



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS Quarterly

NEWS

FALL 2011

VOLUME XVII • No. 2



Therapy Animals Go to Camp

KC the Bichon and her client at the Eagle Mount Camp for kids with cancer in Bozeman, Montana. (see page 3)

Inside:

Letter from a Dog (New from Jon Katz) Page 12

Who are Intermountain Therapy Animals?

We are a human service organization, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, headquartered in Utah, that brings 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 Executive Director Kathy Klotz at 801-272-3439. We welcome all who want to lend a helping paw! ♥





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 place
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Intermountain Therapy Animals is proud to be one of the 21 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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Therapy Animals Go To Camp (and other unexpected places)

Camp isn't just for Scouts anymore. There are ever more kinds of camping experiences for people in all kinds of situations and, as we have learned with all our therapy services, whatever the campers' goals or environments, adding therapy animals to the equation enhances the healthy prognosis even more.

Consider Morgan, the young lady on the cover of this issue. Getting a new prosthetic leg would be daunting at any age; going on a hike in the mountains with that new leg may be just too much to contemplate. But when a dog is encouraging you to try, it's just enough inspiration to give it a go, to have fun, and to gain the confidence after accomplishing the feat.

What's more, the latest research confirms our best instincts—that combining both animals and nature experiences together is a powerful antidote to depression, confusion, anger, ADD, and even too much time spent online. We all need to get outside!

(RIGHT:) ITA Montana teams are invited to the Special Olympics each year to enrich the experience for the athletes. *(BELOW:)* ITA Montana teams go hiking with the kids at the Eagle Mount cancer camp.



(ABOVE and AT LEFT:) Seriously? A therapy rat? Raisin the hairless ITA rat may not be everyone's idea of a therapeutic visitor, but he was absolutely adored by the kids at the Turn Community Services Summer Camp for kids with disabilities.

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 on your budget and your heart. Investing in animal-assisted therapy is a guaranteed Return on Investment—it succeeds every time!



Susan and Divia 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:

- \$25 Friend \$50 Supporter \$100 Partner \$250 Advocate
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Please send to Intermountain Therapy Animals:

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

About ITA's Therapy Work

We at INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS are dedicated to enhancing quality of life through the human-animal bond. We call it "Pets Helping People," or animal-assisted therapy and, in the 18+ years we have been serving along the Wasatch Front, we have grown to be one of the largest groups of our kind in the world.

Our clients range from the elderly in care centers, to those of all ages facing rehabilitation after brain and spinal cord injuries, and of course to children, whether those suffering from abuse, accidents or disease, or those dealing with learning or developmental disabilities.

Consider Just One Healing Phenomenon: Laughter

We see it bloom and burst all the time, with our patient/clients of all ages, situations and diagnoses: the spontaneous, pleasurable, healthy, healing nature of smiles, laughter and fun. Norman Cousins first brought it to attention some 30 years ago when he was seeking healing for his own disease and wondered why hospitals don't regularly issue comedies for their patients.

ITA therapy animals produce that happiness wherever they go.



LAUGHTER, so rarely prescribed by any clinician, is surely the most therapeutic thing in the world. And now there are studies to prove it—something the drug companies must not be happy about, since laughter is free, can be administered by anybody, and has no negative side effects. (— Alexander McCall Smith)



CHILDREN in an oncology unit who spent an hour with a dog needed less pain medication for a full eight hours afterwards. (— Karen Allen, SUNY, 1998)

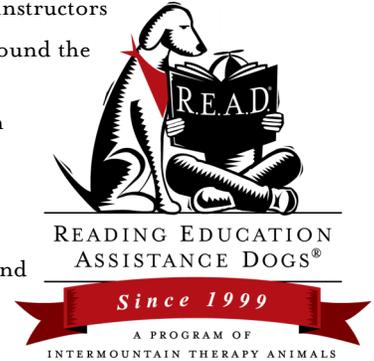
DOGS just may be the *real* wonder drug! (— Researcher Kayla O'Malley, 2008)



Happy 12th Anniversary, R.E.A.D.®!

As of this writing, ITA is celebrating the 12th anniversary of R.E.A.D. We're keeping the partying low-key, but the glittering accomplishments of the program are anything but low-key!

- We now have more than 3,300 registered R.E.A.D. volunteer teams and 66 licensed R.E.A.D. Instructors
- We have R.E.A.D. affiliates in Canada, the UK, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Slovenia and elsewhere around the world
- The R.E.A.D. manual stands at 218 pages with content that is continually being updated, and an advanced R.E.A.D. skills manual and workshop, "The Next Page," has been developed and presented in several locations.
- We became a national educational outreach partner with the "Martha Speaks" series on PBS.
- We are partners with The Kennel Club in Britain, which has started a foundation called "Bark and Read" to support R.E.A.D.
- We received the stupendous Better World Books grant of \$20,000.
- We held two regional conferences – 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and 2011 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Due to a dazzling bequest from the estate of Betty Keuffel, the three R.E.A.D. videos are now available to the world for free: the R.E.A.D. Team Training Video, R.E.A.D. at School, and R.E.A.D. at the Library
- We communicate regularly with our huge network of teams through an online forum and periodic *Weekly R.E.A.D.* newsletters
- We just received a donation of more than 700 new books, thanks to the U.S. Governors Association (*see next page*)



Even in our early excitement about the potential of R.E.A.D., we must admit to never imagining a truly international program that is helping children everywhere awaken to the joys and rewards of books and reading, as well as opening doors for them for success in the entire rest of their lives. Once again we thank **Sandi Martin** for her brilliant insight, and all of you out there for keeping it moving ever forward!



R.E.A.D.ing around the world: (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT ABOVE:) 1) Chica Diva and Michael Patrick, in Missoula, Montana; 2) Chelsea and Katie in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada; 3) Trace and friend in Lakewood, Florida; 4) the British Kennel Club's "Bark and Read" Foundation logo' and 5) Jordan and Drew the Greyhound in Atlanta, Georgia.



Utah's First Lady Donates New Books to R.E.A.D.

The U.S. Governors Association held its conference in Salt Lake City in July of 2011. There were some leftovers when all was said and done, including some 700+ copies of a new children's book, *LaRue Across America*, written by popular author Mark Teague.

Mrs. Jeanette Herbert, Utah's First Lady, thought the books should go to schools. Lucky for us, one of our ITA team members is Don Gould, a Utah Highway Patrol officer, who heard about this matter because he was assigned to work the convention. (Read about Don and his partner, Toby, and the incredible way they found each other, on page 13.)

So Don lobbied Mrs. Herbert about the R.E.A.D. program, and convinced her that donating the new books to R.E.A.D. was the thing to do. (It is of course a dog story, which put the cherry on top!)

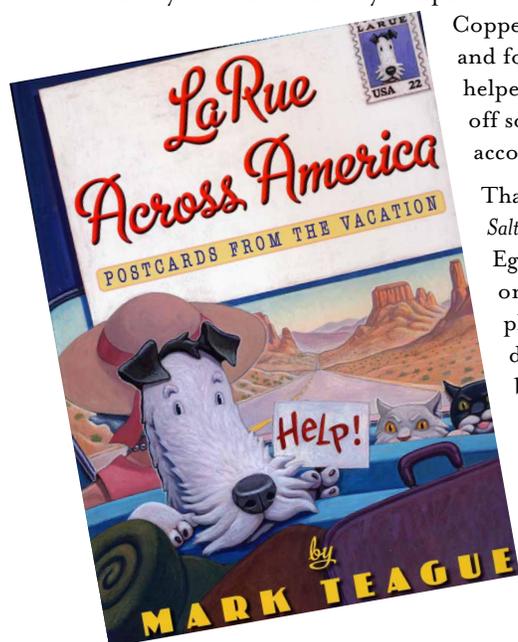
We at ITA were delighted to accept the books from Mrs. Herbert on October 26 at Copper Hills Elementary in Midvale, a Title I school where reading is a big challenge. Every one of the first graders was there for the presentation and received a copy; for most it was the very first book of their own.

Research tells us that receiving a brand new book is extremely significant for children who have never had books at home, far more valuable than getting used, hand-me-down copies. For that reason, giving new books as rewards for accomplishments has always been part of the R.E.A.D. program, and we have been lucky to receive wonderful donations to help us keep that practice going.

We also presented copies to the first graders at the McGillis School, and now are offering them to R.E.A.D. teams nationwide FREE (just shipping).

We are most grateful to Mrs. Herbert and the U.S. Governors; to Don Gould and Patrice Mealey of ITA for the very complicated task of arranging logistics between Copper Hills Elementary and Mrs. Herbert; and for all the staff at Copper Hills who helped the whole presentation event come off so beautifully despite so many people to accommodate.

Thanks also to writer Lisa Schenker at the *Salt Lake Tribune* for a lovely article, and Rick Egan for his endearing photos. Read online at www.sltrib.com to see all the photos in beautiful color ("For kids, dogs not just best friends, but study buddies," Friday, October 28, 2011).



A Tribute to One of the Great R.E.A.D. Dogs



ROBBIE ROHT - IN MEMORIUM
October 27, 2000 - April 29, 2011

Robbie, partner of Cheryl Roht of Leawood, Kansas, was a R.E.A.D. dog *extraordinaire* whose pictures have conveyed the essence of the program and captivated people all around the world.

Robbie's human, Cheryl, talks about what made him so great at his job:

"In the libraries he was friendly and loved listening to the children read, of course. It is hard, as all teams have experienced, to keep some parents at a distance so that the children can experience reading to the dog without anyone offering criticisms, pressure, etc. On one occasion, a father pulled up a chair and sat very close behind us, continuing a running commentary throughout the 15 minutes we worked with his child (in spite of my suggesting he move a bit back). When she was finished, the child went off to find another book and, since we didn't have anyone signed up for the next slot, we were going to relax. The father leaned over and said, "Oh, no one is here to read to poor Robbie! I'll read to him!" So he sat himself down on the blanket next to Robbie and picked up a book. It was really funny because Robbie gave him

(Continued on page 10)

ITA's First Dogwalk:

"Walk & Wag for Wellness"

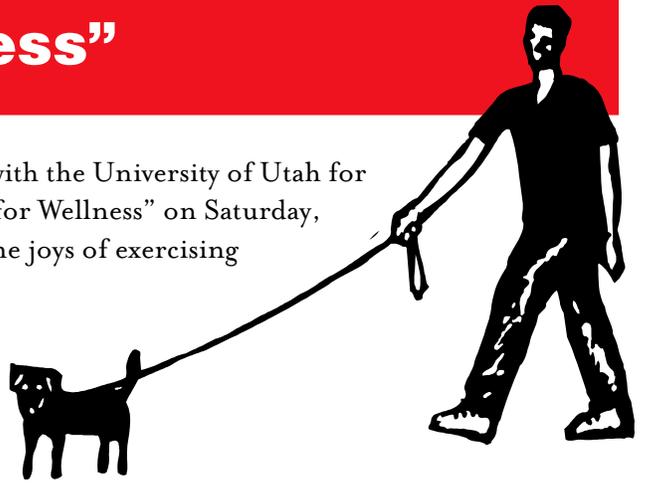
We did it—hosted our first ITA dog walk! Partnering with the University of Utah for their BE WELL UTAH week, we "Walked & Wagged for Wellness" on Saturday, September 10th, to introduce people of all ages to the joys of exercising with their dogs!

We watched 95 people and 64 dogs stroll our one-mile course through Fort Douglas, on the U of U campus, and welcomed them back to get their pictures taken with Clifford the Big Red Dog, and then received free *Martha Speaks* books and goody bags. A particular highlight was the live music from the "Free Range Chickens," our favorite local musicians!

Our ITA teams, were everywhere—we were told over and over that the walkers especially enjoyed having them cheer everyone on at the 1/4, 1/2 and 3/4-mile markers!

As always, it takes lots of people to plan and execute a successful event, and we are grateful to everyone who helped, including Cindy Harris and the ITA staff.

The University personnel were enormously helpful and supportive, and we are hoping to be invited back next year.



ITA's Donors & Supporters 2011

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 throughout 2011 and into the future.

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Goodbye & Godspeed

Robbie Roht (Continued from page 7)

a look, stood up, moved a foot or two away, and lay down with his back to the fellow, who observed correctly that Robbie obviously specialized in children and was taking a break! Robbie was great with seniors at assisted living—he just knew the difference between settings, and that this father was not his client.

“At school he always actively listened and looked at the pictures with the children. Every so often, he would put his paw on a page so the child would know that he needed an explanation. He was terrific in responding to subtle cues. One child that had no trouble reading, his problem was comprehension, so one day we were reading one of the “I Spy” books. He would read the word, see the picture and on the next page try to quickly find the item among dozens of other images. We were not doing very well and the boy was distracted and not focused. So on the next page, after a minute or so I said, “I bet Robbie can find that ball!” Sure enough, his paw slapped that page right on the ball (luck?!) The boy looked at Robbie in disbelief. On the next page, it was an airplane, and oops! Robbie did it again. On the next page the boy found the train, and next he found the blocks. At the end I asked him what he thought and he turned to me and said triumphantly, “I beat Robbie!”

“Rob’s favorite was the Cheerios book because the children would fill in the tires, buttons etc. with the cereal and then he got to eat when they said “OK, Robbie.” If no one else was around to be distracted, Robbie loved to count (bark) the number of Cheerios the child needed to fill in the blanks. He was asked to demonstrate this talent at the staff and volunteer appreciation lunch; they also wanted to see him demonstrate tapping the page.”

Our heartfelt thanks to Cheryl & Robbie for making a world of difference to so many children. 

RETIRING:

Riki Case & Marlie

Park City, UT



Scooter

partner of Kendall Harris of Bozeman, MT



David Wiehe & Lennox

Salt Lake City, UT



Josephine

Basset partner of Sue Partain of Salt Lake City, UT



Ginger

Brittany Spaniel partner of Judy Curtin of Ogden, UT



DECEASED:

T-Bear

Golden Retriever partner of Pat & Gary Brown of Bozeman, MT



Sadie

Cocker Spaniel partner of Joan Brown of Ogden, UT



Oakley

Golden Retriever partner of Ali and Rachel Barnes of Salt Lake



Tasselhoff

Basset Hound partner of Mary Kemp of Salt Lake City



Hook

Indescribable mix partner of Anita Sjoblom of Sandy, UT



Ripley

Irish Setter partner of Jesse Bennett of Idaho Falls, ID



Maggie

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Beatrice

Basset Hound partner of Peggy Chudd of Salt Lake City, UT



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Golden Retriever partner of Su & Dave Child of Salt Lake City, UT



Amanda

Golden Retriever partner of Kay Brief of Salt Lake City, UT



Albert

Old English Sheepdog partner of Sue Block of Idaho Falls, ID



HOOK SJOBLOM

[Unknown] — June 14, 2011



If there can be a “Renaissance Dog” in terms of therapy work, Hook was surely it, due to the length, breadth, depth and variety of his work and his influence.

Among the many hallmarks in Hook’s life:

- He was one of the original R.E.A.D. dogs who started our monumental program in 1999; he continued at the SL Main Library and three other libraries for many years.
- He went with Anita to more than 17 ITA programs and facilities, covering the entire range of activities and therapies.
- He has starred in many of our film productions, including the early PSAs done for us by Questar, the R.E.A.D. team training

(Continued on page next page)

Give sorrow words:
The grief that does not speak
Whispers o’er the fraught heart, and bids it break.
— Wm. Shakespeare (in Hamlet)

Recognition & Memorials

Donations

In MEMORY of . . .

Dwight L. Barr, Jr.
Karen Keeley & Charlie Heinritz
Craig & Denise Meinhardt
Lori & John Stockinger
Blaze Floor
Marjorie Owens
Buff & Scrubs, companions of Trudy Whitehead
Pamela Ann Metz
Dale Code
Linda & David Weiskopf
Marge Coombs
Carol Elliott
Ralph, Hoot & Ginda Jones
Frank Fericks
Pat Gay
Hook, partner of Anita Sjoblom
Peggy Chudd
Katie Domann, DVM
Kathy Klotz
Anita Sjoblom & Dennis Luttrell
Lois Jones
Pamela Ann Metz
Kea, READING Dog, and Nieves Family
Francie Alexander & David Blasband
Oakley
Ali Barnes
Rich Seagrave, beloved human partner of Roberta
Ennis
ITA Bozeman Chapter
Christopher O'Donnell Stupp, beloved son of
Victoria O'Donnell
ITA Bozeman Chapter

In HONOR of . . .

Stephanie Altimus' 60th Birthday
John & Pamela Bermen
Nancy Brooks – Hands for Service Grant
Prudential Foundation
Norma Disz & Sam
Myers Mortuary
Katie Domann, DVM
Mary Ann Harmon/Bark Busters
Dory—for passing his CGC!
Stephanie Magid
Ridge Floor and Daisy Owens
Marjorie Owens
Elliot (Vervaecke) at Primary Children's
Sharon Child
My dad, who taught me that dogs are the best study
partners
Rebecca Perry
Carla Carmain-Herret
Joyce King & Jerry Runnels
Karin Jentsch & Kimber
Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
Lucky & Rusty, partners of Donna Olsen ("I'm a big
fan!")
Ann Elizabeth Williams
Reading to ROO (R.E.A.D.)
Heather Champagne
David Sanchez
Costco
Lisa & Steve Towner
Carol Landauer
Us — as a new therapy and R.E.A.D. team
Lisa Wright & Kodi

In TRIBUTE to . . .

Baby, Midge, Sparky, Sam & Titus
Christina Powell and Gloria Shukitis
Mrs. Camarda
Maryanne Hickey (R.E.A.D.)
Caring Canines of Richmond, VA (R.E.A.D.)
Christine Bachman
Kristine Gerber
Sandra & Stan Booth
Barbara Hartman
Katherine Smith & Family
Susan Heidrich, PhD, RN
Kristine Kwekkeboom (R.E.A.D.)
Hollin, my first R.E.A.D. Companion
Donna Reif-Sack & Rocky Mountain
R.E.A.D.
Anita Sjoblom & Hook
Jim Livingston
Kevin Taylor
Cassandra Van Buren & Keith
Cormier
Scarlet York
William York (R.E.A.D.)

Hook — In Memoriam

(Continued from page 10)

and the "AAT in Rehabilitation" videos.

- Hook joined ITA's Hall of Fame with Anita in 2001, and was named ITA Therapy Animal of the year in 2009 to honor his long and varied service.
- He is still the only ITA dog to have gone to work all by himself. One night, Anita chose to take Riggins,

her therapy cat, instead of Hook, to their regular Thursday appointment at HealthSouth. Hook escaped the backyard, leaving home to cross 13th East (a solid black dog after dark) to get to HealthSouth, where he trotted through the front doors and went straight down the hall to find Anita and his patients.

- Anita says, "Hook loved volunteering. He would go anywhere and do anything requested of him. He knew when I put on my red shirt that good

times were coming. He would head out to the car before I could get there. And he *knew what it meant* to volunteer. He knew what to do for each patient—and he knew when it was time to work—though it was never actually work for him.

"Hook found or created joy in everything he tried and did —no matter what it was." 

Letter from a Dog

Dear Friend,
It is my time to say goodbye. My legs are weakening, my sight failing, smells are faint. I am wearying. My spirit is fading, and I have been called home and away from you.

I wish to be strong again, to roll in gross stuff, to snatch greasy bones, to eat all of the things you hated me to eat, to have my belly scratched for all time, to run through the fields and the woods, to smell the stories of life, and to raise my nose to the wind and see the world all over again.

I am going home. I know I leave you in loneliness and pain. That is the way of people when they say goodbye. Dogs are different. We don't have regrets or wish that we could alter the story of life.

Although I have been called away, I leave you with the memories of our life together.

I remember a cold winter's night when you sang to me in the dark as the wind howled and snow drifted outside the window. I felt your loneliness and knew my work.

When you looked at me and the corners of your mouth turned up, you smelled and looked different. Lighter, happier. That was my life, my work. Nothing more clearly defined my purpose. When you smiled, I knew why I was here.

I never tired of watching you, of being with you while you lived your life. I sat by your side, entering into the spirit of the moment. I supported your life, wherever it went, whatever you felt, whatever you did. I was your witness, your testament.

I remember walking in the snow. And running alongside you. And chasing after balls, Frisbees, sticks. And warm fires on cold nights. And sitting by you when you read books or watched baseball games.

I remember my heart jumping out of my chest when you came home and called my name, or grabbed a ball, or took me outside, or fed me. I hope you know that I loved all of those things—whatever you chose to bring me and give me, whatever time you spent with me, I loved.

And I thank you.

I always knew where you were, even when you forgot me or couldn't see me. You had no secrets from me. You showed me everything. We trusted each other.

Unlike people, I would never hurt you. I could never hurt you. It is not an instinct I possess.

I smelled and felt all of the worries in a human life, but I am different. Like other animals, I want only what I need. Your life is too complex for me to grasp. There are so many things in it that are meaningless to me.

I am so much simpler than you.

I love you and I love all the people and animals in our home. And I love food and smelly things in the woods and balls and Frisbees and bones. There is not much more to me than that, and yet you loved me for it, and despite it.

By now, you must know that there is always a goodbye hovering in the shadow of a dog. We are never here for long, or for long enough. We were never meant to share all of your life, only to mark its passages. We come and we go. We come when we are needed. We leave then it is time. Death is necessary. It defines life.

I will see you again.

I will watch over you.

I hope, in your grief and loneliness, that you will consider how sad it would have been had we not had this time together, not had the chance to give each other so much.

I do not mourn or grieve, but I will miss standing beside you, bound together on our walk through life, even as I know that there is a long line of others waiting to take my place and stand with you.

Thank you. It was nothing but a gift.

And finally, I ask these things of you:

Remember me.

Celebrate me.

Grieve for me.

And then, when you can, let me go, freely and in peace.

When you are ready, do me the great honor of bringing another dog into your life, so you can give and receive this gift again. ♥

— Jon Katz

in *Going Home: Finding Peace When Pets Die* (2011)

About Both Ends of the Leash



The Toby Chronicles Don Gould & Toby

I know that people/pet relationships vary on many levels. I can identify with that, since I had a few pets when growing up—fish, a parakeet, and a hamster. My family eventually graduated to an indoor cat who lived to be 20 years old. We all loved her very much, but from the time I moved out I was not sure if I needed or even wanted a pet; I thought I was quite content on my own.

Many pet owners say that their pet chose them and not vice-versa, and I definitely fit into this category. I was a newly-assigned sergeant with the Utah Highway Patrol, stationed in Wendover. I had just moved there and begun a new chapter in my life on the first of July 2007. On the 4th of July, I was working the day shift, after helping out with the town parade, when a call came across the radio that there was a reckless semi truck driving eastbound several miles out of Wendover. The driver was weaving all over the road and had actually run off several times before making it back into his lane. I responded to the call, started eastbound from Wendover and caught up to the semi.

It was true; the semi was all over the road. I had been on the UHP for over

ten years and had seen this driving pattern many times, but never from a semi. When I got the semi stopped, I had driver get out of the truck and walk to the back of his trailer. He staggered as he walked and slurred his speech. After the field sobriety tests, I arrested the driver for DUI. By now, another UHP officer had arrived on the scene to assist me. My colleague walked towards me and began to laugh. "There is a dog in there," he said, chuckling.

Immediately, I began to think of how much hassle this was going to be. Standard protocol is to call animal control; they respond and hold the animal until the owner can claim it. But we were 70 miles from town on a holiday weekend. Next I began thinking how to convince the other officer to transport the dog to town. "Is he friendly?" I asked. Still laughing, he said he was.

As I climbed in to the semi cab, the first thing that I saw was a large ice chest between the front seats. Most of the ice had melted and several unopened cans of beer were bobbing around in the water. Empty beer cans littered the floor. I peeked into the sleeper berth behind the seats, and that is when I saw him ...

A skinny, tri-color border collie peered up at me with big, friendly eyes, just waiting for someone to say hi. I greeted him with a welcomed scratch on the head

and reassuring words. Looking around, I saw a bowl on the floor and an unopened package of hot dogs floating in the water. I thought to myself that this dog probably did not get the most healthy diet. I told him to stay and climbed back out of the semi. The other officer and I agreed that the dog was mellow enough, so I would take both him and his owner to town. I went to my car and started to make room in the front seat for my new passenger. I asked his owner what the dog's name was and he told me it was Toby. "Is he a good dog?" I asked. "He won't give you any problems," was all he replied.

I returned to the semi to see my co-worker laughing again. Toby had apparently jumped out of the passenger-side window and had to be coerced back into the truck. I opened the door, called his name and he climbed from the sleeper berth to the front seat and just looked at me. I told him to jump out, which he was more than happy to do. Once on the ground, he just hung around us like one of the guys. I grabbed his collar and escorted him to my car. He hopped into the front seat and lay right down.

During our drive to town, his owner was crying about losing his "cow dog." Toby paid no attention to the person blubbing in the back seat and instead seemed to be enjoying the air conditioning. He then sprawled out as much as possible on the front seat and gently laid his head across the center radio console and just looked at me with those big brown eyes. I already knew that he was a good dog, but at that moment I could tell that he was a very special dog.

At the jail, I took Toby into the dispatch center to be watched while I took care of business. After the driver was booked into jail, I returned to the dispatch center to find Toby being smothered with attention from all of the dispatchers. He was obviously enjoying

(Continued on page 21)

Both Ends of the Leash (cont.)



Linda & David Weiskopf and Cara

Cara, our 3-year-old Labrador/Golden Retriever cross, is our ITA partner. We live in Pleasant View, Utah, just north of Ogden, and regularly take Cara to the McKay-Dee Hospital, the McKay-Dee Behavioral Health Institute, and the Emeritus Estates senior living center. She also helps out with special events at Weber State University from time to time.

Bred by Canine Companions for Independence to be a service dog, Cara is very familiar with WSU. She used to attend concerts there while she was a service pup in training. Cara decided on a change of career (in other words, she did not entirely meet CCI's rigorous standards), and she has been working as a therapy dog for almost two years now. ITA handlers up north who do not recognize her name probably can recall her by her characteristic leaping enthusiastically 4 feet straight into the air at ITA gatherings as she approaches

the other dogs for the first time. Fortunately, she demurs from displaying such conduct during her visits with clients. At least, she seems willing to show some restraint provided that she still gets to enthusiastically greet any other ITA dogs outside first!

There probably is not a moving story we could tell you about Cara that you have not already heard in some other guise. That is the great thing about ITA's therapy work—each team's great experiences are both universal and unique. One of our favorites occurred at the hospital. A patient who was bed-ridden with serious depression remarked to a staff person, just after a visit with Cara, "I think I will get out of bed, because I now realize there is so much to live for." That's the quintessential joy that our clients receive from the dogs.

Cara has the company at home of a 15-month-old CCI puppy, the fifth puppy we have raised for CCI, and a 13-year-old Australian Shepherd. We are really enjoying our volunteering for ITA, providing valuable canine companionship to people in need at no cost to them. What a wonderful gift! 

ITA Wins Select25 Award



HEALING WITH ANIMALS

Intermountain
Therapy Animals

Salt Lake City

*Provides animal-assisted
therapy to children and
adults in hospitals, nursing
homes, psychiatric facilities,
and detention centers.*

Select
25

 selecthealth.

On June 3rd, 25 Utah nonprofits were treated to lunch by the people at SelectHealth, and each organization was awarded a \$2,500 grant. ITA is proud to be one of those Select25! They made gorgeous 7' tall banners for each of us, as well, which we got to keep after they spent some time this summer in the Intermountain Health Care facilities.

Thanks, Select Health!

Dog with two broken legs finds owner after storm



Shelter vet Dr. Barbara Benhart with Mason

A scruffy Alabama terrier mix named Mason was whisked away by fierce twisters last month, prompting his owners, who lost their home in the storm, to fear the worst. But the redoubtable mutt apparently crawled back to his home days later with two broken legs in a remarkable tale of survival.

Local news outlet WBRC reports that Mason was blown away by the storm from the garage in Birmingham where he was hiding on April 27. His owners looked for him everywhere but couldn't find him. Two and a half weeks later, though, they found Mason waiting for them on their front porch when they returned to the house to look through the debris.

Workers at the Birmingham Jefferson County Animal Control shelter are now caring for Mason, since his owners say they can't take care of him while they piece their lives back together after the storm. "This is probably the most dramatic we've seen as far as an injury in an animal that's survived this long. It's

kind of tapering off, the amount of animals we're seeing because of the storm. For an animal just to show up on someone's porch after this time was pretty remarkable, especially with the condition he's in," shelter worker Phil Doster told the news

station.

Mason is "doing fantastic" after his May 20 surgery where metal plates were attached to his bones so they could heal, Doster told *The Lookout* in an email. "We are excited that he will be going back to his family and to the home where he finally returned after 3 weeks," he wrote. Mason is expected to be able to walk completely normally after he recovers in about six weeks, though his front legs will be a bit shorter than his back legs. Mason's family has requested to not be named in the media, Doster added, but they are "very excited" for Mason to come home when their house is again habitable in about five weeks.

Pets are often forgotten victims of natural disasters such as the fierce storms and tornadoes that have battered the Midwest the past few months. The Human Society of the United States has sent rescue teams to find pets in Joplin, Missouri, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and other hard-hit areas.

By Liz Goodwin — Thu May 26, 2011
(ABC News and online at Yahoo.com)

ITA's Wish List

We're Begging for . . .

- 8.5 x 11 white paper by the case, for copying and printing
- (6) healthy ergonomic desk chairs (Our ancient donated chairs are getting dangerous!)
- An "Easy-Up" tent for keeping our dogs in the shade during community events
- Portable display boards, for community educational booths and similar events
- Video camera
- Flash drives
- Gift cards to office supply stores, Costco and Target
- Paper goods (plates, napkins, plastic cutlery, cups, etc.)
- Postage stamps
- Sponsorships for our training workshops and manuals




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Gallery **ITA Celebrates**

It was a Great Party!

PAWS in the GALLERY



(ABOVE:) Pat Bagley drew caricatures for the guests;
(BELOW:) ITA Team Jan Owens and Ridge provided important canine social therapy



(RIGHT:) Skip Daynes & Diva staying cool; (BELOW:) Williams Fine Art provided the perfect atmosphere, and the house was full.



(BELOW:) Our first blown-up check! ITA Executive Director Kathy Klotz, Board Chair Susan Daynes, and Susan's partner Diva enjoy receiving their Select25 Award at the Intermountain Medical Center in June.



More Good Stuff



George the Basset Hound (above) and Tango the Portuguese Water Dog (below) bring some much-needed affection, distraction and fun to their clients.



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
HEALTH CARE

Volunteer Services

September 6, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

When you are in need of medical care you certainly look for the best physicians and hospitals available. But I have found through my experience at University of Utah Health Care that you want to find an institution that embraces your whole well being, not just the physical.

Visitors to our hospital are often both puzzled and delighted as they encounter our four legged volunteers with red vests and human partners. Eager to make a difference and definitely knowing they are "working" our pet partner teams enhance the quality of care not only for our patients but visitors and staff as well. Social workers call to request special patient visits with a pet partner team for patients who can use the special boost given by the dogs. Large or small, we have Newfoundlands to Chihuahuas, the unconditional love and affection our pet partners bring enhances the recovery of our patients in ways that are immeasurable.

One mother wrote, "Thank you for the time you spent with our autistic son during his dialysis treatment. I was so surprised to hear him reading so well to the dog. He has never done that for me, what a joy!" Our pet partners become a part of the treatment team in many areas. The gentle trust they show encourages patients to try harder and work longer. When needed the simple act of loving our staff and patients accomplishes volumes.

University of Utah Health Care considers ourselves fortunate to be the recipient of the wonderful gift of time this amazing organization gives to our staff, families and patients.

Sincerely,

Lori Tavey
Adm. Services Coordinator

60 N. Medical Drive, W177D
Salt Lake City, Utah 84143
Phone 801-581-3429
Fax 801-585-9681



Utah Charities Golf Challenge

Intermountain Therapy Animals is pleased to have been chosen as one of the charities to receive funding from the 2011 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 was held at the Zermatt Resort located in Midway, Utah, on August 14-16th. We were there on the golf course during the Challenge!

Dear ITA

Letters from our Friends

July 2011

Dear ITA,

We are fighting with our insurance over some behavioral health services [our daughter] received during her first hospital stay last year. While well-intentioned, these services didn't benefit her much. What really changed her attitude and demeanor were her visits from the therapy dogs, especially Elliot.

What a blessing you were to us during our stays there!

We appreciate you so much and all you do. We pray for YOUR good health and blessings to you.

And our whole family loves that we can still follow you and see what Elliot and Joe have been up to lately on FB.

A grateful mom,

JoAnne Christensen



September 13, 2011

Dear Friends at ITA,

Thanks to Intermountain Therapy Animals, the Big Sky Kids Program continues to bring hope and respite to families with a child battling cancer. We deeply appreciate your gift of bringing animals to spend time and hike with our campers for Camp Braveheart.

You and your dogs are simply amazing!! We absolutely love having you with our families at camp.

Camp Braveheart is truly a magical place for everyone involved, and you have helped make it possible. From Eagle Mount's Board, staff, volunteers and participants—thank you!

With sincere gratitude,

Mary Peterson

Executive Director

Lisa Batzler

Big Sky Kids Director



Savannah and Diva at Primary Children's

July 31, 2011

Dear ITA:

Thank you! My Connor, age 15, was at Primary Children's Hospital in June. The highlight was Elliot. What a sweet dog and kind handler! Having the dog was so helpful. Connor asked me to wake him up if the dog came by.

Wish there were dogs every day. It would certainly brighten up everyone's day, including parents.

Please accept our check for some extra dog treats!

Thanks again! We love Elliot!

Sharon Child



November 1, 2011

Dear ITA,

I wanted to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt and sincere gratitude for the time Peggy Chudd & George spent with us at our learning day, Joy of the Book. Not only did they create a very meaningful lesson for our students, but your gift of the books was wonderful. Also, *great* article in the [Salt Lake] Tribune!

Thank you so much for putting what you believe into actions. What you and your teams do makes a huge impact upon our world. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Josh Goldberg

The McGillis School

November 8, 2011

Dear Susan,

It was so good to meet you and Diva a couple of days ago! Your timing was impeccable! Savannah had had six seizures, all about 5 to 7 minutes apart. As soon as Diva came into the room, the seizures stopped and she didn't have any more the rest of the day.

The seizures that Savannah is having are non-epileptic, but have been very frightening for her and very painful.

You and Diva brought joy into our lives, and Savannah continues to talk about the wonderful experience she had.

Attached are photos we took while Diva was with Savannah.

Thanks again!

Love and hugs,

Cathleen Spacil

Savannah's mom



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801.272.3439

for more details.

You'll be glad you did.



ITA therapy animals Sherlock the kitty (above) and George the Basset Hound (below) demonstrate the power of healing connections.



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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

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**Going Ever
Greener:**

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receive the ITA News
by e-mail in the future?**

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**and we will
make it so!**

***Thanks to Tom Alder and Williams Fine Art
for Hosting "Paws in the Gallery!"***

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

Don Gould & Toby

(Continued from page 13)

himself, but when I walked in, his eyes seemed to light up a little bit more. Now I had to take Toby to one of the local veterinarians who boards animals until their owners get out of jail. I knew this would be hard.

Toby hopped into the car—the front seat, of course—and we started to the vet. As soon as we turned into the parking lot, I could see fear mounting in Toby. My heart sank. I dreaded leaving him there.

Other dogs were barking uncontrollably. It was a hectic atmosphere. I pulled up to the outdoor kennel area and opened the passenger door. Toby did not want to get out; he just sat there looking at me. He finally, begrudgingly, climbed out but stuck to my side. At the empty cage, I told Toby to get inside. He refused. I asked several times, to no avail. Finally, I went inside the kennel myself and coaxed Toby inside. I felt terrible about having to use deceit on such a loving dog. I scooted out and shut the door behind me. When I looked back I saw a sad, scared dog looking back at me with betrayal in his eyes. I told him he would be fine and out in a few days, but as I drove away I could not bear to look back at Toby sitting scared and alone.

Six days later, on July 11th, I received a phone call from the vet. Toby was still there—what was the status of his owner? Was he going to pick up Toby? I was amazed and could not understand why his owner had not picked him up. I called the jail and was told that the driver had bailed out the day after his arrest. I called his phone number and, after a brief conversation, he told me that he was at a point in his life where he could not take care of a dog. He said his “cow dog” needed to go to a good home. I called the vet and relayed this message. “Do you know of anyone who would take the dog?” he asked. I said I didn’t, but he assured me he would be able to find him a home.

A switch flipped in my head. I had never had a dog in my life, but I knew this dog was special. I told the vet that I would

come pick him up that afternoon. The next several hours consisted of calling a trusted friend about brands of dog food as well as dogs’ needs. I made trips to local stores for food, bowls, leash and a collar, and then drove to the vet’s office.



Toby & Don recreating together in the Utah desert.

I paid the boarding fee and then out came Toby, being led by a vet assistant. He was mellow and obedient and the staff had clearly taken a liking to him. When he saw me, he got excited. His eyes lit up and I knew he had already forgiven me for leaving him there. One rabies shot later, we were walking out the door, Toby not leaving my side and doing exactly what I wanted him to do before I even told him.

I drove to our local UHP office and took Toby inside to show him off. I told our secretary Toby’s story and that I was trying to find him a good home. Without missing a beat she said, “He’s already found a good home.” I guess my eyes said it all. Without knowing it, I had already decided to keep Toby and she

knew it. She told me that I needed a dog and Toby and I were perfect for each other. Not wanting to admit I was now a dog owner, I told her that I would think about it. But as we left the office, I knew it was final. I was going to keep Toby. As he looked at me from the passenger seat while we drove back to Wendover, I could see in his eyes that he had already chosen me. We were both starting a new chapter in life.

In the following months we learned a lot together. As you can guess, as a first-time dog owner with the smartest dog in world, it was a steep learning curve for me. We spent tons of time together chasing rabbits and lizards in the desert and made the rounds to various city offices to visit with all the staff. Toby quickly became a very popular dog.

Toby has so much love to give that I knew I could probably share his specialness with others. I researched the options for volunteering and found ITA. We became an ITA team in May of 2009. It has been two years since we joined ITA and still, on every visit we do, I can see in Toby’s eyes the love he offers to everyone he comes in contact with. 

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

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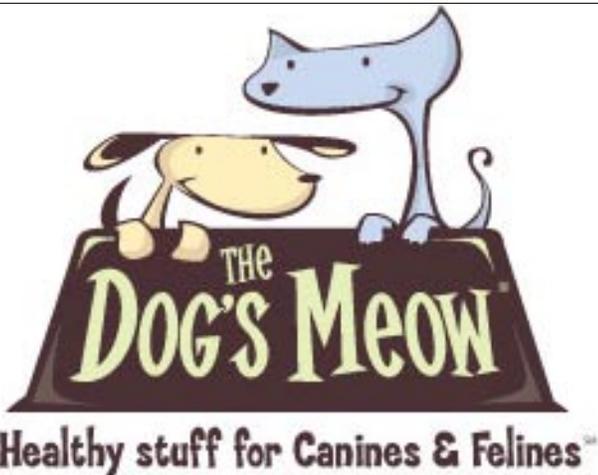
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The Facilities and Programs We Serve

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

Emeritus Estates Assisted Living / Ogden
 The Gardens / 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
 Wasatch Care Center / Ogden

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



Piggy the Pit Bull engages with a friend at Shriners Hospital in Salt Lake City

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)

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 Glen 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
 H. Guy Child Elementary (R.E.A.D.) / Ogden

UTAH – UTAH VALLEY AREA

American Fork Hospital
 Center for Change /Orem (Eating disorders)
 Courtyard at Jamesstown / 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
 Big Sky Youth Center / Bozeman
 Birchwood Retirement / Bozeman

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
 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