holmes Ryan Johnson Ann McCartney Carl Nablo Patty Nelson Jane Spicer Christy Van Quathem

#### Southern Arizona Community Council

Vanessa Alfaro Bert Berktold Cindy Campano Torre Chisolm Jeff Copfer John Decker Alex Demeroutis Emilia Elrey Leah Friedenberg Shelley Harris Alice Templeton

## **Get Involved**

We value you and your incredible support of our work - thank you!



VOLUNTEER AS A HELPING HAND FOR A TEAM



USE YOUR PET FOR GOOD AS A PET THERAPY TEAM



BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR



LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY WITH PLANNED GIVING



MAKE AN AZ TAX CREDIT DONATION



ADVOCATE & SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR WORK

### gabrielsangels.org

### LEARN MORE & STAY CONNECTED





#### Pets Helping Kids"

727 East Bethany Rd. Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85014 602.266.0875 Charity ID (EIN): 86-0991198 Arizona QCO: 20449

### **DONATE HERE**

