2018 Annual Report
PAWS for People™ (PAWS) is the region’s largest provider of pet-assisted therapy. Driven by the belief that true medical and educational benefits stem from pet therapy, PAWS strives to be the best in its field. We provide therapeutic visits to any person in the community who would benefit from interaction with a well-trained, loving pet. Teams consist of one volunteer and one pet (usually dogs, but sometimes cats or bunnies) who, after undergoing rigorous training and testing, commit to making therapeutic visits at least twice a month at a partnering site. From nursing homes and hospitals to substance abuse centers and schools for children with disabilities, thousands of people of all ages are experiencing the benefits of one-on-one therapeutic visits thanks to over 600 dedicated members.

PAWS designed the Standards of Excellence test (STEX) and requires all therapy teams complete high-level training. This ensures all teams are well-equipped to meet the individual needs and desires of the people they visit - whether it be an Alzheimer’s patient seeking comfort and camaraderie or a school child struggling with reading. PAWS teams do so much more than visit. As one volunteer commented, “I am part of a caring, compassionate organization which supports and trains teams to bring love, life, and encouragement to diverse groups in our community.”

Our Mission:
To lovingly provide elders, children, and folks with disabilities individualized, therapeutic visits with a gentle, affectionate pet.

Our Vision:
To reach greater numbers of people and more diverse populations through one-on-one directed visits so that more people can enjoy the healing benefits of pet therapy.

The Organization
PAWS for People™ (PAWS) is the region’s largest provider of pet-assisted therapy. Driven by the belief that true medical and educational benefits stem from pet therapy, PAWS strives to be the best in its field. We provide therapeutic visits to any person in the community who would benefit from interaction with a well-trained, loving pet. Teams consist of one volunteer and one pet (usually dogs, but sometimes cats or bunnies) who, after undergoing rigorous training and testing, commit to making therapeutic visits at least twice a month at a partnering site. From nursing homes and hospitals to substance abuse centers and schools for children with disabilities, thousands of people of all ages are experiencing the benefits of one-on-one therapeutic visits thanks to over 600 dedicated members.

PAWS designed the Standards of Excellence test (STEX) and requires all therapy teams complete high-level training. This ensures all teams are well-equipped to meet the individual needs and desires of the people they visit - whether it be an Alzheimer’s patient seeking comfort and camaraderie or a school child struggling with reading. PAWS teams do so much more than visit. As one volunteer commented, “I am part of a caring, compassionate organization which supports and trains teams to bring love, life, and encouragement to diverse groups in our community.”

Board of Directors (as of December, 2018)
Ric Cuming, Ed.D., RN - Chief Nurse Executive, Christiana Care Health System
Eric S. David - TEAM David Associates, Leadership & Management Development
Brian P. Dempsey, CPA – Treasurer – Founder & Managing Director, Dempsey & Company, PC
Samantha Dill - Senior Contract Manager, Cash Connect, WSFS Bank
Robert G. Hackett, Jr. - Senior Vice President, Arthur Hall Insurance
Rhonda James – HR & Payroll Administrator (retired)
Brian Kroll - Technology & Business Management Executive
Ryan Majka - Volunteer Services Supervisor, Nemours/A. I. duPont Hospital for Children
Lynne D. Robinson - President - Executive Director, PAWS for People
William H. Sudell, Jr. - Chairman – Esq., Morris, Nichols, Arslit & Tunnell, LLP (retired)
Trudie E. Thompson - Manager of Thompson Fund
LeDee Wakefield - Management, The Inn at Montchanin

Board Secretary is not a Board Member.

Advisory Council
Mart J. Amick, M.D. - Internal Medicine
Ken Brennen - Boscov’s
Alan Burkhard - Special Advisor to the Board President
Patti Christopher - Christiana Care
Helene Gladney, MPA - Maclntyre Associates
Neil Meisel - The Awareness Center
Nicholas Petrelli, M.D. - Helen F. Graham Cancer Center
Ted Rosenthal, Esq. - Rosenthal, Monhait, and Goddess
Gail Rys, Ph.D. - University of Delaware
Elisabeth Simmons - Kirkwood Library
Louis H. Snijders, DVM - Windcrest Animal Hospital
Carol Tavani, M.D. - Christiana Psychiatric Services

PAWS for People
PO Box 9955, Newark, DE 19714
302-351-5622
www.PAWSforPeople.org
501(c)(3) Tax ID#: 76-0780197
This past year 2018, has been an incredibly packed year of growth, depth, and redirection. When you add a sprinkling of PAWS magic to that, you end up with a very successful year, indeed.

**Growth:** By the end of the year, PAWS provided 18 programs to offer our teams, 172 partner sites to provide visits for their recipients, and 222 new teams to add to our already impressive number of trained and certified pet therapy teams. We added several new dog training classes and new PAWS University courses. We also welcomed additional members to our training team so we can offer more pet therapy training in more satellite areas. Hard work paid off and PAWS grew solidly.

**Depth:** I am often asked how far, geographically, PAWS expects to expand. The answer may surprise you – not much farther than we currently reach. We have chosen to go deeper rather than wider. We want to provide better service to those we already have agreements with and will add new sites from within our current pawprint and in areas with trained PAWS teams available for visits. We don't need to stretch farther to grow – if we reach into the unserved populations that are still waiting for our services within our present visiting area.

**Redirection:** Early in the year, we took a hard look at how we could better serve our sites, our teams, and find a better way to match and then support them. The team of Volunteer and Site Management was created allowing more staff to be involved with up-to-date knowledge of site needs and new teams’ requests for placement. Having a team of staff members work together provides better service to our volunteers and sites. This also enables us to focus on member retention – something we know we can improve upon. This redirection of our energies is working – like magic.

We have worked hard this year, listened to people’s comments and suggestions, and made some valuable changes. PAWS is blessed with very dedicated people: a strong, knowledgeable staff; a solid Board of Directors; generous supporters; amazingly caring, giving members; and, of course, our therapy companions and the magic of the human-animal bond.

We are grateful and humbled by our community's willingness to give of their time and compassion so that our brand of pet therapy can thrive. Thank you!

Lynne D. Robinson
Executive Director

Lynne Robinson and Tory, Photo by Andree Jannette
PAWS FOR CHILDREN
Efforts focused towards children ages 6 months to 18 years

PAWS for Reading - PAWS teams provide opportunities for children to read aloud in a non-threatening, positive environment with a trained therapy pet and handler. In libraries, we welcome readers of all ages; in schools, we target grade levels K-5. Reading to a gentle, non-judgmental pet helps children improve their reading and communication skills. The children enjoy the sessions and parents and teachers see the improvement in literacy skills as well as an increased interest and enthusiasm for reading.

Pre-K PAWS focuses on the special academic needs of 3- and 4-year-old pre-readers. Using specially developed activity packets and a great therapy companion, our teams work with pre-readers on basic learning concepts. This is an interactive way to encourage emergent readers to be excited about reading while accompanied by a therapy pet at partnering schools and libraries.

Autism Initiative - Autism is a spectrum disorder that affects children uniquely so each child must be approached differently. PAWS teams work with the on-site instructors and therapists to address the goals of each child’s IEP. For children ages 3-18 who have difficulty relating to humans, interaction with animals is the perfect bridge to learning and connecting with others. Working on trust, interpersonal communication, and social skills, our therapy teams and PAWS enrichment tools can be woven into the curriculum in any number of creative ways to make the “work” more fun and comfortable.

Children with Special Needs - PAWS offers training for our pet therapy teams visiting with special needs children. Our training focuses on helping teams understand disabilities of all types and how to adapt a visit to best suit the individual needs of each child. Our teams follow the directives of the on-site professionals and encourage, motivate, and make difficult tasks more bearable – as well as bring more smiles to everyone we visit.

PAWS FOR ADULTS AND THE ELDERLY

Hospitals - Our volunteer teams are invited by numerous hospitals throughout our service area to bring their patients (adults and children), visitors, and staff a welcome diversion or a moment of comfort during a difficult time. In addition to site specific volunteer requirements, PAWS teams have the opportunity to expand their knowledge about hospital visiting with PAWS’ course PATHS (Pet-Assisted Therapy in Hospital Settings.)

Assisted Living - When people are not living in their own homes any longer, loneliness and depression can be a significant concern. Our teams make individual room visits and many residents enjoy walking, playing, or affectionately talking with the dog and its handler. The companionship, communication, and activity is a welcome highlight to many of our older neighbors’ days as we visit many sites throughout our four-state region. PAWS’ course GrandPAWS is a helpful resource for teams.

Thinking Outside the Box - Pet visits often reach Alzheimer’s patients when people cannot. Our teams generate memories and smiles and often motivate walking and listening as well as bringing kindness and companionship. The magic of the pet-human connection is most evident in this type of visit.
Skilled Care - Much like a hospital setting, a skilled care facility presents a pet therapy team with challenges of visiting people in their beds, the noises of ventilators, lots of wheelchairs, and nursing staff on call 24 hours a day. Therapy teams are needed in skilled care facilities to help people stave off boredom, brighten their days, and give them some comfort and maybe a little escape from the daily issues of their illness.

Cancer Treatment - PAWS teams find that sitting with new, frightened chemo patients or those who have returned for additional treatment is extremely therapeutic and soothing. We have numerous teams that regularly visit several chemotherapy labs at Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute, Regional Oncology, and the MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, as well as smaller oncology labs and cancer patients in our hospitals. PAWS also provides support at Justin’s Beach House for cancer patients and their families. Sometimes people feel more comfortable telling our pets what they are afraid to tell another human. We've been told that having a pet helps people feel more normal and less marginalized.

Hospice - Working in partnership with several hospices in our service area, we provide pet therapy training and certification, while the hospices provide volunteers and schedule the visits. The dogs bring comfort to hospice patients and their families and are a warm, loving support during this emotionally-draining transitional period.

MENTAL WELLNESS & PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
This program includes varying levels of disabilities such as PT/OT/Speech-Language Therapy, neuro-health, drug and alcohol treatment, and mental health programs. Teams work directly with therapists to assist the clients’ progress. In addition to love and comfort that our pets freely give, they also provide motivation in trying new movements, working longer, and enjoying the activities. In residential treatment centers there is unstructured time when the patients can relax with our pets and get the love and attention they may be missing.

PAWS BY SPECIAL REQUEST
This program was created in answer to requests for specialized, one-on-one visits by our therapy teams. It may mean helping a bi-polar teenager accept the loss of a beloved family pet. It may mean going to the home of a young girl struggling with severe autism or being a healing component to a woman battling with OCD issues. We receive requests for private therapy visits through PAWS by Special Requests.

COURTHOUSE COMPANIONS
PAWS provides specialized training to our pet therapy teams to visit in various court settings to alleviate the stress and anxiety of children and adults involved in court proceedings. We are most prominent in the Delaware County Court Program in PA, and also visit in Cecil and Harford counties in MD.

DE-STRESS SESSIONS
Visiting college students during exam time provides a welcome break during the intensity of the school year. Teams spend time on campus and invite students to take a break from their studies and visit, cuddle and receive some furry encouragement from our therapy animals. PAWS provides ‘exam time’ therapy visits for some universities and monthly visits to others. We also visit companies to provide a great therapeutic and fun break to renew their employees.
Program Partnerships
As of Dec. 31, 2018, PAWS partnered with 171 facilities.

PAWS FOR ADULTS & ELDERS

Adults with Disabilities
Adult Day Services at Union Hospital – Elkton, MD
CERTS – Newark and Smyrna, DE
Chesapeake Care Lokey Center – Elkton, MD
Chesapeake Care Resources – North East, MD
CHIMES – Newark and New Castle, DE
Delaware Mentor Day Program – Millsboro, DE
Easter Seals – New Castle, DE
Elwyn Senior Reflections – Wimington, DE
HollyDell Twenty-One Plus – Pennsville, NJ
The Arc NCR – Aberdeen, MD

Assisted Living
Abbey Manor – Elkton, MD
Brookdale – Dover, DE
Brandywine Living at Fenwick Island – Selbyville, DE
Brookdale – Hockessin, DE
Brookdale at White Chapel – Newark, DE
Cardinal Village – Sewell, NJ
Country House – Wilmington, DE
Dyersford Crossing – Media, PA
Foulk Manor North – Wilmington, DE
Foulk Manor South – Wilmington, DE
Friends Home of Kennett – Kennett Square, PA
Granite Farms Estates – Media, PA
Harrison House – Georgetown, DE
Hummingbird Manor – Bel Air, MD
Jenner’s Pond – West Grove, PA
Lima Estates – Media, PA
Little Sisters of the Poor – Newark, DE
Lodge Lane – Wilmington, DE
Manor House – Seaford, DE
Millcroft – Newark, DE
Singerly Manor – Elkton, MD
Somersford House – Newark, DE
Sunrise of Wilmington – Wilmington, DE
The Hickman – West Chester, PA
The Summit – Wilmington, DE
United Methodist Communities – Pitman, NJ

Cancer Support
Justin’s Beach House (Families) – Bethany Beach, DE
Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Inst – Newark, DE
MD Anderson (Cooper Hospital) – Camden, NJ
Regional Oncology & Hematology – Elkton, MD
Tunnell Cancer Center, Beebe – Rehoboth Beach, DE

Drug & Alcohol Treatment Programs
Bowling Green Brandywine – Toughkenamon, PA
Cecil County Dept. of Health-Alcohol and Drug Recovery Center – Elkton, MD

Hospice
Amedisys Hospice – Elkton, MD
Compassionate Care Hospice – Wilmington, DE
Crozer Keystone Inpatient Hospice – Springfield, PA
Heartland Hospice – Newark, DE
Season’s Hospice Inpatient Units – Newark, DE
Willow Tree Hospice – West Grove, PA

Hospitals
Beebe Medical Center – Lewes, DE
Bookhamer Outpatient Surgery Center, Beebe – Rehoboth Beach, DE
Cooper University Hospital – Camden, NJ
Christiana Care – Newark and Wilmington, DE
Nemours/AI duPont Hospital for Children – Wilm., DE
St. Francis Healthcare – Wilmington, DE
Union Hospital – Elkton, MD
Wilmington VA Hospital – Wilmington, DE

Memory Care - Dementia/Alzheimer’s
Brandywine Senior Living – Rehoboth, DE
Brookdale at White Chapel – Newark, DE
Cadia Rehabilitation Capitol – Dover, DE
Cokesbury Village, Memory Care Unit – Hockessin/ Pike Creek, DE
Foulk Manor North – Wilmington, DE
Foulk Manor South – Wilmington, DE
Gilpin Hall – Wilmington, DE
Jenner’s Pond – West Grove, PA
The Lorelton – Wilmington, DE
Manor House – Seaford, DE
Somersford Place – Newark, DE
Sunrise of Wilmington – Wilmington, DE
The Summit – Wilmington, DE

PT/OT/Speech Therapy
Christiana Care Rehab Services – Newark, DE

Psychiatric Services (All Ages)
Aquilla of Delaware – Wilmington, DE
Connections CSP – Wilmington, DE
Dover Behavioral Health – Dover, DE
Penn Psychiatric Center – Phoenixville, PA
Rockford Center (Children & Adolescents) – Newark, DE
Seaford House (Adolescents) – Seaford, DE
Terry Children’s Center (Children) – New Castle, DE

Skilled Care
Cadia Rehabilitation at Broadmeadow – Middletown, DE
Cadia Rehabilitation Capitol – Dover, DE
Cadia Rehabilitation at Pike Creek – Hockessin/Pike Creek, DE
Cadia Rehabilitation Renaissance – Millsboro, DE
Cadia Rehabilitation Silverside – Wilmington, DE
Carneys Point Care Rehab & Nursing Center – Penns Grove, NJ
Cokesbury Village – Hockessin/Pike Creek, DE
Country House – Wilmington, DE
HealthSouth – Middletown, DE
Jenner’s Pond Preston Residence – West Grove, PA
Lima Estates – Media, PA
Manor House – Seaford, DE
Millcroft – Newark, DE
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales – Childs, MD
Southgate Healthcare – Carney’s Point, NJ
Stonegate – Wilmington, DE
United Methodist Communities – Pitman, NJ
Wilmington VA Hospital – Wilmington, DE
Program Partnerships (continued)

PAWS FOR CHILDREN

Autism Initiative
Brennen School and satellite schools – Newark, DE

Children with Behavioral Issues
CONCERN – Coatesville, PA
Grace, Snowden & Mowlds Cottages – Wilmington, DE
New Castle County Detention Center – Wilmington, DE
Seaford House – Seaford, DE

Children with Special Needs
New Castle County Detention Center – Wilmington, DE
Terry Children’s Psychiatric Center – Newark, DE
Nurses ‘N Kids – Milford, DE
Nurses ‘N Kids – New Castle, DE
Ronald McDonald House – Wilmington, DE

Courthouse Companions
The County of Delaware Court Program – Media, PA
Cecil County Department of Social Services – Elkton, MD
Harford County Child Advocacy Center – Bel Air, MD

Nemours/A. I. duPont Hospital for Children

Early Learning Center Mobility Project
Early Learning Center, University of Delaware – Newark, DE

PAWS for Reading Libraries
Delaware: Appoquinimink, Bear, Brandywine Hundred, Claymont, Corbit-Calloway, Delaware City, Dover, Elsmere, Frankford, Kirkwood, Milton, Newark, New Castle, Route 9 Library & Innovation Center, Seaford, Selbyville, South Coastal
New Jersey: Stratford

PAWS for Reading Schools
Albert Einstein Academy – Wilmington, DE
Avon Grove Charter School – West Grove, PA
Avon Grove School District – West Grove, PA
Bay View Elementary School – North East, MD
Birches Elementary School – Turnersville, NJ
Brader Elementary School – Newark, DE
Brick Mill Elementary – Middletown, DE
Carrie Downie Elementary – New Castle, DE
Cecil Manor Elementary – Elkton, MD
Charlestown Elementary – Charlestown, MD
Conowingo Elementary – Conowingo, MD
Frederick Douglass Elementary – Seaford, DE
General Wayne Elementary – Malvern, PA
Green-Fields School – West Deptford, NJ
Highlands Elementary School – Wilmington, DE
John Fenwick Academy – Salem, NJ
Kenmore Elementary – Elkton, MD
Leasure Elementary – Newark, DE
Linden Hill Elementary – Hockessin/Pike Creek, DE
Lord Baltimore Elementary – Ocean View, DE
Lyndenwood School – Havertown, PA
McVey Elementary School – Newark, DE
NCCL School – Newark, DE
Phillip C. Showell Elementary School – Selbyville, DE
Pleasant Valley School – Mullica Hill, NJ
Radnor Middle School – Radnor, PA
Richey Elementary – Newport, DE
Rosa International Middle School – Cherry Hill, NJ
Southern Elementary – New Castle, DE
Springer Middle School – Wilmington, DE
Star Hill Elementary – Dover, DE
Thomas E. Bowe School – Glassboro, NJ
Thompson Estates Elementary – Elkton, MD
Wallingford Elementary – Wallingford, PA

PAWS for Reading, Other Sites
Please Touch Museum – Philadelphia, PA
St. James United Church of Christ – Havertown, PA
Terry Children’s Center – New Castle, DE

Pre-K PAWS
Christ Church Episcopal Preschool – Wilmington, DE
North East United Methodist Church – North East, MD
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church – Wilmington, DE
Swedesboro Head Start – Swedesboro, NJ

PAWS BY SPECIAL REQUEST

PERTT (Pet Emergency Response Therapy Teams)
## Finance

**Statement of financial position for year ending December 31, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$206,984</td>
<td>$57,793</td>
<td>$264,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>465,178</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>6,499</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>2,901</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td>474,578</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and fixtures</td>
<td>46,779</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</td>
<td>30,845</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in net assets held by DCF</td>
<td>79,095</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security deposits</td>
<td>4,661</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</td>
<td>83,756</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$589,179</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES                                   |                            |                         |       |
| **SUPPORT AND REVENUE**                                  |                            |                         |       |
| Grants and contributions                                 | 206,984                    | 57,793                  | 264,777 |
| Membership dues                                          | 27,898                     |                         | 27,898 |
| Merchandise sales                                        | 16,315                     |                         | 16,315 |
| Program revenue                                          | 69,088                     |                         | 69,088 |
| Special events income                                    | 70,015                     |                         | 70,015 |
| Less: cost of direct benefit to donors                   | (32,350)                   |                         | (32,350) |
| Training and testing                                     | 39,493                     |                         | 39,493 |
| In-kind donations                                        | 86,015                     |                         | 86,015 |
| Net gains (losses) on investments                        | (5,566)                    |                         | (5,566) |
| Interest income                                          | 1,743                      |                         | 1,743  |
| Loss on disposal of assets                               | -                          |                         | -      |
| Net assets released from restrictions                     | 133,060                    | (133,060)               | -      |
| **TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE**                            | 612,695                    | (75,267)                | 537,428 |

| **EXPENSES**                                             |                            |                         |       |
| Program services                                         | 438,048                    |                         | 438,048 |
| Management and general                                   | 88,664                     |                         | 88,664 |
| Fund-raising                                             | 55,752                     |                         | 55,752 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES**                                       | 582,464                    |                         | 582,464 |

| **CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**                                | 30,231                     | (75,267)                | 45,036 |

| **NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR, restated**               | 335,382                    | 291,538                 | 626,920 |

| **NET ASSETS END OF YEAR**                               | $365,613                   | $216,271                | $581,884 |

PAWS for People is a tax-exempt charitable organization as defined by Section 501(c)3 of the Internal revenue Code. The 2018 Financial Summary above is extracted from the 2018 Financial Statements and Accountant’s Review Report compiled by Maillie LLP. A copy is available on request.
PAWS for People 2018

PAWS is truly grateful for the generosity of many people who believe in this organization and share their gifts of time, talents, and financial support to enable us to fulfill our mission. We proudly share 2018 accomplishments.

In 2018, over 602,000 people were impacted by PAWS.

Membership

• 222 New pet therapy teams joined PAWS

• 583 Total number of PAWS members
  • Delaware - 350
  • Maryland - 53
  • New Jersey - 49
  • Pennsylvania - 131

Team Training

• 14 Total number of Training sites
  • Delaware - 9
  • Maryland - 2
  • New Jersey - 1
  • Pennsylvania - 2

• 91 Total number of Basic Training sessions

Program Visitation Sites

• 172 Total number of sites

Programs

• 18 Total number of Programs

• 233 Total number of members trained in PAWS University Specialized Programs

Community & Special Events

• 371 Total number of events

• 2,156 Total number of volunteer shifts

• 6,935 Total number of volunteer hours

Education & Training

To maintain our position as the regional leader in animal-assisted therapy, we place emphasis on training our volunteer members so they are equipped and prepared to help those we serve. This means we have program-specific training as well as continual evaluation of the levels of training we offer. Industry experts in health care, education, and social services guide the education we provide our therapy teams. We continue to boost our education and training programs. PAWS University provides our teams the opportunity to get the specialized training needed in any of our specialized programs. Another advancement was the continued development of our Train the Trainer Program to utilize the skills of an increased number of experienced volunteers throughout our region.

We offer many educational/training opportunities including the following:

• Basic
• Advanced
• Master’s Certification
• PAWS for Reading
• PreK PAWS
• PATHS (hospital visits)
• GrandPAWS (elders)
• Creative Connections
• Autism Initiative
• Psychiatric Support
• Thinking Outside the Box (dementia)
• Courthouse Companions
• Trauma Training
• PAWSitivity for Prisoners

PAWS Annual Conference

Each year PAWS hosts an educational conference with a Keynote Speaker and workshops on animal related topics. This year’s event featured topics on pet-assisted therapy and animal health and training.

Event Highlights

Wag-n-Walk & 5K Run

This was the tenth year of our largest event and we continue to invite four-legged competitors to join their owners for a fun fall walk. PAWS for People members and the community join together for exercise, activities, and a chance to raise funds to support our programs during the year.

Volunteer Recognition Celebration

Volunteers are the Heart of PAWS for People. Each spring, our special Volunteer Appreciation Celebration focuses on our members’ volunteer achievements. This is a wonderful opportunity for PAWS to thank our volunteers and recognize their outstanding dedication with awards, prizes, and refreshments at two special events in the Newark office and Sussex County. Teams gather to meet each other, share stories, and celebrate “the PAWS Community.”

Spring Fling

The 2nd Annual Spring Fling was a great success. This luncheon and silent auction hosted over 180 attendees ready to welcome Spring while supporting PAWS for People’s mission. Special guests shared their personal experiences with the life-changing impact of PAWS pet therapy.
Informing the general public and potential supporters about PAWS for People's many activities and attracting community participation in those endeavors are important components of our success. Community Engagement and Development staff coordinated efforts to accomplish these goals. Having visibility in the communities we serve enables PAWS to support local organizations and businesses and to reach and educate new community members. We welcome inquiries and attract many new friends and therapy teams at these venues.

Here is a sample of the events where you’ll find PAWS.

- The Mushroom Festival Parade in Kennett Square
- Reading & Autism programs, Please Touch Museum
- Yellow Ribbon events supporting our troops (DE & MD)
- Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children's Community Day
- Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping, Reading Sessions, and Book Fairs
- Christiana Care Health System's DeStress events at Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals
- Newark Community Day
- Heart in the Game events throughout DE
- Summer Camp visits in DE, MD, PA, & NJ
- Emergency Preparedness Day in Dover
- De-Stress events during exam times at colleges in DE, MD, PA, & NJ
- Family literacy events at local schools
- Support groups for patients with dementia & Parkinson's Disease
- Walk for Autism in Wilmington and Lewes

PAWS for People is truly grateful for our supporters' continuing belief in our mission which enables us to expand outreach and strengthen our sustainability.

In 2018, we successfully continued working on our goals of building and improving staff structure, team training procedures, and expanding program delivery. Our wonderful PAWS office hosted many training sessions and events.

Securing funding to support daily operations and programs as well as reducing expenses to maximize our funding are ongoing priorities. We remain committed to strengthening the diversity of our revenue sources by expanding our individual donor base, broadening foundation support, building fundraisers, and increasing business collaboration. PAWS' Annual Appeal continues to be our only direct mail campaign to provide essential funding for programs and essential operations.

Active community engagement is greatly increasing our visibility, awareness, and new friends. We appreciate the support from a growing number of event sponsors. PAWS proudly continues our long-standing partnerships with Hillside Heating & Cooling and Concord Pet Foods & Supplies, while welcoming our new partner, Discover.

PAWS is grateful to all our supporters for your generosity and the many thoughtful ways you invest in PAWS. The impact of your support is long-lasting… you are ensuring that PAWS pet therapy teams and programs can continue to change lives!

PAWS received the support from the following 11 grantors in 2018:

- Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer
- Newell Devalpine Foundation of the PNC Charitable Trusts
- State of Delaware Grant-in-Aid
- The Gant Family Goundation
- The Mushroom Festival, Inc.
- Wilmington Flower Market

In addition, the Longwood Foundation supported the final stage of PAWS Expansion Project in 2018.