



## For more information

### Contact:

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## Our Vision

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We are a group of animal lovers who know and appreciate the ability of pets to demonstrate God's love through unconditional love and unbounded acceptance of the individual. We believe in the healing benefits that come with this unconditional love.

## Our Mission

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To comfort, amuse, warm a heart, or entice a memory or good feeling in someone and allow them to forget their pains, worries, and loneliness for a few minutes.

To become a Pet Visit Ministry Team it is required that a pet owner is willing to participate in the training and testing necessary to certify their pet. Owner and pet then become a volunteer team in this ministry, and represent Pax Christi Catholic Community.

Pets can include dogs, cats, and a variety of other animals that have lived in the owner's home for at least six months at the time of evaluation and testing.

Pet handler and pet currently visit area care centers and make hospice visits. We constantly aspire to add more teams so we can broaden the ministry to people in need.

## Client Benefits

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Positive physiological effects include decrease in heart rate and blood pressure, mental stimulation, feeling of acceptance and good rapport, outward focus and opportunities for empathy and nurturing.

Pet Visit Ministry can increase motivation and include entertainment and socialization.

### Did you know...?

Pet Visit Ministry can effectively reduce the loneliness and measurable anxiety in residents of long-term care facilities. Residents can experience improved moods, engagement, and care compliance.

*"What happens in our pet ministry visits constantly amazes me, especially in situations such as hospice and takes compassion to a whole different level..."*

Quote from Cheryl Bann, PhD.,  
Pax Christi Member and Pet Partners Evaluator.



## Requirements for Pax Pets Teams

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- AKC's Canine Good Citizen certification is required for dogs. The training can be taken from any local trainer that offers CGC obedience classes; successful completion of testing is needed.
- Training and certification through Pet Partners is required for all pet teams. The classes will be held on-site at Pax Christi when we have a suitable number of teams that are ready for the training.
- The certification guarantees liability insurance for the team as long as the team remains active and certified with Pet Partners.

### Other benefits of Pax Pets:

- Frequent gatherings of the handlers to gain knowledge and build community in the ministry.
- Planned get togethers with teams that include fun outings for handlers and pets.
- We are a group of fun, passionate animal lovers who enjoy each other's company and are excited to be making a difference through this ministry.