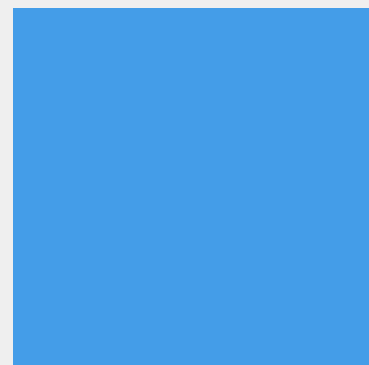
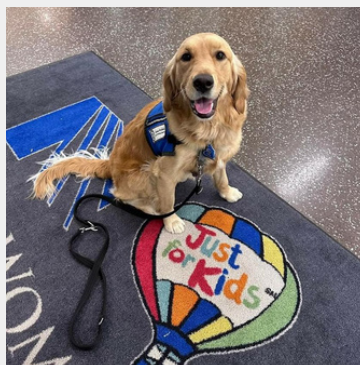
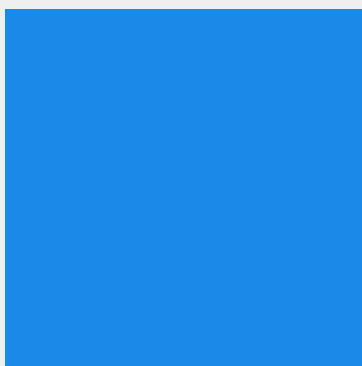
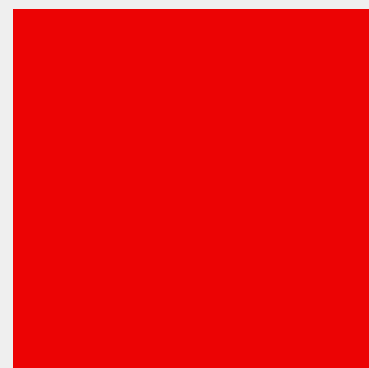




Annual Report



About Paws with Purpose

Our Mission and Vision

Paws with Purpose is dedicated to providing highly skilled assistance dogs as partners to children and adults with physical disabilities or other special needs in the greater Louisville, Kentucky area. These dogs provide comfort and companionship, help break down social barriers, and perform many skilled tasks that help their partners lead more independent lives.

We also train facility dogs to work in healthcare, education and other settings where they can provide therapeutic assistance, social interaction, motivation, encouragement and a feeling of non-judgmental support.

Our vision is to foster independence and understanding in our community through compassionate advocacy and the power of the human-canine bond.

Our Commitment

PWP strives to carry out its mission in a spirit of compassion, empathy and community connection. This begins with our training philosophy. At PWP, we are not only training dogs, we are training partners who will have a vital role in the lives of their human companions. We are committed to using only positive reinforcement methods that will motivate our dogs to learn while building a solid and lasting relationship of mutual trust between our dogs and their handlers. We do not use force or punishment in our training and we do not use punitive equipment such as prong collars or choke collars. Instead we use classical and operant conditioning to teach, transform and strengthen behavior.

We are also committed to making a difference in our community. We train and socialize our dogs in many public venues during the approximately two years that each dog spends in training prior to placement. During that time, our trainers and volunteers share and explain our mission with curious members of the public and advocate for our clients and the special needs population as a whole. We also share our mission in presentations to schools and other groups and in outreach visits to many organizations.



PWP is the only assistance dog organization based in Kentucky that is accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), which sets standards for best practices in our industry and administers a rigorous accreditation process for its members.



Paws with Purpose Celebrated 20 Years of Changing Lives

With excitement and gratitude, we celebrated our 20th anniversary in 2024! We are proud of and inspired by the profound impact PWP has made and continues to make in our community. For two decades, our dogs have brought hope and independence to those facing daily challenges.

In this year's Annual Report, we highlight the assistance and facility dog teams that were formed in 2024. We also feature our 20-year partnership with the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women and the outstanding work of our KCIW handlers. And we showcase our more recent collaboration with Wildcat Service Dogs, in which dedicated University of Kentucky college students train and socialize PWP dogs on the UK campus to prepare them for the important work they will do for their future partners.



2024 by the Numbers



2024 Impact: Assistance Dogs

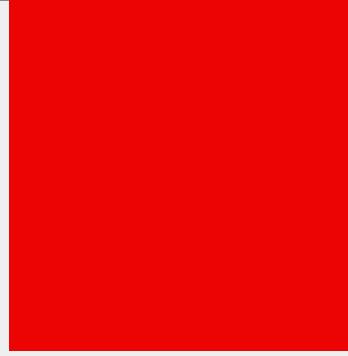
We placed two assistance dogs in 2024 as partners with teenagers with neurological disabilities. Unity, a Black Lab, is partnered with Dylan, who has a Functional Neurological Disorder. Neci, a Yellow Lab, is partnered with Zack, who has a condition of the nervous system. Both Dylan and Zack were high school students when they began placement training, and they were each able to begin an independent college experience away from home with their new partners.



PWP provides support for the
lifetime
of the client-dog partnership

We also placed two assistance dogs with individuals who use wheelchairs. Bethaney's partner is Salem, a Lab. Bethaney leads an active life and travels weekly from her home in Louisville to Lexington for work. Beth is partnered with Ocie, a Black Lab. Ocie is Beth's successor assistance dog from PWP. Her first partner, Bella, passed away in the fall of 2023 following a loving 10-year partnership.





2024 Impact: Facility Dogs

River, a Golden Retriever, was placed as a facility dog at Norton Women's and Children's Hospital. River and her partner Cindy support pediatric and adult patients at the hospital. And, of course, they support the hospital staff too. Many times each day, our facility dog handlers hear from their colleagues how much it means to have a calm, affectionate dog to hug or just quietly sit with during stressful or unbearably sad times.

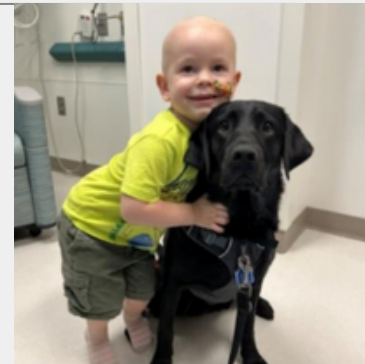
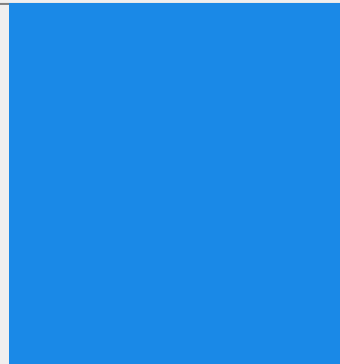
We placed facility dog Vince, a Lab/Golden mix, at the Bellarmine University Lansing School of Nursing with his handler Dr. Leslie Leffler, Nursing Department Chair. Vince is the first facility dog to work in a nursing school in Kentucky and only the second in the country. Vince will not only support the staff and students of the School of Nursing but will also help train a new generation of nurses in the vital role that canine-assisted therapy can provide to their patients.

We also placed Tatum, a Black Lab, with Rebecca, an elementary school counselor, who works with students who have special educational needs and who exhibit challenging behaviors in the school environment. Some students are dealing with emotional challenges, such as anxiety, depression, grief, or family issues and need emotional support and coping strategies. Tatum's presence has made an immediate and profound impact on these students.

Continuing Lifetime Support for Our Assistance Dog and Facility Dog Teams

Our work does not end when the placement is complete and a team begins working together. The standards set by our accrediting organization, Assistance Dogs International, requires monthly follow-up reviews for the first three months, additional reviews at six months and one year, and annual reviews thereafter. In addition, PWP provides ongoing support and training as needed throughout the lifetime of each team's partnership.



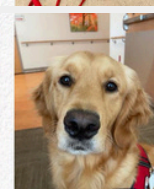
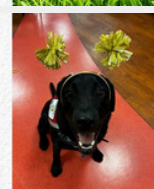
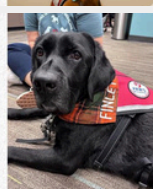
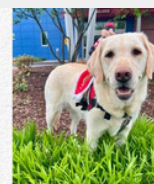
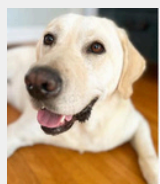


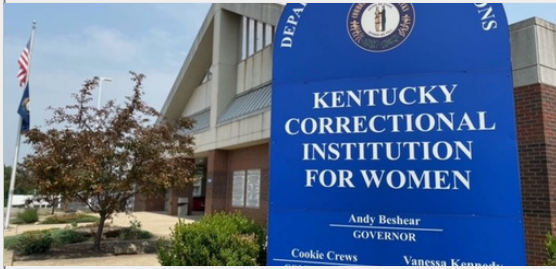
2024 Update: Facility Dogs

In 2024, we had 17 facility dogs working in 13 different healthcare and educational facilities:

University of Louisville Peace Hospital
University of Louisville Outpatient Physical Therapy
Bellarmine School of Nursing
Old Mill Elementary School
Norton Hospital Downtown
Norton Audubon Hospital
Norton Children's Hospital
Novak Center for Children's Health
Norton Cancer Center
Norton Brownsboro Hospital
Norton Autism Center
Norton Women's and Children's Hospital
Norton Children's Medical Center

One of our facility dogs, Echo, sees patients at the Norton Autism Center with his handler Allison, a Nurse Practitioner. We have been providing follow-up support to this amazing team as they navigate this very challenging role. Echo helps children feel comfortable engaging in basic wellness activities, such as having their blood pressure or oxygen levels checked and having their temperature taken.





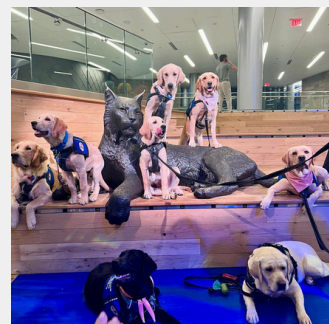
2024 Impact: KCIW

2024 marked our 20th anniversary of working in a special partnership with the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW), in which inmate dog handlers assume a major responsibility for preparing PWP dogs-in-training for placement with a client. KCIW handlers are responsible for training basic obedience and advanced assistance dog skills as the puppy matures. Each KCIW handler is also responsible for her dog's grooming and for monitoring her puppy's health and behavior issues as well as keeping accurate records of the puppy's progress.

But our KCIW handlers learn far more than just how to train and groom dogs. They learn invaluable life skills, such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, responsibility, accountability, and leadership. They also learn empathy and compassion for people who live with a disability and those experiencing other challenges. Because our individual and facility dog clients come to KCIW and work directly with the handlers for a portion of their placement training, the handlers learn to work and communicate with members of the community. In placement training sessions over the past year, the handlers have worked with individuals who use wheelchairs, persons on the autism spectrum, and clients with neurological or developmental disabilities as well as facility dog clients in the education and healthcare professions whose canine partners will help them serve and support children and adults.

2024 Collaboration: Wildcat Service Dogs

In 2022, Paws With Purpose began a collaboration with Wildcat Service Dogs (WSD), a student-run organization at the University of Kentucky that strives to raise, train and educate the public about service dogs. WSD conducts a rigorous selection and basic training process for its trainers before they are assigned a puppy. The trainers are then responsible for part-time or full-time training, socializing and housing their dog for the first 18-20 months of its life. The collaboration has expanded from an initial four puppies in 2022 to nine dogs in 2024. The WSD trainers transport their dogs to and from KCIW approximately every two weeks, so the dogs receive the benefit of training by experienced KCIW handlers and outstanding socialization and real-world exposures on and around the UK campus. These dedicated WSD trainers do an amazing job working with PWP dogs-in-training, while also juggling their course loads, part-time jobs and extracurricular activities!



Community Outreach

Paws with Purpose is deeply engaged in the greater Louisville community, actively participating in events throughout the year which support other local nonprofits, nursing homes, and schools. By providing this type of community outreach, PWP strengthens its presence and impact, bringing joy and support to the community we serve. Below are some of the 2024 organizations PWP supported:

Parkinson's Walk

Spina Bifida Walk

Morning Pointe Assisted Living Center

Galen College of Nursing Resource Fair

Autistic World Autistic Sensory Christmas Party

Greenwood Elementary - School Global Game Changers

Bridgepoint Gardens Assisted Living Center

Dystonia Parkinson's Group Presentation

U Of L Ability Showcase

Cub Scout Pack 28

Girl Scout Troop 1725

Neuroscience Expo

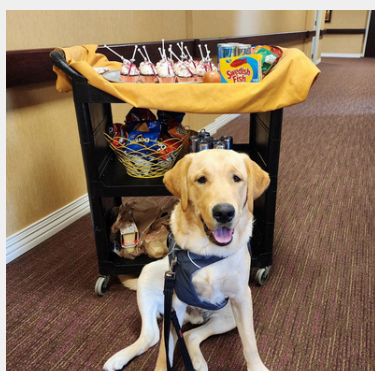
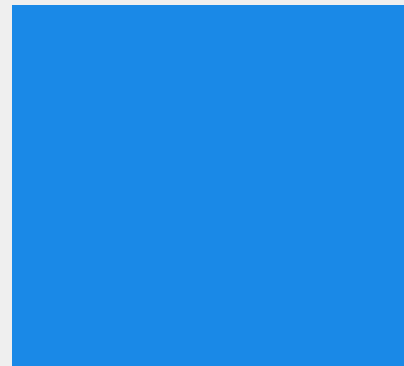
Norton Commons Elementary

Dunn Elementary School

Bloom Elementary School

U of L Athletic Department

Holy Trinity Health Fair



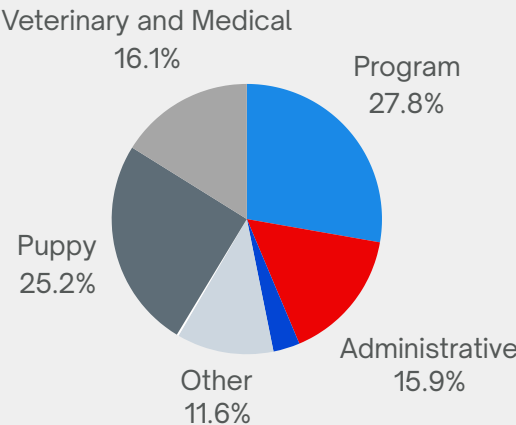
Financial Overview

Paws with Purpose, Inc. Profit and Loss Statement
January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024



Expenses

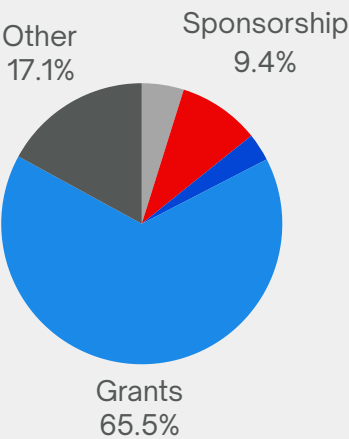
Program Expenses (Training Staff, ADI, Continuing Education, Misc.)	\$131,288.20
Administrative Expenses (Admin Staff, Taxes, Benefits, Payroll Expenses, Misc.)	\$75,159.25
Office Expenses (Rent, Phone, Postage, Office Equipment, Misc.)	\$15,060.55
Other Expenses (Insurance, Marketing, Client Services, Vehicle, Misc.)	\$54,866.26
Fundraising Expenses	\$1,125.08
Canine Expenses (Food, Equipment, Training Treats, Grooming Supplies, KCIW Resources)	\$119,179.62
Veterinary And Medical Expenses	\$76,293.51



Total Expenses **\$472,972.47**

Revenue

Fundraising Events	\$23,178.59
Sponsorships	\$45,000.00
Individual and Business Contributions	\$15,346.84
Corporate and Foundation Grants	\$314,050.00
Other Revenue	\$81,720.25



Total Revenue **\$479,295.68**

Summary

Net Operating Revenue **\$6,323.21**



Board of Directors



Executive Board

President

Sheilah Abramson-Miles
Coordinator of Pre-School Education
Jefferson County Public Schools -Retired

Vice President

Sue Wettle
Attorney at Law
Frost Brown Todd, LLC - Retired

Vice President

Elaine Weisberg
Registered Nurse - Retired

Treasurer

Kevin Hisel
CPA

Secretary

Dolores Biles
Event Coordinator
Humana INC - Retired

Board Members

Julie Marks

Director of Counseling, Goshen Campus
Francis Parker School of Louisville

Diana Quesada

VP Commercial Lending - Retired
Paducah Bank & Trust

Sara Santo

Occupational Therapist
Jefferson County Public Schools

Lauren Witham, MSW

Healthcare Partnership Manager
Galen College of Nursing

Contact Us



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www.pawswithpurpose.org

