



**PROJECT  
PAWS**

# Project Paws

**A GUIDE TO BRINGING  
ANIMAL ASSISTED ACTIVITY AND ANIMAL  
ASSISTED THERAPY  
TO REGION 18**



**THE  
TIM BUCKLEY  
PROJECT**

**Project Paws, The Tim Buckley Project, was born out of a desire to share my son Tim's story.**

**In May of 2017, at the young age of 22, Tim lost his battle with addiction to an accidental drug overdose. While addiction claimed his life, it certainly did not define it.**

**The unbreakable bond that was formed between Tim and his namesake, a miniature dachshund named Tip, became the catalyst for Project Paws.**

**Our mission is to foster the therapeutic benefits of the human- animal bond, impact social emotional learning and restore hope.**



# TYPES OF SUPPORT DOGS

- ❖ **Service Dogs**
- ❖ **Therapy Dogs**



# PRACTICES

**Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA)** provide opportunities for motivational, educational, therapeutic and/or recreational benefits to enhance quality of life.

**Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT)** is more structured, a goal-directed intervention in which an animal is incorporated as an integral part of the treatment process.

# Benefits to Pet Therapy

## The Why!

- ❖ Enhances students psychological development
- ❖ Improves social behavior and interaction
- ❖ Increases self esteem
- ❖ Teaches responsibility
- ❖ Teaches compassion and respect for others
- ❖ Calms fears/anxiety
- ❖ Helps to teach specific skills



# Benefits to Pet Therapy

## The How!

- ❖ An individual might be encouraged to gently pat or talk to a dog to teach sensitive touch and promote relaxation.
- ❖ The presence of a dog in a school setting, may create a less threatening environment and encourage students to engage in situations that might otherwise be more difficult.
- ❖ A dog in the classroom reduces anxiety for both the student and in many cases the teachers too!
- ❖ Dogs are great listeners. They help facilitate conversation with students who have trouble with communication and social cueing.
- ❖ For students dealing with strong emotions, a dog provides a calm accepting companion to practice appropriate coping skills.



# Social/Emotional

❖ PHYSICAL

❖ SOCIAL

❖ COGNITIVE

❖ EMOTIONAL

❖ ENVIRONMENT



**IMPROVED BEHAVIOR  
AND SOCIAL  
INTERACTION FOR  
AUTISM DISORDERS**

**Pe** ThePetEffect.org

## Pets & Autism

**-**

- CRYING
- FROWNING
- SOCIAL ISOLATION

**+**

- TALKING
- PHYSICAL CONTACT
- LOOKING AT FACES
- SMILING & LAUGHING

with  
..... ANIMALS

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A BROAD RANGE OF INVESTIGATIONS HAVE FOUND THAT ANIMAL-HUMAN INTERACTIONS REDUCE ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND LONELINESS AS THEY ENHANCE SOCIAL SUPPORT AND GENERAL WELL-BEING



# GOALS

- ❖ **Increase empathy and compassion**
- ❖ **Decrease retaliatory violence and improve self-esteem**
- ❖ **Help the student stay connected with social networks**
- ❖ **Reduce anxiety levels and help children to decompress after traumatic circumstances**
- ❖ **Improve reading skills, comprehension and increase confidence and literary interest**
- ❖ **Lessen the emotional trauma of a critical incident/event for students, teachers and staff**



# CONCERNS

- ❖ **LIABILITY**
- ❖ **ALLERGIC REACTIONS**
- ❖ **ANIMAL MAINTENANCE**
- ❖ **FEAR OF DOGS**



# NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Identify therapy teams within the district.
- ❖ Recruitment event scheduled for 11/12
- ❖ Bring more intentional programming to district
- ❖ Continue animal visits to all of the schools
- ❖ Assist each school in developing their own team to deliver individual programs



# PROJECT PAWS

- ❖ Provide teams for school events/dates
- ❖ Provide tools and resources
- ❖ Provide financial assistance
- ❖ Remove stigmas



# MEET BLU



