



# USA THERAPY DOGS, INC.

Serving with Compassion and Pride

January/February 2013

Volume 2, Issue 1

WINTER CLASS will begin February 12th. Let the word out. Check out the details on the website. Membership Applications can be found on the website: [www.usatherapydogs.org](http://www.usatherapydogs.org) under the FORMS tab. Send application and check made out to:

USA Therapy Dogs, Inc.  
Attention: CLASS  
P.O. Box 100  
Davison, MI 48423

## Christmas Party and Awards Banquette 2012

The Christmas Party and Awards Banquette was a lot of fun. Members enjoyed socializing in a relaxed atmosphere. Handlers who turned in their minimum requirement of 15 volunteer hours in 2012 received a Certificate of Recognition and a star for their Therapy Dog's vest.

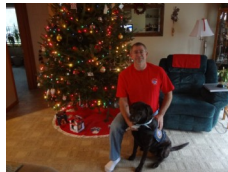
Winners for The Volunteer Program were announced:

Julie Allen/ Maci won 1st prize for most volunteer hours contributed in 2012 with 168.5 hrs., received a dog toy box, blanket, toy, goodies. Gift Certificate to local restaurant. USA TD Shirt



### Members who attended the Christmas Party

Front Row; Claudia Scott, Nancy Hall, Diane Noblett, Suzanne Hock, Barbara Horton-Wright, Jill Burke. Second Row: Jarod and Nicole Boyle, Gerri Ireland, Shawn Palmer, Greg Palmer, Alice Malkowych, Brenda Begley, Donna LaVere, Julie Allen, Ann Bruno. Last Row; Vickie and Jim Parker, Tina McPherson, Tony Hock, Randy Trudell, Kelly Bearup, Kathy Fridline, Bethany Thompson, Ray Burke, Mindy Winter, Ken Hershberger, Mary Jo Datema-Banaszak



Ray Burke with Roxy and receiving his award

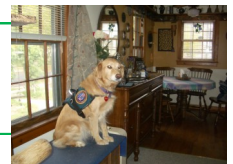
1st place 4th quarter went to Ray Burke/Roxy with 48.5 hours. Ray and Roxy also won 2nd place in 2012 with 125.5 hours



A special recognition award went to Ken Hershberger in memory of his USA Therapy Dog, Pearl, who passed away last July. Ken and Pearl had 500 Volunteer hours from November 2010 to July 2012. Ken has remained active with USA Therapy Dogs; he is now visiting with Roxie (Diane Noblett's Therapy Dog) at Stonegate Care Facility in Lapeer. He has also volunteered to take pictures and deliver awards to the Volunteer winners at the end of each quarter- Thank you Ken for your continued support to USA TD.



Donna LaVere/Ginger won 2nd prize 4th quarter in 2012 with 39 hours Donna LaVere giving Diane a hug as she receives her award gift and a picture of Ginger hanging out at home.



## HANDLER AND DOG-BIO

Members please consider emailing a picture of yourself and therapy dog with a short paragraph about your dog and what made you want to get involved with volunteering with USA Therapy Dogs. Just getting to know one another with people who have the same interests. All

bios will be submitted in the next USA Therapy Dog Newsletter and possibly on our Website.

Please email pictures and BIO's to [diane.noblett@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.noblett@yahoo.com) by February 28th

Suggestion submitted by: Mindy Winters



## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please submit your hours at the end of each month. It is understandable that people get busy and forget or don't make the time to submit hours. You can submit them at the end of each quarter, PLEASE Tally up the hours by month. PLEASE use the Visitation Log that is on the website. If you would rather have one emailed to you please send Diane Noblett an email to let her know you need a visitation log, [diane.noblett@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.noblett@yahoo.com) and she will email one to you. Remember to have your visitation log signed by the contact person at the facility. 15 hours a year is required to remain in "active" status with USA Therapy Dogs, Please refer to the Policies and Procedures Manual for details. If you would like to receive another PPM send Diane Noblett an email for the request.

To qualify for Volunteer Hours Reward (Handler/Dog Team with the most hours per quarter) for each quarter, hours must be received by: 1st quarter; March 31, 2013, 2nd quarter; June 30, 2013, 3rd quarter; September 30, 2013 and November 30, 2013 (short 4th quarter due to holiday season) December hours will still need to be submitted. End of the year awards, vest stars and certificates will be distributed at the annual Christmas Party in December. A star is given to be placed on Therapy Dog's vest for each year the Therapy Dog is active—minimum of 15 hours per year.

## PEEK AT 2013 ACTIVITIES

2013 is going to be a great year for USA TD. We are growing as an organization.

LISTED ARE A FEW EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN 2013. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS...DETAILS TO FOLLOW

- \* DOGGIE OLYMPIC FUNDRAISER APRIL –DATE & PLACE TBD
- \* BARK FOR LIFE – MAY 4, 2013
- \* DOG BOWL – MAY 25 AND 26-FRANKENMUTH
- \* FESTIVAL OF FLAGS - JUNE OR JULY—DATE TBD
- \* PUMPKIN FEST – OCTOBER – DATE TBD
- \* TASTE OF THE SEASON FUNDRAISER – NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> (TENTATIVE DATE)

**We need members to volunteer for these events/fundraisers in order to make them happen.**



SAMPLE OF FLAG AND STAR PLACEMENT ON VEST

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## USA THERAPY DOGS STAFF MEMBERS

President: Jarod Boyles  
Vice President: Diane Noblett  
Secretary: Kathy Fridline  
Treasurer: Suzanne Hock  
Lead Trainer: Gerri Ireland  
Lead Medical Officer: Ann Bruno  
Events Coordinator: Ann Bruno  
Communications Coordinator: Diane Noblett  
Fundraiser Coordinator: Suzanne Hock  
Marketing Coordinator: Delena Austin

### Assistant Trainers:

- \* Ann Bruno
- \* Greg and Shawn Palmer
- \* Anisa Gordon
- \* Randall Trudell

## PLACES TO VISIT

USA Therapy Dogs and Handlers are always being requested. Please look on the website, [www.usatherapydogs.org](http://www.usatherapydogs.org) under the RESOURCES tab for facilities that have requested dogs. Please feel free to venture out and go to a place not on the list that you may want to visit. Call the Activities Director and let them know what USA TD is all about and set up a meeting and visiting schedule. If more therapy dogs are requested an email can be sent out to members letting them know of visits.

Many facilities are now requesting background checks on people who frequent their establishment. This is for the safety of the recipients and for our Handler.

Please bring brochures when visiting. More brochures will be printed soon and will be distributed to members at the next members meeting, TBD.



*Michelle Polcyn and Nelson at the Breast Cancer Awareness walk, representing USA Therapy Dogs, Inc. Fall 2012*