ABOUT HELPING PAWS

Our Mission
The mission of Helping Paws is to further people’s independence and quality of life through the use of Assistance Dogs. The human/animal bond is the foundation of Helping Paws. We celebrate the mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals, honoring the dignity and well-being of all.

Assistance Dogs International Member
Helping Paws is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). We adhere to their requirements in training our service dogs. ADI works to improve the areas of training, placement and utilization of assistance dogs as well as staff and volunteer education. For more information on ADI, visit their website at www.assistancedogsinternational.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ryan Evers, President
Kathleen Statler, Vice President
Kelly Hagglund, Secretary
James Ryan, Treasurer

Members
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Judy Hovanes
Alison Lienau
Reid Mason
Joan Stone
Lynn Walker
Michael Urbanos

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO

Design & Production
Grossman Design Associates

Photography
Laura Gentry
Steve McCuskey
Judy Michurski

MANAGEMENT AND INSTRUCTORS

Directors
Pam Anderson, Director of Development
Eileen Bohn, Director of Programs

Staff
Chelsey Bosak, Programs Department Administrative Coordinator
Judy Campbell, Foster Home Coordinator and Instructor
Laura Gentry, Canine Care Coordinator and Instructor
Brenda Hawley, Volunteer and Social Media Coordinator
Sue Kliewer, Client Services Coordinator and Instructor
Jonathan Kramer, Communications and Special Projects Coordinator
Sean Oliva, Veteran/First Responder Program Coordinator
Jill Rovner, Development Associate

Training Department Volunteers
Jan Friend, Assistant
Susan Hagel, Assistant
Pat Hook, Assistant
Will Kim, Assistant
Vanessa Wong, Assistant
Each year as I reflect back on the prior 12 months, I am always amazed by what our staff and volunteers are able to accomplish. I am sure you are familiar with the old adage “it takes a village,” and the Helping Paws village is truly remarkable. No one could have foreseen the intense personal and professional challenges COVID brought upon us over the past 18 months. Despite these challenges, we have found ways to make modifications to our breeding program, weekly service dog trainings, and our team trainings, which have allowed us to continue successfully matching support dogs with our deserving graduates.

For this fiscal year, we successfully matched ten new assistance dog pairs. Four of these matches were to individuals with physical disabilities, and six were placed with Veterans and First Responders. In addition to these new matches, our staff continued to support our existing matches, and conducted 8-9 classes each week for our current service dogs in training. We also welcomed 30 new puppies from the Eager, Fun, Goal, and Home litters who have begun their service dog training.

In August of this year, our long time Director of Development, Pam Anderson, announced her plan to retire from Helping Paws in May 2022. For more than 17 years, Pam has built relationships with our donors, volunteers, and business partners who have made us what we are today. Pam and her team have successfully grown revenue by 400% and have been instrumental in our ability to meet our mission, furthering people’s independence and quality of life through the use of Assistance Dogs. The Board of Directors is in the process of identifying Pam’s replacement, an Executive Director who will work closely with Eileen Bohn, Helping Paws’ Co-Founder and Director of Programs. In any organization, a change in leadership brings with it new business relationships and creative new ideas, as well as outside expertise and perspectives that will ultimately enhance our ability to help more people. This is a very exciting time for the organization, and I look forward to introducing you to our new Executive Director in the months to come.

You are all unique and important members of the Helping Paws village, and because of you, our graduates get to experience the life changing benefits of an assistance dog. Whether you volunteer your time and talents, support our programs financially, provide in-kind support or are a member of our staff, I want to extend a very warm thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors. There is not a more committed group of people anywhere, and I am proud that I get the opportunity to play my small part in this amazing village. I am excited for our future and look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the coming year.
Accomplishments

Our breeding program = 30 puppies

Staff was responsible for supervision of between sixty (60) – eighty (80) dogs in our program

10 TEN ASSISTANCE DOGS WERE PLACED
Accomplishments

The Graduate Follow-up Coordinator, Veteran/First Responder Program Coordinator and additional staff continued follow-up with ninety-nine (99) graduates.

Over $17,000 was raised for the Emergency Veterinary Fund which is available to our graduates to cover unforeseen veterinary costs due to their service dog’s health needs.

Helping Paws 175 volunteers are very active donating 95,000 hours. This is the equivalent to 45 FTEs and a value of $2.9 million ($30.98 hourly rate is from the Independent Sector).
DAVID BIRKMAN + KEIO

My name is David Birkman, Master Sergeant USAR retired (USMC). I served for 30 years with 5 deployments, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

After Afghanistan, I realized how much help I needed with my PTSD. I decided to research service dogs and how much they could assist me in adjusting from war to civilian life. After applying and being matched with Keio, my life dramatically changed for the better. He helps me when I have nightmares or when I’m very anxious. The first night we spent together, he woke me up from a nightmare! He put his head underneath my arm and saved me.

In every way possible, Keio has improved my quality of life. I am more in touch with my emotions and have the strength to challenge any negativity. There are times when I didn’t want to leave the house or even get out of my bed. I felt isolated. With Keio, we’re buddies; he has my back and helps me get out into the public. While I still struggle with PTSD, I receive great relief having Keio by my side. I call him my 4 legged angel. I am living a positive joy filled life.
Don Ellwood + Pixel

Our day starts with Pixel helping me dress in the morning. This includes gathering up my shoes on the floor, my knee braces as well as picking up off the floor yesterday’s clothes. These are little things that are big for me. Now we’re ready to tackle my day.

Recently at a doctor’s appointment, my insurance card and a credit card fell and landed the floor. Pixel was right on it, picking them up and handing them to me. The receptionist and others looked on in amazement. It brings me great joy to see the looks on people’s faces as they look at each other and say, did you see that! A similar story on our visit to Menards when I dropped the bottle of marinate... thankfully it was plastic!

Last summer, we went to a fundraising golf event for Gustavus Adolphus College. I’m blessed to have friends who keep me involved as my situation changes with my Muscular Dystrophy. I’ve also have Kennedy’s Disease, a neuromuscular issue that mimics ALS without the likely impending passing. It developed more severely this spring and summer with a substantial amount of muscle deterioration. I’ve gone from hitting a few golf shots on every hole to now riding along with my faithful companion. At the fundraiser, I got asked all the time, what does he do for you? Simplest answer: He’s there for me.
Mitzi is a joy to my life. She goes with me to get me out of my house. We belong to several organizations. She is known to a lot of the members. I belong to the Greater Twin Cities Golden Retriever Club and Daughters of the American Revolution. We recently went to the Minnesota State Fair to help educate fairgoers.

With Daughters of the American Revolution, we visited many cemeteries for genealogy and helped clean some of the headstones. Mitzi helps me get off the ground and into a wheelchair. She comes to the meetings. This last year some of our meetings were virtual. She had a chair next to me, so she could watch with me. Everyone at DAR knows Mitzi through me and she helps me feel connected.

We scooter almost every day; meaning I ride the scooter and she trots alongside me. I have noticed she is very aware of our environment. She watches especially when crossing the streets, the cars. She enjoys going scootering. It’s our adventure time. Where will we go next?!

I thank Sue and Jeff for how well they trained her. She is a wonderful partner that allows me to continue my life’s passions.
RYAN RADUNZEL + PEYTON

My name is Ryan and my service dog is Peyton. I retired from the Air Force in the spring of 2020 after 20 years of service. Shortly before retiring, I was diagnosed with PTSD. As it turns out, I had symptoms going back almost 10 years and never knew it.

I was partnered with Peyton in May of 2021 and his impact was felt immediately. He was waiting just for me. Since taking him home, I no longer need medication to sleep. I’m much more active: going shopping, out to eat, to movies and sporting events. At points in my life, I didn’t leave my house for weeks. Having Peyton helps me stop worrying about the world around me. Peyton helps shifts my focus onto him and allows me to enjoy things so many people take for granted. Going to sporting events or the movies is fun, but being part of the world rather than afraid of it is a wonderful gift. I can’t imagine my life without him. He’s always there for me. The one thing I would say about PTSD, it’s a daily battle. You want to win as many days as you can. I am going to win more days than not with Peyton by my side.
INCOME STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2021

REVENUES
Net Special Events .........................$70,177
Contributions ...............................$730,181
Earned Income ...............................$17,103
Total Revenues & Other ............$817,416

EXPENSES
Program ......................................$619,143
Management & General .................$44,575
Fundraising .................................$125,794
Total Expenses .........................$789,512

Change in Net Assets .....................$27,949

NET ASSETS
Net Assets, Beginning of Year.......$863,415
Net Assets, End of Year ..........$891,364

BALANCE SHEET

May 31, 2021

ASSETS
Total Current Assets .................$859,412
Property & Equipment, Net ............$2,601
Service Dogs .............................$ 94,345
Total Assets .............................$956,358

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Total Current Liabilities .................$64,994

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted:
   Undesignated..........................$608,060
   Designated.............................$262,466
   Temporarily Restricted ..............$20,838
Total Net Assets .........................$891,364

Total Liabilities and Net Assets ......$956,358

If you want to view the complete audited financial statement or donor information, please visit our website, www.helpingpaws.org or call 952-988-9359 x 12.
Management & General
6%

Fundraising
16%

Program
78%
DONORS

We are grateful to all the generous individuals, foundations, organizations and businesses supporting Helping Paws who share our passion for enhancing the lives of people with physical disabilities.

Donations listed are from June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021.

Business and Foundation Donations

318 Cafe
3M Foundation
A Piece of Cake + Bon Vie Bistro
Alerus
All Is Bright Lighting
All Season Wild Bird Store – Wayzata
Allina – Dollars for Doers
Amazon Smile Foundation
American Family Insurance Employee Gift Matching
American Legion Delano – Post 377
American Legion Post 398
Ameriprise Financial Employee Gift Matching
Amgen Foundation
Anonymous
Bayer Pharmaceutics
Best Buy Employee Gift Matching
Birch's on the Lake
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Employee Gift Matching
Bly Family Charitable Foundation
Boston Scientific Employee Gift Matching
Breadsmith
Brightwood Hills Golf Course
Bubbly Paws
C. H. Robinson Worldwide Foundation
Cafe Latte
Cannon River Winery
Cargill
Caring Critters of MN
Central Minnesota Special Needs Fund of the Central Minnesota Community Foundation
Chuck and Don’s Circle of Life Animal Communication
Coat Booster US, LLC
Comcast
Community Foundation of Sarasota
Dale Studios
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War – Tent 1
Davanni’s Pizza and Hot Hoagies
Dave’s Auto & Tire Center, Inc.
Deborah O’Brien Charitable Fund
Donatelli’s
Doolittles Woodfire Grill
Dr. Linda Wolf Charitable Fund for Animals
Driskill’s Downtown Market
Earl C. Hill American Legion Auxiliary Unit 550
Ecolab Employee Matching
Edward R. Bazinet Charitable Foundation
Ellsworth Order of Eastern Star 116
Emerson Charitable Trust
Entira Family Clinics – Woodbury
Epitome Papers
EverGreene Jewelers
Fan HQ
Farallon Capital Management
Federated Insurance
First Financial Merchant Services
Flag Wavers Hope
Fleet Farm – Carver
Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
Frels Family Foundation
Fusion Pet Retreat
Gear West
General Dynamics Mission Systems
General Mills Employee Gift Matching
GiveMN
Google Employee Gift Matching
Grand Casino
Grand Chapter of Minnesota, Order of Eastern Star
Great West Financial
Greater Twin Cities Golden Retriever Club
Greene Espel, PLLP
Hagen and Oats
Harry’s Cafe
Hartford Fire Insurance Employee Gift Matching
Helping Paws Board of Directors
Henry W. Bull Foundation
Hito Bodyworks
Hoagie’s Family Restaurant
Holiday Station Store #343
Hutter Family Foundation Initiative Foundation
Innovative Sales Solutions
Intel Corporation
Intermotel Leasing, Inc.
J. Elmer & Esther Hansman Charitable Trust
James Nystrom Foundation
JJ’s Clubhouse
Judith Harkess Art
Julia Knight Inc.
KLN Family Brands
Kopp Family Foundation
Kowalski’s Market – Excelsior
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
Lady of the Lake, Inc.
Lathrop GPM LLP
Lauren Engfer Photography
Lions Tap
Maguire Agency
Mains’I Services
Martin Patrick 3
Medina Entertainment Center
Medtronic Employee Gift Matching
Metropolis Resort
Minnesota Wild
MM Bags
Mount Zion Lutheran Church
My Healthy Beginning
Nash Frame Design
Nelson’s Ice Cream
Network For Good
Northern Lights (CFC) Community Shares of Minnesota
NorthstarMLS
Nothing Bundt Cakes – Minnetonka
Odyssey Resorts
Old National Bank
Olu Dog Wash & Grooming Salon
One Hundred 80 Degrees
Oriental Trading Company
Otten Bros. Garden Center
Oxbow Industries
Park Square Theatre
Park Tavern
Pearl Litter Foster Home Trainers
People Incorporated
Peregrine Capital Management, Inc.
Petersen Shoes
Plgrim Dry Cleaners
PIP | Projects in Person
Piper Sandler Employee Gift Matching
Plank Books
Plekenpol Builders
Plymouth Lions Club
Prairie’s Edge Casino Resort
Pro Fitness Training
Pub 819/Stanley’s/The Howe/The Block
R. F. Moeller
Raising Cane’s
Rick Bronson’s House of Comedy
Robert and Joan Dirks Foundation
Robert Half
Rollx Vans
RSP Architects, Ltd.
Rum River Hills Golf Club
Schramsberg & Davies Vineyards
Shadowbrooke Golf Course
Shepherd Data Services, Inc.
Siberian Husky Club of the Twin Cities, Inc.
Sit Investment Associates Foundation
St. Croix Valley Foundation
Stony Hill Gifts and Home Decor
Sun and Slope
Sunrise Estates Park, LLC
Synchrony Employee Matching
Target Corporation
The Dill Family Charitable Foundation
The Harry L. and Janet M. Kitselman Foundation
The Joseph Durda Foundation
The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
The O’Connor Family Foundation
The St. Paul Saints
The Walker
Thirty Bales
Thomson Reuters Employee Gift Matching
Thrivent Financial Employee Gift Matching
Tonka Bottle Shop
Toro Employee Gift Matching
Total Dog Company
Total Wine
Trader Joe’s – Minnetonka
Unfi
United Technologies Corporation Employee Gift Matching
UnitedHealth Group Employee Gift Matching
US Bank Foundation Employee Gift Matching
Village Animal Hospital, PA.
Voya Foundation
Waldor Pump & Equipment Company
Warners’ Stellian
Wednesday Night Big Dog Classes
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
Wellspring Health Center
WEM Foundation
Western National Mutual Insurance
Winton Jones Foundation
Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association
Xcel Energy Foundation Employee Gift Matching
Your Art’s Desire
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In Honor

Aggie and Helping Paws
All Person and Dog Teams
All the Furry Ones That Make Our Lives Better
Amy Hermanek
Angie Folie
B Litter and Bosley
Bob White
Bobbi Mrkonich, a Loyal Animal Lover and Friend
Brenda Hawley
Cale Rowe
Carmen
Cecilia Grass-Neary
Chai, Maxine Sheldon's Service Dog
Chase, My Beautiful Service Dog
Chelsey Bosak Sanders
Claire Madden and Nugget
Claire Palmer
Clay Manthey
Curt Buhl and His Helping Paws Dog Hazel
Dane of the Dream Litter
Daughter Abby and Son-In-Law Corey Aldritt Who Are Raising and Training Elmer
Delta
Diane Crannell
Donald B. Ellwood
Eileen Bohn
Emery Erickson
Everyone Who Helped Get Milton to My Dad and Other Furry Angels to Their Partners Foster
Gabrielle Ritter
Gina Jorgenson
Golden Girl Getty
Hannah – We Miss You
Heather and Steve Lindseth
Helping Paws Staff and Volunteers
Ranae Noble's Birthday
Jack Carlos and the Amazing Zara
Jake Beckstrom
Jay and Dianne Heath
Jill and Karma
John Brugler's Birthday
John Litch
Josie Rose Whelan
Kaitlin Martiny and Nessie
Karen Hupp
Katharine Winston
Kathleen Westby
Kathy and Jim
Katy Shannon, Rey and the Fun Litter
Klooney, Koho and Erika
Kristina Kulle
Leslye Phillips
Lisa Bugman
Lori Bartels
Lynn Gannon
Mark Nelson
Mary Ann Mead, Foster and Clooney
Mary Bright
Mary Tiegen and Elska
Maureen Kleckner
Melody Schwartz
Mike Martiny Family
Milton
Mulligan and Bri
My Sisters and Mother
Nanci Shapiro
Nina
Pam Fredrickson's Birthday
Pat Sharp, Judi Britt and Patty Campbell
Peggy Neibling's Birthday
Pepper
Piper and Ella
Rainy, Our Rescue Dog
Ron and Jane Ward
Ryan Evers Fundraising
Sally Nelson
Sota
Steph Kampa
Sue Martiny and for My Now Assistant Dog, Jaxon
Talli
Tim Walker
Virve Van Sloun
Wayne and Helping Paws
Zara, Elvis and Delores
In Memory

All Our Loyal Pets
Arden Fritz, Jr.
Audrey
Black Jack, A Very Special Black Lab
Blue Harris, a Standard Poodle
Bob Steffen
Bonnie Manthey
Boo, Bonnie’s Dog
Bruce Hepburn
Buddy
Cameron Saunders
Cassie and Curry, My Glamorous Goldens
Clark Osjnicki
Claudia Forrey
Clay Manthey
Colleen McTighe
Colleen Olson
Corbett Laubignat
Cuddy
Dan Beck
Darrel James Monteith, My Father
David Ford
Deceased Friends
Doonesbury, Maddie and Keena
Dr. Al
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Hagg, DVM
Dudley
Eli and My Mother
Frank the Cat
Fraser
Fred and Katie
Fred Austin
Geno Filipovich
Ginger
Glenn S. Beaubaire
Gracie Schultz
Greg Elsner
Gregory John Walsh
Guy and Mr. Wilson
Harley, My Faithful Labrador Companion
Hazel Brown
Heidi
Herbert and Jane Kantar
Jackson
Jake
Jessy the Dog
Joan Dahlgren
Jodi Nelson
Josie, My Service Dog
Joy and Jax
Junior Simon
KarLee
Katey
Kev Kimber
Knut from the Niko Litter
Kristi Suronen
Lyle and Phyllis Landstrom
Mac
Magic, Tigger, Theo, Dweasel, Titan, Buddy, Bella, Izzy
Marcia Macaulay
Marge Agrey
Mary Bright
Maxine Sheldon
Maya, My Beloved Dog
Mikey Deeds
Miles
Miss Elsa, Mark Halvorson’s Skilled Companion Dog
Noel
Pat Frommel
Patrick Geiwitz
Paula Dosland
Penny Sweitzer
Peter Hoffman
Piper
Rae Carufel
Randy Cobb
Raymond Schlichtmann
Rhoda Hoefs
Richard E.J. Smith
Rigolo David
River Eckers-Etzel
Samuel Jackson
Sarge
Seamus
Sierra
Sparks
Stephen Nixon, My Brother
Sunshine
Suny, Taylor, Jenna, Haley, Tyra, Bette, Summer, Dani, Pearl, Harper, Zip, Marina
Uncle Glenn
Valerie Robertson
Vicky and Stella
Virginia Stoen
W. Dale Weyhrich
Watson
Wayne Johnson