



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2026

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PAWS & Applause Returns, Celebrating the Launch of a New Medical Alert Dog Program at Paws With A Cause

Detroit, Michigan — Paws With A Cause (PAWS) will host its annual PAWS & Applause fundraising celebration on Thursday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170, in support of PAWS' mission to transform lives and strengthen communities through partnerships with custom-trained working dogs.

PAWS & Applause is the organization's signature southeast Michigan event, bringing together clients, volunteers, donors, and community partners for an evening of celebration and impact. Guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, craft drinks, silent auction, and hear from a PAWS client who will share firsthand how her assistance dog has helped her achieve greater independence and enhanced quality of life.

During the evening, PAWS will present the inaugural *Independence Impact Award*, sponsored by Masco, to Sara C. Osterman. Osterman's dedication to PAWS has spanned many years, from raising four PAWS puppies to serving as Chair of the Board of Directors. In her work as Director of Environment, Health, Safety & Sustainability at Masco Corporation, she continues to champion the PAWS mission with passion and purpose. PAWS will recognize Osterman's extraordinary service and leadership in helping advance the organization's life-changing work nationwide.

This year's event will also spotlight the official launch of PAWS' new assistance dog offering: medical alert dogs. These custom-trained dogs will support individuals living with type 1 diabetes and postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS) by alerting them to changes in blood sugar, blood pressure, or heart rate. Through these life-changing partnerships, PAWS will expand its impact—empowering individuals with complex medical conditions to live with greater independence, safety, and confidence.

"PAWS & Applause is more than a fundraiser, it's a celebration of what's possible when a community comes together," said PAWS CEO, Michele Suchovsky. "From puppy raisers and volunteers to clients and corporate partners, every person in the room plays a role in transforming lives."

Tickets are \$75 per person, and sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500. Proceeds from the event directly support the training and placement of custom-trained working dogs provided at no cost to clients.

For tickets or sponsorship information, visit: www.pawswithacause.org/paws-applause/

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About Paws With A Cause: Since 1979, Paws With A Cause (PAWS) has been transforming lives and strengthening communities through partnerships with custom-trained working dogs. PAWS assistance and facility dogs have helped thousands of people thrive, providing opportunities to live with independence, confidence, and companionship. Serving over 20 states across the country, PAWS is accredited by Assistance Dogs International and a member of Animal Assisted Services International. To learn how you can get involved, please visit: pawswithacause.org