



Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.

Info from Fairfax Pets On Wheels

December 2022



Happy Holidays from FPOW!

In this issue

Report on the State of FPOW 2021-2022	1-2
Thank You, Volunteers	2
2022 Latshaw Award Winners	3
Finn O'Brien Wins 2022 Shauna Award	3

Fairfax Pets On Wheels continues to roll along and even gain momentum. As volunteer attrition during COVID shutdowns had reduced the number of our people/pet teams, we were very excited to restart new volunteer orientations during the summer. We were also able to begin temperament testing, and we have welcomed many new teams this year! Our volunteers, old and new, have been visiting some facilities, while other facilities have remained closed to us. Throughout the COVID lockdowns and sporadic reopenings, our wonderful board members have worked tirelessly to keep FPOW going strong and ready to function at our full capacity.

Earlier this year, Ruth

Report on the State of FPOW 2021—2022

Benker and Jeanine Goldberg met with each of our facilities to hash out what post-COVID visitation would look like. After we reoriented our veteran volunteers to new protocols, we were able to start visiting nursing homes and holding monthly group visits at one assisted living facility. Unfortunately, our county's Adult Day Health Care Centers have remained closed to our volunteer/pet teams. But thanks to Ruth, we have continued our popular and enjoyable monthly Zoom visits with them.

Wendy Mayer built and maintains our fpow.org website, which is a great source of information for current and prospective volunteers. Through her media savvy, Channel 16 and local ABC7 aired short pieces about our program,

and we were featured in the Falls Church News Press, Fairfax Times, Sun Gazette, and Inside Nova.

We have Barbara Kuckenbecker to thank for regularly putting out a spectacular newsletter. And Cathy Perro took over running our online store this year, a place where all of our members can purchase our merchandise to wear with pride.

Throughout the year we held regular planning meetings for our big 35th Anniversary celebration on September 25 at Vanish Brewery. Sincere thanks to Matt Watson, who has been instrumental in putting everything together for the event. We will be giving all who attend a special commemorative T-shirt.

Continued on Page 2

Wishing Everyone the Happiest of Holiday Seasons!



And remember: When you buy gifts at [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/AmazonSmile), your purchase can generate donations to FPOW.

**All-volunteer Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
connects pets with residents of long-term care facilities in Fairfax County.
Visit fpow.org or call (703) 324-5424**



Report on the State of FPOW cont'd.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will be issuing a proclamation in recognition and celebration of our 35th Anniversary on September 13, as well as designating September 2022 as Fairfax Pets On Wheels Month.

We were once again accepted for inclusion in the United Way of the National Capital Area Campaign

(designate #8907) as well as the Combined Federal Campaign (designate #51148). Fundraising through the United Way and CFC is crucial to FPOW's financial health and allows us to remain a successful program.

FPOW board members continued to hold quarterly board meetings via

Zoom, as we maintained duties and accomplished administrative tasks both related to the pandemic and its effect on our organization and everyday normal maintenance – such as reviewing and updating our procedures and policies – to keep FPOW moving forward.

Paula Singleton
September 12, 2022

Thank You, Volunteers

5 Years of Service

Carol Aron, William Butler, Terry Carroll, Susan Dilles, Cynthia Ferentinos, Jenny Fish, Stacey Floyd-Bauer, Mary Irick, Kathy Klussendorf, Barbara Kuckenbecker, Diane O'Brien, Tanya Oliveria, Cathy Perro, Doreen Peters, Bridget Saunders, Matthew Watson, Kelly Wevley

10 Years

Sharon Celesnik, Carol Chapin, Margaret Clark, Diane Ehrig, Linda Koczera, Shelley Matthews, Christine Stout

15 Years

Karen Beekman, Liz Breyer, Sheila Consaul, Carla Graham, Patty Kwapniewski, Colleen Nassetta, David Rybak

20 Years: Jill Davidson, Pat Dutton, Tracy Van Duston, Charles Viall

25 Years: Denise Elliott, Judy Mitnick, Debbie Zelten

30 Years: Ruth Benker

35 Years: Madelynn Arnold, Diane Bente, Susie Duvall, Kim Wilkerson



2022 Latshaw Award Winners



The Mary Latshaw Award was established in 1990 and honors Fairfax Pets On Wheels volunteers who epitomize the goals of the program by giving of themselves through regular facility visits and other program support activities.

Wendy Mayer



A visiting volunteer, board member, and member of the speakers bureau since 2019, Wendy currently serves as Director of Communications.

Diane O'Brien



Currently FPOW's Director of Volunteer Development and a facility liaison, Diane began visiting in 2017 and joined the board in 2019.

Paula Singleton



Our current president who led FPOW during the pandemic, Paula has been a visiting volunteer since 2014 and also serves as a facility liaison and speakers bureau member.

Matt Watson



A visiting volunteer since 2015, Matt recently stepped down as Director of Volunteer Appreciation, having organized numerous picnics and FPOW's 35th Anniversary celebration.

Ruth Benker (honorable mention)



A visiting volunteer since 1992, previous Latshaw winner Ruth has held most board positions, serves as a facility liaison, and coordinates FPOW's speakers bureau.

Finn O'Brien Wins 2022 Shauna Award



Established in 1993 to honor the beloved Irish Setter of Susie and Bob Duvall, the Shauna Award recognizes the pet(s) that have made the most significant impact on residents of a facility FPOW visits.

Finn has been visiting Dulles Health and Rehab Center with Diane O'Brien since November 2017. He participates with facility liaison Diane in onsite new volunteer orientations at Dulles and took part in Zoom visits during COVID. Finn's visits are eagerly anticipated by residents, one of whom notified FPOW when she changed rooms because she did not want to miss Finn's visits.



Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
12011 Government Center Parkway #708
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

**All-volunteer Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
connects pets with residents of long-term care facilities in Fairfax County.
Visit fpow.org or call (703) 324-5424**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Paula Singleton

Treasurer – Joe Ammann

Secretary – Madelynn Arnold

Facilities Relations – Jeanine Goldberg

Volunteer Dev. & Education – Diane O'Brien

Communications – Wendy Mayer

Fund Development – Ruth Benker

At Large – Diane Bente

Nikki DiPalma

Barbara Kuckenbecker

Cathy Perro

Tracy Van Duston



Designate #8907



Designate #51148

EDITORIAL POLICY: This is your newsletter. Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. volunteers may contribute articles for publication. Articles will be reviewed by the editors. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for publication. We cannot guarantee the return of documents or photos (if used).

Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Letters must be signed, but if requested, your name will be withheld.

Send all correspondence to:

Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
c/o Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
12011 Government Center Parkway #708
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

Email: dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov