#### 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# **CELEBRATING 35 YEARS**

OF FOSTER HOME TRAINERS AND CARETAKER HOMES



## **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**

#### Officers

Kathleen Statler, President Ryan Evers, Vice President James Ryan, Treasurer Lynn Walker, Secretary

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William Huffman
Alison Lienau
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Michael Urbanos
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#### **OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO**

#### **Design & Production**

Grossman Design Associates

#### **Photography**

Laura Gentry Jonathan Kramer Steve McCuskey

#### **MANAGEMENT AND STAFF**

#### **Directors**

Alyssa Golob, Executive Director Eileen Bohn, Director of Programs (Retired May 2023) Sue Kliewer, Director of Training and Client Services (Starting June 2023)

#### Staff

Jenny Beem, Client Care Coordinator
Chelsey Bosak, Foster Home Trainer Coordinator and
Volunteer Coordinator
Judy Campbell, Breeding Program Coordinator
Tony Craidon, Veteran/First Responder Program Coordinator
Laura Gentry, Canine Care Coordinator and Instructor
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Pat Hook, Assistance Dog Puppy Class Instructor
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#### **Training Department Volunteers**

Kim Astle
Lu Ann Finnegan
Jan Friend
Susan Hagel
Karen Hupp
Samantha Kewatt
Chad Wood

## **Income Statement**

#### Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2023

#### **REVENUES**

Net Special Events	\$112,867
Contributions	\$750,976
Earned Income	. \$18,459
Total Revenues & Other	\$882,302

#### **EXPENSES**

Program	\$624,617
Management & General	\$150,840
Fundraising	\$268,779
Total Expenses \$	1,044,236
Change in Net Assets	\$(161,934)

#### **NET ASSETS**

Net Assets,	Beginning of	year	\$1,139,773
Net Assets.	End of year.		\$977.839

## **Balance Sheet**

#### May 31, 2023

#### **ASSETS**

Total Current Assets	\$956,068
Property & Equipment, net	\$28,079
Service Dogs	\$92,500
Other Assets	\$66,839
Total Assets\$	1,143,486

#### LIABILITIES

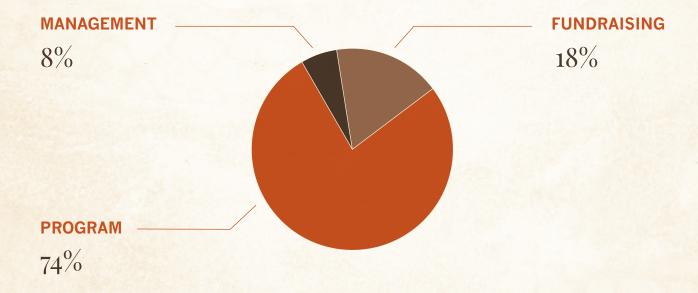
Total Current Liabilities	. \$127,773
Long-Term Liabilities	\$37,874
Total Liabilities	. \$165,647

#### **NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted

Undesignated	\$662,761
Designated	\$262,466
Donor Restricted	\$52,612
Total Net Assets	\$977,839

Total Liabilities and Net Assets ..... \$1,143,486



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 Ext. 101

## Letter From The President

#### KATHLEEN STATLER



Bringing It All Back Home! Who said you can't go home again? Helping Paws is doing just that to celebrate 35 remarkable years and hundreds of incredible volunteer foster home trainers and caretaker homes. In 1985 when this journey began as a pilot project of the University of Minnesota's Center for the Study of Human-Animal Relationships and Environment, no one could foresee the impact that Helping Paws would make on our community. We built a home that became the starting place of love, hope and dreams

Those dreams were led for decades by Helping Paws founder Eileen Bohn. Eileen was involved in every aspect of Helping Paws and was particularly skilled at pairing dogs with their partners. The lives of hundreds of individuals with physical disabilities, veterans and first responders with PTSD, and the mental health industry have all benefited from Eileen's dedication and ability to recognize the needs of the community. Eileen announced her well-deserved retirement

in May this year and although she is missed, her dedication and contributions will be forever remembered. Helping Paws is committed to continue to grow and thrive.

And grow we have! Under the direction of Executive Director Alyssa Golob, who joined us in early 2022, Helping Paws is taking steps to broaden our reach and fulfill the goal of breeding, raising, training, and placing more dogs each year. Those efforts include expanding our staff and giving current staff members new opportunities to grow. The hard work and dedication of this new dream team of individuals is already paying off. Helping Paws placed 16 assistance dogs last year!

The appropriately named star of 2023 is Nova, the Stearns County Attorney's Office facility dog placed with handler Keli Trautman. In July, Nova accompanied a teenage sexual assault victim on the witness stand for five hours, providing reassurance and reducing anxiety, which enabled the young victim to give critical testimony. This was a first in Minnesota! Nova's accomplishment has been celebrated locally and nationally, including a story on Give To America!

We are beyond grateful for our hardworking staff, tireless volunteers, generous donors, and faithful supporters. Each of you is a gift and we can never say this enough: Thank You.

# Letter From The Executive Director

#### **ALYSSA GOLOB**



An organization that has reached 35 years is not only something to be proud of, it is something to be admired.

The foundation of Helping Paws began on the solid ground of the University of Minnesota Center to Study Human-Animal Relationships and Environments (CENSHARE) in 1985, and just three years later, it became its own 501c3, under the leadership of Eileen Bohn. Helping Paws placed its first service dog, Alpha, that year, and a dream became a reality. Since Alpha, over 300 dogs have been placed, and 1000's of lives have been changed.

As we celebrate 35 years of amazing accomplishments, I think of all that goes into taking care of each puppy that is born, each dog that is trained, and each planned event. No doubt Helping Paws Foster Home Trainers and Caretaker volunteers are simply the best, and I am thrilled that we are honoring their commitment to Helping Paws over the last three decades – thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We cannot transform lives without the invaluable support and generosity of our thousands of donors. You support our FHTs and CTHs by buying leashes and collars, paying vet bills, and ensuring our dogs and graduates succeed well after graduation. To our Board of Directors and Committee Members, your support means so much. And to the Helping Paws staff, WOW! You never disappoint. Your passion is undeniable.

Yes, we are celebrating 35 years, but this milestone also allows us to envision our future. There will be four words that you will be hearing as we enter the next phase of Helping Paws:

#### More Dogs! More Impact!

That is it. We need to place more dogs each year in order to change and save lives. We do not want applicants on a waiting list; we want graduates with a dog.

To do this, we have to grow the three core areas of our program:

The Breeding Program to increase the number of litters we have each year.

The Volunteer Foster Home Trainer and Caretaker Home Program to have more volunteers ready to open their homes to care for and share in the training of the dogs. And expand our facility space to handle the increase of dogs coming to class each week to work with our professional trainers.

**Supporters.** This is an All Paws On Deck moment for Helping Paws. Can you foster a dog? Can you donate items to help our foster home trainers with food and toys? Can you stuff envelopes? Can you be on a planning committee? Can you make a meaningful investment in Helping Paws' future?

How do we get to More Dogs and More Impact? We get there with you.

Here's to 35 more amazing years of Helping Paws!

# Accomplishments



66

STAFF WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISION OF UP TO SIXTY SIX (66) DOGS IN OUR PROGRAM.

76

THE GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP COORDINATOR, VETERAN/FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND ADDITIONAL STAFF CONTINUED FOLLOW-UP WITH SEVENTY SIX (76) GRADUATES.

2K 🖏

ASSISTANCE DOGS IN TRAINING CONSUMED MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND (2000) POUNDS OF DOG KIBBLE/FOOD.

## Accomplishments



# 9K 🖖

OVER \$9,500 WAS RAISED FOR THE CORBETT LAUBIGNAT VETERINARY EMERGENCY FUND TO COVER UNFORESEEN VETERINARY COSTS FOR ALL HELPING PAWS DOGS.

175 %

HELPING PAWS' 175 VOLUNTEERS
ARE VERY ACTIVE, DONATING
95,000 HOURS. THIS IS THE
EQUIVALENT TO 45 FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES AND A VALUE OF \$2.9
MILLION (\$30.98 HOURLY RATE IS
FROM THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR).

220

HELPING PAWS INSTRUCTORS
AND CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS
TAUGHT MORE THAN 220
TRAINING CLASSES TO FUTURE
ASSISTANCE DOGS AND
VOLUNTEER FOSTER HOME
TRAINERS.



## Rick & Eila

My name is Rick Ebner and I have been battling multiple sclerosis for close to 40 years. I have always had a busy life; from work to play. I owned my own business and traveled across country selling eyewear and developing relationships for 20 years.

The M.S. progressed to the point where I could no longer safely drive my handicapped accessible van.

Three years ago, at the age of 57, I stopped driving. This caused increased isolation in my life, which will lead to depression and anxiety. Life is tough and not fair at times, but we must persevere.

My perseverance was rewarded when I was partnered with Eila. My life certainly changed when she chose me to be my partner. What a BLESSING! Due to the pandemic, it took over 3 years for this connection to happen. She has diverted my focus away from my troubles and problems, infusing my life with abundant joy.

Our new life together has seen a road trip to Duluth, watching my son's opera concert in Eau Claire, countless walks (every day), and easier visits to the hospital! I never thought in my wildest dreams, that I would be brushing my dog's teeth every night, laughing and singing to her. What a gift.

## Jeremy & Wabe

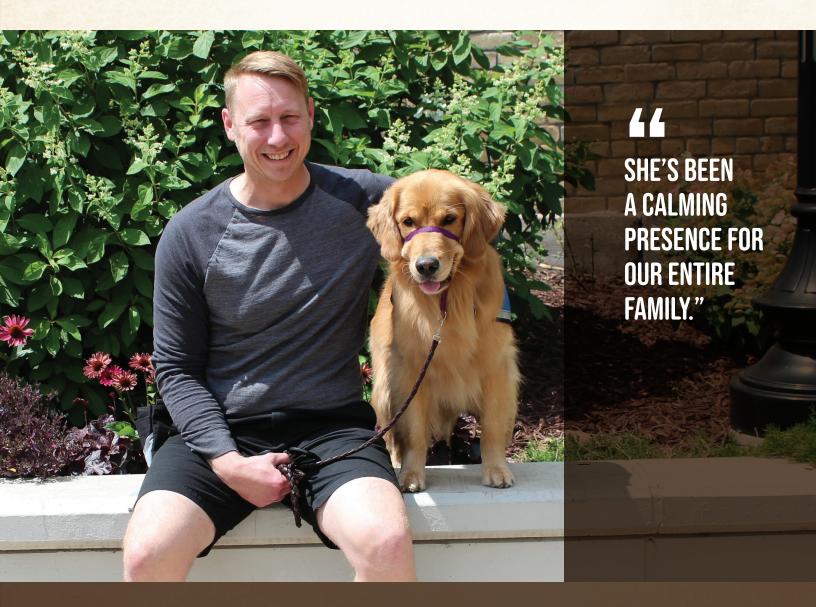
Helping Paws assistance dog Wabe and I have been a team for a year now. In that time, she has helped me in multiple ways.

I can engage more positively with the public, as Wabe consistently elicits smiles and compliments from people. This creates opportunities for me to interact with strangers more easily.

Our partnership also gives me the pleasure of doing public demonstrations for Helping Paws, including at an elementary school where I shared my experiences and opened up to people. Sharing my personal story and educating children is something I find beneficial and rewarding.

I sometimes have bad dreams or nightmares and Wabe is there to wake me up and reassure me. She senses when I am stressed or ramped up and will remind me to re-center myself. She's been a calming presence for our entire family.

Having Wabe in my life, as well as my family's life, has been wonderful. I am so grateful and thankful for Helping Paws and the outstanding volunteers who help care for and train these assistance dogs.



## Mike & Beacon

Now that I have Beacon in my life, I have learned to adapt and overcome some of the more challenging events in my life. She makes life easier to navigate through because I can't hide inside my own thoughts for very long before I am being reminded of Beacon's presence and love.

Post-war, it was very difficult for me to get outside and stay outside without a task or project that would justify me being outside. Beacon has allowed me the ability to be comfortable in my own skin. People also approach me more now which makes interacting a lot easier as I would live inside my own mind and avoid them.

Recently, my wife Sara had put her dog down and we were having a very difficult time dealing with the loss. Having Beacon as a member of my family, as well as my service animal, has helped ease some of the pain and raw emotions that seemingly come out in tears or anger. Simply looking into those beautiful brown eyes, it is hard to keep hold of anything too sad.

With Beacon by my side, I engage in more aspects of life. It's become easier to step outside of my comfort level or adapt to and overcome overwhelming situations. Thank you to Helping Paws and the foster families...without them this would not be possible.





# Susan & Humphrey

Humphrey is my 3rd Helping Paws partner. My first two, Caliber and Joe, helped me with independence while in a wheelchair. At this point in my life, I am an ambulatory wheelchair user. When I stand my brain doesn't process where I am in space and in relation to objects so I constantly walk into things or fall. With Humphrey at my side he is a constant presence in an ever changing environment. Humphrey next to me gives me a guide of where I am. I know and trust he knows where the door frame is and can safely get me through it. He knows where a wall is and can help me turn a corner. He knows where the sidewalk ends and there is a drop to the curb and I follow his body movement.

I do have structural issues that make it hard to pick things up, he assists me in retrieving items. With Humphrey at my side, I am able to go out independently and not have to worry I will be injured. There is such a feeling of pride to be able to say I did it. Humphrey allows me to take walks outside. I had a goal this year to walk a 5K. We did it in June!! I came in dead last but Humphrey and I did it.

Humphrey is a serious professional when working. However, when we're at home and relaxing, he loves to do zoomies and rolling in the grass is a favorite of his. He "helps" the environment by collecting every stick he can find, and he loves to swim in the lake. Foster Trainers can never be given enough thanks for the gift they give us and I will forever be grateful to Jordy and Beth for Humphrey. And enough can't be said for the support we receive from Sue and Jenny to help make us a successful team. I will always be grateful to Helping Paws.

### 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, veterans/first responders with PTSD and facility dog partnerships.

Donations listed are from June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023.

#### **BUSINESS AND FOUNDATION DONORS**

10K Architecture 3M Foundation 710 Split/Maple Lake Bowl Abbott Laboratories Employee Gift Matching Adogo Pet Hotels Allianz Life Insurance Company Alpha Sigma Chapter of ESA, Intl - MN State Council Amazon Smile Foundation American Legion - Earl C. Hill Auxiliary Unit 550 American Legion - Post 131 American Legion - Post 178 Milaca American Legion Auxiliary -Post 398 American Legion Hamel -Post 394 American Legion Post 398 American Legion Post 398 -Sons of the American Legion Ameriprise Financial Employee Gift Matching Amgen Foundation Employee Gift Matching Apple Inc. Employee Gift Matching Arthur Chapman Kettering Smetak & Pikala PA AT&T Employee Gift Matching Bank of America **Bayer Pharmaceutics Employee Gift Matching** Best Buy Employee Gift Matching Big Dog Class - Wednesday Birch's on the Lake Black Dog Homes Company Blizzard Ski & Snowboard School Bluff Creek Golf Course Bon Vie Bistro & A Piece

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of Cake

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Molly Zimmer



#### IN HONOR

Aida and Katy Shannon

Alyssa Golob

Angie Folie and Pepper

Anna Yetzer's Birthday

Barbara Knutson Becky Vanderline

Ben D'Amico Bobbi Mrkonich

Bucket

Carol Spawn

Cecilia GrassNeary Christine Dittrich

Christopher Brewer

Clients and Friends of Press Law Office, PLLC

Darlene Carlson

David Gerdes

Delta

Dempsey

Derek Roek

Dr. Elizabeth (Betty) Gazda-Smith

Eileen Bohn Emery Erickson

Eric Tvedt

Floyd and Marian Barger and Michael Engel

Franchon Ellwood and Tom

Gabe Golob's Bar Mitzvah

Helping Paws Ivy and Caper

Jake Beckstrom

Jay Heath

Jeff McLeod Joanne Verri

Job Litter

Joseph Goldberg

Joyce Leslie

Judge John Bauercamper and Marian Bauercamper

Julia Strauss

Karen Ouady and Lutsen Karla Kauffman and Spot

Kathy Hult

Katy Shannon, Rey and the

Pups

Kelsey Spresser L.C. Curtis' Birthday

Lescarbeau Great Grandchildren

Leslie Guinee Lisa Bugman

Lyle and Phylliss Marlene Kenny

Marsha Golob's 75th birthday

Mary Bailey Mary Tiegen Mikev Campbell

My Nephews and Nieces

Nanci Shapiro

Noel and Bauer Opal and Lois Weber Pam Anderson

Pam Fredrickson's Birthday

Pat and Doris Mitchel

Piton

Poppy's Gotcha Day Ranae and Chuck Noble

Rev. Jack Carlos and Service Dog Zara

Ron Ward Rory and Avery Ruth Joan Hoover Ryan Radunzel Suzanne Harman

Tango

Tiffany Lewis

Timmy Lee Ronning Tineke Bright

W. Dale Weyhrich



#### IN MEMORY

Arden Fritz

Arlene Freetly

Arlo

Bauer Blue

Beau

Bernice Stevens

**Betty Barsness** Bill McQuoid

Biscuit

Bogey Myhre Brad Kleiwer

Bruce Hepburn

Carson

Catherine Walsh

Chance Chelsea Claudia Forrey

Copenhagen Corbett Laubignat

Dan Hoese

Darrell Shaw Dempsey

Ella and Piper Emmie Lu

Finnegan

Foster (aka Mr. Fosty)

Frank Ball Jack Maypark Jacob Markham Jane Hawkinson Jim Wakely Joyce Leslie

Kaila Ken Folie Ken Tinsley

Knut

Kristi Suronen Liza Chalmers

Keona, Service Dog

Logan

Macy

Magic, Tigger, Theo, Dweasel, Titan, Buddy, Bella and Izzy

Marcella Johnson Matthew Koch

Maxine Sheldon and Chai

Mr. Dove

Nancy Blomgren Noel and Bauer Blue

Norbert Vogel

Norman, Ellie and Sherman Opal Mae Swanson

Oskar

Ozzie Hedlund

Pacer

Patrick Geiwitz

Paul and LuAnn Dove's Parents

Peggy Stevenson Penny Sweitzer

Piton

Puffy Hemak

Richard E.J. Smith

Rif Nelson (Virginia)

Riley Rob Pope

Robert Daryl Strathy

Robin Rocco Sadie Sisi Hutter Sunoma

Sylvia Irene Chase

Tara

Tessa Partington Tiger Stockdale Todd Nelson Tucker Wally

Winnie Yogi











