

THE DisPPatch

DENVER PET PARTNERS



February 2016

Team of the Month

Congratulations to **Rika Mead and Bindi!**



I clearly recall my first encounter with a warm, inquisitive nose and a furry nape – and the feeling of connection, well-being, and deep joy that I felt upon that meeting. That memory has driven my life-long fascination (some might term it obsession) with dogs. Except for a few periods when I've been traveling or living outside the US, I've been owned by dogs.

Read the full story [here](#).

Team Meeting Update

Our first team meeting of the year was January 22 at Rose Medical Center. We had a great meeting and wanted to keep you all in the loop, so here is a brief summary of the meeting.

- We are currently in the midst of implementing an upgrade to our website that will make it more user-friendly, easy-to-update, and informative.
- The board will be focusing heavily on DPP's fiscal sustainability this year, with an ultimate goal of hiring an outstanding Executive Director to lead us forward. Your contributions through ColoradoGives and direct donations have been a wonderful boost in that direction, as well as towards meeting our day-to-day operating expenses (web maintenance, marketing materials, taxes and professional fees among others).
- Our DPP teams are visiting at 60 different institutions! Some we

New In This Issue

- Team Meeting Update
- IHAC Practitioner's Conference
- Whole Foods Market
- Holiday Paws
- Thank You to Donors
- DU Learning Event
- Facility Spotlight

From Our Chair

Let's Celebrate! Denver Pet Partners celebrates 15 years of providing caring, healing service. That is no small feat and is a huge tribute to all of you who have been part of DPP over those years.



We are planning for a special celebration on **October 1** and we want your input and involvement to make that day all you'd like it to be.

Please [email](#) me your thoughts:

- What would you like a 15th anniversary celebration to include? Best time of day? Food? Activities?
- Are you in touch with former DPP members who may not be on our mailing list? Tell them

have formal agreements others we may have a long history. Please make sure you continue to log your hours on Volgistics. Please contact Susan Horecki, if you need assistance, as you think about new or changing visit opportunities.

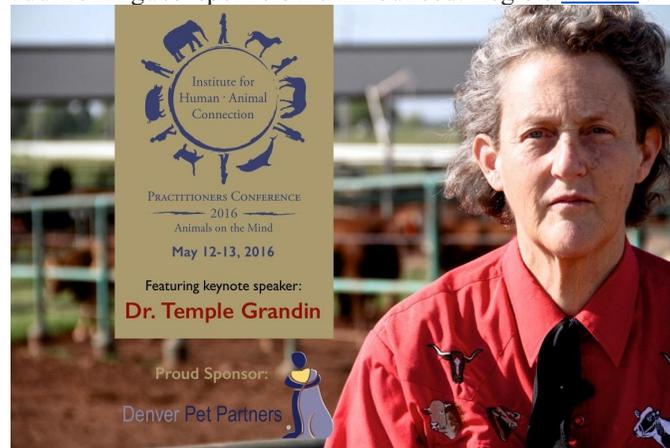
- Remember to look at your badges and check your expiration date! We have Evaluations throughout the year. They are listed on our website under events and Calendar tab [Events Calendar](#). DPP events are located on this calendar. If you go NR during your evaluation you must stop visiting at your facility until you pass your evaluation.

IHAC Conference

DPP Bronze Sponsor of "Animals On The Mind" Practitioners Conference

The Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver has extended a significantly reduced registration rate to all Denver Pet Partners members in appreciation for our ongoing support and mutually beneficial partnership.

You will see our Denver Pet Partners discount listed under "Registration Categories". More details will follow as additional guest speakers are announced. Register [HERE](#) !



As a Bronze Sponsor, DPP will be represented on all marketing materials prior to and at the conference itself. In addition, we will have the opportunity for a table display during the event which will allow us to spread the word about the amazing work we are doing in the field of Human-Animal Interactions in Colorado. We'll be looking for volunteers to "staff" this table in two-hour shifts throughout

about our plans and let us know how to contact them.

- Do you have a story to share or a special memory about DPP? Tell us about those early years.

- Do you have time to help in planning the event?

I'll look forward to hearing from you and to celebrating together. Let's have some fun as we organize!

Carol Lynn

DPP Logo-Wear Store Now Open!

We have a large selection of shirts, caps, totes, outerwear, and more. Place your orders directly through Lands' End Business Outfitters [here](#). Items will be shipped directly to you at the best prices available. *Please note that DPP does not receive any proceeds from this merchandise.* Contact [Marla Yetka](#) with questions.



LANDS' END

Additionally, if you haven't ordered your partner a new DPP vest yet, you can still order anytime through our vendor Raspberry Fields, by clicking [here](#) for the order form. Contact [Marla Yetka](#) for more information.

Save the Date

February 20: WFM Cherry Creek
11am - 1pm

March 1: DU/IHAC Learning Event
6:30pm to 8:30pm at DU

March 12 (Saturday): Team Meeting

the conference. Please contact [Marla Yetka](#) if you are interested in volunteering with our without your animal partner.



All Metro-Denver WFM locations are participating in the **Change-Creates-Change Bag Donation Program**, which is happening now until **April 10**. Bring your reusable bags to any of the following locations when you shop and 10c per bag will benefit DPP. We will have DPP Teams at the following locations to help spread the word about Denver Pet Partners and Animal-Assisted Interventions. Stop by and say hello.

Cherry Creek

Saturday, February 20th, 11am-1pm

***We will be looking for teams to volunteer at in-store events at **Glendale-Colorado Blvd.** and **Capitol Hill** locations March-April. Dates will be announced shortly.



10am to 12pm at Swedish

May 12-13: IHAC Practitioner's Conference at DU

May 14 (Saturday): Team Meeting
10am to 12pm at Swedish

August 26 (Friday): Team Meeting
6:30pm to 8:30pm at Rose

October (Date TBD): 15th Anniversary & Member Appreciation Party

Courses & Evaluations

February 6 & 7: [Team Evaluations](#)

March 19: [Handler Workshop](#)

April 2 & 3: [Team Evaluations](#)

July 23: [Handler Workshop](#)

August 6 & 7: [Team Evaluations](#)

October 22: [Handler Workshop](#)

November 5 & 6: [Team Evaluations](#)

Interested in Being an Evaluator?

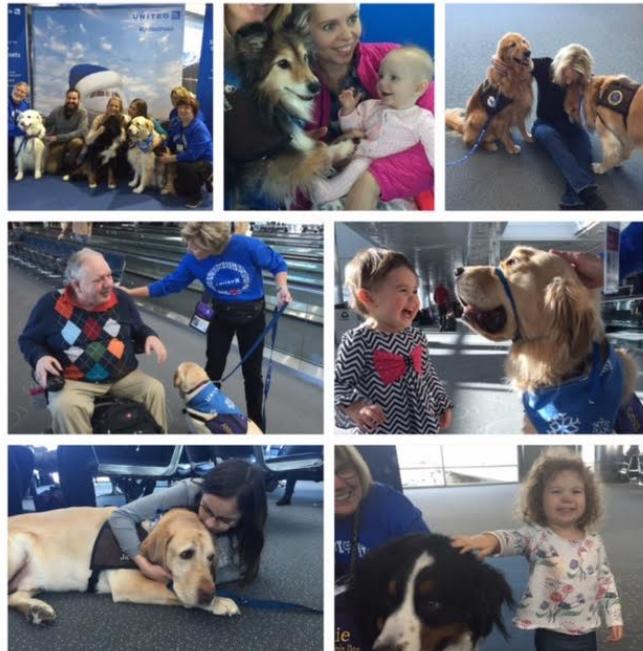
Have you ever considered being an evaluator? Or you know someone that would like to be? National Pet Partner's is sending an instructor to Denver in June to teach a practicum for future evaluators. We are thrilled to be the host of this practicum. If you have any interest in being an evaluator, please let me know. I would be happy to send you the Pet Partner Prerequisites, or some more information. Please contact Mandy Bell (mandyb@denverpetpartners.org 303/523-2355).

Thank You to our

Special thank you to Sue and Ken Majeski & Cooper, Carol Lynn Tiegs & Bella Rose, Karen Hartmann & Colby, Marla Yetka & Snickers for staffing our table and visiting with customers and staff before the big game last week.

Holiday Paws

What did you all do for Christmas break? I spent it with many of you at Denver International Airport for Holiday Paws. United Airlines asked DPP to come to DIA on December 21, 22, and 23 for three shifts per day. We were so lucky to be asked to be part of Holiday Paws which happened in 7 airports around the US. Traveling any time is stressful but especially during the holidays. Our goal was to bring joy to the passengers and employees and I can tell you without a doubt we did just that!



Before each shift the teams would meet me and receive their gate pass. We were quite a show, a group of dogs and handlers going through the airport to security, bypassing lines. The train was a hurdle but all dogs trusted their handlers and reluctantly got on the train. Some of them hid their heads. We settled in at B concourse with travelers coming from across the airport to see the dogs. We were thrilled to have so much media coverage.

The pictures will be ready next week. I will have it so you all can have your pictures. I will send you and email directing you to the

Generous Donors!

A sincere thanks from Denver Pet Partners to all of you who have so generously supported us financially throughout 2015, some of you anonymously. You make wonderful things happen.

Betty Ray Memorial Fund

Marian Anderson
James and Mary Antes
Paul Benedetti
Angela Berkold
Kathryn Brunner
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Ken and Mary Ray
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Jeffrey Schaefer
Gerald and Lucinda Schissler
Gwen Thornton
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John and Elizabeth Towell
Jean Townsend
Georgette and Thomas Van Egeren
Eleanor Watkins
Susan Woodard

ColoradoGives Campaign

Mandy Bell
Paula Bumpers
Bonnie Campbell
Deborah Clendenning
Linda Forsyth

website and link. Thank you for being so patient! DPP made a total of \$2,350. We were guaranteed \$2,000. Then each Tweet and/or Instagram turned into a dollar, which totaled \$350. I hope we get asked again next year, and I know you all do too! I already had teams before they left asking me if they could sign up for next year. Thank you all for coming and keep me going for three days. It was such a wonderful opportunity to talk about the work we do with our community.

Thank you!
Mandy Bell

DU Learning Event



Please join us for our next collaborative learning session on the DU campus. Our topic is **“Creating a Welfare-Focused Environment for Therapy Animals in Handling and Practice”**

Agenda to include an open discussion on ethics in animal-assisted interventions and specific techniques to help us identify and evaluate stress in our animals. Special guests will be sharing their expertise with us as well.

Space is limited to DPP members and invited guests. Registered Pet Partner therapy animals are welcome and encouraged to attend. For questions, please contact [Marla Yetka](#).

RSVP [here](#).

In AAI News

Numerous studies over the years have confirmed that pet owners enjoy a wealth of health benefits, including lower levels of stress, better cardiovascular health, an enhanced sense of well-being, fewer allergic sensitivities and lower rates of obesity.

Now a recent study by the Human Animal Bond Research Initiative Foundation, conducted by two researchers from George Mason University, has unleashed a more startling finding: Pet ownership could reduce U.S. health care costs by \$11.7 billion.

Read more [here](#).

Linda Foyan
Teri Fotheringham
Debbie Hahnenkamp
Susan Horecki
Margo Hunjan
Ellen James
Lisa Jonas
Alix Joseph
Meryl Kingery
Sandra Langley
Barry Lea
John Marte
Karen Meyer
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Gary Sidder
Mimi Spruiell
Amy Taylor
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Linda Tieman
Judith Wilder

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Ken and Diana McQuarrie
Kristina Nelleser
Janet Pritchett
Karen Richards
Diana Richett
Jim Saunders
Julie Schwarz
Allison Shovee
Gavle Snelts

Facility Spotlight

Over the last year or so, I've had the pleasure to visit and observe quite a range of DPP supported facilities and meet with a few new Directors and Coordinators (quite persistent ones, I might add) that hope to institute an AAI program in their environments. I generally shadow an existing Team or sometimes bring my partner, Lucy, to help me understand what the experience might be like for both animal and handler.

In recent months, I have been touched and impressed by programs that serve youth and adults, sometimes within the same campus. I'd like to ask that you consider these as you think about your abilities as a Team, your personal interests, and the time you may have in your schedule to serve in these settings.

There are many children (K-12) in our community that are unable to participate in the day to day activities and expectations of traditional public schools. This could be because of significant and identifiable emotional disorders (SEID), Autism, and/or other conditions that impact them intellectually, physically, and socially.

There are programs that serve these kids by offering environments in which individual education plans (IEP) are created and monitored to address the needs of each person. These plans include academic approaches and interactions, but also a wide spectrum of support to help the individual achieve a greater degree of self-control physically, emotionally, and socially. Generally speaking, the goal is to help a child to participate in the least restrictive environment and possibly return to public schools.

There are also lots of adults that have limitations as a result of Down's Syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis, Strokes, Autism, brain injuries, neurological, and other emotional conditions. Some of these adults are the same youth that simply grew up. Often these individuals have limited community life and opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and/or a chance to improve cognitive skills with the possibility of employment.

Again, there are a variety of programs that offer these adults stimulating classes and activities that help to enhance and maximize the person's ability to participate in life and interact with others.

So what do our Teams do to enhance these programs and what could you expect in these environments?

In most programs, our Teams have the opportunity to interact with individuals (youth or adults) one on one and in groups during classroom, communal, or recreational time. As you might imagine, giving an individual the chance to connect with our animals may well

Guy Wroble
Michael Steppe
David Struck
Jackie Thorland
Carol Lynn Tiegs
Haley Tripp-Fire
Barbara Jean Vondy
Dave Watts
Susan Wiant
Susan and Guy Wroble
Colette Yetka

2016 Membership Renewals

2016 promises to be another great year for DPP and we hope you will continue to join us. If you haven't already, please use this link to renew your membership [online](#) OR if you prefer to print and mail, use [this form](#).

Note: if you joined DPP after October 1, 2015, you do not need to complete a 2016 application and your membership fee is good through December 31, 2016.

If you have any questions, regarding the membership form, please contact [Mandy Bell](#).

Your Newsletter

What would you like to share with fellow DPP members? We are always looking for relevant news articles, personal experiences or photos.

Submit to newsletter@denverpetpartners.org

Contact Information

Not sure who to contact when you need help? Email info@denverpetpartners.org anytime and your message will be forwarded appropriately for response. Please allow 24-48 hours for reply.

[Susan Horecki](#) | 303-973-6116
Teams, Facilities, Services

[Melissa Schreiber](#) | 303-917-9997

be the change agent for that day (or longer) and is likely to promote a sense of well-being that carries over to other activities and tasks.

Collaboration between a Team and the program professionals may also lead to more focused and goal-oriented activities through play time, reading, and other scenarios.

Regardless of how a Team participates in a given program, it will be rewarded with a whole range of obvious (the purest of smiles, warmest of hugs, heart filled thank-yous) and sometimes very subtle (a twinkle of the eye, a nod of the head, an involuntary hand movement) expressions of joy and gratitude. A Team has the chance to work with people over extended periods of time in these programs. This may mean that it is possible to witness the long-term benefits of repeated visits and develop a working relationship that is deeper on some levels.

These are environments that can be busy, noisy, and sometimes interrupted with emotional outbursts. They often include individuals with a variety of equipment to help them navigate their day. Handlers will always need to be highly aware and alert of their surroundings and sensitive to a partner's well-being. That said, staff support is tremendous with a generally high ratio of staff to clients (in some cases one to one).

Some programs that are anxious to have you with as much frequency as can be provided are:

- Fletcher Miller School/Lakewood (Youth)
- KADEP (King Adult Day Enrichment Program)/Westminster
- Laradon/Denver (Youth and Adult)
- Morningstar Adult Day Program/Aurora
- Easter Seals Stroke Day Program/Lakewood (Adult)

To learn more, please contact [Susan Horecki](#).

[Susan Horecki](#) | 720-556-3434
Social Media (Facebook, LinkedIn)

[Marla Yetka](#) | 720-626-0414
Marketing & Communications

[Mandy Bell](#) | 303-523-2355
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Vice Chair

[Sandy Hung](#) | 858-736-1280
Secretary

[Jim Saunders](#) | 303-794-3623
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[Paul Rogalla](#) | 303-263-0140
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Program Coordinator

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Business Manager

[Angelina Nicol](#) | 805-415-6475
Newsletter Editor

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