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A Passion of Sharing With Others

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There's one place that therapy animal handler Susan Rubio and her dog, Baxter, can't wait to visit post-COVID: the library. Prior to the pandemic, Susan and Baxter were building relationships with the kids at libraries in Prescott, Arizona. Susan coordinates reading programs at these area libraries. With Baxter at her side, she also volunteers her time to directly benefit these children. Susan shared that children reading to Baxter helps the young reader build confidence with their reading abilities since animals are non-judgmental.

Susan is a "people person." With a career in sales and marketing, Susan's extrovert personality, her ability to listen and her empathy for her customers translates to success in Pet Partners visits. Susan is also adept at building relationships, which comes in handy through her volunteer role at Pet Partners. Baxter, with his warm engaging eyes and calm demeanor, is equally comfortable being with kids of all ages. Laure Zaffuto, Community Leader of Pet Partners of Prescott said, "Susan is there to ask, "How can I help?" She has connections that have gained us public attention. I am very thankful for all she does in our community. Susan and Baxter are a joy to work with."

When Susan was searching for an organization to become registered with, she chose Pet Partners because of the high standards and comprehensive coursework required for a team to become registered. Being involved with Pet Partners opens more doors at facilities that often require a registration through our organization.

Giving back is important for Susan and her volunteer role extends beyond Pet Partners. Susan and her husband, Joe, are Ambassadors for Free Wheelchair Mission, an organization that provides wheelchairs at no cost to people with disabilities living in developing countries. Pre-pandemic, they made trips to Peru, Vietnam, El Salvador and Ecuador to participate in the delivery of these wheelchairs.

Closer to home, given her inclination to "give back" to others, Susan decided to include Pet Partners as one of the beneficiaries of their estate plan, through their will. By making this decision, Susan wants Pet Partners to continue to grow, to keep it thriving so others in the future will also benefit from these visits by a volunteer handler and their animal.

Pet Partners is appreciative of the generosity and participation of Susan and Baxter. Not only has Susan taken the necessary step to include Pet Partners in a future estate gift, she and Baxter share kindness and comfort to those they meet in their Prescott community.

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