

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**ROXY**  
Therapy Dogs

*We retrieve hearts!*




# From The President By Sharon Fleck



Sharon Fleck with  
her Roxy Dog Mo

*On the cover: Chance D.  
was a winner in the Roxy  
volunteer mask competition  
for most creative.*





Resiliency is a word that has made its way into my orbit a lot recently. I always feel challenged to come up with different superlatives that are befitting our Roxy™ Therapy Dogs volunteers and the organization at large. Tasked with trying to think of a word that best describes our volunteers for 2020, I am once again drawn back to resilient. In March 2020, our work as we know it came to a grinding halt. Suddenly we found ourselves unable to physically support and comfort the children in our community at a time when they needed us the most. Our volunteers did not take this as a defeat but more so as a challenge.

The first thing our volunteers did was launch our "**Roxy™ Reads**" program. (Page 17) We typically listen to students read to us during school visits so we enjoyed reading to them for a change.

We held a **Roxy Pup Portrait Contest** for students to enter by drawing photos of their favorite dog as well as a **Roxy Pup Poem Contest** for students who chose to write about their favorite instead. (Page 18 and 21)

Our very first **Roxy Certificate of Excellence** lecture series, Insights Into the Child With Autism was scheduled for March but with a lot of creativity and hard work, our volunteers figured out how to put together an amazing, successful *virtual* lecture. (Page 30)

In the fall, school was still virtual so we created "**Roxy on Demand.**" Teams also visited classes virtually when possible, but these videos were extremely helpful for teachers when visits were suspended. (Page 19)

Our accomplishments were great in number and deed in 2020, but, we did not reach them alone. Every person who donated to Roxy Therapy Dogs and supported our organization was right there with us every step of the way. You helped us purchase a Zoom membership so that we could still hold meetings and conduct business. You helped us cover the cost of editing the recordings from our virtual lectures so that they would be available for participants to reference. You enabled us to provide our young contest winners with Roxy prizes! :)

Your donations allowed us to stay connected to the children in our community even though we could not be with them in person. **You** helped us make meaningful connections and continue with our mission. At a time when many people had to cut back on supporting nonprofits, you still believed in us enough to generously donate.

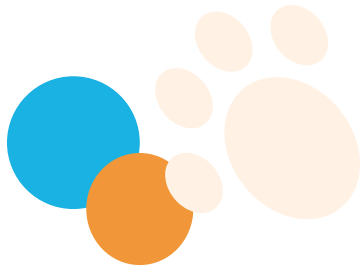
One thing I know for sure, is that the resilience of our volunteers is immeasurable, and with the support of our community, we can achieve anything.





**From The Board Chair**  
**By Cheryl Luginbuhl**

**By Cheryl Luginbuhl**  
**with her Roxy dog Finn**



*2020 wasn't the year we planned for, but it was a year of comfort, resilience, and achievement nonetheless.*

**R**oxy reached a number of milestones during 2020, although not exactly as planned at the beginning of the year, pre-covid. But when the schools, the courthouse, and medical facilities closed to outside visitors, our amazingly resilient volunteers and their Roxy dogs found multiple new and creative ways to stay connected during a very stressful period for children, parents, and teachers, alike.

In 2020, we held Roxy's first Certificate of Excellence workshop. For two years, Roxy volunteers have worked to create a professional level series of advanced educational workshops for canine therapy teams. The first was scheduled to launch in March 2020 at Delaware Valley University. Rather than cancel, Roxy adapted the format

and *Insights into the Child with Autism* took place in July 2020 within a Zoom environment. The response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive but the biggest winner will be the kids on the autism spectrum in Central Bucks.

2020 also proved to be the best financial year Roxy Therapy Dogs has had, to date. Not only did this help us continue our mission to inspire, help educate, and comfort children wherever we're needed, but it showed us that the community values our long volunteer hours of work and strongly supports our mission. We are grateful to every one of you. 2020 wasn't the year we planned for, but it was a year of comfort, resilience, and achievement nonetheless. Thank you for the privilege of serving! Now on to 2021.





# From The Incoming Board Chair

## By Tom Donnelly



**Tom Donnelly with his  
Roxxy Dog Scarlett**



In a normal year, before the pandemic, Roxy Therapy Dogs would touch thousands of lives. Our mission would be carried out in the schools of the Central Bucks School system, in medical facilities and in court facilities across the county. Our ability to carry out that mission is dependent upon donations. While Roxy as an organization is always searching for public funding, the fact remains we are dependent upon donations from individuals like you.

*...what can be more important than helping kids.*

**So why should you donate to Roxy? Or rather, why should you encourage others to donate to Roxy?** As Chairman of the Board, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you why.

**The work done by our therapy dog teams in the schools, medical facilities and court facilities is tangible.** Teachers, administrators, medical and court personnel consistently report the positive effects of a therapy dog visit. Though it may seem obvious from our own experiences, objective evidence suggests children's stress levels reduce, heart rates decrease and anxiety abates in the presence of a non-judgmental, patient, friendly dog.

**There is no end to the need.** Children will always need to learn to read, people will always get sick and unfortunately, human nature indicates society will always require legal proceedings. For Roxy's mission to continue

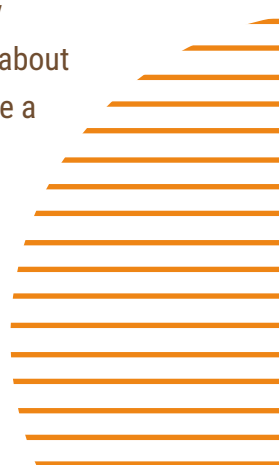
indefinitely, we need funding. Moreover, Roxy is always seeking to increase involvement and improve the performance of our teams through deeper understanding and education. The development and production of the Certificate of Excellence Program requires funding. Children in other communities need therapy dogs too. Because we know the program works here in our community, we know it will work in other communities as well so we make


concerted efforts to spread the message and support new

organizations with information about what works for us.

**Finally, awareness is key to impact.** Knowledge of the availability of our qualified and certified teams to provide comfort and support in a myriad of situations is critical to our community involvement. Truly, our teams seek only to comfort kids and to receive nothing in return but a thank you, a rub of the belly, a pat on the head or a scratch behind the ear.

Generally, I find it hard to ask for financial support. Not so in this instance as what can be more important than helping kids. Join us today by becoming a sustaining donor who is committed to a recurring donation of any amount and I promise you will feel good about that decision each and every time you see a ROXY THERAPY DOG!



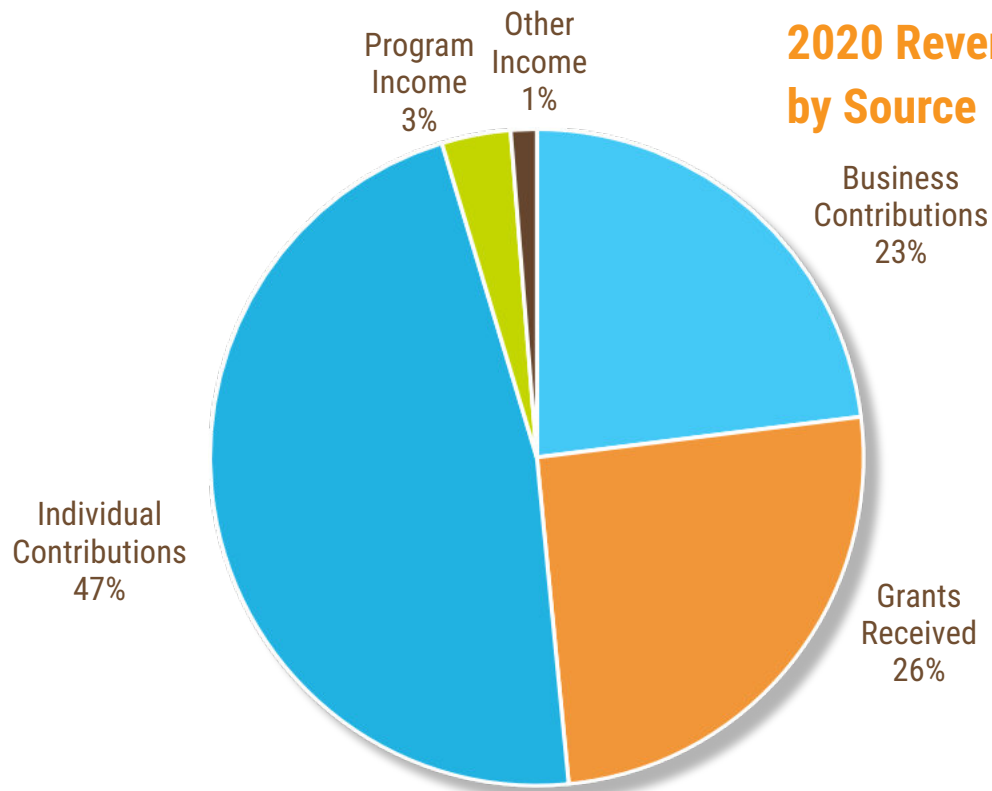


**Nike is the focus  
of attention  
during an  
Emotional Support  
Class at Unami  
Middle School,  
pre-COVID.**

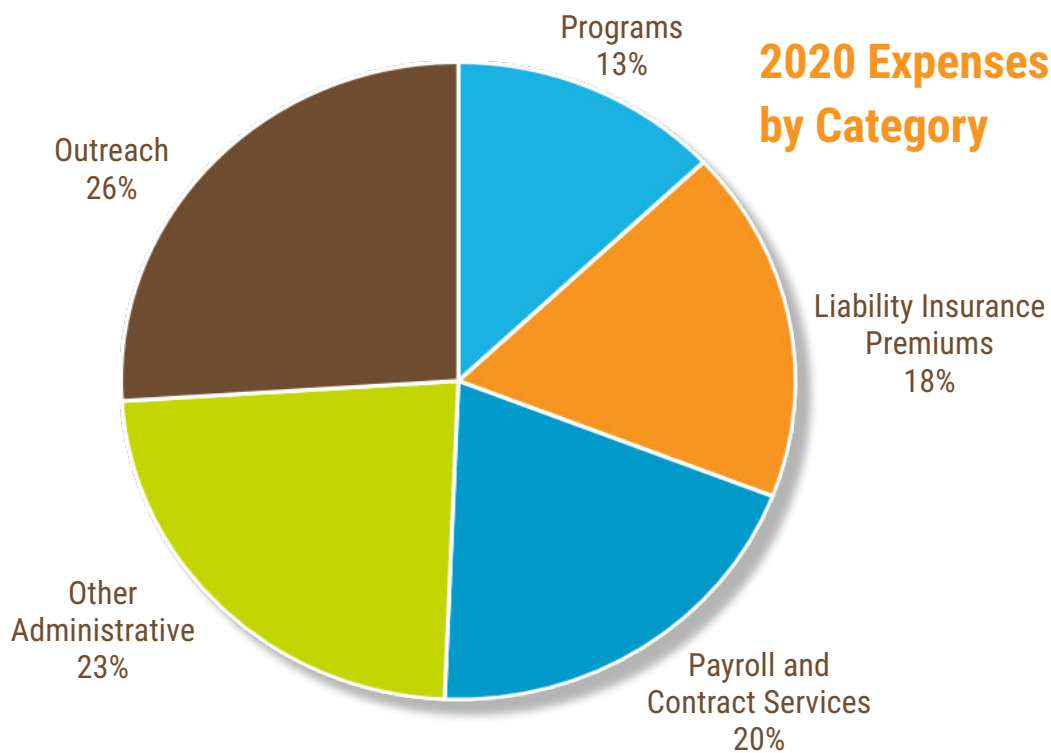


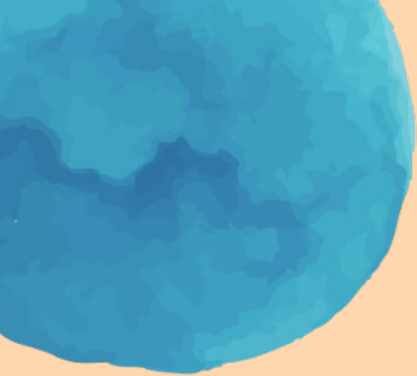
# 2020 Financials

## 2020 Revenue by Source



## 2020 Expenses by Category





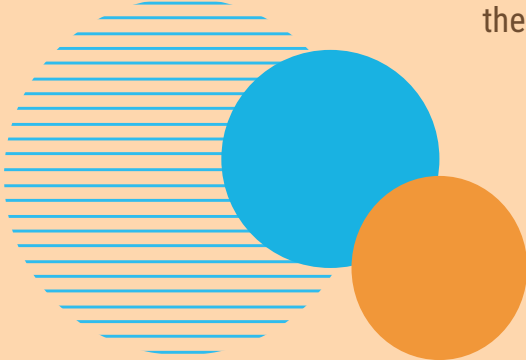
*We retrieve hearts!*

# 5 Programs To Comfort And Support Children



Most people know Roxy Therapy Dogs for our flagship program – Elementary School Reading Inspiration. Before COVID-19, our teams supported 3,200 children each week in the Central Bucks School District.

Roxy has four additional programs that support and comfort children in our area from the youngest to the oldest, from the classroom to the courtroom.



# 1. Elementary School Reading Inspiration



Roxy's flagship program gives young readers a chance to read aloud to a furry friend in small groups or one-on-one on a weekly basis. Dogs don't judge or correct, but serve as a calming influence, building students' confidence, improving reading skills, and fostering a love of reading.

# 2. Student Specialized Support



Students in Autistic, Multiple Disability, Life Skills, Learning Support, and Emotional Support classes benefit from regular Roxy visits that help them maintain a sense of calm, well being and an openness to stimuli and learning while also increasing social competence and developing a sense of empathy.

# 3. Secondary School Stress Relief



High school students struggling with stress and anxiety benefit from the much-needed support and compassion provided by Roxy visits as part of Stress Management classes, organized support groups, and during exam times.

# 4. Courthouse Companionship



At the Bucks County Courthouse, Roxy therapy dogs comfort children navigating Dependency Court or who are victims of violent crime. Able to relax and remain calm with a dog by their side, children await their appointment to appear before a judge. On occasion, dogs are invited into the courtroom.

# 5. Pediatric Comfort



Roxy teams bring joy to children in hospital and healthcare settings. Roxy visits calm their fears, give them a break from medical procedures, and ultimately speed the healing process.



# Impact Statements

**Roxy's certified therapy dogs deliver self-esteem, relief from anxiety and fear, and a sense of well-being.**

**To a child who feels safe and relaxed, learning is accessible, and physical and emotional healing are accelerated.**



*A pre-COVID hug for a Roxy dog that makes a student feel comforted. This is what we do.*

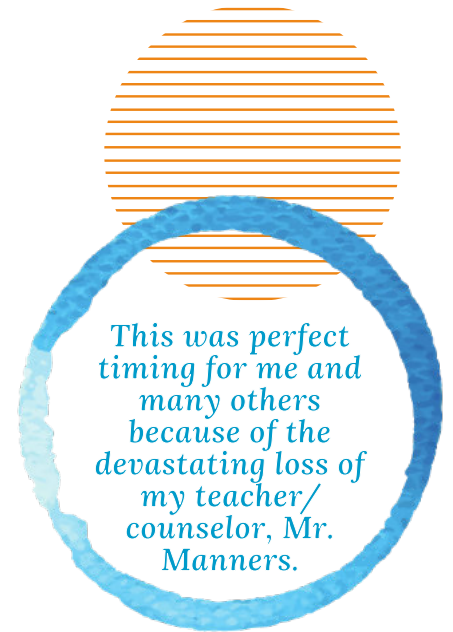
## Dear Mrs. Fleck,

Thank you for joining my Adult Living class with Mrs. McDonald. I enjoyed learning about the Roxy Therapy Dogs, this was my first time having this program in one of my classes. Though I have always seen the dogs around! I wish I could've have gotten to meet Mo in person but seeing her through the teams call, sleeping peacefully was cute too. I think you came up with a very clever way of still being able to interact with students while being all virtual.

This was perfect timing for me personally and many others because of the devastating loss of my teacher/counselor, Mr. Manners. Having Mo in class brought me comfort and happiness. I learned all about where Mo and the other dogs go and what your mission is. I think it's great and so helpful! I also learned new things and statistical facts about having dogs with you that I never knew before. I hope to see you again in other classes and around the West hallways.

Thanks again,

**Brooke Golbeski, Student,  
Central Bucks High School West**



*Mo brightens lives, even virtually.*



Sharon Fleck and Mo visit a Stress Management class virtually at Central Bucks High School East.

## Thank you so much for all that you do for our students in CB.

As a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, I have been hyper-focused on the mental health of our students this year and incorporating more well-being activities, and the science behind them, into my lessons. For that reason, I am so appreciative that you were able to pivot and join my teams call to talk to the students.

Since your presentation highlights the science behind what happens in the brain when interacting with dogs, it dovetails beautifully with my well-being goals. We have had our fair share of tragedy in and out of school over the past year and our students are very much in need of your information.

Thank you for sharing another tool for our students to pull from to improve their mental health. I am forever grateful for the work that you and your teams do for our district!

***Mrs. Mary McDonald, M.Ed., H.C., Family and Consumer Sciences, Central Bucks High School West***

## The impact of the Roxy Therapy Dogs program is so powerful

in the way it motivates and inspires my students to read. We have been welcoming Maggie Sivak, and her dogs Chloe and Trixie to our classroom for the past 5 years and I couldn't be more grateful. Their sweet faces, calm demeanor, and excellent listening skills inspire a love of reading in my students and we look forward to their visits each week. We even cheer on Roxy days! When my students read with Chloe and Trixie, they are visibly more relaxed, engaged, and quickly remember that reading is fun!

We were heartbroken last spring when we were forced to shut down because of the pandemic. However, our Roxy friends stepped up and found a way to adapt to a new and complicated situation. They recorded videos of themselves reading with the dogs for students to listen to. Their constant presence to our students reminded us all that no matter what, Roxy Therapy Dogs was there for them.

When returning to school in the fall and learning that our favorite furry friends were not able to come into the building, Roxy once again adapted. We now have virtual visits! When my students see Roxy Therapy Dogs on the whiteboard, there is excitement and discussion over which book they think Chloe and Trixie will want to listen to. Even though they can't snuggle up with the dogs, my students can feel their love. They talk to the dogs, wave to them, and even give virtual high fives! I love that Maggie found a way for Chloe and Trixie to stay connected to the students so they can continue to grow their love of reading.

I am so incredibly grateful for the Roxy Therapy Dogs program and all they have given to my students!

***Sarah Coyle, Learning Support Teacher, Linden Elementary***



Teachers Rose Sinclair, Sarah Coyle, Annette Boylan, Linden Elementary.



January 2020: Students at CB East ask Mo to join their prayer circle before the students go into their next exam.



# 2020 Year In Review

**2020 WAS A TRYING, UNCERTAIN YEAR FOR EVERYONE.** The pandemic affected us in ways large and small, and all were life-changing and stressful. Under other circumstances, this would be the time when Roxy Therapy Dogs would be out in full force, spreading comfort, support, and love to as many children as we could possibly reach.

The irony was that just when our children needed us most, we couldn't be there for them – to talk to our dogs, confide in them, to pet and hug them. CDC guidelines prevented Roxy teams from being in the schools, healthcare settings, and even, for a time, the Courthouse.

Our volunteers were frustrated and saddened that they couldn't help. Our dogs were rudderless without children to visit.

So we decided to stay connected with the children and each other the only way we could. Virtually.

**Roxy Is Paw-sitively  
Always There For Children**



## January 2020



## Celebration of Schools

On Jan. 29, Roxy participated in the Celebration of Schools at CB South. With over 700 people in attendance, Roxy showed our support for Lensi Nikolov, Ed.D, the Supervisor of Reading for CBSD, by having two Roxy teachers and a few of their students speak first-hand of the benefits and overall positive experiences from their Roxy visits.

## March 2020

## Certificate of Excellence Launches

Roxy Therapy Dogs Certificate of Excellence participants gain an increased knowledge and better understanding of autism and how it affects children. This will enable volunteers to better serve children with autism, giving volunteers (and their therapy dogs) more confidence when working with this population.

Designed for certified therapy dog teams, parents, educators, healthcare providers, volunteers working with children, and anyone with an interest in the topic. Read more about this program on page 30.





## March 2020



## Roxy Reads

The teams that visit the schools on a regular basis were particularly wrenched by the move to virtual. Many teams have more than one classroom they visit. So we began to build a library of videos where Roxy volunteers read their favorite books aloud with their Roxy dog by their side listening intently (or sleeping). We made these videos available to the public on our website.

Mary Helen and Nelly Read: Sally Gets A Job



## May 2020



## Fox 29 Features Roxy

On Friday, May 29, 2020, Roxy Therapy Dogs was featured in a virtual segment titled "Organization trains therapy dogs to help kids during time of need." Reporter Brad Sattin talked to Roxy President Sharon Fleck, Founder Diane Smith, Former Board Chair Linda McCrillis, Director of Volunteers, Catherine Refice, Central Bucks School District Kindergarten Teacher Zandy Zuccherro, and 9-year-old CBSD student Samantha.



## June, July, August 2020

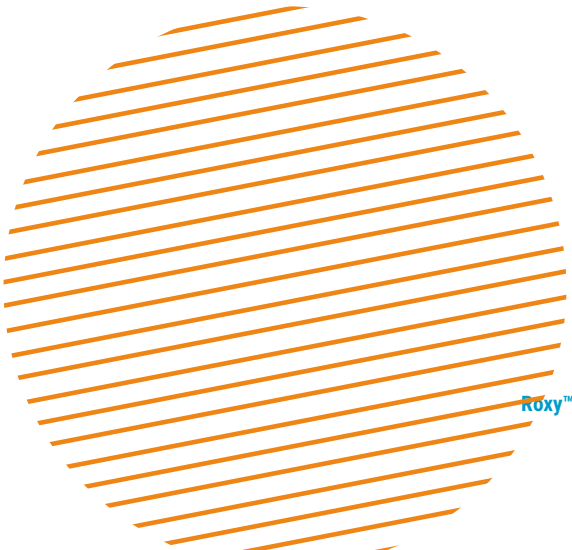
### Pup Portraits Contest

Over the summer, Roxy held a “Pup Portraits” contest for anyone 18 or under. We received many adorable entries, and the winners (chosen at random) were Liam, a 2nd grader who attends Bridge Valley Elementary, and Reagan, a 4th grader at Cold Spring Elementary. They received a certificate and some Roxy swag for their pawsome entries.



### Roxy “Baseball Cards”

As another way to keep in touch with both our volunteers and Roxy fans, we created a digital “baseball” card for each of our Roxy dogs with their photo and where they visit (during non-COVID times). We shared them on social media over the summer. Collect ‘em all!





## September 2020

### Volunteer Appreciation

In a "normal" year, we would hold a volunteer appreciation event to celebrate and thank our incredible volunteers. Since we couldn't gather in person, Director of Volunteers Catherine Refice mailed a Roxy Goodie Bag filled with a special thank you, a car magnet, and face mask. The face masks were hand made by former board member, Jo-Anne Atwell.



## October 2020

### Roxy On Demand

There are 70+ videos posted on our website for CBSD teachers and others to show their students. Our creative Roxy volunteers had fun recording their Roxy dog doing everyday things and all kinds of things. From playing ball to Oscar-worthy productions with music and sound effects, be sure to check them out!





## November 2020

### Mask Contest

After 6 months of restrictions, we all needed to laugh. We asked our volunteers to get their dog to wear a mask and snap a picture for all to see. The results were pretty hilarious and 4 winners were selected to receive Roxy swag and bragging rights.



**Funniest: Tenny**



**Least Willing: Murphy**



**Most Creative: Chance**



**Best Fitting: Teagan**

## Roxy Needs New Teams!

Roxy Therapy Dogs is searching for more therapy dog teams to join our well-respected organization.

While we're not doing many in-person visits now due to COVID-19, we expect to be going gangbusters when our many venues open up.

If you have a certified therapy dog and would like to bring comfort and support to hundreds of children in our area, please join us and start your journey here.

You'll love volunteering with Roxy! For more info, visit [www.RoxyTherapyDogs.org](http://www.RoxyTherapyDogs.org)

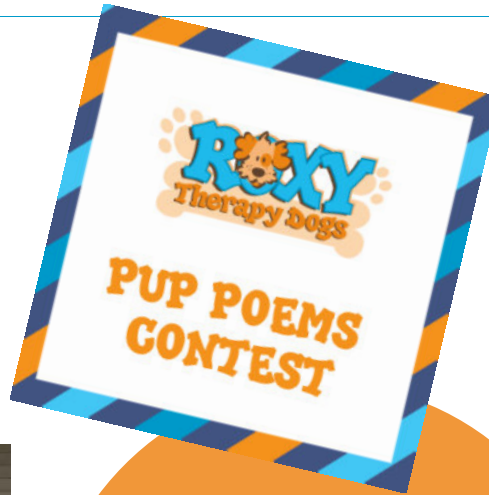
**Volunteers  
Wanted**



# November 2020

## Pup Poems Contest

Following on the success of the Pup Portraits Contest for artists, we decided to give the writers a chance to shine. All of the poets received Roxy swag.



**Rosy rosy red  
My Barbie said  
Fashion show time  
then to bed**

*AJ Lutter  
1st Grade  
Doyle Elementary*

**Max you are so cute  
and fluffy  
And such an adorable puppy.  
I know you love your snacks,  
But reading to you makes me  
relax.**

*Isabella Cabrera  
2nd Grade  
Gayman Elementary*



# Our Virtual Visits

by  
Maggie  
Sivak








C

hloe, a 9-year-old yellow lab, and Trixie, a 4-year-old chocolate labradoodle, have been visiting Mrs. Coyle's Learning Support Class at Linden Elementary since 2017. Chloe and Trixie visit on alternate weeks. After entering the classroom, we are escorted to an amazing children's library created by Mrs.

high-five after they are done reading. Even the shyest of children are willing to try reading out loud so they can have a chance to visit with the dogs. How we miss those days!

When the pandemic began last year all therapy dog visits were suspended. Everyone understood why. I don't think any of us



*When the pandemic began last year all therapy dog visits were suspended. Everyone understood why. I don't think any of us expected we would still be shut down almost a year later.*

Coyle. There are shelves and shelves of children's books along with comfy pillows and a kid's sofa. It's all anchored with a Charlie Brown rug that says, "Reading Is an Adventure That Never Ends."

This idyllic setting makes it so easy for the dogs to snuggle up to the kids while they read. Along with snuggling up beside them, each dog has its own special way of interacting. Chloe likes to vocalize and sometimes it sounds like she's talking. Once, a child insisted she said, "Hi Kevin!" Trixie is famous for giving kids a

expected we would still be shut down almost a year later. Yet here we are in our new normal. Our in-school visits had been a weekly highlight and the dogs and I missed that routine. When I asked Mrs. Coyle if she would like to try a virtual visit she jumped at the chance. Wonderful I thought! Then I wondered how in the world am I going to get my dogs to a video conference?! What did I get myself into?

So, we set up a time, Monday at 11, and agreed to just see what happens. I decided both dogs would be comfortable on their big bed together



*Chloe and Trixie at their workstation.*

in the family room. I set up the computer there. Around 10:45am I got out their Roxy Therapy Dog bandanas. I only wish I had thought to video their reactions. Talk about a happy dance! They both wagged their tails furiously.

Gingerbread Man between them. So far so good!

I clicked on the video link and just like that we were video conferencing with Mrs. Coyle's



*It's an awkward situation. Voices in masks are muffled and sometimes hard to hear. It's hard for a kid to ask for help with a word remotely.*

Trixie started turning in circles. Chloe started vocalizing. Kevin might have guessed that she said, "school, school!"

Once they donned their bandanas, their therapy dog training kicked right in. They looked to me for direction. I asked them to lie together in their bed. I propped up Lamb Chop and the

class. You might ask how I got them to look right at the kids when they read? Chicken jerky behind the camera, of course! And, yes, they very obediently stayed right there long enough for all 5 kids to read a book to them. Trixie gave them all virtual high-fives. Such good dogs!

Mrs. Coyle said the kids talked about the dogs

throughout the day after our first visit. I was so happy to know that we were back in the classroom again even in this small way.

Each week the kids are anxious to see the dogs on their computer screen as they adjust to their “new normal.” They sit in front of their



computer camera in their sweet little masks and show us the title of the book they are going to read. We usually get to chat a minute before they begin. Is that a Linden Leopard mask you’re wearing? Did you build a snowman on your snow day? They want to know if Trixie will give a high-five before or after reading (both!). Sometimes it’s an awkward situation. Voices in masks are muffled and sometimes hard to hear. It’s hard for a kid to ask for help with a word remotely.

I’m not there to read along. Eye contact and body language are difficult to read from a computer screen. Yet they bravely soldier on with a big smile behind their little masks, doing their best like the rest of us in this terrible pandemic. When they are done reading, they proudly proclaim, “THE END!” and wait for Trixie’s high-five. And, naturally, I tell them what great readers they are and how much Chloe and Trixie enjoyed the book. They wave good-bye and we say, “see you next week!”

These 1st and 3rd graders are so adaptable and I find that inspirational. Of course, these fun and happy virtual visits are only possible because of our incredible teacher, Sarah Coyle. She and her aides, Annette Boylan and Rose Sinclair, have taught in school five days a week throughout this pandemic. They continually look for ways to adapt to the “new normal.” Sadly, the library had to be dismantled. No books or cushions allowed. It’s stored in Mrs. Boylan’s basement. Yet, despite the many restrictions and difficulties, they remain cheerful and positive role models for the kids in their class every day. I must believe that these brave, dedicated women will have a special place in the hearts of their students, especially when they look back at this time as adults. I know they have a special place in my heart and we can’t wait to get back into the classroom with them. They are my Pandemic Heroes!



# Virtual Class Visits And Smell-a-Vision?

By Kerry Wargo and Atticus, Roxy Volunteers-

Reprinted from the June 2020 We R Roxy Volunteer Newsletter

**A**tticus and I arranged to meet with our kids, virtually. Last week, we met with the classes of Laura Sorensen, Trish Zeoli, Jenn Regec and Jackie Carmeans from Mill Creek Elementary. This week, we visited virtually with the classes of Danica Fossesca and Rebekah Detweiler at Butler.


Some were intentional surprise visits, while others were aware that Atticus would be online with them at that session.

Mrs. Detweiler had a planned surprise for the children where each child read a written opinion piece. They wrote these pieces based on books that they had read during the year.

Each child also read a book, or a portion of a book, to Atticus.

The kids and the teachers had a great time. I did too! I wish I could say the same for Atticus, but unfortunately, I don't think he was getting it. I think in the future, we will need smell-a-vision so a dog will know who is communicating.

Regardless, I made sure the kids knew how proud of them Atticus and I were. First, for graduating and progressing to a new grade next year, and second, for being "History Makers". They were the first kids who ever had to deal with the Covid Pandemic and they made it through with flying colors!



*"I made sure  
the kids knew  
how proud of  
them Atticus  
and I were."*



# Obi's Special Courthouse Visit

By Melissa D'Amato

*We received a special request from The Honorable Jordan B. Yeager's assistant – an 8-year-old girl was being interviewed and they wanted a Roxy team to accompany her. I immediately emailed a few teams (those that previously let me know they would be comfortable going to the courthouse during this pandemic) and multiple teams volunteered!*

*I want to personally thank all the Courthouse Companionship Program teams for their support and dedication to Roxy Therapy Dogs. While we have not been visiting the children at the courthouse, I know when we come out of this pandemic they will be there for the children again.*

*Special thanks to Denise Rue and Obi for their visit and more importantly, bringing comfort to a child! Denise was kind enough to share a picture of Obi outside of the courthouse along with a write-up of their experience.*

## In Denise's Words

Obi hadn't been to the courthouse for his monthly Children and Youth Services visits since March when we were shut down due to the pandemic. When Melissa asked for a volunteer to meet with Judge Yeager I knew Obi would love to go – he is one of those guys who loves a job and the last months had ended his Gayman school visits as well.

I walked him around the courthouse a few days ahead of our scheduled meeting just to give him a little refresher.

Obi was all business once we arrived. Greeting everyone with gentle head wrap on their thigh –



for a soft pat. I think folks were happy to have a dog back in the courthouse.

He sat right next to the little 8-year-old girl at the big conference table, putting his head on her lap every now and then. She easily answered the judge's questions while always having a hand on Obi somewhere. We could see that having him there was comforting for her. Obi stayed there for the full 2-hour session – the Judge kindly asked if Obi was OK to stay and he was – just happy to do his job.

We shared a fluffy puppy and a coloring book and crayons with the child, and when the conference was over we delivered her back to her Mom. Obi was presented with a squeaky stuffed candy cane toy from the little girl – a big hug and kiss and a quick photoshoot by Mom.

I can't describe how happy and heartwarming this Roxy experience was – it is so gratifying to provide this kind of support to children.



Obi outside the Courthouse, ready to get to work comforting a child who needs him.

*“I can't describe how happy and heartwarming this Roxy experience was – it is so gratifying to provide this kind of support to children.”*



# Thanks From a MOM

The volunteers at Roxy Therapy Dogs donate our training, time, and compassion to share our dogs with thousands of children who need us each week.

When we aren't in a pandemic, our volunteers clock 6,000 hours per year working with children in the Central Bucks School District and at the Bucks County Courthouse, Doylestown Health, and Pedia Manor. The children's smiles are our reward.

But we do love it so when someone takes the time to tell us the impact a Roxy therapy dog has on them or on a child they know. Such is the case when a mom of a student at Butler Elementary School messaged us on Facebook with the following:

**Hello! I saw your post about Roxy dogs and wanted to thank you for all the great contributions your organization makes to these kids. My daughter has been visiting with your dogs via Butler since 1st grade. (She's in 5th!) She's autistic and dogs are one of her great obsessions in life.**

**She was given the opportunity of seeing the dogs on Thursdays whenever she had a great week at school. Roxy dogs were the highlight of the week!**

**I hope she gets to "see" her dogs this year even if it is a video message or some other tech way! Thank you for all you do as it makes a difference in this kid's life as well as so many others!!!**



# Certificate of Excellence Launches Virtually

“The ASD presentations have really created an interest to be more involved in those classrooms.” — Attendee



“I found hearing the input of the parents and the teachers was very informative to insights of being with people with Autism.” — Attendee



After two years in the making, Roxy was excited to successfully launch our Certificate of Excellence program (COE) in July 2020. The goal of the COE program is to provide continuing education on specific topics relevant to therapy dog teams so that teams will gain a better understanding and more confidence when working with all types of children in our community. Postponed from March, our first series, *Insights Into the Child With Autism*, was virtual with lectures via Zoom.

Feedback was extremely positive with



attendees pleased with our knowledgeable professionals and parents who shared their insight and experience for working with Autistic children. As hoped, one attendee even commented that after listening to the lectures, she is now extremely interested in working with the Autistic population moving forward.





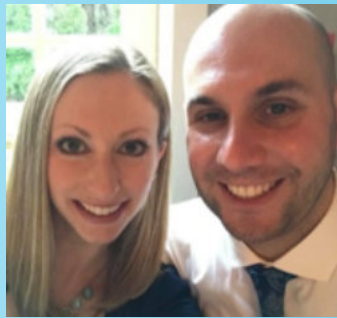


## Certificate of Excellence

ROXY™ THERAPY DOGS

### Insights Into The Child With Autism

## Thanks to Our Presenters



Cory and Kiera  
Thompson



Catherine  
Wallace, M.S.



Derrick and  
Janell Morgan

## Thanks to Our Sponsors



# 2020 Grants and Gifts

Roxy is extremely grateful for all grants and gifts. Here are just a few made in 2020. See the complete Donor List at the back of this report.



*Foundations Community Partnership Founder Ron Bernstein; 2020 Roxy Board Chair Cheryl Luginbuhl and Finn; Roxy President Sharon Fleck and Mo*

## Thanks to Foundations Community Partnership

Roxy Therapy Dogs received a \$7,500 BIIG Grant from the Foundations Community Partnership (FCP) in Doylestown. This grant will help fund a significant step in canine assisted therapy dog training, the new Certificate of Excellence Program and online video library that Roxy is introducing to its volunteers and the community in 2020.





*The Rush Family; Roxy Board Chair Tom Donnelly, Stacy Donnelly and Scarlett; Roxy President Sharon Fleck and Mo; Roxy Director of Volunteers Catherine Refice and Bullet.*

**Thanks to  
Future Stars Day Camps**

Michael Rush and the Rush family, founders of Future Stars Day Camps, for their generous gift of \$5,000.

**Thanks to  
The Haley Foundation**

Robert and Sally Huxley of The Haley Foundation located in New Hope/Solebury for their gift of \$5,000 to support our advanced education program, Certificate of Excellence.



**Thanks to**  
**Loretta Gilbert**

for her gift in memory  
of Ralf Gilbert.

**Platinum Paws (\$5,000+)**

Bucks County Foundation  
Foundations Community Partnership  
Future Stars Day Camps  
The Haley Foundation  
Loretta Gilbert in memory of Ralf Gilbert

**Gold Paws (\$2,500-4,999)**

The Nicholas and Eileen Hearne Foundation

**Silver Paws (\$1,000-2,499)**

Citizens Bank Wealth Management  
Fred Beans Charitable Fund  
Orphans Court Section of Bucks County Bar  
Association

**We would also like to thank the  
following for their support...**

Amazon Smile  
Central Bucks High School West  
Holiday House Pet Resort  
IQVIA Matching Gifts Program  
Johnson and Johnson Matching Gifts Program  
Miles & Jennifer Weiss Family Charity Fund  
Skip's Candy Corner  
Stitchin' Witch Embroidery  
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and  
Merrimack Valley  
YMCA of Bucks County



**Thanks to  
Holiday House  
Pet Resort and  
Training Center**

Roxy Therapy Dogs would like to thank everyone who donated and participated in the Holiday House Pet Resort & Training Center 2020 Pup-A-Palooza fundraising event in August.

Holiday House Pet Resort & Training Center staff are pictured presenting Roxy Therapy Dogs president Sharon Fleck with a donation check for \$400.

**Thanks to  
Orphans Court  
Section of  
Bucks County  
Bar Association**

Orphans Court Section of Bucks County Bar Association's gift of \$1,000 to purchase crayon and coloring book packages. These packages are distributed to children who visit with Roxy teams in family court at the Bucks County Courthouse.





*“In my 12 years on the Central Bucks School District board, I have seen the great work and connections Roxy dogs make with our children.*

*Roxy dogs and the handlers are difference makers.*

*Truly a gift.”*

*—John Gamble*

*Central Bucks School District Board Member*

# The Roxy Bandana

All of the volunteers who share their time with Roxy Therapy Dogs know how hard we work with our dogs for them to be able to wear a Roxy bandana. It's a source of pride for all of us.

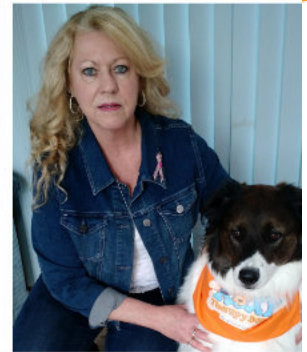
We know that when our dog wears the Roxy bandana, he or she is well-trained and well-suited to work with children. Members of the community know that when a Roxy dog approaches them, they are there to comfort and support them with wags, kisses, and unconditional love.



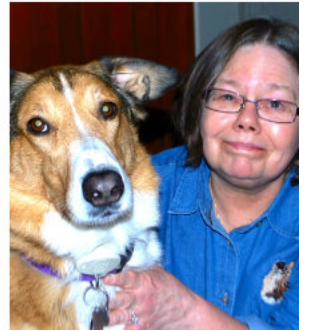
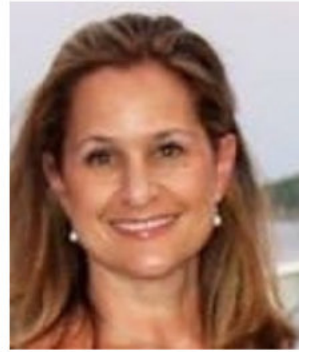
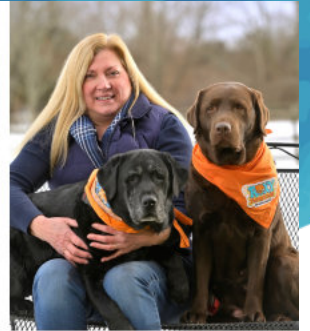
## But Wait! Renee found another use for the Roxy Bandana!

Roxy Volunteer Renee Tucker and her dog Carlee posted this photo in the Roxy Volunteer Facebook Group in April 2020 saying, "When you run the dog to vet and realize you forgot your mask, a Roxy Bandana will do in a pinch! Not a joke! I literally am about to use it to go into the grocery store for last, last minute supplies. So glad it was in my car this morning!! We really miss our Roxy work."

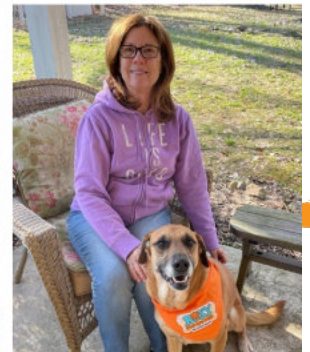
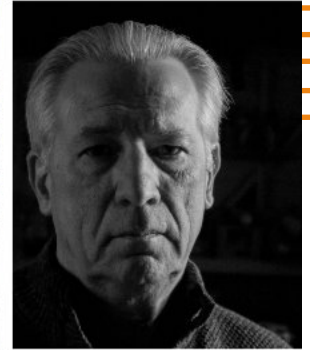
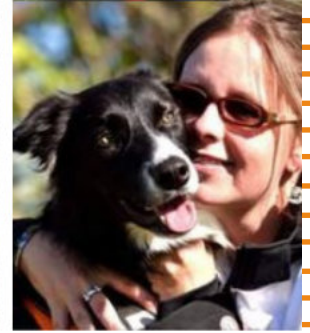
# Volunteers Make The Magic Happen











**While not all of our volunteers are pictured, each and every one is appreciated.**

**Thank you,  
Roxy volunteers!  
Thank you!**

# 2020 Volunteers

as of 12.02.20

Melissa Altman-Traub

Lisa Ament

Jennifer Ashenfelter

Cecile Balizet

Barbara Blasko

Sarah Brinson

Susan Bulsza

Steve Carver (Zak)

Franca Caserta

Lisa Corr

Denise Cronin

Melissa D'Amato

Ray Dadigan

Andrea Dadigan

Roni Dager

Susie Danzis

Jeff Davis

Deborah Deeken

Jeanette DeRichemond

Al DeRichemond

Colleen Dey

Lois DiMarzio

Donna Doan

Tom Donnelly

Stacy Donnelly

Coline Ebeling

Diane Elliott

Cindy Everett

Sharon Fleck

Maddi Fleck

Cathy Flemming

Olivia Fortna

Linda Frederick

Jill Freitas

Sandy Friter

Cindy Gillespie

Daire Goettler

Brenda Gouldey

Wesley Gouldey

Mary Helen Hughes

John Henderson

Irene Hendrix

Rachel Holler

Anne Hoy

Kathleen Kehan

Lisa Keidet

Mary LaValley

Donna Law

Sheila Lee

Ellen Levin

Joanne Loeffler

Mary Alice Loeffler

Amanda Martin

Bob McCrillis

Linda McCrillis

Karen McGlynn

Phyllis Mikolaj

Christina Minsky

Jim Murray

Liza Norman

Lisa Pasterchik

Liz Pearson

Bob Peck

Robin Petkunas

Karen Pirrone

Clare Quinlan

Catherine Refice

Nancy Riva

Joyce Rivas

Amy Rose

Denise Rue

Marie Sankus

Nancy Schaeetzke

Jen Shelly

Maggie Sivak

Diane Smith

Judy Snyder

Joelle Solomon

Janet Stavrides

Maureen Sullivan-Bahr

Renee Tucker

Tracey Vazquez

Kerry Wargo

Jennifer Weeks

Russ Weiss

Suzanne Zak

Gina Zebley

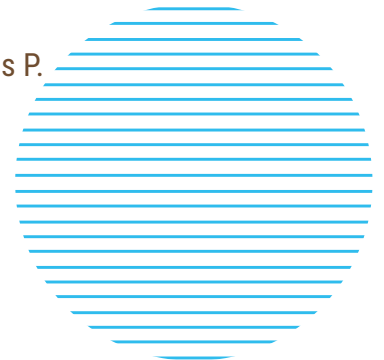
Cheryl Luginbuhl



# 2020 Roxy Dogs

as of 12.2.20

Anya	Hansa	Panda
Athena	Holly	Pip
Atticus	Ivy	Piper
Bauer	Jack	Roger
Bella	Josie	Scarlett
Bentley	Katie	Shay
Bonnie Jean	Kerri	Skylar
Boomer	Louie	Sunna
Buddy D.	Lowen	Sydney
Buddy H.	Lucy	Taco
Bullet	Luke	Tank
Carlee	Luna	Teagan
Chance	Mac	Teddy B.
Charlie	Maggie	Teddy V.
Chloe	Maple	Theo
Claire	Marshall	Trixie
Cody	Mila	Tucker
Cooper K.	Missy	Zoey
Cooper Sn.	Mo	
Cooper So.	Murphy	Retired in 2020
Darla	Nelly	Cody
Dizzy	Nike	Elvis
Finnegan	Obi E.	Gus
Fiona	Obi R.	Atticus P.
Gracie	Oliver	Wren
Gwynne	Oskar	



# Where The Funds Go

*What does Roxy do with the funds that are raised from our generous supporters if we are an all-volunteer organization?*

## Did You Know?



## NO PAID EMPLOYEES

Roxy Therapy Dogs is an all-volunteer organization. For 15 years, Roxy has relied on volunteers to provide their own certified therapy dogs to help children, serve as executives, board members, advisors, administrative staff, program directors, committee members, and event organizers, etc. The list is long.

Even without paid staff, Roxy strives to function like a best practices non-profit with paid staff to ensure that therapy dog services are delivered to children in our community in the best way possible.



## THERE ARE NO FEES FOR OUR SERVICES

One of the reasons we need donations and support from the community is that Roxy does not receive any payment from our venues. The Central Bucks School District, the Bucks County Courthouse, Doylestown Hospital, and Pedia Manor enjoy the benefits of our certified therapy dog teams free of charge. The demand grows each year.



## DONATIONS ALLOW US TO CONTINUE OUR WORK

Your support ensures that Roxy can continue its mission. Your donation covers recruiting new therapy teams, administrative expenses, insurance expense, communications, website maintenance, electronic newsletters, professional services, and fees for special events so that we can share Roxy Dogs with everyone in the community.



## ADVANCED EDUCATION IS OUR FUTURE

After two years of research and planning, Roxy launched the Certificate of Excellence Series and we need your support. Advanced therapy skills for specific situations like autism, advanced trauma, anxiety, and more, will strengthen the organization and enhance the experience for children, their families, dogs and volunteers. It will also help Roxy to continue its mission into the future.

# Advancement Highlights

**ONCE AGAIN IN 2020**, the Advancement Committee, with the help of Marketing and all of you, ran a successful Annual Appeal. We raised a total of \$12,710. A sincere thank you to everyone who supported us.

Another critical fundraising effort for the Advancement team was, and is, to support the new Certificate of Excellence (COE) program, our educational initiative to provide advanced training for our teams and the general public in understanding the children we visit with autism,

trauma issues, and more. We have worked hard at successfully applying for grants to fund this program. The Foundations Community Partnership provided Roxy

with \$7,500 in late 2019 for the new COE Video Library which commenced in 2020. An additional \$5,000 was given by the Haley Foundation to help fund the COE program, generally. We also received \$5,000 from the Bucks County Foundation to help meet general operating and program expenses in 2020, \$5,000 from Future Stars Day Camps, and \$1,250 from Citizens Bank, Wealth Management Division, among others.

**We are pleased to report that the total raised in 2020 to support Roxy was \$40,326 (a 20.8% increase over 2019).**

Your support helps us ensure that Roxy Therapy Dogs remains an organization that meets the demand in the Central Bucks community to bring comfort to children, to enhance the experience of learning, and to enrich the lives of our human and canine volunteers.



*The 2020 annual appeal, left, went out in the fall. Junebug (not a Roxy dog but a super cute model) wears the face mask that her mom, former Board Member Jo-Anne Atwell, made for all the Roxy volunteers.*



## A Special Donation

Roxy Therapy Dogs is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that is able to operate on a small budget thanks to its wonderful volunteers and loyal supporters.

In response to the fundraising appeal sent out in November, we got a special donation with a heartwarming note from a 5th grader at Simon Butler Elementary School in the Central Bucks School District. Butler is one of the 15 elementary schools in the district where Roxy teams visit, helping to support and comfort children during the school day.

Leila's mom, Lachele, tells us, "Leila enjoys playing her flute, dancing, baking, and spending time with our dog, Mira. Her favorite subjects are reading and writing. Leila loves donating to Roxy Therapy Dogs!"



Roxy thanks Leila for her support and love. Who knows?

Maybe one day Leila will grow up to have her own therapy dog and become a volunteer for Roxy! We would love that.



*"I decided to donate money to the therapy dogs because I think it is important for children who can't afford therapy dogs to get them, so they can get mentally better or feel better with the therapy dog by their side."*

— LEILA, SIMON BUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



# Thank you to our Donors!

**YOU make Roxy Therapy Dogs free to children who need the comfort and support of a Roxy therapy dog.**

## Platinum Paws (\$5,000+)

Bucks County Foundation  
Foundations Community Partnership  
Future Stars Day Camps  
The Haley Foundation  
Loretta Gilbert in memory of Ralf Gilbert

## Gold Paws (\$2,500-4,999)

The Nicholas & Eileen Hearne Foundation

## Silver Paws (\$1,000-2,499)

Citizens Bank Wealth Management  
Fred Beans Charitable Fund  
Orphan's Section Bucks County Bar Assoc.

## Bronze Paws (\$500-\$999)

Melissa Brannon  
Cheryl Luginbuhl  
Bruce & Claudia Maul  
Martin V. Scott  
Russ Weiss  
Denise Zebley



## Sustaining Donors

Thomas Donnelly  
Jill Fein  
Sharon Fleck  
Jennifer Harrington  
Linda McCrillis  
Patricia Morrison  
Max Rose  
Jennifer Shelly  
Diane Smith  
Cheryl Luginbuhl

## Consecutive Donors

5 or more Years

Harry & Connie Bandy  
Denise Cronin  
Jill Fein  
Sharon Fleck  
Linda McCrillis  
Robert Mellon

Patricia Morrison  
Karen Pirrone  
Colleen Remar  
Max Rose  
Jennifer Shelly  
Michelle Still

## Friends and Supporters

Connie Bandy  
Bree Beck  
Gary Beck  
Anna Buinewicz  
Ric Carran  
Neeharika Chanda  
Lisa Corr  
Denise Cronin  
Mary Ann Crozier  
Jennifer Del Femine  
John & Lois Dimarzio  
Angela Diodato  
Charles Donnelly  
Linda Eberz  
Johnna Evans  
Linda Ferreira  
Jeffrey Gada  
Barbara Gallamore  
Suzan Gannett  
Karen Germann

Linda Goodwin  
Pam Gutelius  
John Heap  
Susan Heller  
Josilyn Hill  
Susan Holihan  
Rachel Holler  
Diane Hudak  
Phil & Wendy Hunt  
Tracy Jann  
Edward & Lisa Keidat  
Anina & Sean Kellman  
JoAnn King  
John Kittler  
Stacy Kovaleski  
Doris Langerman  
Andrea Lehman  
Susan Longsdorf  
Amy Mazzanti  
Jim McClay

Robert Mellon  
Christina Minsky  
Spring Moore  
Peter Morgan  
Julie Narisi  
Ed Neke  
Liza Fisher Norman  
Diane Orban  
Liz Pearson  
Dawn Peck  
Melanie Pennisi  
Noelle Petruzelli  
Karen Pirrone  
Karen Poli  
Angelina Refice  
Catherine Refice  
Robert Refice  
Colleen Remar  
Rebecca Rogers  
Elizabeth Rooney  
Patricia Rubenstein  
Lynne Ruth  
Elizabeth Sausker  
Barbara & George Sennick  
Dean & Carole Flanery Sharp  
John & Frances Shelly  
Heidi Shiver  
Theresa Soffronoff  
Michelle Still  
Natasha Eve Stutsman-Hubbell  
Lachele Vaughan  
Tracey Vazquez

Marguerite Walsh  
Monica Welch  
Suzie Woodland  
Eileen Yevcak

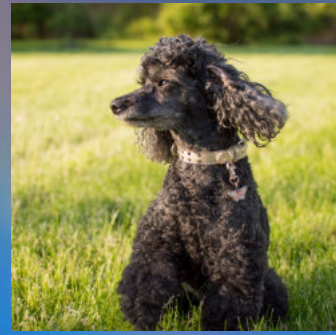
## Businesses & Organizations

Amazon Smile  
Central Bucks High School West  
Holiday House Pet Resort  
IQVIA Matching Gifts Program  
Johnson and Johnson Matching Gifts Program  
Miles & Jennifer Weiss Family Charity Fund  
Skip's Candy Corner  
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United Way of Massachusetts Bay and  
Merrimack Valley  
YMCA of Bucks County

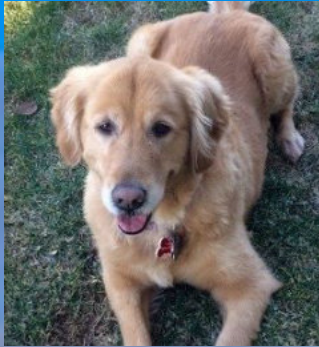


# In Loving Memory of These Amazing Roxy Dogs 2020

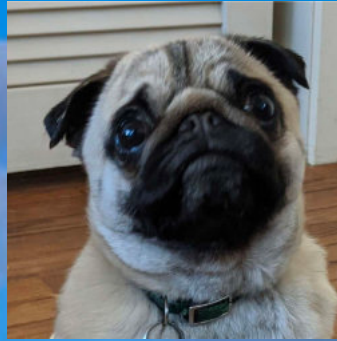
The children will miss you, and we will,  
too. Thank you for being Roxy dogs!



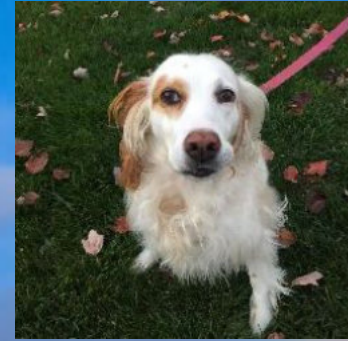
*Maggie McCrillis*



*Freya Cronin*



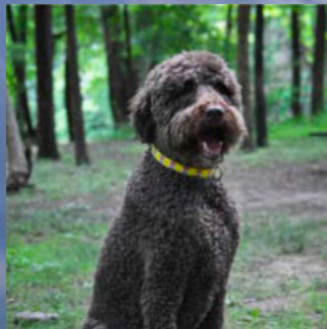
*Bella DeRichemond*



*Emma Keidat*



*Sam Zuckerman*



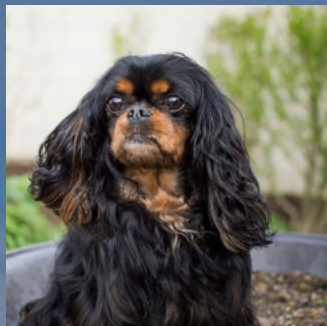
*Juma Morgan*



*Zeva Levin*



*Nakoma Loeffler*



*Scoter Rivas*



*Cody Saffren*



# 2020 Board of Directors

**DIANE SMITH**

**Founder**

*Community Member*

**SHARON FLECK**

**President**

*Community Member*

**CHERYL LUGINBUHL**

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**THOMAS DONNELLY**

**Board Vice-Chair**

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*and MacMinn, LLP*

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**Treasurer**

Assistant Professor,

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**LISA CORR**

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*West*

**MELISSA D'AMATO**

Director, Talent Development

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*Mortgage*

**RACHEL HOLLER**

Director of Programs and

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*Bucks County Intermediate*

*Unit*

**LIZA FISHER NORMAN**

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Financial Assistance

*YMCA of Bucks County*

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*Marshall Financial Group*

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**SUSIE DANZIS**

Certified Dog Trainer/Owner

*Training Tails Dog Training*

**SEAN DIVER**

Business Strategy

Professional

**HOLLIE B. JOHN**

Attorney

*Jacobson & John, LLP*

**STACEE PALEY**

Clinical Psychotherapist, Owner

*Stacey Paley and Associates*

*Counseling*

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### **PHYLLIS MIKOLAJ**

Director of Elementary and Secondary Reading and Support for CBSD

### **MELISSA D'AMATO**

Director of Courthouse Companionship Program

### **JOYCE RIVAS**

Director of Roxy Pediatric Comfort Program at Doylestown Health

### **TRACEY VAZQUEZ**

Director of Roxy Pediatric Comfort Program at Pedia Manor

### **SHARON FLECK**

Director of Secondary School Stress Relief Program

## Administrative Directors

### **LINDA MCCRILLIS**

Interim Director of Advancement

### **MELISSA D'AMATO**

Director of Advancement (effective October, 2020)

### **CATHERINE REFICE**

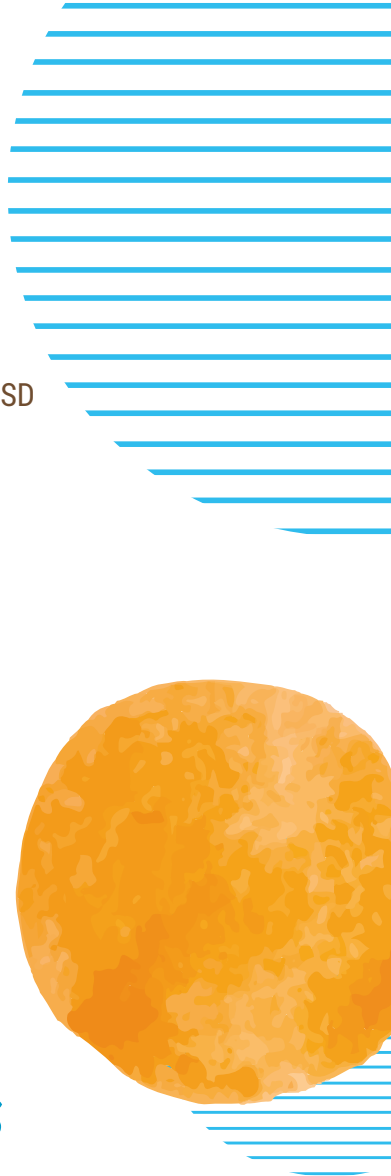
Director of Volunteers

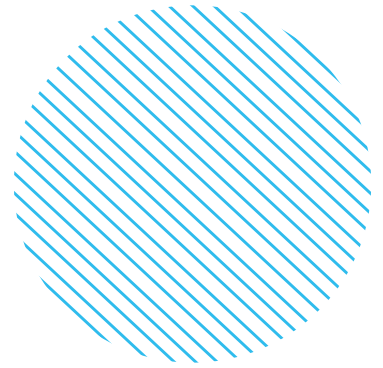
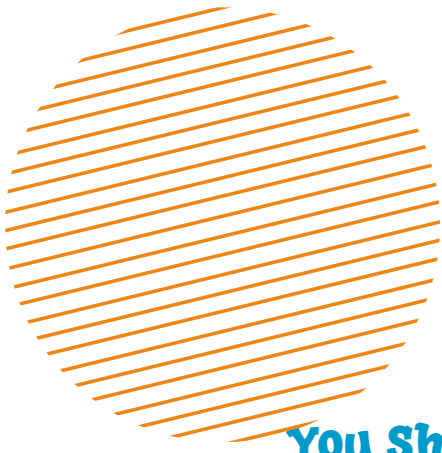
### **MADDI FLECK**

Associate Director of Volunteers

### **JOHN HENDERSON**

Director of Tech Committee





## **You Shop. Roxy Benefits.**

Did you know that you can designate Roxy™ Therapy Dogs as your Amazon charitable organization and each time you shop, a portion of your purchase goes to Roxy? At no cost to you? Automatically?

## **Easy Peasy**

All you need to do is designate Roxy as your AmazonSmile organization and then be sure to order from your AmazonSmile page (not your regular account). How easy is that?

## **What Is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

## **Little Dollars Grow to Big Ones**

If all of Roxy's family and fans used AmazonSmile, we'd receive hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars on a regular basis, with no effort on anyone's part. At Roxy, every single dollar counts towards sustaining our efforts to help children in our area receive calm and comfort from our sweet therapy dogs.

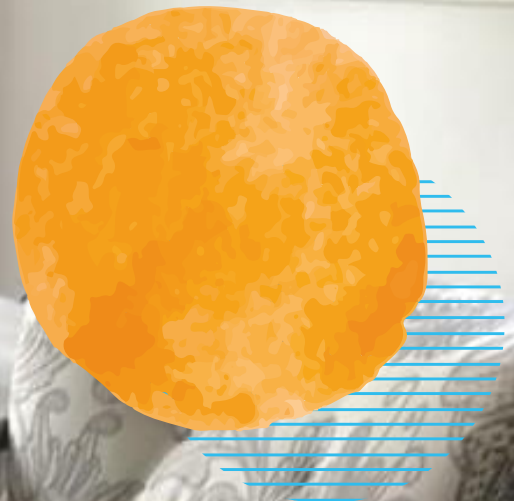
## **Start Using AmazonSmile Today**

**Go to: [www.roxytherapydogs.org/news/roxy-amazon-smile](http://www.roxytherapydogs.org/news/roxy-amazon-smile)**





We retrieve hearts!



### Contact Us

P.O. Box 136, Danboro, PA 18916  
Email: [Info@RoxyTherapyDogs.org](mailto:Info@RoxyTherapyDogs.org)

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