



# PET PAL TALES

*A newsletter for the volunteers, sponsors and friends of Therapy Pet Pals of Texas, Inc.*

## TPPT CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVICE 1984-2024

TPPT commemorated 40 years of service with a luncheon at Reunion Ranch in Georgetown on April 21, 2024. Volunteers and guests were treated to a delicious BBQ lunch and the opportunity to bid on various items in our silent auction.



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<b>VOLUME XXXVI</b>	

**PET PAL TALES** is published by Therapy Pet Pals of Texas, Inc. for its volunteers, sponsors and friends. Therapy Pet Pals of Texas, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation sharing "unconditional love" through pet therapy.

#### Board of Directors

Thomas G. Bradfield, DVM, *Chairman*

Nancy J. Gray, *Executive Director*

Jason M. Gray, Esq.

Darrin P. Jensen

*Directors Emeritus,*

James D. Lashmit

Megan S. Medica

#### Mission Statement

- ♥ Recruit and train volunteers for work in pet therapy, and promote the human/animal bond through pet visitation programs.
- ♥ Work with health care staff and medical professionals in various institutions where pet therapy programs would enhance the quality of life for the patients.
- ♥ Provide institutionalized patients an opportunity for bonding with pets through weekly visits.
- ♥ Promote and publicize pet therapy through workshops, seminars, lectures, and discussion groups in order to elevate public awareness on the importance of pet therapy.

#### Corporate Office

3930 Bee Cave Road, Suite C

Austin, Texas 78746

Phone: (512) 347-1984

Cell: (737) 529-2029

Email: [tppt\\_admin@therapypetpals.org](mailto:tppt_admin@therapypetpals.org)

Website: [www.therapypetpals.org](http://www.therapypetpals.org)

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## TPPT'S 2024 VOLUNTEER REPORT

Last year our volunteers provided **5,447 HOURS** in loving service to their community! They traveled (at their own expense) **37,409** miles. Most important of all, Pet Pals were responsible for **68,043 SMILES** placed on the faces of the nursing home residents and hospital patients in some of the **65 healthcare facilities** we proudly serve!

TPPT takes great pride in the totality of our volunteers' commitments and their caring hearts. Because of them, there is an abundance of love and companionship in many Texas healthcare facilities. Our loving *Pet Pals "spread sunshine" wherever they go and make many lonely hearts truly happy!*







# ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS



## CONGRATULATIONS TO TPPT'S 25 YEAR HONOREES!



**Gretchen Blackburn  
Austin**



**Susan Coffman  
Austin**

*All of our inspired volunteers have demonstrated their dedication to TPPT by their incredible service records! They have been invaluable to TPPT's growth and success, and their devoted commitment to pet therapy is clearly obvious! These honorees serve TPPT in many diverse areas. They are enthusiastic Trainers, Q/T Class Evaluators and Special Events Committee members.*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO TPPT'S 20 YEAR HONOREES!



**Rachel Briones  
Houston**



**Brenda Hampton  
Austin**



**Lynn Hunt  
Austin**



**CONGRATULATION TO TPPT'S  
10 YEAR HONOREES!**



**Lynn Ashley  
Austin**

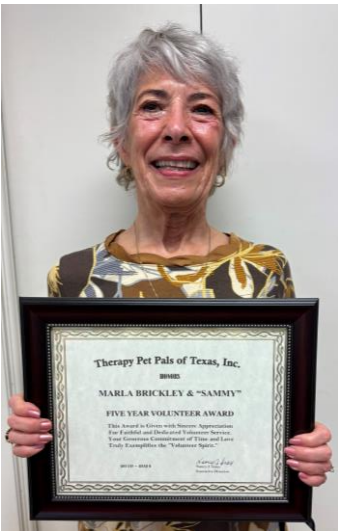


**Holly Hunsucker  
Austin**



**Terri Pass  
Houston**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TPPT'S  
5 YEAR HONOREES!**



**Marla Brickley  
Austin**



**Linda Evins  
Austin**



**Marte Hersey  
Houston**



**Lisa Love  
Austin**



**Sass Sassmanshausen  
Austin**



**Not Pictured:  
Lisa Merritt, Austin  
Andrew Camacho, Austin  
Celina Camacho, Austin  
Sasha Gumprecht, Houston**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO TPPT'S OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS!**



**Christine Gilbert  
Austin**

TPPT takes tremendous pride in presenting the **Outstanding Volunteer** awards to these two honorees. They have been truly amazing in their dedication to pet therapy. Not only have they gone that “extra mile”, they have gone many extra miles in service to their cherished friends in many nursing homes and hospitals.

We congratulate **Christine** and **J.D.** and sincerely **THANK** them for their loving and faithful service to TPPT!



**J.D. Brewer  
Houston**

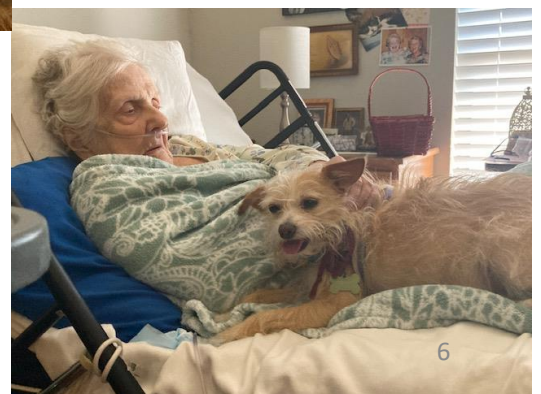
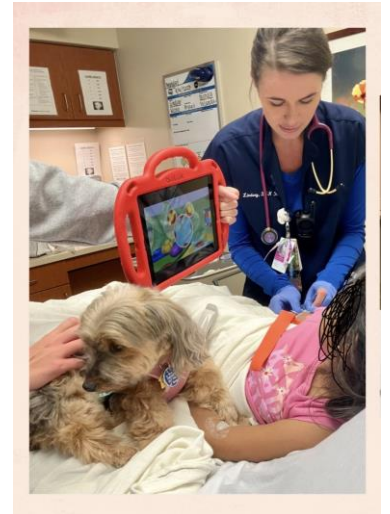
**THANK YOU, JUDY & STEVE  
RUNYAN!**

These beautiful awards, which are proudly displayed by TPPT's Outstanding Volunteers, were designed and donated by **Judy and Steve Runyan**. Tony Leonard had donated these very special awards every year for 16 years, until his death in 2006. His daughter, Judy, vowed to keep his legacy alive and, along with her husband Steve, has continued making the wonderful **Tony Awards** since then! They continue to honor us with their talent, generosity and loving dedication to TPPT!





# PET PALS IN ACTION IN 2024!





# TPPT 2024 Honors Banquet Houston





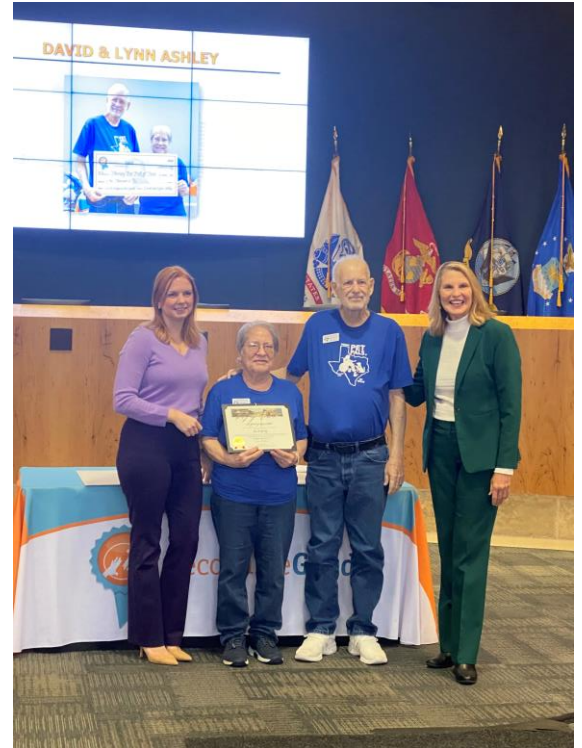
# TPPT 2024 Honors Banquet Austin





## HONORS FOR TPPT

TPPT received a generous donation of \$1,500 from David & Lynn Ashley for their recognition by **RecognizeGood: The Foundation's 2024 LEGENDS Program**. The award is presented nine times per year, highlighting ordinary individuals who go to extraordinary lengths for others. David & Lynn Ashley received the award for their outstanding service with TPPT for the past 10 years and chose to donate their award to TPPT. In addition to the cash award, each Volunteer Legend receives their own commemorative brick placed along the Lady Bird Lake. Thank you David & Lynn!



**Snooze Eatery North Lamar** celebrated their 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by donating to TPPT. Pictured is Board Member Jason Gray accepting the generous donation from Iris Marquez. Thank you, Iris, and your wonderful staff!



**TPPT Volunteer Susan Coffman** made a presentation to explain TPPT's mission to Girl Scouts.





# FAITHFUL FOUNDATION

## FRIENDS

**Therapy Pet Pals of Texas** is blessed by the wonderful foundations that have been so generous in their support of our mission and goals. We take pride in listing those who donated in 2024.

**The Nanette C. Wickham Charitable Foundation** has demonstrated their steadfast support for TPPT for over 10 years. We are extremely grateful for their wonderful donation of \$12,000 in 2024! **THANK YOU!**

**The RWH Foundation** has been a friend to TPPT since 2007. TPPT is blessed and deeply honored to continue receiving support from the RWH Foundation. We are grateful for their generous gift in the amount of \$6,500! We are so thankful for their continued support for 17 years! **THANK YOU!**

The **Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation** is highly respected by TPPT as one of our very long-term valued foundations. In 2024, they once again honored us with a donation of \$5,000. **THANK YOU!**

**The ForeSight Foundation** of Austin has been a treasured friend of TPPT for **22 years!!** We are humbled and gratified by their faith and very generous grants to TPPT. Special thanks to Jennifer & Brooks Newbill who are devoted believers in pet therapy for their grant of \$5,000. **THANK YOU!**

**The Medallion Foundation** is a loyal and dedicated foundation in their funding of TPPT. We are once again grateful for their donation of \$5,000 and delighted by the continued faith and trust that is placed in our organization. **THANK YOU!**

**The John Medica & Megan Salzman-Medica Charitable Fund** has been an incredibly faithful supporter of TPPT for **26 years!!** Their loving gifts have been very generous and given continuously every year! We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their continued support and generous grant of \$5,000. **THANK YOU!**

**The Ed Rachal Foundation** of Corpus Christi has continued to bless TPPT with a generous donation in 2024 of \$5,000. We cannot thank them enough for their continued support over the years. **THANK YOU!**

**The Donald D. Hammill Foundation** has been a dedicated friend of TPPT since 2009. We are truly grateful for their donation of \$3,000. They are friends who recognize the many health benefits to be derived from our Pet Pal visits. **THANK YOU!**

**The Lind Family Charitable Foundation** have been dedicated and faithful supporters since 2005. They understand the significance of what a vital role pets play in adding quality of life to those people who are no longer able to have a pet of their own. We thank them for their donation of \$2,500. **THANK YOU!**

**The Shomos Family Foundation, Ltd.** We thank our friend and former Pet Pal volunteer, Monica Shomos, for her continued support. We are grateful to the Shomos Family Foundation for their 2024 donation of \$2,000. **THANK YOU!**

**The R.H. & A.Q. Lawe Foundation** is a long-term friend and supporter of TPPT. In 2024, they honored TPPT with a most generous donation of \$1,750. **THANK YOU!**

**The Arnold Foundation** has been giving TPPT their support for **22 years!** As one of our long-term supporting foundations, their friendship is a source of great pride to TPPT. We thank them for their generous grant of \$1,500. **THANK YOU!**

**The David and Willa Grace Wynne Foundation** of Houston has once again graciously honored TPPT's grant request. We are grateful for their donation of \$1,500 and their desire to help promote the vital need for pet therapy. **THANK YOU!**

**The Abbott Foundation** of Austin is a friend TPPT made in 2011. We thank them for validating our volunteer efforts with their faithful, caring gifts and their belief in TPPT's mission and goals. We are grateful for their donation of \$750. **THANK YOU!**



## MEMORIALS ~ DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF...

<p><b><u>Ruby</u></b> Beloved Pet pal of Karen &amp; JD Brewer By: Mary Horner</p> <p><b><u>Sue Marsh</u></b> By: Tish Crahen</p> <p><b><u>Lynn Walker</u></b> By: Tish Crahen</p> <p><b><u>Mary Lou Elliot</u></b> By: Joy Parker</p> <p><b><u>Reese</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Dixie Tischler By: TPPT Office Staff Kathy &amp; Paul Grosch</p> <p><b><u>Patches</u></b> Beloved pet of Darlene Ryburn By: Peggy Lively</p> <p><b><u>Tiki</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Mike &amp; Tina Lucas By: TPPT Office Staff</p> <p><b><u>Roxy</u></b> Beloved dog of Gail &amp; Larry Beardsley By: Gerald &amp; Peggy Lively</p> <p><b><u>Switch</u></b> Beloved dog of Nancy Pantusa By: Jane Adams</p> <p><b><u>Gary Mefford</u></b> By: John McKinnerney</p>	<p><b><u>Madison</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Eric Overton By: TPPT Office Staff</p> <p><b><u>Snowball</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Nancy Deshler By: TPPT Office Staff</p> <p><b><u>Bebe</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Jill Gunn By: TPPT Office Staff Jill Gunn</p> <p><b><u>Monte</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Sass Sassmanshausen By: TPPT Office Staff</p> <p><b><u>Wally</u></b> Beloved pet of Diane Sager By: Jane Adams</p> <p><b><u>Mitch</u></b> Beloved pet of Maureen Pantusa By: Jane Adams</p> <p><b><u>Kathryn Lashmit</u></b> By: Tish Crahen</p> <p><b><u>Tess</u></b> Beloved dog of Shella Barclay By: Jane Adams</p> <p><b><u>Kodiak</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Lesa Favreau By: TPPT Office Staff</p>	<p><b><u>Tony</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Ann Olsen By: TPPT Office Staff Brenda Raup Kathy Grosch &amp; Rosie</p> <p><b><u>Grace</u></b> Beloved pet of Rachel Sandifer &amp; Kelly Noonan By: Peggy Lively</p> <p><b><u>Lisa Lively Reed</u></b> By: Carol Charette Cherry &amp; Roger Williams Michael G. Enger Arthur R. Ullman TPPT Office Staff Kaye Williams Judy &amp; Jim Bracht Fern Ross</p> <p><b><u>Lianne Nagel</u></b> By: Sheryl Poore</p> <p><b><u>Daisy</u></b> Beloved Pet Pal of Nancy &amp; Mike Gray By: Nancy Gray Rick &amp; Nedy West Jane Adams Kathy Grosch Jill Gunn Mary Horner</p> <p><b><u>Pat Kalil</u></b> By: Tish Crahen</p> <p><b><u>Lucy</u></b> Sweet companion of Donna Parrish By: Gerald &amp; Peggy Lively</p>
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## HONORS ~ DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF....

**Camarena** – beloved Pet Pal of Mary Horner  
**Lynn & David Ashley** by Elaine Braslow  
**Darby** – by Mary Horner



## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

- Jane Adams
- Anonymous
- David & Lynn Ashley
- Jaclyn Ballesteros
- Roy Blum
- Judy & Jim Bracht
- Marilou Cantoni
- Tish Crahen
- Carol Charette
- Kathleen Crowley
- Sheree Davis
- Michael G. Enger
- Chihon Fung
- Helen Gaw
- Mike & Nancy Gray
- Paul & Kathy Grosch
- Jill Gunn
- Adele Hanson
- David & Jo Nell Harlow
- Mary Horner
- Julie Humble
- Teddi Jackson
- Cassandra Kahler
- Cheah Ling Liew
- Gerald & Peggy Lively
- Earle McBride
- John McKinnerney
- Patti McGraw
- Lisa Merritt
- Patty Moran
- Joy Parker
- Sheryl Poore
- Brenda Raup
- Fern Ross
- Betty Rugh
- Steve & Judy Runyan
- Patty & Clif Steed
- Arthur R. Ullman
- Rick & Nedy West
- Cherry & Roger Williams
- Kaye Williams



## CORPORATE & BUSINESS SPONSORS

- AT&T
- Dell
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Flatfile
- HCA Healthcare
- Healthy Pets
- IBM
- Kendra Scott
- Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce
- Macy's
- Microsoft
- National Instruments
- New York Life
- The Oasis
- Snooze
- State House Printing
- WellSky Foundation
- Westlake Animal Hospital

### Newsletter submissions:

We are delighted to receive Pet Pal pictures for our newsletter! Also, if you would like to submit a short story (or just a paragraph), send it, along with an appropriate picture, for publishing in the next edition of **PET PAL TALES**.

### Website additions:

TPPT has space for the addition of many more pictures on our website! If you want to share a picture of your Pet Pal "volunteering", send it to the TPPT office and we will be happy to publish it on our website:  
[www.therappetpals.org](http://www.therappetpals.org)



### PET PAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

No matter how many new volunteers TPPT certifies each year, there can never be enough to fill all the healthcare facilities!

We urge our Pet Pal members to share the joy and rewards of being a volunteer. Ask your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to visit our website and view the pictures there. They will see the happiness pets give and want to be part of such a heart-warming experience!

Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Training/Testing available from Alex Gruber at Everywherek9.com  
512-626-5686

