

A Spark of Hope

Meet REGGIE and BLY, two PAWS Dogs
bringing joy in the Sunshine State

Issue No. 2
Summer 2020

A Moment to Take Stock

Learn how you can make plans
for a brighter future

Paws With A Cause



Photo credit: Anna Saunders



A Spark of Hope

All PAWS puppies bring a spark of hope when they enter the world: The hope that they will provide an opportunity for people to live with dignity, companionship, and confidence. While some PAWS Dogs go on to a career as an Assistance Dog for an individual with a disability, others choose a different path. You can find them sniffing out arson, comforting kids in schools or courtrooms, or brightening people's days in hospitals.

All PAWS puppies bring a spark of hope when they enter the world.

REGGIE and BLY are two PAWS Dogs who chose a different path. They work with the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH) Animal Therapy Program in Tallahassee, Florida. This hospital-run program covers two counties and partners with sixty organizations. The dedicated staff and dogs impact hundreds of people in the community. TMH therapy animals are an integral part of the organization and do everything from visiting cancer patients to helping kids learn to read.

REGGIE, a petite Golden Retriever, and her handler Peggy, specialize in hospital visits. Because of the dog's small size, it is easy for her to hop in bed with a patient for comforting snuggles. REGGIE can often sense when a child needs special attention. Her handler recalls one memorable encounter with a sick little girl. "You could just see the tension flow out of her," while she lay there softly petting REGGIE.

"Everyone's happy to see [REGGIE]," says Peggy. "She brings a lot of joy."

Another important part of REGGIE's job is visiting with the staff. "They see so much suffering," Peggy relates. The visits allow doctors and nurses to take a deep breath, be a little silly, and recharge before heading back into the fight to save lives. "Everyone's happy to see her," says Peggy. "She brings a lot of joy."



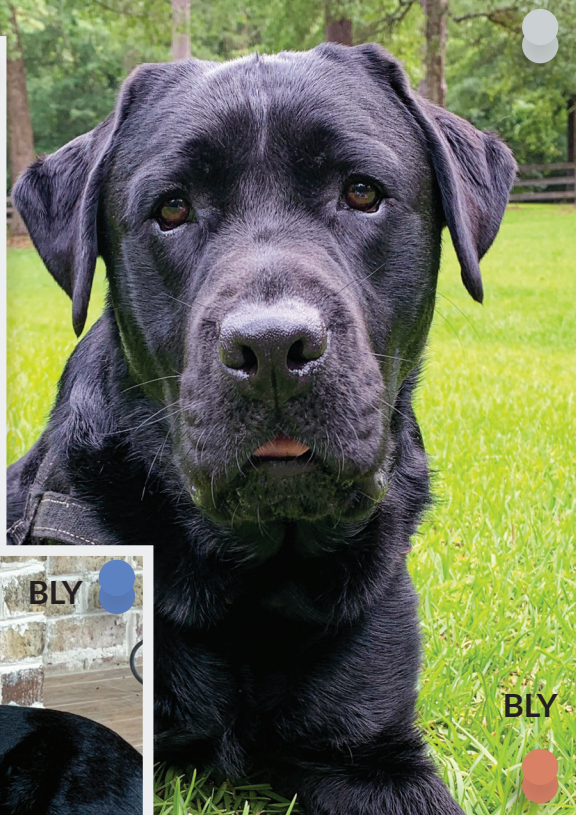
REGGIE and Peggy

REGGIE



BLY, a black Labrador Retriever, spends his time comforting people with tough jobs, too. He and his handler, Suzy, visit 911 operators and volunteer paramedics at Tallahassee Consolidated Dispatch. "He is a favorite," laughs Suzy. She is full of stories of serious people with difficult jobs getting down on the floor to play with BLY and learn all the places he loves to be scratched. BLY is a little bit of joy in an otherwise tough day.

In response to COVID-19, the TMH Animal Therapy program got creative. Many teams did remote video sessions to visit patients. Others planned video calls with a children's summer reading program. And to show their support for Nurse's Appreciation Day on May 6th, 2020, over forty teams from the TMH Animal Therapy program gathered on the street outside of the hospital as the staff changed shifts --including Suzy and BLY (cover photo). "The nurses were so excited," says Suzy. "They loved the fact that all these dogs were lining the street just for them when they came into work."



A lot of hard work and dedication go into becoming a TMH Animal Therapy dog. These dogs must be able to follow a wide range of commands, have an excellent temperament, and love to connect with people, which is why PAWS Dogs are a perfect fit for this program and others like it. As one handler said, "It's just amazing what these dogs can do!"

The little sparks of hope that were born with REGGIE and BLY have now become a glow of comfort, encouragement, and joy. To work with hospital patients and caregivers as a therapy dog is a truly noble career. We are beaming with pride for REGGIE, BLY, and all the other PAWS Dogs that go on to serve communities that need them. No matter which career path a PAWS Dog chooses, people everywhere agree that each one is doing extraordinary work.

A Moment to Take Stock

2020 has given all of us a moment to take stock and reflect on the kind of future we want to build.

If you have been thinking about the impact you would like to have on the world, or if you are curious about how to ensure PAWS continues to meet the needs of people with disabilities for years to come, please join us this fall.

Free Estate Planning Workshops

Paws With A Cause Headquarters,
4646 South Division, Wayland, MI
(Multipurpose Room -- CDF)
Tuesday, September 15 at 2 pm and 6 pm
Edward Dublis, Financial Consultant
CEO of Diversified Financial Concepts,
Byron Center

Paws With A Cause Southeastern Michigan
Regional Office, 3208 Crooks, Royal Oak, MI
Wednesday, September 23 at 6 pm
Glen Walborn, MBA,
Wealth Management Specialist
Raymond James & Associates, Plymouth and
William H Gaggos, JD, CPA
Law Firm of Gaggos Flaggman, Troy

Space is limited, so please RSVP to Colette Beighley at
cbeighley@pawswithacause.org to begin planning your legacy today!

And yes, there will be dogs!





Paws With A Cause®

4646 South Division
Wayland, MI 49348
pawswithacause.org

ADA30TH ANNIVERSARY

Happy anniversary to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)! For thirty years, the ADA has protected the rights of individuals with disabilities. #ThanksToTheADA



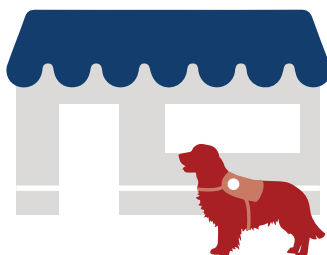
Under the ADA, State and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is allowed to go.



61,000,000

Adults in the United States live with a disability

Did you know public spaces can only ask two questions to a person with a service animal?



- 1 Is the service animal required because of a disability?
- 2 What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?