



# The Caring Canine Chronicle

Volume 2 Issue 2

November 2002

## Board of Directors for 2002

### President

Mark Cohen

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Margo Bechtel

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## NCTD Therapy Dog Training Class

NCTD's most frequently asked question has to be, "How can my dog and I get ready to become a Pet Partner team?" Julie Rosenthal, NCTD's Director of Communication, responded to this need by developing, planning and teaching NCTD's newest outreach: a Therapy Dog Training Class.

Through a series of six one-and-one-half hour classes, teams-in-training are exposed to new sounds, smells, people, animals, and equipment -- all things they will encounter when they go on a visit. They practice difficult parts of the evaluation as well.

Our first run of the Therapy Dog Training class began in July 2002 at the East Columbia Library in



Howard County, Maryland. There were 8 teams in the class. The final class was held at the Columbia Mall and the teams-in-training were wonderful. They rode the elevator, climbed up and down the stairs, and met lots of new people.

Following the course,

seven of the eight teams were evaluated and six of the seven passed their Pet Partner evaluation. This is a huge increase over our average pass rate of 50%. Five of these teams are going to visit with NCTD.

Julie can always use helpers during the class, so if you are interested in assisting, contact her via e-mail ([julie@nctdinc.org](mailto:julie@nctdinc.org)) for more information.

Do you have a friend that might be interested in NCTD but needs some extra training? Why not suggest the next Therapy Dog Training Class! Tell them to visit [www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org) for more information.

## Celebrate the Season

All teams are invited to celebrate the season with games, food, and fun at the NCTD Holiday Party.

When: January 11, 2003  
12:00pm-3:00pm

Where:

**Ellicott City Senior Center**  
**9401 Frederick Rd.**  
**Ellicott City, MD 21042**

RSVP to Michelle Cohen  
Therapybeagles  
[@cablespeed.com](mailto:@cablespeed.com).

Lunch will be served.



## Open Floor: "Therapy Dogs-More Than Just Pets"

On November 2, 2002, NCTD sponsored a very special Open Floor. Liz Teal of Giving Paws, Inc. in New York came to work with our teams. The training was from 9:00am to 3:45pm at Florence Bain Senior Center in Columbia, MD. 22 teams attended. Breakfast and lunch were provided by NCTD.

The main topics were teamwork, recognizing stress, relieving stress, and "being with" your teammate. The training was done through lecture, videos, and activities.

Overall, the presentation was well received.

*"What I liked the most was her gentle attitude and her great respect for animals."*

One participant said, "I loved the fact that she made you think." Another said, "I found the parts about working with your dog as a team and observing when your dog is stressed to be very useful." And a third participant said, "What I liked the most was her gentle attitude and her great

respect for animals."

NCTD provided this training opportunity at no cost to its volunteers and will periodically bring in qualified trainers to provide continuing education.



## NCTD In The News

Several of our teams are famous!

Five NCTD volunteers can be found in **Dog Fancy Magazine, October 2002** issue in the article, "Giving Hearts & Paws" by Patricia Voss.

Mark and Michelle Cohen and Annabelle; Marlene and Bart Truesdell and Claire and Bianca;

and Linda Solano and Willow were featured in the article.

The article focused on the volunteer aspects of AAA/AAT and how to get involved in this activity. You can view the article on the NCTD website at [www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org).

NCTD teams were also in the

**NIH CFC Newsletter.** Barbara Murgo and Ross; Burton Goldstein and MG; and Linda Solano and Willow were featured in the article, "Love on a Leash-Therapy Dogs Give Lots." This article can also be found on the NCTD website.

Congratulations to our Teams!



## Board of Directors Nominations for 2003

Are you an active volunteer wondering, "What can I do to get more involved?"

Do you have resources or administrative skills that may be beneficial to the organization?

Are you a "people person?"

If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, then you may be a candidate for the NCTD Board of Directors in 2003!

Soon you will receive an e-mail with all the information on how to submit your nominations for the 2003 Board of Directors.

On the ballots, there may also be additional questions on which your feedback would be appreciated.

So when you receive your ballots, please take a little time to send in your nominations. You can make a difference!



## NCTD Adopts Two New Facilities

NCTD adopted two new facilities in the Baltimore-Washington area. This brings the total number of NCTD facilities to 8.

**Chevy Chase House** is an Assisted-Living Facility in Washington, DC.

There are both lobby and room visits. A social worker is present at all times to provide supervision and support with the residents. The environment is usually quiet and always friendly.

We are currently visiting on alternating Tuesday evenings.

Three to four teams will be needed on a regular basis.

If you are interested in visiting Chevy Chase House, please contact Rosemary Bennett, NCTD Facility Coordinator for Chevy Chase House, at [onarose@aol.com](mailto:onarose@aol.com).



**Holy Cross Hospital** is a large health care facility in Silver Spring, Maryland.

We have begun visiting the hospital one Monday evening per month. Three to four teams will be needed on a regular basis.

If you are interested in visiting Holy Cross Hospital, please contact Harvey Eisen, NCTD Facility Coordinator for Holy Cross, at [heisen9929@aol.com](mailto:heisen9929@aol.com).

For a current list of all NCTD facilities, go to our website ([www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org)), click on the Current Volunteer Information button, and click on the Current NCTD Facilities link.

## P.R. Corner

Thank you to all the teams that coordinated and staffed the many recent Public Relations events.

These events help increase NCTD's presence in the community, attract potential volunteers and/or facilities, and even interest people in donating funds to NCTD.

**9/11 Anniversary**  
American Red Cross  
Burton Goldstein, Coordinator

**NSA CFC Kickoff -Ft Meade, MD**  
October 23; 8:00am—3:00pm  
Marlene Truesdell, Coordinator

**NIH Share the Health**  
Bethesda, MD  
October 26; 1:15pm—2:15pm

Harvey Eisen, Coordinator

**Paradise Animal Hospital**  
Catonsville, MD  
October 27; 11:00am—4:00pm  
Mark Cohen, Coordinator

**MANSEF-Baltimore, MD**  
November 1, 2002  
10:30—12:00; 1:30—3:00  
Margo Bechtel, Coordinator



## NCTD Website Redesigned

In order to simplify how visitors to the website navigate through the pages and gather the information they need, Mark Cohen (our Webmaster and President) redesigned the NCTD website, [www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org).

Now there are four main pages:

- About NCTD
- Volunteer With NCTD
- Have NCTD Visit Your Facility
- Contribute to NCTD

There is also a separate page just for current volunteers! Click on the "Current Volunteer Information" button to get all the latest informa-

tion. Be sure to visit the website regularly for updates!

When you check out the new website, feedback would be appreciated. Send e-mail to [mark@nctdinc.org](mailto:mark@nctdinc.org).





**National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 234  
Highland, MD 20777  
Website: <http://www.nctdinc.org>  
E-Mail: [info@nctdinc.org](mailto:info@nctdinc.org)  
Phone: 301-585-NCTD (6283)

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- ✓ **Roland Park, Chevy Chase House, and Holy Cross need more volunteers.** Please contact the facility coordinator if you can help.
- ✓ NCTD Gear is available to volunteers at cost. Items include denim shirts, polos, tees, and sweats. Order Online at [www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org).
- ✓ If you and your animal need to be **recertified**, please call Marlene Truesdell at 301-854-6231 or e-mail [marlen-erdh@aol.com](mailto:marlen-erdh@aol.com)
- ✓ Remember to check your information in the roster! Contact Michelle Cohen at 301-776-4742 or [therapybeagles@cablespeed.com](mailto:therapybeagles@cablespeed.com) for corrections/updates.
- ✓ Mark your calendar for the NCTD Holiday Party, January 11, 2003.
- ✓ Check the website [www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org) regularly for updated schedule information. Click on the Current Volunteer Information button today.
- ✓ **Have you hugged your Pet Partner today?**

### ***Did You Know...?***

- NCTD teams were featured in Dog Fancy Magazine? Details on Page 2.
- NCTD has a new Therapy Dog Training Class? Details on Page 1.
- NCTD elections are coming up soon? Details on page 3.

### ***Condolences***

NCTD lost 2 volunteers over the summer. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of:

**Jane Bartholomew**, who was one of the original founders of NCTD and served as Vice President for many years. She visited for many years at NIH with her German Shepherd Dog, Samantha.

**Sue Patrick**, who joined NCTD in its infancy and visited for many years at NIH with Molly and Skooter, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. She also served as NCTD Facility Coordinator for NIH for many years. Sue served as Secretary for several years as well.

We will miss them both.

### ***New Volunteers***

Katherine Baer and "Willie" (Golden Retriever Mix)  
Pam Barkley and "Kasey" (Yellow Lab)  
Rosemary Bennett and "Leda" (English Setter)  
Sally Eller and her new partner, "Jack" (Standard Poodle)  
Barbara Hals and "Rudy" (Golden Retriever)  
Sally Hunt and "Magic" (Schnoodle)  
Leona Karolewics and new partner, "Michael" (English Setter)  
Leona Karolewics and new partner, "Prince" (Cat)  
Robin Kirk and "Scout" (Golden Retriever)  
Grace Major and "Rio" (Yellow Lab)  
Ann McBride and new partner, "Wynfred" (Springer Spaniel)  
Ann McBride and new partner, "Garth" (Guinea Pig)  
Barbara Murgo and "Ross" (Irish Setter)  
Julie Plocki and "Jack" (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel)  
George Ruff and "Sassy" (Chocolate Labrador Retriever)  
Ruth Sedjo and "Lewla" (Shih Tsu)  
Wayne Sternberger and new partner "Rigel" (English Setter)  
Bridget Williams and "Wrigley" (Yellow Labrador Retriever)

**Congratulations and Welcome!**