



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS Quarterly

# NEWS

SUMMER 2012

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## Sierra's Story

*Six therapy animals collaborate to help a little girl heal (see page 3)*

Inside:

**ITA Celebrates the "Summer Pawstice"** Page 11

## Who are Intermountain Therapy Animals?

We are a human service organization, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, headquartered in Utah, and we bring the gift of animal companionship and interaction to people in need. Our mission is to **enhance quality of life through the human/animal bond**. Our volunteers (people and their own pets) make regular visits to those who are physically or developmentally disabled, emotionally or psychologically impaired, lonely or suffering from depression. All services are free of charge to both client and facility.

ITA therapy animals and their handlers are screened, trained, licensed and insured to participate in animal-assisted interactions (AAI), which may be either animal-assisted activities (AAA) or animal-assisted therapy (AAT). Successful teams have completed both health and temperament screening and volunteer training.

Serving our communities since 1993, we are one of the largest groups of our kind in the United States, with more than 350 volunteer teams doing animal-assisted therapy at more than 100 hospitals, counseling centers, nursing facilities, detention homes, extended care centers, and schools. Chapters of ITA now thrive in Montana, Idaho, Nevada, and Kentucky.

We are also the founders of Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.®), a literacy support program to foster in children the love of books and the reading environment. R.E.A.D. has spread throughout the United States and beyond since we launched it in 1999.

If you would like more information about us and our work, please contact our offices at 801-272-3439. We welcome all who want to lend a helping paw! ♥





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Intermountain Therapy Animals is proud to be one of the 20 Utah nonprofit organizations supported by Community Shares/Utah.



Intermountain Therapy Animals' *NEWS* is sent to all members and contributors. Please call the ITA office at 801-272-3439 if you would like to be on our mailing list.

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# Sierra : Six Therapy Animals Team Up To Help

It began as a blinding headache. How could two parents possibly imagine that their ten-year-old daughter, Sierra, was experiencing a bleed in her brain? It quickly grew into their worst nightmare as Sierra began screaming, vomiting, pulling her hair, and begging "make it go away." Trent, her father, said that within seconds they were in the car rushing to Davis Medical Center, the closest hospital. But by the time they arrived, Sierra was already in a coma.

Within 30 minutes, Sierra had been taken by Lifeflight to Primary Children's Hospital and into neurosurgery to relieve the pressure in her brain. Her doctor gave them the grave news: Sierra's outcome was not predictable, as she had been just moments from death's door. She was placed in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Primary Children's Medical Center, where she remained in a coma.

**1)** One day, as Sierra continued to be unresponsive, in came a very tall black labradoodle, an ITA therapy dog named Elliot. He laid his nose on her hand and, amazingly, Sierra responded by opening her eyes. It was her parents' first indication that she was aware of her surroundings and that better times were to come. Trent and Nicki wanted anything with fur to come in to see Sierra after that. **2)** Just 20 minutes later, another special visitor arrived in the PICU. Sierra remembers that day, which is surprising. It was Bullet the wondercat, a beautiful bundle of fluffy brown fur. Trent asked her if she wanted the cat in her bed with her. She

gave the thumbs up sign for "Yes," so Bullet crawled onto her blankets and Trent placed Sierra's left hand on the cat. As she explored Bullet's fur, Trent noticed slight movements in her left hand, the side of her body that was

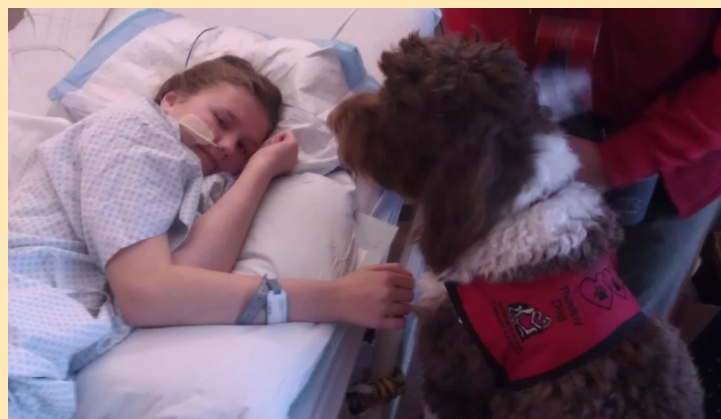
the scene. Sierra was in her bed, appearing quite somnolent and still demonstrating minimal ability. The dog went to look straight into her face, and Sierra reached out and petted her. She was told, "This dog is named

Tango." Sierra, in very soft tones, said "Tango." Her mom, Nicki, got a bit emotional and exclaimed that this was the first time Sierra had spoken. Some visitors came in a bit later, talking among themselves. Sierra announced quietly, "Tango," apparently to get their attention. Trent, her father said, "I kept asking her the name of that dog for days, just to hear her speak, because she repeated 'Tango' every time."

As Sierra continued to recover and became more verbal, she could recount her memories of those early interactions with the animals, which would normally get lost in the times of her semi-coma. She remembered Elliot and Bullet visiting in the PICU, and Tango's first visit. **4)** Another dog who played a

part in her recovery was Annie, a curly white Labradoodle. She attended Sierra's first therapy session. Trent has a poignant video of a sleepy Sierra, sitting on the mat with her therapist trying to place a ball in her left hand. It was hard for her to grasp, so the ball was pushed into her hand repeatedly, to no avail. Finally, Sierra reached over with her right hand, snatched the ball herself, and threw it to Annie. She spent a lot of time in rehab working with Annie.

Two other therapy dogs that were part of her recovery were **5)** Diva the yellow



Sierra during early recovery with Diva (above) and Tango (below).

weakened by the bleed in her brain. That was another huge milestone — Sierra would be using her left side again.

It was fortuitous that her occupational therapist happened to walk in right then. As Bullet lay in her bed, Sierra was asked to do specific movements with her uninvolved right hand and arm. Sierra was following commands and using her hand for simple sign language, showing that her cognitive ability was emerging.

**3)** About a week later she was moved to the Neuro-trauma Unit or the NTU. Another ITA therapy dog, a brown and white Portuguese water dog, arrived on

*(Continued on page 6)*

## From ITA's Board Chair

*Dear Friends,*

I have now been volunteering with Intermountain Therapy Animals for more than a decade, and I can still say with great passion that nothing I have ever done has made such a dramatic and valuable difference in the everyday, real world challenges that people face, as animal-assisted therapies can and do.

People of all ages and socio-economic circumstances receive devastating diagnoses and injuries every day. Future paths must veer sharply, dreams are dashed, and all these events reverberate through a patient's family as well.

Our animals come into these situations with great wisdom and intuition; they are catalysts, motivators, sources of fun and inspiration — and they pass no judgments. They make healing connections.

Animals the world over inspire these reactions, so work like ours may seem almost mundane or insignificant in the larger scheme of things. But nothing could be less true, because

each encounter, one by one, is also unique and of singular benefit. Our therapists tell us over and over, year after year, that the animals inspire cooperation, participation and progress that they cannot otherwise get from their patients.

Now in our 19th year, ITA is one of the most successful organizations of our kind. But we are struggling, like other charities big and small, to keep providing these crucial services during these challenging economic times. We need your help to survive, to continue helping our patient/clients in over 100 healthcare facilities to heal. Please do all you can to make room for ITA in your budget and your heart. Investing in animal-assisted therapy is a guaranteed Return on Investment—it succeeds every time!



*Susan and Diva stroll with a young client.*

We hope we can count on your support. We need you now more than ever, so that we can continue to serve thousands of people in our community every year!

With sincere thanks,

*Susan Daynes*  
ITA Board President

You may be able to make your donation to ITA go twice as far. Check to see if your employer will match your contributions.

**2x**

Intermountain Therapy Animals (#76194) participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, making it possible for all federal employees to donate to us through their workplace payroll deduction plans.



## Join Intermountain Therapy Animals —With or Without Your Pet

**Yes!**

I want to help ITA teams continue to bless the lives of so many who need them. Here is my tax-deductible gift:

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Your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thanks for your support!

# Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.®)

ITA celebrates the lucky 13th anniversary of R.E.A.D. in November of 2012. The program marches on, reaching new friends and more children every single day.

## **An Important First:**

### **Rio Rancho (NM) Schools Establishes Paid Position to Coordinate R.E.A.D. Programs System-wide**



*Theresa McKinney and one of her partners, Jesse James, reads with a student in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.*

The R.E.A.D.® Program achieved another landmark when the Rio Rancho Public Schools in New Mexico hired Theresa McKinney as a full-time coordinator for R.E.A.D. programs throughout their system. She will be in the Curriculum & Instruction Department, working closely with the Reading Recovery Coordinator.

Long a trailblazing pioneer for

R.E.A.D., Theresa has been the mover and shaker behind the Tales of Joy R.E.A.D. program, started more than five years ago. TOJ has been exemplary, publishing comprehensive data reports on the students' achievements every year and demonstrating just how dramatically the kids are improving with the assistance of their canine "tutors."

In the 2011-2012 school year, TOJ was up to 18 R.E.A.D. teams working with 31 teachers—and they still have a waiting list.

For Rio Rancho to invest in the program financially is a significant validation of the merits and value of R.E.A.D. in their curriculum. We're proud of Theresa and the high quality work she and her other teams have accomplished together.



*Jordan and his greyhound R.E.A.D. companion Drew appeared in an online story commercial this spring for the Better World Books company. Check it out at [vimeo.com/bwbooks](http://vimeo.com/bwbooks).*



*R.E.A.D. is now active in South Africa at the Klapmuts Primary School, under the direction of Marieanna le Roux and her Pets As Therapy program.*



READING EDUCATION  
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## **ITA's R.E.A.D.® Program Receives \$50,000 from Nestle Purina**

We were invited to participate in our first Facebook campaign during the 2011 holidays. All we had to do was get everyone we could think of to LIKE the Purina page for the Steven Spielberg movie, "The Adventures of Tintin."

As a result of getting almost 95,000 people to Like the page, the R.E.A.D. program and two other organizations each received a gift of \$50,000 from Purina® Dog Chow®.

This is the single largest one-time contribution ITA and/or R.E.A.D. has ever received. (Although many of our faithful foundation supporters have given that much or more over several years.)



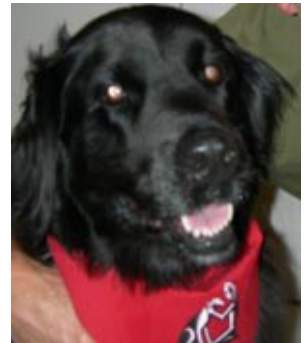
## Sierra and Her Team (Cont. from page 3)

lab and **6**) Molly the Newfoundland. Sierra's family breeds and raises Newfies so it was extra special for them to meet Molly.

Tango went back about three weeks after her initial visit and found Sierra sitting up straight on the edge of the bed, speaking and using both hands. She demonstrated all kinds of intricate hand signs and movements—and big smiles—for Tango. Her younger sister Ashlynn was hanging out in the bed, too, as she had just had her appendix out and was also a patient. Sierra also showed how she could stand up at her bedside with a walker. Sierra posed for pictures with Tango, and showed strong promise for further improvements to come. She went home one week later, and was joyfully reunited with her own two dogs.

There is another element to this story that Trent shared. Sierra had an extreme fear of doctors, hospitals, and anything medical. So waking up at PCMC was a frightening shock for her. One of the benefits of therapy animals is their ability to transform a hospital atmosphere into something much more comfortable and homelike. Sierra's "team" of six therapy animals, supporting her throughout her experience, smoothed the way for her to feel comfortable in what would otherwise have been a scary and intimidating environment.

## Sierra's team of therapy animals



Sierra's team included (clockwise from top left) Elliot, Bullet, Tango, Molly, Annie and Diva.

Now Sierra has returned to school three hours per day, to a loving and supportive student body. She has a large contingent of girls who love to push her wheelchair, bring her lunch tray, and do whatever else is needed. She is giggling all the time, even at that pesky left hand that does not always want to do what she asks of it. She has decided she wants to be a nurse when she grows up.

Her father Trent says, "Someday, this thing will just be a memory, an occurrence in our lives that is over. Sierra will be back the way she was: a kid playing and growing up with her sister and friends. But among the lasting effects is that Sierra and her mom now want to raise and certify their own therapy dog and do dog therapy for others." And that is just cool.

—Lisa Towner, IITA Volunteer, PCMC

(LEFT:) Sierra's sister Ashlynn, recovering from an appendectomy, gets a kiss from Tango. (RIGHT:) Sierra poses with Diva when things were looking much brighter.



# About ITA's Therapy Work

## Who Do We Visit? Staff and Family, Too!

One of the "trick" questions we ask our new volunteer handlers in training is, "What should you do if facility staff or a patient's family members want some therapy from your partner?"

Inevitably, they say, "We would remind them that we're there for the patients, and excuse ourselves so we could get to them."

Why is that a trick question? Because the fact is, the presence of animals is as beneficial to staff and family members as to the patients themselves. One person's illness or condition not only reverberates through his or her whole family, but to the staff who care for patients, too. A few examples:

- Dr. Jeffrey Saffle, head of the U of U Hospital's Burn ICU, tells us that when he and his staff are doing their rounds, therapy dogs are the *only* thing he lets them slow down and stop for, because they need animal therapy as much as their patients.
- More than one nurse has told us they asked for a therapy animal program as much for their own needs as for their patients'.
- A nurse at Primary Children's Hospital told us about a day that had been particularly hard for him, culminating in the death of one of his dear young patients. When he thought he couldn't go any further, he happened to round a corner and see an ITA therapy team. Having a chance to hug that dog felt like a life-saver to him at that moment.
- And, read the letter in the box at right, shared with us by Merilee Kelley, head of our affiliate group in Orlando Florida. Abbey is Merilee's Golden Retriever.

So our answer is, ITA teams spend time with whoever needs them the most. And our handlers are often surprised to find that it is their animal companion who

knows intuitively who that may be at any given moment. They will insist on pulling their handler toward someone, even if it's not obvious why, and we have learned to honor their choices.

So, next time you see a therapy animal passing you in the hall, if you would like their attention, never hesitate to ask, no matter what your "role" may be. We are there to bring comfort and joy to all!

— Kathy Klotz  
ITA Executive Director

*Dear Abbey,*

As you made your rounds on Tuesday, you arrived by my side at just the right moment. You see, we have asked that you come to the TICU routinely. Often times there are patients and family that may benefit but, if not, the staff always does, myself being at the top of the list.

On this day I was caring for a family and their loved one during withdrawal of life support. Being able to hug you helped my heart. Your presence in my patient's room helped those grieving, and I hope in some way helped my patient during the last hours of her life. You assisted in creating a peaceful and loving atmosphere that had a sense of community. Together, I wish to think we helped to provide a "good death" for this family, considering the circumstances.

Abbey, please thank your owner for giving you a ride to ORMIC every week. Without her, you and I could not be on the same team!

Warmly,

*Shirley Eckes, RN, BSN, CCRN*  
Orlando Regional Medical Center

***Symme the ITA Cat makes her rounds, visiting with patients, family and staff and leaving big smiles all along her way.***



# ITA's Recent Donors & Supporters 2011 – 2012

Thank you! ITA is committed to promoting and enhancing the human-animal bond, but we could not do it without the generous donors who make all our accomplishments possible. The following gifts were received between July 1, 2011 and the present.

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 James Wilmoth (R.E.A.D.)  
 Sharon Woeppel  
 Beth Wolfgram  
 Jose Woodhead  
 Bruce Wright & Deidra Walpole  
 Joan Wynn & Sydelle Stern  
 Jean Vafeades (R.E.A.D.)  
 William York & Helga Keller  
 Julia & Gary Youngblood  
 Elizabeth Yukman  
 Deborah Zimmerman

### IN-KIND DONORS:

Tom Alder / Williams Fine Art  
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 Costco  
 Mary Jo Hinsdale & John Robandt  
 Robyn & Gary Montgomery and Debbie Gardiner  
 Mountain Express Magazine  
 Chris Pellegrino  
 Jose Woodhead

*Important: If you made a donation and are not properly acknowledged and recognized above, please accept our sincere apologies. If your name should be here and it isn't, please, please contact our office (801-272-3439) so that we may make necessary corrections and recognize you on this page next time. We thank you with all our hearts for your faithful support of IITA and animal-assisted therapy!*

## RETIRING:

### Chaza

Samoyed partner of Marion Klaus of Salt Lake City, UT

### Reuben

Boxer partner of Shayne Munding of Sandy, UT

### Nick

Pointer/Hound mix partner of Pam Strickland of Bountiful, UT

### Ben

Yellow Lab partner of Pat Hemingway of SLC, UT

### Emily

Viszla/Yellow Lab partner of Celeste Collins of Bountiful, UT

### Bear

Black Lab partner of Susie Johnson of Sandy, UT

### Bridget

Chocolate Lab partner of Virginia Harris of Ogden, UT

### Zoey

Lab/Border Collie partner of Judy Barnard of Park City, UT

### Zoey

Boxer partner of Melora Wood of Sandy, UT

## DECEASED:

### Eli

Lab partner of Anne Diekema of Logan, UT

### Adam

Lab partner of Heidi Jakob of Bozeman, MT

### Pepper

Border collie mix partner of Tracey Bryant of Centerville, UT

### Tycho

Golden Retriever partner of Kristie Rasmussen of Draper, UT

### Caddis

Black Lab partner of Moira Lieberman of Incline Village, NV

### Rocky

Flat Coat Retriever mix partner of Anita Sjoblom of Sandy, UT

### Chile

Chocolate lab partner of Susy Sands of Belgrade, MT

### Major

Bernese partner of Vicky Whitney of Conifer, CO

### Buddy

Sheltie partner of Connie Sharkey of Twin Falls, ID

### Levi

Rough Collie partner of Jackie Woods of Butte, MT

### Godzilla

Tabby cat partner of Dot Gallager of Columbus, MT

### Buck

Standard Poodle partner of Ann Coleman of Bluffdale, UT

### Lexie

German Shepherd partner of Nan Walton of Bountiful, UT

### (Kiliman)Jaro

Newfie partner of Rachael & Brett Beasley of Provo, UT

### Lucca

Yellow Lab partner of Clare Oyler of SLC, UT

### Lily

Newfie partner of Raymond Gunn of SLC, UT

### Ginger

Brittany Spaniel partner of Judy Curtin of Ogden, UT

### Argus

Golden Retriever partner of Victoria O'Donnell of Gallatin Gateway, MT

### McCoy

Goldren Retriever partner of Kristin Wester of Livingston, MT

### Alba

Goldren Retriever partner of Susan Daynes of SLC, UT

### Robin Rabbit

Netherlands Dutch bunny partner of Teresa Jarrett of Reno, NV

There is always a goodbye hovering in the shadow of a dog's life.

—Jon Katz

# Recognition & Memorials

## *Gifts & Donations*

### **In MEMORY of . . .**

*Buck, partner of Ann Coleman*  
Ann & Sandy Coleman  
Jane Nettleton  
*Buddy, partner of Connie Sharkey*  
Jill Bryson  
Kathy Klotz  
*Our dear Buffy, Therapy Dog Extraordinaire*  
Very & Bruce Wood  
*Jay Christopherson*  
Donna Olsen  
*Scott Aaron Gonzales*  
Alex, Kerry & Kevin Gonzales  
*Hunter, retired partner of Joan Reid*  
Lynda Miner  
*Jake*  
Suzette Tauber & Ziggy  
*Scott Jeppson*  
Sara Madsen  
*Lexie, partner of Nan Walton*  
PEO Sisterhood Chapter AH  
*Lily (Avalon's Highland Lily), partner of Raymond*  
& Mary Delle Gunn  
Mary & Dallas Larsen  
Kathryn Lindquist & James Moore  
Julia & Gary Youngblood  
*Marietta*  
Donna Olsen  
*Missy, my mother Suzanne's R.E.A.D. Dog*  
Peter Carl and his Brothers  
*Pookah, my R.E.A.D. Dog*  
Wendy Hitch  
*Rockea, partner of Lori Stockinger*  
Terilinn Moyer, AmEx Give2Gether  
Campaign  
John Stockinger, AmEx Give2Gether  
Campaign  
*Sarah*  
Freddie J. Ussery  
*Donna Shupe*  
John & Pamela Berman

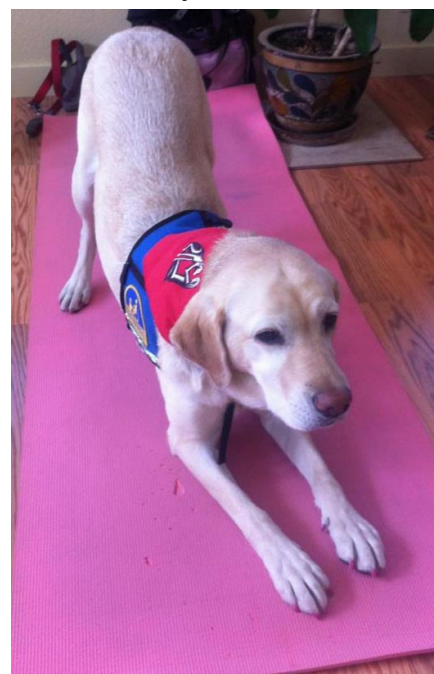
### **In HONOR of . . .**

*Tina Anderson & R.E.A.D. to Roo*  
Sally & David Williamsen  
*Larry & Stephanie Actimus, for Sophie's Christmas*  
Pamela Ann Metz  
*Nancy Brooks, Hands for Service Award for*  
R.E.A.D.  
Prudential Foundation  
*Katie Cavicchio & Arnie for the caring visits*  
Eileen & Larry Barlage  
*Peggy Chudd & George*  
Vincent & Elizabeth Novack  
Kim Schuske & Michael Horner  
*Dawn & Kim Cook*  
Todd Harman  
*Mary Cortani, Freedom Paws Trainer*  
Alice Herbert  
*Dory's First Birthday*  
Stephanie Magid  
*Halima, partner of Debbie McAllister of Ogden*  
Darlene Bridewell  
*Pat Hemingway's Birthday*  
Tim & Candace Dee  
*Ellen Kurland's Birthday, and her wonderful work*  
with therapy dogs  
Tamar, Michael & Matthew Kurland  
Joan Wynn & Sydelle Stern  
Patricia Vanderwerff  
*Max, IITA partner of Judy Grof*  
Deborah Griego-White (with love)  
*Debbie McAllister*  
Kristin Bauter at Mountain Ridge  
Assisted Living  
*Susan McDonald, DVM, Holladay Vet Hospital, in*  
appreciation for the incredible care she gave to  
our Buck  
Ann & Sandy Coleman  
*Pam Nelson*  
Leslie Abbott  
*Roxy, IITA partner of Sally Chambers*  
Deborah Griego-White (with love)  
*Skittles, our IITA Therapy Dog*  
Lori Thomassen & Jeff Meskey  
*Suzy Saltiel*  
David, Rebecca & Oliver Saltiel  
*Sherry Underwood*  
Apogee Instruments  
*Tiffany White & Simba*  
UnitedHealth Group Employee  
Giving Campaign

### **In TRIBUTE to . . .**

*Amanda, my therapy dog*  
Kay Brief  
*Checkers*  
Laurie Hilyer  
*The life of Don Cook*  
Stefanie Bond  
Julie Jodie  
Amy Seaman  
*Colonel and Hannash Sessions*  
from a Friend  
*Lesley Douthwaite*  
Jennifer Douthwaite  
*Patrick Heller*  
Alden G. Taylor  
*Rory Levine*  
Joshua Levine  
*Jo Anne Lutz*  
Doug Berman  
*Mom & Dad*  
Nancy & Keith Andrews  
*Zeus*  
Alexander Koritz

*Diva demonstrates the "Downward Dog" at the Studio Eight Yoga class in Reno, Nevada, in a special presentation for IITA. Class members couldn't help but contribute to animal-assisted interactions before the night was out!*



# Gallery ITA Celebrates

*It was a Great Party!*

## Summer Pawstice at Williams Fine Art

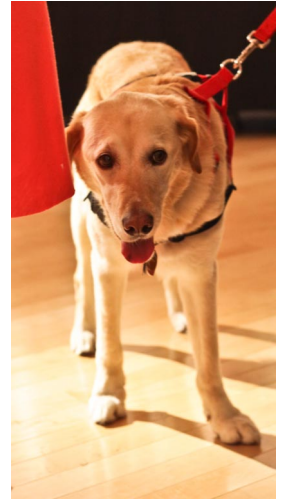


**Summer  
PAWSTICE**

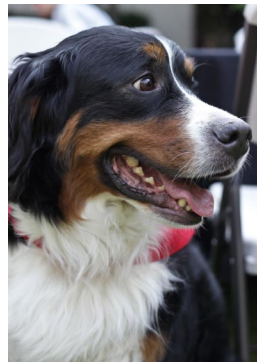
Intermountain Therapy Animals  
June 21, 2012 6:00-9:00 pm  
Williams Fine Art Gallery  
200 E. South Temple, #100, Salt Lake City

*Tickets \$49*

801-272-3439  
www.therapyanimals.org



*It was a beautiful evening on June 21, 2012, when ITA returned to the Williams Fine Art Gallery to celebrate the "Summer Pawstice" (of course) with a couple hundred of our friends. Thanks to our host, Tom Alder; our presenting sponsor, Lynn Jensen of Interwest Transportation; Amanda Pratt of Salt Lake Magazine for taking the lovely photos; and to all of you who joined us for a unique and relaxing summer event.*



# Dear ITA

## Letters from our Friends

Dear Joe [Mott, CEO of Primary Children's Medical Center]

I want to personally thank Lisa Towner (volunteer) and her two therapy dogs Jazzy and Tango. They have taken care of both my daughters. Lisa is professional, yet caring. She stayed a long time because my girls were finally enjoying themselves. There is something about the way she gives of herself and encourages her darling dogs to wiggle their way in to love my girls. I only wish she could come every day!

I wish you could tell her organization, ITA, what a first-rate volunteer she is. It is obvious to me she has done this a very long time, and it shows!

XOXO to Jazzy and to Tango!

*A Grateful Mom*



December 2011

Dear ITA All,

Thank you all so much for being such great role models for us. We just completed our 501(c)(3) and it is such a challenge for us. We are small and your website is so great.

Mostly, I appreciate your guidance and support.

Happiest of everything always.

*Linda Smith, Founder*

Rim of the World Comfort Pets  
Crestline, California



November 2011

Dear Kathy & ITA,

Thank you so much for the informative and moving presentation. I have long admired your work; last night's presentation built on that.

I know the chapter was interested—23 attendees was the greatest number in some time!

Thank you so much,

*Bridgid Best*

P.E.O. Chapter Y  
Sandy, UT

July 2012

Dear Kathy and All Your Wonderful Team at



*"Thank you, Peggy and George, for visiting us in the hospital. Your special care made a difference. We truly appreciate you both. Please feel free to share the photo, and have a happy holiday." (— Van and Liz Novack).*

ITA,

I wanted to send my warmest gratitude and thanks for all the help, support and time you gave me during my visit to Salt Lake City.

It was so enlightening to learn more about the many roles of therapy dogs, and the impact that they can have on people's lives, and I am looking forward to putting some of the things I have learned into practice.

If you or any of your staff are coming to England, please do look me up, so that I may return your generous hospitality.

Best wishes and XX

*Helen Spooner*

Portsmouth, England



July 2012

My name is Johanna and I am from Virginia. I am in Idaho at EIRMC because my son has a TBI and is hospitalized. I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful work you do.

I would specifically like to thank two special volunteers and their dogs, Judy and her dog Max, and Faye and her dog Hope. We enjoyed both of their visits and their dogs are just wonderful.

Faye went above and beyond what I would consider typical visits. She came multiple times and waited patiently for my son to wake; if he didn't, she made extra efforts to make another trip. She also remembered personal things about both of us and brought us books to read that she thought would interest us.

A week after I had complimented her on a beautiful pendant she wore, she made my son and me matching necklaces with the same pendant!

Faye truly understands the scope of this important work she does. Her dog, Hope, is lovely. She is quiet and calming and we really enjoyed her. I understand this is her second career in her retirement too. They are an asset to your program and we are so grateful for their service.

Sincerely,

*Johanna Conner*

Powhatan, VA



## Annual JEPS Challenge Grant

# Almost There Already!

Once again, Jennifer Speers of the JEPS Foundation has challenged ITA friends to a gift challenge campaign: She will match all individual contributions up to \$3,000! Just introduced on June 21st, we are already 2/3 of the way there.

Won't you help us reach the top of our thermometer in record time?

**Yes!** I'm sending my contribution to be **DOUBLED** by the JEPS Foundation. Here is my tax-deductible gift:

- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Partner
- \$250 Advocate
- \$500 Patron
- \$1,000 Benefactor
- \$5,000 The 4-Paw Circle

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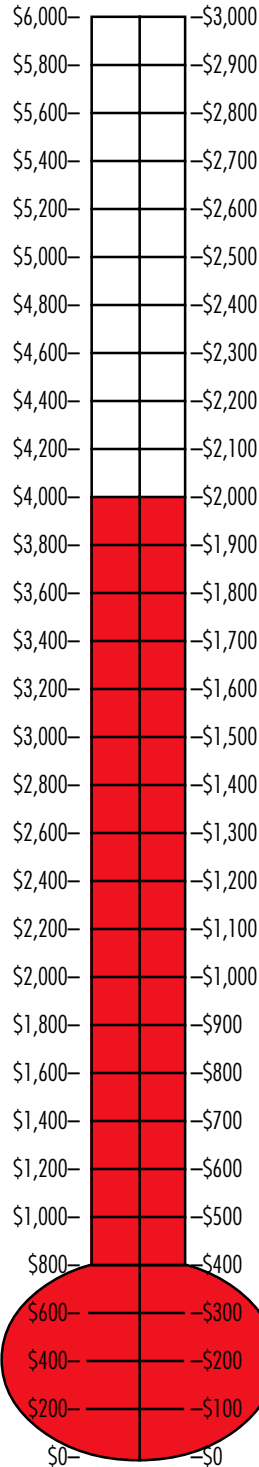
EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to Intermountain Therapy Animals:  
4050 SOUTH 2700 EAST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84124 (or) PO BOX 17201, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84117

Your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thanks for your support!




## Thanks, Primary RTC Kids!

2011 was the fourth year that the kids at the Primary Children's Residential Treatment Center have chosen to donate their December allowance to ITA in thanks for the therapy dogs that light up their lives all year long. They go shopping, with a list that we provide, and then the whole gang (24 kids plus staff) comes to our office to deliver the gifts between Christmas and New Year's.

Altogether, they donated about \$250 in supplies that keep us going for workshops and orientations for a whole year. Since we can't take the kids' pictures, Oliver and Emily volunteered to pose with the magnificent tower of goodies they brought. Here's what they contributed:

- A case (4,800 sheets) of Xerox white multi-purpose paper
- 2 reams (1,000 sheets) of Astrobright multi-colored paper
- 16 rolls Scotch heavy duty shipping tape
- 24 jumbo rolls of Scotch green tape with 2 desk dispensers
- 24 pads Post-It Greener Notes
- 750 paper plates
- 175 paper bowls
- 500 plastic forks
- 2,160 napkins
- 360 10-oz. cold plastic cups
- 2 3-lb. cans Columbian coffee
- 120 packets of Swiss Miss hot cocoa mix
- 200 bags of green tea
- 2+ lb. of European cookies
- and last but not least, for our dogs:
  - 2 3.5-lb. jars of beef jerky treats
  - a 15-lb. box of super premium dog biscuits and
  - a pack of 20 giant American beef hide rawhide bones. Wow!!

We host a bit of a party when they come. In 2010 we invited Derrick Welling, our magician friend, to put on a magic show for the kids, and it was so popular we asked him back for an encore this year. A huge thanks to Derrick for his time, talent and generosity. Thanks also to Eileen Ambrose & Gabby, Susan Daynes & Diva, and Allison Strong & Jack, the teams who came to the party, as well. We're set for another whole year! 

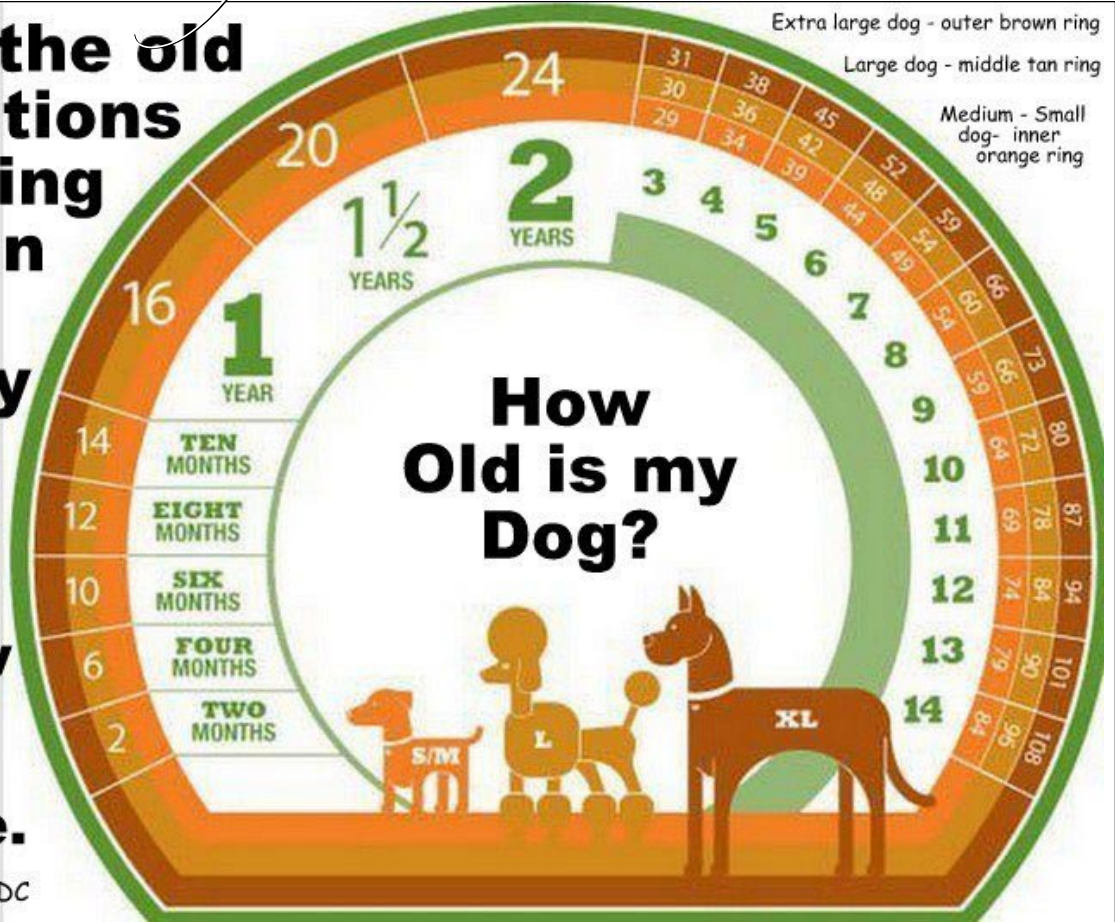
The vital function that pets fulfill in this world hasn't been fully recognized: **They keep millions of people sane.**

— Eckhart Tolle

**Forget the old calculations of figuring 7 human years to every 1 dog year.**

**This new scale is far more accurate.**

Facebook.com/TheGSDC



## When Making End of Life Plans, Don't Forget Your Animal Companions

At least once a month, a pet arrives at the Salt Lake County Animal Services shelter with notice that its owner has died and surviving family members, if any, could not or would not take over its care and keeping. Don't let this happen to your beloved companions.

"People choose someone to take care of their children—they should do the same for their pets," says Lisa Rogak, a New Hampshire-based author of *PerPETual Care: Who Will Look After Your Pets if You're Not Around?*

In addition to that primary task of finding someone to care for your pets

when you are gone, Rogak recommends carrying a wallet card and placing a sign on your refrigerator, listing the designated caretaker's name. Otherwise, emergency workers who come to take a person to the hospital (or the morgue) will have no idea what to do with your animals.

Once you've found someone to inherit your pet(s), it's a good idea to check with them frequently to make certain their situation hasn't changed and that they're still ready and willing.

Rogak also stresses that it is not good enough to just put it in your will. If [the will is] challenged, that process can drag

on for a year." Or maybe the will isn't even read right away. Someone still needs to be looking after your animals.

Check with your estate-planning attorney to provide for your pets in your will. Since they are considered property, you cannot leave possessions to them, but you can leave money to a person or in a trust to guarantee the pets' continued care.

To calculate this, figure out how much you spend on each pet per month, multiply that by 12, and then multiply by the number of years in the normal life expectancy of each one. Then add a few

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Melissa Wolf, MD, & Baker

**Bozeman, Montana**

I inherited my German shepherd, Baker, as a charity case. One day I received a call from a friend asking me to care for a 2-year-old, malnourished, special needs dog who was never socialized and, oh-by-the-way, blind. Of course, I agreed. A year of rehabilitation, eye doctor visits and 30 pounds later, meet Baker, my super star ITA therapy dog! We visit memory care residents, but his true affection is for kids. At our weekly visits to a kinder-garten class with R.E.A.D.® he snuggles happily with the students, drools on their books, and rolls upside down for belly rubs. Never mind that he is three times the size of any of his students.

Recently, as Baker and I were driving away from school after our R.E.A.D. session, I spotted a student in the street. Adults from the school were frantically calling him to return to the school building but he ignored them and kept on running. On an impulse, I stopped the car, thinking Baker might be able to help. As we approached the child, first he stood defiant with arms crossed and informed me he didn't like dogs. As the adults from the school slowly encircled him, I could see his toughness turn to fear.

In a moment of conspiratorial inspiration, I told the child, "I know how you can get back into the school through all those scary adults. Walk with Baker. Take his leash. He's a police dog and he will protect you." At first the child looked skeptical. Baker is a German shepherd, but he



has floppy ears and a snout that is disproportionately long for his body, making him look more like a goofball than an agent of law enforcement. Still, surveying the situation, the kid accepted my offer.

Taking the leash, he stood tall and, side-by-side, the 30-pound first-grader fearlessly marched my 90-pound dog down the street, up the stairs, through the hall and back to his classroom. To my utter amazement, Baker, who more often than not prefers to drag his human companion, walked slowly beside the child as if he knew the importance of the situation. After leaving the classroom, amid tearful gawking onlookers, I hugged my dog.

So much for my blind, un-socialized, misfit. I reassured him that if he never does another minute of therapy work, he did a good deed today. He saved a little boy from big consequences and em-powered him to find his courage.

Ultimately, the child was not reprimanded for running from the school because he made a responsible choice to return on his own. Baker returned home to crunch kibbs and

nap on the couch, seemingly unfazed. I was reminded never to underestimate my dog regardless of his beginnings, and embrace the truth that I may never realize the full potential of my furry companion. 🐾

## Jaki Lindeman & Finn

**Bozeman, Montana**

We have been visiting a nursing home resident, Art, for many weeks now who is on hospice care. Today, Art was clearly failing and had been quite despondent, according to his wife. When Finn and I entered his room, we found several people there, visiting the family. Art's demeanor changed, becoming very animated, the moment he saw Finn.

On our typical visits, Finn greets everyone in the room first, then I direct him to go over to Art. But today, right away Finn sensed something was different. He ignored everyone else in the room and went straight to Art, standing next to his bed, going quiet and laying his head on Art's lap. It was a pretty tender moment for everyone. Art's wife expressed her thanks for Finn being so focused on her husband. As for me, I had a good cry later in the car, thinking about how, in this work, even very small, subtle moments are often of great significance. (July 27, 2012) 🐾





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## AIM THAT CAR OUR WAY!

### Donate your vehicle to Intermountain Therapy Animals

Unwanted but usable vehicles. Most are welcome including cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, RVs, etc.

Vehicles must have a clear title and no major damage. Some restrictions apply. To donate, just go to our website: [www.therapyanimals.org](http://www.therapyanimals.org)

For complete details, go to  
[www.vehiclesforcharity.org](http://www.vehiclesforcharity.org), or call

**1-866-628-CARS (2277)**

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### Going Ever Greener:

Would you prefer to  
receive the ITA News  
by e-mail in the future?

E-mail

[melissa@therapyanimals.org](mailto:melissa@therapyanimals.org)

and we will  
make it so!

Thanks to Tom Alder and Williams Fine Art  
for Hosting "Summer Pawstice 2012!"

W I L L I A M S F I N E A R T

200 East South Temple, Suite 100, downtown Salt Lake City



## End of Life Plans for Your Pets

(Continued from page 14)

years more just to be sure.

If your purebred or registered credentials are important to you, provisions must be made to transfer ownership to make sure the pedigree will still be recognized.

Rogak has purchased a life insurance policy large enough to make sure her 12 cats and one dog will be cared for when she is gone, and she is seeking someone to inherit her New Hampshire home, under the condition they will live there with her animals.

There are several books on this subject, all available at Amazon.com and others.

None of us likes to think about the end of our lives, and even when we do, and launch into the planning, many may feel too embarrassed to bring up their animals with an attorney. But you should, because once you've gone, no one can read between the lines and know what you meant to do.

Each of our 350 ITA therapy teams is absolutely unique, since all the people and animals bring to their volunteer practice an endless kaleidoscope of ages, sizes, breeds, backgrounds and talents.

What about you and your companion animal? If you think you both might enjoy volunteering with ITA, providing animal-assisted therapies at one of the more than 100 facilities we visit, call ITA to learn more:

**801.272.3439**



**DOGS** EXPECT US TO treat them with dignity and respect, and when they become challenging and try our patience, we must never, ever forget that they are sentient beings who thoroughly depend on our goodwill. It's a dirty double-cross to intentionally abuse them and commit them to a life of fear. It's a betrayal of their trust in us, that we will always have their best interests in mind. It also demeans us.

The hearts of our companion animals, like our own hearts, are fragile, so we must be gentle with them. Let's openly and graciously thank them for who they are, for their unfiltered love, and embrace their lessons in passion, compassion, empathy, devotion, respect, spirituality, and love. Surely we will never have any regrets for doing so, and much pure joy will come our way as we clear the path for deep and rich reciprocal relationships, based on immutable trust with our companions and all other beings. Elliot Katz, founder of In Defense of Animals, suggests we drop the word "training" and start using the word "teaching." Training often becomes synonymous with "breaking." Training should not mean breaking their fragile hearts.

— Marc Bekoff, Ph.D. June 9, 2012 (online)

  
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## Utah Charities Golf Challenge

Intermountain Therapy Animals is pleased to have been chosen as one of the charities to receive funding from the 2012 Utah Charities Golf Challenge, sponsored by the Utah Families Foundation and hosted by U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch and his wife, Elaine. This year the tournament will be held at the Zermatt Resort located in Midway, Utah, on August 12-14th. We will be there on the golf course during the Challenge!

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# The Facilities and Programs We Serve

Intermountain Therapy Animals team volunteers are currently participating in animal-assisted interactions (AAT or AAA), including R.E.A.D. programs, at the following facilities:

## UTAH – SALT LAKE AREA

Affinity Hospice / SLC  
 Alta Ridge of Holladay  
 Alta View Hospital / Sandy  
 Anderson-Foothill Library / SLC (R.E.A.D.)  
 Aspen Ridge Rehabilitation Center (Rehabilitation therapies)  
 Benchmark Hospital / Woods Cross (Adolescents in Residential Treatment Program for Drugs and Violence and R.E.A.D. program)  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Midvale (R.E.A.D.)  
 Canyon Creek Assisted Living / Sandy  
 Canyon Rim Academy / SLC (R.E.A.D.)  
 Canyon Rim Care Center (short- and long-term care)  
 Care Source Residence (Hospice care)  
 Children's Center / SLC (Treatment Center)  
 Chateau Brickyard / SLC  
 Columbus Community Center / SLC  
 Copper Hills Youth Center / West Jordan (residential treatment)  
 Copperview Elementary / SLC (R.E.A.D.)  
 Crossland Rehabilitation / SLC  
 Garden Terrace / SLC  
 HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital / Sandy (Long-term Rehabilitation)  
 Heritage Place / Bountiful (Seniors)  
 Highland Care Center / SLC (Senior Care)  
 Highland Cove Retirement Community / SLC  
 Hillcrest Care Center / Sandy (Senior Care)  
 Holy Cross Ministries (R.E.A.D.)  
 Hope Center for Children / SLC  
 Intermountain Medical Center / Murray  
 Jackson Elementary / SLC (R.E.A.D.)  
 Jordan Valley Hospital / West Jordan (Med Surg)  
 Juvenile Justice Services / SLC (Observation & Assessment)  
 King's English Bookshop / SLC  
 La Europa Academy - Girls' Residential Treatment / SLC  
 Lakeview Hospital / Bountiful (Senior Psych Unit)  
 LDS Hospital (IHC) / Rehabilitation Services  
 Learning Services / Riverton (Adult Males with Longterm Disabilities)  
 LifePath Hospice  
 Mt. Olympus Rehabilitation / SLC (Rehabilitation Services)  
 Observation & Assessment, Boys' Unit / Salt Lake City (Adolescents in juvenile detention)  
 Observation & Assessment, Girls' Unit / Salt Lake City (Adolescents in juvenile detention)  
 Our House / Sandy (Assisted Living)  
 ParkLane Senior Apts. / SLC (retirement housing)  
 Pioneer Valley Hospital / WVC  
 Primary Children's Hospital (IHC) / SLC (Inpatient Rehabilitation Services)  
 Primary Children's Residential Treatment Center (IHC) / SLC (Children With Emotional and Abuse Issues)  
 Recovery Ways Treatment Center / SLC  
 Riverton Library / Riverton (R.E.A.D.)  
 RHA Community Services / SLC  
 Ronald McDonald House / Salt Lake City  
 Salt Lake City Libraries / SLC (R.E.A.D.)  
 Salt Lake County Libraries (R.E.A.D.)  
 Salt Lake County Youth Services  
 Salt Lake Regional Medical Center / SLC  
 Sandy Regional Medical Center  
 The Sharing Place / SLC  
 Shriner's Hospital for Children / Salt Lake City (Children Undergoing Orthopedic Procedures)  
 South Davis Community Hospital / Bountiful (Long- and Short-term Rehab)  
 South Valley Sanctuary / West Jordan (Woman & Child Center)  
 Snowbird Mountain School / Alta  
 TURN Community Services / SLC

TURN Community Summer Camps  
 University of Utah University Hospital (Rehab Services, Burn ICU, MedPsych Unit and Surgical Waiting Room)  
 University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute (Adult and Child Units)  
 Utah Cancer Specialists / SLC  
 Utah Guardian Ad Litem's Office / SLC  
 Utah School for the Deaf & Blind / Connor Street (Children With Multiple Disabilities)  
 Utah State Prison / Women's Inpatient Unit  
 Utah Youth Village / Murray (Foster and group homes)  
 Veterans Hospital / SLC (Rehabilitation/Hospice/Care Center)  
 The Wentworth at East Millcreek

## UTAH – PARK CITY AREA

Elk Meadows Assisted Living / Oakley  
 Heber Valley Medical Center  
 Jeremy Ranch Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Old Mill Elementary School / Heber (R.E.A.D.)  
 Park City Medical Center

H. Guy Child Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Ogden  
 Emeritus Estates Assisted Living / Ogden  
 Gardens Assisted Living / Ogden  
 George E. Wahlen Veterans Home / Ogden  
 Girls Independent Living / Ogden  
 Heritage Park Care Center / Roy (Alzheimer's Patients)  
 Highland Park Elementary / Clearfield (R.E.A.D.)  
 Holt Elementary School / Clearfield (R.E.A.D.)  
 Logan Regional Hospital / Logan  
 Manor Care / Ogden  
 McKay-Dee Hospital (IHC) / Ogden (Transitional Care, Psychiatric, Oasis Program and Rehabilitation Units)  
 Mount Ogden Junior High / Ogden  
 Mountain Ridge Assisted Living / Ogden  
 Mountain View Health Services / Ogden  
 North Ogden Jr. High (R.E.A.D.)  
 North Park Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Roy  
 Rocky Mountain Care / Clearfield (Assisted Living)  
 Logan Nursing & Rehab / Logan  
 Utah Schools for the Deaf & Blind / Harrison Blvd., Ogden (Children with Multiple Disabilities)  
 Vista Care Hospice / Ogden

Big Sky Youth Center / Bozeman  
 Birchwood Retirement / Bozeman  
 Bozeman Deaconess Hospital (cancer treatment center, dialysis unit and surgical waiting room)  
 Bozeman Health & Rehab / Bozeman (Retirement, re-hab)  
 Bozeman Lodge (Retirement)  
 Bozeman Public Library (R.E.A.D.)  
 Churchill Retirement Home / Manhattan  
 Eagle Mount Camp / Bozeman  
 Edgewood Vista (Retirement)  
 Emily Dickinson Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Bozeman  
 Epicenter / Bozeman  
 Gallatin County Health Dept. / Bozeman (immunization clinics for kids)  
 Gallatin Gateway School (R.E.A.D.)  
 Gallatin County Rest Home / Bozeman  
 Hawthorne Elementary School (R.E.A.D.)  
 Head Start (R.E.A.D. programs)  
 Highgate / Bozeman (retirement home)  
 LaMotte School (R.E.A.D.)  
 Longfellow Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Missoula Public Library (R.E.A.D.)  
 Monforton School / Bozeman (R.E.A.D.)  
 Morningstar Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Bozeman  
 Mountain View Care Center / Bozeman  
 Parkhaven Retirement / Bozeman  
 Quaw-Heck School (R.E.A.D.)  
 REACH Homes for Developmentally Disabled Adults / Bozeman  
 Riverside Assisted Living  
 Shields Valley Elementary / Willsal (R.E.A.D.)  
 Sourdough Montessori (R.E.A.D.)  
 Springmeadows Assisted Living / Bozeman  
 Whittier Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Bozeman



*ITA's Betty the Golden Retriever shares secrets with a friend at the TURN summer camp*

Parley's Park Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Peace House  
 McPolin Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Park City Library (R.E.A.D.)  
 Rocky Mountain Care Center / Heber  
 Summit County Library (R.E.A.D.)  
 Timpanogos Intermediate School / Heber (Special Education)  
 Wasatch High School / Heber (Special Education)

Wasatch Care Center / Ogden  
 Washington Terrace Elementary / Ogden (R.E.A.D.)  
 Waterfall Canyon Academy / Ogden (students with cognitive disabilities)  
 Weber County Library / Ogden (R.E.A.D.)  
 Weber Valley Detention Center / Ogden  
 Willard Elementary / Willard (R.E.A.D.)  
 Willow Glan Health & Rehab / Brigham City

## UTAH – OGDEN / LOGAN

Archway Youth Service Center / Ogden  
 Aspen Behavioral Center / Syracuse  
 Aspen Care Center / Ogden (Assisted Living)  
 Behavioral Health Institute / Ogden (Acute Care and Day Treatment)  
 Canyon View School LIFE Program / Ogden  
 CAPSA / Logan (Domestic violence shelter)  
 Centro de la Familia / Providence (Center for families)  
 Chancellor Gardens / Clearfield (Assisted Living)  
 Christmas Box House (Children in care of state services) / Ogden  
 Clearfield Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Coalville Library (R.E.A.D.)  
 Country Pines Retirement / Ogden  
 Crestwood Care Center / Ogden  
 Davis Behavioral Health - Crisis Recovery Unit / Layton

## UTAH – UTAH VALLEY AREA

American Fork Hospital  
 Center for Change / Orem (Eating disorders)  
 Courtyard at Jamestown / Provo  
 Golden Living / Orem (Senior care)  
 Summerfield Manor / Orem (Assisted living)  
 Utah Cancer Specialists / Provo  
 Utah Valley Regional Medical Center / Provo  
 Rocky Mountain Hospice / St. George

## MONTANA

Absarokee Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Aspen Pointe / Bozeman  
 Bear Creek Respite / Bozeman  
 Belgrade Public Library (R.E.A.D.)  
 Big Sky Ski Patrol / Big Sky

## IDAHO

3B Juvenile Detention Center / Idaho Falls  
 Bridgeview Estates (long-term care center) / Twin Falls  
 Cassia Regional Medical Center / Burley  
 Eastern Idaho Medical Center (EIRMC)  
 EIRMC Behavioral Health Center  
 Fairwinds - Stone Creek / Idaho Falls  
 Hansen Public Library (R.E.A.D.)  
 Harwood Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Jefferson Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Larsen-Saint Public Library / Preston (R.E.A.D.)  
 Snake River Juvenile Detention Center / Twin Falls  
 Southern Idaho Learning Center / Twin Falls  
 Twin Falls Public Library (R.E.A.D.)

## NEVADA/CALIFORNIA

Camp Care, Camp Latsafan & MDA Camp / Reno  
 Incline Village Elementary (R.E.A.D.)  
 Marvin Piccolo School / Reno (R.E.A.D.)  
 Nevada State Dept. of Corrections / Carson City  
 Plains Regional Medical Center  
 Tahoe Forest Hospital / Truckee  
 Washoe County Public Library (R.E.A.D.) / Incline Village

## KENTUCKY/OHIO

Hospice of Hope / Maysville  
 Mason County Detention Center  
 Ohio Valley Manor / Ripley

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*- John Thompson,*  
Chief Executive Officer