

THE Latham Letter

VOLUME XLVI, NUMBER 1

Winter 2025

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN OUR SHELTERS ARE FULL



Wanaka In Paradise

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HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS

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GRANT REPORTS

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LETTERS & LINKS

pg 17



MANDATE

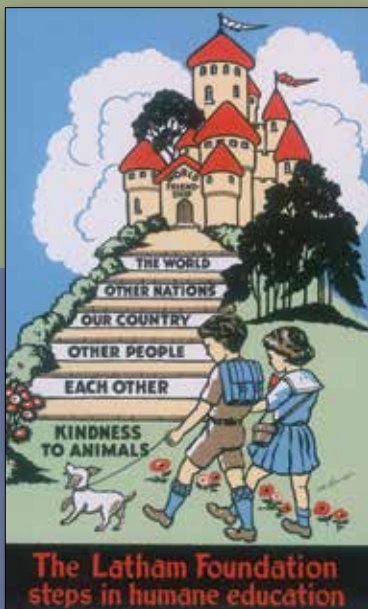
Edith Latham's **MANDATE:**

"To promote, foster,
encourage and
further the
principles of
humaneness,
kindness and
benevolence to
all living creatures."



WELCOME BACK, BROTHER BUZZ!

Brother Buzz, star of Latham's
Brother Buzz films and our former
Spokesbee, marks the end of articles.



The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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more about all of our resources and grants at
www.Latham.org or call 510-521-0920.



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Promotion of Humane Education

The Latham Letter

Volume XLVI, Number 1, Winter 2025

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



The *Latham Letter* is published by The Latham Foundation,
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Alameda, CA 94502-6581

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ABOUT THE LATHAM FOUNDATION:

The Latham Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private operating foundation founded in 1918 to promote respect for all life through education. Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

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*Stacey Zeitlin, Vice President
The Latham Foundation*

PLEASE WELCOME STACEY ZEITLIN

As I write my first editorial in my role as Vice President for the Latham Foundation, the world is going through some uncertain times – uncertainty across the globe in war-torn regions, uncertainty in the

United States with a new administration, uncertainty closer to home with extreme weather conditions and disaster responses. But what is certain through it all is that in times of uncertainty, many people rise above the challenges to lend a hand of support helping others in need – both human and animal.

Throughout this edition of The Latham Letter, you'll see examples of this. We're highlighting the work of three of our previous grant recipients, Pegasus Farm, Paws & Think, and Horses & Heroes. Both support their communities through impactful programs focusing on both animals and people. The grants they received specifically addressed their efforts working with first responders – people who know a thing or two about stepping up during times of uncertainty. We were honored to recognize their work through our grants a few years ago and to share some of their accomplishments with our readers now.

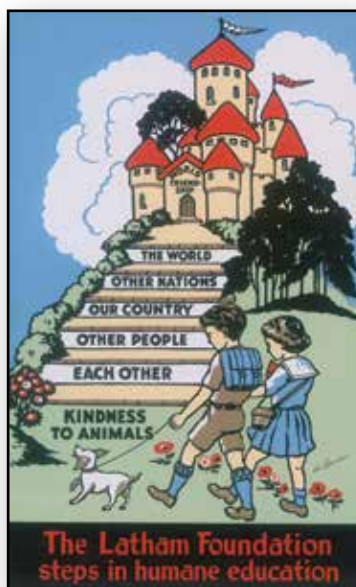
All of our work since our founding in 1918 by Edith and Milton Latham has focused on the promotion of humane education and its impact on our communities. Our grant program extends that promotion to communities throughout the country by highlighting programs which illustrate the [Latham Steps to Humane Education](#). Through our 2024 grant cycle we were able to award over \$250,000 to 29 organizations making a difference in the lives of animals and teens through innovative programs. We look forward to sharing information about their efforts as

we receive grant reports from them in the next few months. Sign up for important updates at this link: mailchi.mp/latham.org/emailsSignup or go to our website and explore: www.latham.org.

The Latham Foundation has always believed that building compassion and empathy for animals is the first step in having compassion to others so we're also highlighting some innovative shelter programs which focus on the Latham Step of Kindness to Animals. Shelters across the country have been implementing Dog Day Out type programs where community members connect with shelter animals giving them a day out of the shelter and potentially a new home! We hope you enjoy reading about our own Executive Creative Director, Tula Asselanis, taking a shelter dog on an adventure while in Kauai!

Innovative programs across the country allow people to step up to support their communities during times of uncertainty and I'm honored to be part of The Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education in supporting these efforts. After reading about just a few of these programs, we hope that you'll be inspired to look in your own communities for ways you can make an impact through humane education yourself. If you do, reach out to share it with us and maybe your efforts will make it in a future edition of The Latham Letter!

Stacey Zeitlin
Vice President, The Latham Foundation



Stacey Zeitlin, MAT, is the Vice President of Community Impact at San Diego Humane Society and oversees the organization's Resource Center and Community and Volunteer Engagement Departments. Stacey holds a multiple-subject teaching credential for the state of California, as well as a certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of San Diego, a bachelor's in psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder and a master's in teaching with a focus on humane and character education from Webster University. She serves as a board advisor to the Association of Professional Humane Educators.





DO WHALES FART?

And other humane education questions asked through the years

Please welcome Carol Everett to the Latham family and thank her for her service as a humane education maverick for over 40 years. From the Rocky Mountains to the shores of Kauai, from volunteering at Boulder, CO animal shelters to the National Marine Sanctuary, her dedication to the welfare of animals and teaching humane education is unparalleled.

Starting with rescuing her beloved Scottish Terriers in the early 80s, she later transitioned her experience to volunteering at local Colorado shelters. When her family moved to Kauai for the winter, she did the same for their shelter. Each winter in Kauai, she added new volunteer opportunities, helping in the spay/neuter clinic, gaining experience and skills, expanding her duties, learning as she helped.



Her time and caring (and chutzpa) led to actual employment in a position that she helped create to address an important community need - Kauai Humane Society's foster program. A few years later, KHS was expanding and looking for a Humane Educator. "I applied and said, you know, I've got this background. I don't have a degree, but I've got a lot of experience."

Before the move, Carol talked to shelter directors and humane educators like Corey Price who led her to APHE which provided all kinds of materials to get her started. She was determined to create impactful but inexpensive humane education programs, so she depended on these contacts

at other animal welfare organizations and groups like APHE and The Latham Foundation for resources and ideas to create programs, like Critter Camp, that would not cost much and would actually raise money. Right from the beginning, she knew she did not want to "take one morsel from an animal" so she made sure the department was self-sustaining."

From Scotties to kittens to whales, she is passionate about all kinds of animals and working with children. And that passion spreads through her audiences. Recently at the end of one of her whale presentations through the National Marine Sanctuary, a middle school boy asked her if whales fart. She knew the student's teacher was mortified, but she wanted to encourage the student to learn more about his interests so she responded with "You know what? You can study that. You can become a marine biologist and do a study on if whales fart."

Carol is a wonderful and creative champion, sharing her passion for humane education with everyone. We are grateful she is now also part of The Latham Foundation, giving back to other Humane Educators.

Carol and Lana





PARADISE LOST AND FOUND WANAKA'S DAY OUT

By Tula Asselanis

Background Information:

The local tourist magazines advertise lots of colorful adventures. Most are very expensive: helicopter rides over the Wailua Falls, luaus at 5-star resorts, whale watching boat tours. But if you look carefully, you'll see a little small blurb: "Kauai Humane Society's Field Trip with a Dog."

"The island of Kauai has always been a vacationer's paradise and what better way to enjoy the natural beauty of the Garden Island than by giving a shelter dog a break from the kennels? Taking the dog out of the shelter and allowing him or her to have a fun day is incredibly beneficial to the dog's mental health. It often helps the dog get adopted,

and most importantly, we get to learn more about the dog's true behavior," says Tanya Ramseth,



Director of Development at Kauai Humane.

Tourists driving from the airport will see a beautiful sign directing them to the shelter just off the main highway. Kauai Humane is a well-kept traditional Hawaiian building in a lush green setting. What they don't see, even after walking inside, is how over-

crowded it is behind the scenes in the kennels.

Twice a week, the hard-working staff from Kaua'i Humane Society travel over an hour to the Koke'e State Park mountainous hunting grounds. It's not to help the wild boar or deer that local hunters are targeting. It's to look for and rescue the working dogs that the hunters have left behind because they have been injured or just don't measure up on their hunt. One of those abandoned dogs is now named Wanaka.

So while I was a visitor to paradise on the beach, I drove to Kaua'i Humane Society. Wanaka



Wanaka "Let's Go!"

Continued on next page



was sharing a small kennel with a lot of other failed hunters that had been rescued. Not exactly paradise for these abandoned working dogs.

After meeting a handful of helpful staff, I got to meet one of the hundreds of unwanted domestic pets there. One was a hunting dog that had been lost but never found by his owner. Just like several other dogs in Kaua'i, Wanaka came out to the lobby to greet me full of excited energy. As a dog well acquainted with days out with tourists, he must have known what fun was about to come. He could not stop wagging his tail, and he could not wait for me to pet him and love him up as he rolled over on his back.



We all know there are too many unwanted dogs produced by too many unneutered dogs – it is a worldwide problem. However,

hundreds of unclaimed hunting dogs was a new reason to me. Instead of hanging at the beach by myself, I took a deep dive into Kaua'i's unique situation and Kaua'i Humane's amazingly simple idea to help combat it - at least a little bit. The idea of a tourist taking a shelter dog out for a day trip has not only been very helpful for shelter dogs in Hawaii, but has been adopted by shelters

from Silicon Valley, Calif. to Bangor, Maine for the same beneficial reasons but under different circumstances.

Talking to the hopeful, slightly beleaguered but kind and grateful staff, I learned about the specific animal situation here in Kaua'i. Hunting boar and other wild animals is not a new thing. Polynesians brought feral pigs over 1500 years ago. They also brought chickens and dogs. Europeans brought another type

of boar to hunt in the 19th century as well. The original Kaua'i breed of dog is now extinct, replaced with more modern breeds that help the hunters track or locate game, or even protect the hunters themselves. Wanaka is thought to be a Catahoula dog. They are better trackers and hunters, can handle rough terrains, and are now actively bred on Kaua'i.

One third of the lush and almost all green Garden Island makes a big hunting ground. Run by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, the area includes Natural



Crossbow Weapon

Area Reserves, Forest Reserves, State Parks, and Game Management Areas. They estimate there are about 2,000 listed hunters on Kaua'i, not including tourists that come for the hunt. Hikers and tourists share the extraordinary views/hunting grounds with hunters with bows & arrows.

Hawaii has hunting regulations to promote sustainable wildlife management. It is allowed 365



Continued on next page



The paths around the golf course were a great choice, as rain came and went without warning and we had a few sheltered places we could run under. Also, the paths weren't very muddy or steep. Wanaaka still had a bit of prey drive in him, lunging at the feral roosters & chickens, but he was a quick learner. They would flee fast, and a strong 'no!' from me made sure every critter remained safe... except me. On one lunge, he went for a colorful rooster causing me (on the other end of the now taut leash) to slip in the mud and land on my bum! No harm - no fowl though!

days of the year by archery only. I was told that keeping 'down' the boar population on the island is 'necessary' or else they would rampage over the entire island, much like the feral roosters & chickens do now since their escape from local farms after the last hurricane. Feral goats and deer also provide free food for the local population. Unfortunately, abandoned dogs have overwhelmed Kaua'i's only animal shelter.

system, there is no one to feed or water the dogs left in the kennels. Although dogs can be reclaimed at any time, it is the overworked Kaua'i Humane Society staff that go up twice a week to collect those abandoned dogs and bring them to their shelter.

kauainownews.com/2022/09/28/hunting-dogs-in-kokee/

My Experience:

Despite Wanaaka's previous job as hunter, he was very loving and let me put a Go Pro on him. He was so excited to be out and about and loved walking on the paths around the golf course – not wanting to pose for too many photos.

Kaua'i is a microcosm of the world's human - animal relationship issues. Kaua'i Humane deals with a large percentage of it for a small, isolated island, but they have bold, creative ideas to help their local humans and domesticated companions.

My Facebook Post I also uploaded on Kaua'i Humane's

Some time ago, a kind, visiting soul built an additional platform for the unmanned lost and found kennel in Kōke'e for runaway or lost hunting dogs. Located at the hunter check-in station at Waimea Canyon and run by an honor



I was provided a list of areas we could visit and decided to go to nearby Kukui-olono Park next to a county golf course.





Wanaka "Lots of space to sniff & see!"

"Like most shelters, we are experiencing a capacity crisis. Unfortunately, our shelter has been at almost double the ideal capacity for care for years. As the only open-admission shelter on the island, our isolated location, and the lack of low-cost services for pet owners, KHS has had more animals than there are homes for. Not only is caring for the animals and staffing extremely expensive, it is very stressful to the animals in our care." Tanya Ramseth explains. "Staffing has been a challenge for KHS the entire five years that I have been here. Due to the extraordinarily high cost of living on the island, many people simply cannot afford to work at a non-profit, despite all the kisses from the animals."



Thank You!

The Field Trips for Shelter Dogs program was started about fifteen years ago. Jian Mehta's local family generously donates to honor his passion for animals by sponsoring and promoting the Field Trip Program on the Kaua'i Visitor's Channel at no charge for the past 10 years. "KHS is very grateful of this partnership because this helps the program reach tons of visitors every year!"

reports Tanya. KHS also makes it very easy for a tourist - or resident - to foster just for a few hours. The 'Field Trips with a Dog' is very popular now and although you can walk in, they do advise making an appointment.

Social media and word of mouth help their success: "Our Field Trip

program is very popular online and a lot of our social media feed is filled with reposts of someone's experience. We have information about our program posted at local businesses, and we know that they talk about our program with their visitors." Tanya adds, "We estimate 15-20% of our adoptions are directly related to a field trip experience. This could be the field tripper adopting or meeting someone while out for the day and that person gets to know the animal." Tanya proudly reports.

Back home in the San Francisco Bay Area, I have taken a shelter dog out for a walk on the



Foster's insta report on Wananka spur of the moment after calling my local shelter to see if it's okay. Thinking the occasional volunteer was unusual, I am now finding that lots of shelters have "Doggy Day Out" or 'short term foster' opportunities. I learned from Emily

Continued on next page



Happily tired Wanaka on the way back to the shelter

Update:
Wanaka's day out = Wanaka's way out? Not as yet. At this writing, although a popular day pick, Wanaka has not been adopted and remains in Kaua'i Humane's shelter. They announce who has been adopted weekly on Instagram. I'll keep checking in on him! Maybe if you head to Kaua'i you could take him for an adventure?

[instagram.com/kauaihumanesociety/](https://www.instagram.com/kauaihumanesociety/)



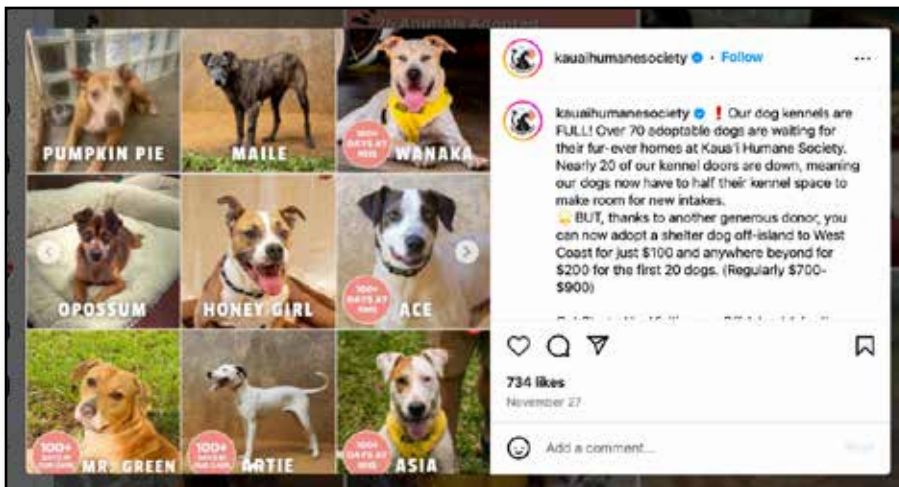
Scheerer, Director of Operational Programs at San Diego Humane, that they have had so much success that they have now expanded their trial run of a Dog Day Out to all four of their shelter locations, after just starting at one.

some normalcy away from their habitats and are exposed to more potential adopters while out and about.”

A field trip for a shelter dog means relief from constant



Click to watch our adventure!



“We’ve seen a great demand for the program at our San Diego Campus since we started in April and are so excited to be able to expand it,” said Emily. “It’s a win-win, because the dogs get

barking noises, less kennel stress, and a great way to burn off their energy. It is also a great way for a volunteer to have some fun canine time without having to make a long-term commitment.

Thanks to Emily Scheerer at San Diego Humane and Lexi Hughes at Maui Humane for their input and information on their Dogs Day outings programs. Both of them sited this study led by Lisa Gunter, PhD for inspiration and important information:

[mdpi.com/2076-2615/13/22/3528](https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/13/22/3528)





Additionally, the funding enabled us to build stronger relationships with our current partners while exploring opportunities for new collaborations, all of which helped us reach more individuals in need of support across Central Indiana.

This grant has been instrumental in enabling Paws & Think to expand our services and reach more individuals in need across Central Indiana. The funding has allowed us

Paws & Think was honored to receive a generous grant in 2023, which has been instrumental in supporting our long-standing Paws to Heal program and facilitating the expansion of partnerships with HVAF and Critical Care Transport at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital. This funding has profoundly impacted our ability to bring comfort, healing, and joy to thousands of individuals in need over the grant period, from September 2023 through September 2024. We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to further our mission of improving lives through the power of the human-dog connection.

funding allowed us to enhance our capacity by training additional therapy teams and providing the necessary oversight to ensure they could successfully engage in our key programs.

With the increased demand for therapy dog services, this grant helped us strengthen our ability to manage and support a growing number of therapy teams, ensuring they were well-prepared to meet the needs of the organizations we serve.

Thanks to the generous support of this grant, Paws & Think made significant strides toward achieving our goals of expanding therapy services and deepening community partnerships. This

to strengthen our programs, enhance our partnerships, and provide critical support to various communities. Some of the key outcomes and benefits from this grant include:

Increased Reach at Roudebush VA Medical Center:

Our therapy team visits to Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis have expanded from weekly to three times a week, averaging over 200 veterans, family members, and staff impacted each week. This increase has helped us meet the growing demand for therapy dog support among the veteran population.

Veteran Empowerment

Through HVAF's VetWorks Program: We successfully partnered with HVAF's VetWorks program to host a 10-week internship for a veteran who contributed to



Continued on next page



vices, allowing us to reach more individuals, deepen our partnerships, and have a lasting impact on our community.

During the grant period, Paws & Think therapy teams have made a profound impact on both people and animals in Central Indiana. Through our various programs and outreach efforts impacted by this grant funding, we have directly touched the lives of over 50,000 individuals, providing emotional support, comfort, and companionship to veterans, children, first responders, and many others in need. This includes those receiving therapy dog visits at healthcare facilities, children grieving the loss of a loved one, and emergency medical teams working in high-stress environments.

therapy visits and assisted in our training programs. This internship empowered the veteran, provided meaningful work experience, and strengthened our connections within the veteran community.

vided comfort to grieving children across Central Indiana.

Ongoing Support for Critical Care Transport Teams:

We continued our bi-weekly visits to the Critical Care Transport Unit at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, offering emotional support to over 25 EMTs who work in high-stress environments. These visits have provided critical stress relief and comfort to frontline responders.

In addition to the human lives impacted, we've supported close to 170 therapy dogs, with about one-third of our teams—approximately 55 therapy teams—directly contributing to the programs supported by this grant. Together, these efforts represent the heart of our mission to improve lives through the healing power of the human-dog connection.

Expanded Grief

Support at Brooke's Place: The grant enabled us to expand our grief support services at Brooke's Place, with two therapy teams now visiting twice weekly to support children and teens dealing with loss. Additionally, we've supported Brooke's Place's new partnerships with local schools, which has extended our reach to more youth and pro-



In summary, this grant has directly contributed to the expansion and enrichment of our ser-



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The effectiveness of our programs are measured through a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. We track key metrics, including the number of therapy visits, volunteer hours, and the total number of individuals reached through our various services. This data provides us with concrete insights into the scale and reach of our programs.

In addition to these metrics, we collect qualitative feedback from participants, including veterans, children, families, and healthcare staff, to understand the emotional and transformative impact of therapy dog visits. Their testimonials highlight the profound difference these visits make in their lives, from providing comfort to easing stress and grief.



One testimony we received this year was from Pam Gasway, a Paws & Think therapy team with her pup Luciano. Pam and Luciano are just one of the 10 therapy teams that attended Camp Healing Tree, a weekend camp for grieving children presented by Brooke's Place. "Luciano and I enjoyed being with a group of fifth grade girls," Pam said when asked about her experience. "We try to be with the group through all of their camp activities: we participate in tie-dying T-shirts, encouraging them in their craft building, participating in the drum circle, watching them decorate and smash guitars. Most importantly, we are in their cabins when they talk about their loved ones whom they've lost. Many times the girls will pet Luciano as they share a special memory.

They'll cuddle him when they just can't hold back the tears of heartache and loss. They'll call for him to join them as they engage in special memory activities. It's obvious that the girls trust him, care for him, and even love him." Pam goes on to say that, "the rewards of helping kids understand and deal with the grief process is truly rewarding." This not only demonstrates the impact and importance of our therapy teams to the young children, but also shows the heart-warming feeling felt by our therapy teams when they are able to share their furry-friend with those who would benefit the most.

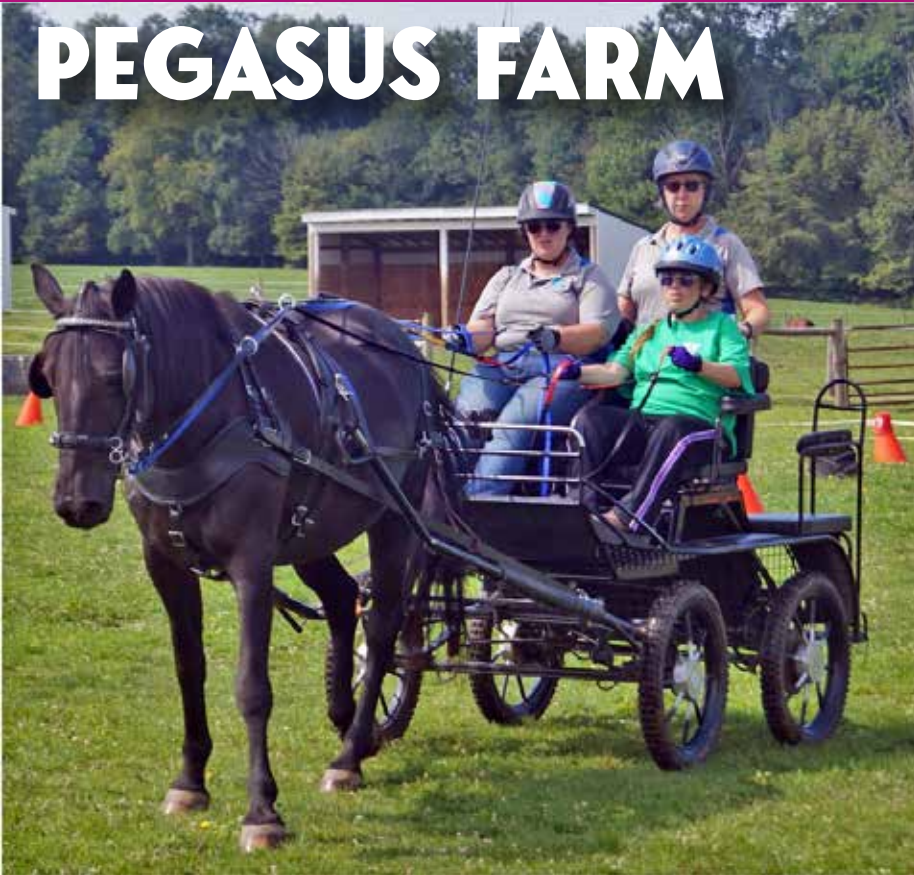
Finally, we also monitored the growth and satisfaction of our partner organizations, such as Brooke's Place and Roudebush VA Medical Center, ensuring that our collaborations are mutually beneficial and contributing to the overall success of the program. This multi-faceted approach allows us to comprehensively assess the program's effectiveness and its lasting impact on the individuals and organizations we serve.



Lisa Gupton and Vicki Strohm from Paws and Think were on "Pet Pals TV," recently.
wishtv.com/pet-pals-tv/pet-pals-tv-paws-and-think-08082024/



PEGASUS FARM



By Shelley Sprang, Executive Director Pegasus Farm

Final Grant Report for Grant Awarded 8/2023

Pegasus Farm greatly appreciates the support the Latham Foundation has provided us to serve the health and wellness needs of veterans, first responders, and their families at the Military and First Responders Center (MFC). Your grant award played a vitally important role in sustaining the services we are providing during the 2023/2024 grant period. We are happy to submit this final report.

In August 2023, the Military Family Center changed its name to the Military and First Responders Center (still MFC) to better reflect the groups served there. The MFC has always served area first responders and their families, and

the new branding made it clearer and easier to understand for the community. The MFC continues to serve the needs of active-duty military, veterans, first responders, and their families through weekly equestrian activities, mental health counseling, exercise space and classes, family activities, and social functions.

The Military and First Responders Center saw an increase of 32 percent in the number of individuals served and



a 5 percent increase in units of service from 2022 to 2023. The equine-assisted activities had an average of 21 weekly participants in 2023 with 595 units of service in this program area, which is a slight decrease from 2022. We saw a marked increase in family engagement activities, which increased by 42 percent from 2022 to 2023. Our exercise program saw an increase of 31 percent in the number of individuals participating in this activity. We believe that the relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere at the MFC has helped to create camaraderie which has led to increased participation across our various programs.

The goals of the MFC are to provide:

- High-quality, professional, therapeutic equine activity for veterans, first responders, and their families, employing best practice standards.

Progress made: Quality equine activities are being provided for veterans, first responders, and their families. This program is based on participation and additional classes are added as needed. Our offerings include ground lessons, mounted riding classes, carriage driving, and youth equine activities, such as summer kids camps.

- A safe, supportive environment for veterans, first responders, and active military to network with one another, helping them to build positive connections with others, including local community veteran’s outreach groups.

Progress made: Veterans, first responders, and active military

Continued on next page



has ADHD, becomes calmer and more focused in the barn. He works hard and helps Missy without any fuss. Our daughter also loves being there, doing “horse chores” and interacting with other kids. It’s a unique and rewarding environment for them both.” – *Mother of children participating at the MFC*

have built positive connections with one another before, during and after programming at the Military Family Center. Many of our participants show up early for programming so that they can participate in the comradery aspect of the Military Family Center. In the last few years, we have made a concerted effort to open the facility to outside advocacy groups that are supporting our mission. Outside groups, including local and regional VA chapters, local veteran’s task forces, and local family readiness groups from the National Guard and Reserve centers have held staff meetings, training days, and networking events at the MFC.

“Our team, a VA case management team, has been able to use the MFC for our staff retreats on numerous occasions. I also have been able to utilize MFC to meet with new and established veterans to assist them with their individual needs. As a veteran myself who attends and participates in the equine program and workout facility, it has helped me manage my stress and PTSD reactions, and gives me a place to meet and hang out with other veterans who are dealing with similar issues creating strong bonds and providing additional support.” – *a veteran participant and employee of the local VA office*

Quotes from participants at the MFC:

“The MFC has been an amazing experience for our family. Seeing a different side of our children when they are with the horses is fascinating. Our son, who

PEGASUS FARM: Military Family Center

Counseling services with our partner, CommQuest, began in April 2021 and continue to this day. Our designated, licensed counselor is on the property four

hours each week providing clinical as well as consultation services. These consultation services provide informal conversations with our participants and their caregivers to provide coping skills for their everyday life, or an outlet for future counseling should the need arise. In 2023, seven individuals participated in formal counseling and this number has continued into 2024.

Financial support for the MFC comes from individual donors and local community foundations to support this important ongoing service to those who risk so much for the safety of our communities and country. All services and activities are free of charge at the center. Again, we would like to express sincere appreciation for the trust the Latham Foundation has placed in us to fulfill our mission to serve veterans and first responders through the use of our amazing, hardworking horses. Pegasus Farm remains committed to maintaining and growing the services provided at the MFC.



*Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Sprang, Executive
Director Pegasus Farm*

*Pegasus Farm is located in
Hartville, Ohio.*



HORSES & HEROES INC. ADAPTIVE SADDLE

Horses & Heroes wanted to update The Latham Foundation that we finally received the custom-made adaptive saddle! The foundation graciously funded the creation of the saddle in 2022, and it has taken this long for the product to be skillfully handmade by Pike's Peak Saddlery. Enclosed are photos of the final project. We are very happy with the fine craftsmanship and quality of the leather and stitching.

Thank you again for the funding in 2022, and we are eagerly looking forward to the unique and dynamic adaptive activities that this saddle will enable for our local heroes who wish to ride a horse.

*Julie Baker, Founder,
Executive Director
Horses & Heroes Inc.*



We are proud to announce the recent Verification of Horses & Heroes,” said Daryl Tropea, Ph.D., GFAS Program Director-Equine. “Horses & Heroes’ herd of amazing equines helps people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Many of these equines have their own traumatic histories. The wellbeing of each equine during therapy is given the highest priority. Equines are not ridden but participate in ground exercises with people. In addition to providing excellent care, this organization is committed to management best practices ensuring organizational growth and sustainability.”

H&H is Kansas City’s premier equine-assisted mental and alternative health therapy program for the military, first responders and their families.

Founded in 2015, H&H is one of more than 600 certified Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association programs (EAGALA) globally. H&H decided to become certified through EAGALA because of their long track record of being the gold-standard for EAP modalities governed by a code of ethics.

The founding principles of H&H are Integrity, Trust and Healing. Each of these principles, when connected, provides the vital environment necessary for those affected by significant and life-altering trauma. H&H strives to connect with organizations that also support principles of code of ethics, transparency, accountability and preparedness.

For more information, please visit <https://www.horsesandheroes.org/>

WE GET LETTERS & ONLINE MESSAGES



From Facebook Messenger:

"I saw on the website there's a gallery of posters. Is there an archive where we can locate one by Susie Hermosillo in 1940? She's recently passed way and her children found a certificate of merit for a poster she submitted."

Sorry, we could not locate a poster with her name on it, but congratulations to Susie Hermosillo's family for having found the certificate and having a talented and kind hearted person in your life!

VISIT OUR HISTORIC POSTER GALLERY ONLINE:

<https://www.latham.org/about/history/poster-gallery/>



DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA?

Have a creative idea to help get shelter pets adopted or at least give them a break?

We want to hear it!

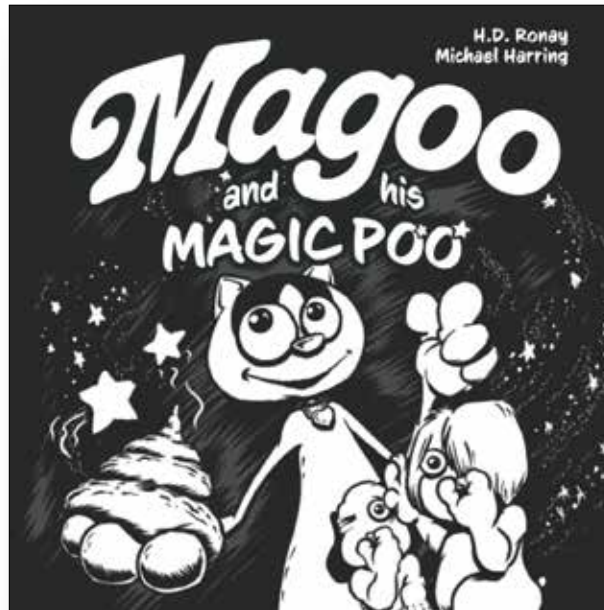
You are invited to send your comments, information wishes, or submit your own article book or media reviews, for consideration. Please contact:

Editor@latham.org

MAGOO AND HIS MAGIC POO

Written by HD Ronay, Illustrated by Michael Haring

Kids seem to get a big kick out of fart jokes and think poop references are hilarious. *Magoo and His Magic Poo*, written by HD Ronay, takes full advantage by incorporating these facts into a compelling story that teaches about empathy and kindness to others, even if they are different from you, and a subtle way to tell kids about puppy mills and the cruelty to animals.



Magoo is a cat who has REALLY stinky poo and used his stinky poo to save some dogs who were kept in cages and mistreated by mean men. One dog, Tippy, was also worried about his sister Macy who was kept in a separate cage from the other dogs. So Magoo came up with a plan to help the puppies escape their mean owners using his amazing “talent” but there was one puppy that hadn’t escaped and that was Macy. Magoo was finally able to rescue all the puppies including Macy.

Illustrated by Michael Haring, Magoo gives great fodder for discussions about empathy and kindness.

- WINNER: BEST HUMANE EDUCATION BOOK FOR YOUNG CHILDREN - The Association of Professional Humane Educators

- AWARD WINNING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR - H.D. Ronay is the Cannes Lion winning Creative Director behind viral commercials for Kmart and Squatty Potty.

Michael Haring, the Addy and Clio-winning illustrator, has shaped campaigns for Funko and Target.”

ISBN 9798842197637

Featured in the Latham Letter Spring 2024, Latham had the incredible learning experience of observing De Daltorio from Charleston Animal Society masterfully lead a discussion on empathy, kindness, difference, friendship and everybody’s own “special talents” to a Fourth grade class. Totally engaging the whole class, she artfully read Magoo and His Magic Poo. The children contributed on their take of the themes of the book, including the

mature problem of puppy mills. Then De offered a game called “Walk a Mile in My Shoes.” Each pair of shoes had a different situation attached to it, and the kids reasoned out what would be the kind, empathetic reaction. Please enjoy the two videos.

-Sue Spiersch & Tula Asselanis





THE LATHAM STEPS

We would love to know your thoughts on this issue's articles. If you would like to share your own anecdote, story, photo, or artwork relating to one of the Latham Steps to Humane Education, we would love to see it (and possibly publish it in *The Latham Letter!*) Editor@latham.org



STREAMING FOR FREE: EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS FOCUSED ON EMPATHY AND KINDNESS

vimeo.com/lathamfoundation/portfolios



Wishing for blue skies for all.



The Latham Foundation

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