

History

In 2000, a one-year old Weimaraner named Gabriel, visited the Crisis Nursery in Phoenix with his owner, Pam Gaber. That encounter drastically changed not only their lives, but those of thousands of children. Based on the impacting connection between Gabriel and the children—Gabriel's Angels was born! Gabriel's Angels serves 13,700 abused, neglected and at-risk children in Arizona through the application of innovative pet therapy. The program's goal is to increase the overall sense of well-being and happiness for children in a safe environment, and to build critical core behaviors, such as trust, empathy, respect and tolerance.

In May of 2010, Gabriel passed away. However, his legacy continues with over 175 all-volunteer Pet Therapy Teams visiting approximately 117 crisis nurseries, domestic violence and homeless shelters, group homes, residential treatment programs, juvenile detention centers, and targeted school programs. Many agencies are anxiously waiting to have Gabriel's Angels Pet Therapy program in their facility.



How You Can Help

- Make a Tax-Deductible Donation
- Sponsor a Gabriel's Angels Event
- Hold a Third-Party Fundraiser
- Become a Pet Therapy Team or Helping Hand
- Leave a Legacy Gift



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Attachment
Empathy
Confidence
Respect
Tolerance
SELF-REGULATION

Mission

To deliver healing Pet Therapy to at-risk children, nurturing their emotional development and enhancing the quality of their lives forever.

Our work is driven by a passionate belief that the unconditional love of a dog can heal a child.

Why Gabriel's Angels?

- Arizona ranks fifth nationally in the rate of children with substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, almost twice the national average.

(Child Welfare League of America)

- In general, Arizona ranks 3rd overall worst in the nation in child and youth welfare.

(2009 Kids Count Survey, Annie E. Casey Foundation)



How Does Pet Therapy Help?

Gabriel's Angels Pet Therapy Program is the only program in Arizona that delivers healing Pet Therapy to at-risk children. Our goal is to improve the emotional health and well-being of children and help them develop 7 core behaviors—Attachment; Empathy; Affiliation; Confidence; Self-regulation; Respect; Tolerance—that are precursors to preventing the cycle of violence. Research confirms that Pet Therapy visits create a bond of unconditional love between a therapy dog and child that allows for these core behaviors to be learned through regular, continual interaction with the dog.

Understanding 'The Link'



The cycle of violence that connects animal abuse, child abuse and domestic violence is referred to as 'The Link' by scholars and practitioners in the fields of human services and child welfare.



"The difference Gabriel's Angels has made to our children is nothing short of phenomenal. The children have learned empathy, unconditional love and self-control as a result of their interactions with Gabriel's Angels."

Crisis Nursery

"The children are more loving to animals—more tolerant and kind to one another."

Boys & Girls Club of Tucson

"Gabriel's Angels provides a non-threatening venue to learn self-control and sensitivity."

Sojourner Center

attachment
Affiliation
EMPATHY
Confidence
SELF-REGULATION
Tolerance
Respect