



Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.

DECEMBER 2020

A Message from the Board of Directors

The FPOW Board of Directors hopes volunteers and their families are doing well during this difficult time.

The Board has continued to meet — virtually — throughout the pandemic, and although in-person visits, Speakers' Bureau events, and the volunteer recognition picnic had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, FPOW leadership has been working with facilities to provide modified services. Some facilities have accepted short videos of our volunteers to share with their residents, others have welcomed cards and notes of cheer, and the Adult Day Health Care Centers have included monthly FPOW Zoom visits as part of their activities.

The Board will continue to evaluate the status of resuming regular visits and events and will keep everyone apprised.

I am honored to have officially begun my first term as President of FPOW on October 1, hoping to fill the very big leadership shoes of our wonderful outgoing President, Nikki DiPalma.



During my five years with FPOW, I have volunteered with many terrific people and adorable, friendly pets. Visiting facilities with my dogs Sandy and then Molly, making friends, sharing a smile or laugh, or just being someone to talk to has brought me as much joy as it seems to bring those we visit. I also have enjoyed being part of the Speakers' Bureau and having the opportunity to brag about how wonderful Fairfax Pets on Wheels is.

My goal is to continue to promote our mission and to work with our talented and passionate board of directors to ensure we are ready for a post-pandemic world, especially as we anticipate our 35th anniversary in 2022.

I look forward to serving as president of our amazing all-volunteer organization, and I know that in these next two years we will continue to carry the glowing torch that lights up the darkness in the lives of our seniors and keeps FPOW thriving.

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Report on the State of FPOW 2019—2020

Fairfax Pets on Wheels, Inc. began the fiscal year on our normal trajectory, working hard to ensure we had a solid program with dedicated volunteers who continue to bring happiness and contentment to our often-forgotten population in Fairfax County: the residents of long-term care facilities. We had no way of knowing how quickly and drastically the world would change. Even though we ceased facility visits from mid-March through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2020), the Board of Directors has continued to meet (via Zoom) on a quarterly basis and through regular emails. In addition, some volunteers and Board members maintained duties and accomplished administrative tasks both related to the pandemic and its effect on our organization, as well as everyday maintenance — such as reviewing and updating our procedures and policies — to keep FPOW going.

Until we stopped visiting and holding orientations and temperament testing due to the pandemic, our all-volunteer organization continued the tradition and our mission of “helping to lick loneliness.” We welcomed more than 23 new volunteer teams and contributed more than 2,073 hours of pet visitation to 15 long-term care facilities and four Adult Day Health Care Centers under the auspices of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Solutions. FPOW’s partnership with the Agency has allowed our volunteers to have meaningful interactions with the residents of the

long-term care facilities and Adult Day Health Care Centers we serve. We continue to owe thanks to the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Solutions and Ombudsman Program.

During the pandemic we were accepted for inclusion in the United Way of the National Capital Area campaign. Remember to designate #8907 when pledging. FPOW was also part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC: #51148). Fundraising through United Way and CFC is crucial to FPOW’s bottom line and allows us to remain a successful program.

Prior to the beginning of 2020, the Board was meeting separately for planning meetings to discuss communication/marketing projects and goals to recruit more volunteers, retain our current cadre of volunteers, and get current FPOW volunteers excited about leadership positions, as well as how to better market ourselves in a highly technical world. We hope to resume these meetings later this year.

The Speakers’ Bureau was able to conduct New Volunteer Orientation presentations throughout the end of 2019 and early into 2020, reaching more than 60 potential volunteers. In addition, the Speakers’ Bureau made presentations and/or staffed information tables at United Way, CFC, and community events.



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Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.



And the answer is...

Don't miss out on any news from FPOW.

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Subject: **Email** or **Snail Mail**

Or leave a message at (703) 324-5424

**Get the news
the way YOU want it!**

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our annual FPOW volunteer appreciation picnic that was scheduled for June 7 as well as various social events that were either planned or in the process of being planned. Although we had to cancel our appreciation event, we sent all volunteers an FPOW mask with a filter pocket, and we received notes from numerous volunteers thanking us for the timely gift.

FPOW continues its partnership with the AKC Therapy Dog title program. All dogs — pure-bred and mixed breed — are eligible to earn the Therapy Dog title. Also, it is important to note that AKC allows all dogs that hold AKC Therapy Dog titles who are registered with FPOW — a recognized therapy organization — and have completed at least 10 therapy visits to apply for AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) title with no further CGC testing. Pat Dutton's Lily received the Therapy Dog Excellent title and Susan Dilles' Darwin received the Therapy Dog title.



We continue to have Karen Beekman handle our existing merchandise via the website so you can be ready for volunteering again in FPOW gear. In addition, there are still FPOW logo patches available for purchase, or you can purchase an item through Active-Dogs.com, and they will sew the FPOW patch on the item for you.

Prior to ceasing all testing, the Temperament Testing Committee had been kept busy making sure that every pet that becomes an FPOW volunteer has the ability to be an ambassador for our program. There were approximately 48 teams tested, and of those teams 36 passed the temperament test.

A small committee has been exploring ways for FPOW volunteers to maintain a relationship with residents during the pandemic. Facility Liaisons have reached out to Activity Directors to let them know that we are interested in finding ways we can responsibly be a presence for the residents. Sending uplifting videos, sending cards, and making phone calls are some of the ways that FPOW has been able to stay in touch with our residents.

There are always so many people to thank for making FPOW successful with their devoted efforts. One group that continues to deserve special recognition is the staff in the FPOW office: Ruth Benker, Madelynn Arnold, Jill Davidson, Carla Graham, Linda Martin, and Terry Carroll. Although their time in the office is currently on pause, their ongoing commitment to the many tasks and all the paperwork that make our program happen are essential to the continued success of FPOW. Their contribution and dedication is crucial as they quietly and continually provide numerous hours to the program behind the scenes.

To all volunteers who serve on our various committees, (Merchandise, Office, Speakers' Bureau, Temperament Testing, and Nominating), we are very thankful that you have stepped up to the plate and remain grateful for all you do.

I would also like to thank all members of the Board of Directors over the last four years who assisted me in every way as President of the Board. No matter the year, the Board was always willing to help with the many tasks involved in running the program with more than 140 volunteers both two- and four-legged. The Board continues to move FPOW forward to meet any new challenges. Special thanks to Ruth Benker and Madelynn Arnold for their continued dedication and support during my tenure. I could not have fulfilled this obligation as President without them. In addition, I would like to give a shout out to three long time Board members who will be rolling off the Board this year and who have provided

countless hours in support of our program: Tracy Van Duston, Patty Kwapniewski and Linda Martin.

Thanks to you, our volunteers who make time in your busy lives to reach out to the residents. You are not always aware of the good that you are doing by taking time to visit with your pet. Fairfax Pets on Wheels is truly a wonderful way to share your pet's love with other people. I know the residents have missed seeing us and our pets during this time and will happily welcome us back with open arms, in a physically distanced way of course.

Finally, I must admit that I never thought I would end my presidency at such a poignant time. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as President of an organization that I so strongly believe in. I trust that when the country achieves normalcy and we can continue our visitations that we will come back stronger than ever.

As FPOW celebrates our 33rd year we continue to face new challenges, but we are well-poised to continue to grow, serve, and meet the challenges ahead. Our program is a bright shining light and is a testament to what works when like-minded people and their pets step up to serve the community.



Thank You, FPOW Volunteers

Although we were not able to have our annual volunteer recognition picnic, 30 volunteers received certificates for exceptional hours given to the program in 2019.

GOLD **(100+ hours)**

200+ hours

Ruth Benker
Kathi Baker

150-200 hours

Patty Kwapniewski
Carla Graham
Terry Patton
Wendy Mayer



100-150 hours

Diane Bente
John Coleman
Madelynn Arnold
Denise Kloeppe
Kathy Gallo
Susan Dilles

Paula Burger
Diane O'Brien
Kye Abboushi
Linda Martin
Paula Singleton

SILVER **(75-99 hours)**



Susan Ledgerwood
Bonnie Burnham
Jack Ledgerwood
Bridget Saunders
Joe Ammann

BRONZE **(50-74 hours)**

Liz Breyer
Terry Carroll
Pat Dutton
Brian Bryson
Mary Portelly
Charles Viall
Jennifer Draves
Laurie Stone



Thank You!



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.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT FPOW NEWSLETTER: January 15, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee:

President – Paula Singleton
Vice President/Dir. of Admin. – Vacant
Treasurer – Joe Ammann
Secretary – Madelynn Arnold

Directors:

Facilities Relations – Jeanine Goldberg
Volunteer Development & Education – Diane O'Brien
Communications – Wendy Mayer
Volunteer Appreciation – Matt Watson
At Large – Ruth Benker
At Large – Susan Dilles
At Large – Karen Finkel
At Large – Barbara Kuckenbecker
At Large – Cathy Perro

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.

All correspondence should be directed to:

Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.
c/o Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
12011 Government Center Parkway #708
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104
(703) 324-5424
Email: dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov



Designate #8907



Designate #51148