

GOAL DIRECTED THERAPY PROGRAMS

A primary component of this program includes a partnership with professionals who set goals for clients. Therapy Dog handlers are then challenged to find creative ways to use the dog as a motivator to help accomplish these goals.



ABRAXAS HIGH SCHOOL (Poway) :

Therapy dog PAAT teams work one-on-one with students selected by the special education teachers. The Transition Students (ages 18-22) have developmental and/or physical disabilities. Some of the students are working on verbal skills, learning to speak more clearly while others work to develop greater range of motion for physical therapy. The special education teachers set the goals for each student and often the goals are written directly into the IEP for the student. **Meet Tuesdays from noon until 1:15 pm. Frequency for volunteers varies; some assist twice a month while other volunteer weekly**

CREATIVE PERFORMING MEDIA ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL (San Diego)

Therapy dog PAAT teams work with medically fragile students with a range of disabilities from very low functioning non verbal to autism with the ability to walk with the dog and play simple games. Teams participate in activities that help individual students achieve treatment objectives in cooperation with the special education teacher. **Meet weekdays during school days.**

CLAIREMONT HIGH SCHOOL (San Diego) Two distinct populations

- **Medically fragile students** have an amazing classroom, full of visual and tactile stimulation. Our therapy dog PAAT teams help these students accomplish goals such as opening their eyes in response to interacting with the dog or determining if the student relaxes when touching the dog. The special education teachers set the goals for each student. **Meet weekdays during school days.**
- **Students with communication challenges** present a fast-paced environment for our teams. These students' disabilities range from autism to speech impairments, from severe phobias to selective mutism and many other conditions. Therapy dog PAAT teams work directly under the supervision of the Speech and Language Pathologist who sets the goals for each student. **Meet Wednesdays from 1:00 until 2:15 pm. Frequency for volunteers involvement varies; sometimes twice a month.**

COURT SUPPORT DOG PROGRAM (various courthouses throughout the County)

Under the direction of the District Attorney and Victim Advocate Offices, our therapy dog PAAT teams meet with children who have been abused and are having to testify in court. The dogs are a valuable tool to relieve tensions prior to testimonials and often aid in enabling these victims to give better testimonies, resulting in more convictions. **Limited Opportunities based on DA Office request; always weekdays.**

MILITARY COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

Our therapy dog PAAT teams work with outpatient active duty injured service members from the Naval Medical Center with the primary goal to give patients the support, encouragement and optimism unique to canine therapy. We work directly under the guidance of the Recreation Therapist with a 6-week Canine Inspired Community Reintegration (CICR) Program designed to help patients recovering from PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury re-enter the community through establishing a greater sense of trust and less hyper-vigilance in public settings. Each service member participant is assigned a therapy dog to handle during sessions which are held in a variety of community settings. **Limited Opportunities; Meet Thursday mornings**

AT-RISK TEEN PROGRAM Six week programs

Our At-Risk Teen Program gives us the opportunity to work one-on-one with troubled teens using certified therapy dogs to help reduce problem behaviors. The partnership with therapists and counselors who work directly with teens. Each teen is assigned a therapy dog to handle during the 6-week session. Our six-week program is conducted in two venues; our Training Center in the Miramar area (**Wed evenings**) and at an alternative high school in the San Diego Unified School District. area (**midday on Mondays**)

Note: Dates and times for all programs subject to change.