



2021

IN REVIEW



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MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP:

As a Director at Large on the OTD Board of Directors, I was pleased to serve as Chair for the beginning of the 2022 year. Over the course of the pandemic, I have had the opportunity to see the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, who remained patient and keen as we eagerly awaited the return to in-person visits. While we took a pause from our core programming, our staff and volunteers were dedicated to ensuring that we continued to support our community in creative and engaging ways.

We continued our Paw-Pal Program to amplify our mission by advancing literacy for elementary school children in the Ottawa area. It helps to maintain our connections with current handlers, retired volunteers and friends of OTD who wrote back to the students on behalf of their furry friends. The feedback from teachers was overwhelmingly positive, as they commended OTD for the ways in which it was helping students enhance their reading and writing skills while putting a smile on the faces of children, contributing to their positive mental health and well-being.

Seeing the impact that initiatives like the Paw-Pal Program and our visits make in our community is what led me to take on a leadership role with the organization. As we present the highlights from 2021, I am inspired by the passion of our volunteers and supporters who make all of this happen. From the successes of Giving Tuesday and our first-ever 'Pawliday' Photoshoot Fundraiser, to the Bone Appetit Community Cookbook, the support from our donors is what allows us to continue to do the impactful work we do.

Whether you have invested your time, made a philanthropic gift or showed your support by sharing our successes, we are so grateful. While our return to in-person visits has already commenced for the 2022 year, here is a look back at all we have achieved thanks to your collective efforts.

On behalf of OTD, I wish to extend a warm welcome to Melanie Mohammed who will be taking on the position of Chair moving forward. Many of you will recognize Melanie as a current volunteer handler for her two furry companions, Grits and Beans. Melanie brings a breadth of experience to the Board of Directors through her commitment as both a current volunteer and former Director at Large.

Sincerely,

Sho Sengupta

Outgoing Chair, Director at Large

EXECUTION & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN



Since its launch in 2000, Ottawa Therapy Dogs has been serving vulnerable individuals in the Ottawa community through its animal-assisted interventions. With a core mission to provide compassionate support to those struggling with physical and/or mental health challenges, our in-person visits, including the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.)® program and Paw-Pal programs, align with the three Key Result (KR) areas of our Strategic Plan:

KR1 Define and concentrate on key areas for animal-assisted interventions to increase our impact.

KR2 Improve the effectiveness and reduce wait times of recruitment, training and evaluation processes.

KR3 Develop financial and human resources to build capacity through focused programs & processes.



At a vaccine clinic for children at CHEO, one of our teams was there to support the children. One child was extremely afraid of receiving needles and after spending 15 minutes with the dog, she finally wrapped her arms around the dog's neck, looked at the nurse, and said "go"!

- Anecdote from one of our volunteer handlers after a visit to CHEO's Kids Come First COVID-19 vaccination clinic

2021 IN REVIEW:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTD

KR1 Define and concentrate on key areas for animal-assisted interventions to increase our impact.

- Resumed our in-person visits at 11 partner sites between September and December when restrictions eased. Although we paused our visits for the health and safety of our volunteer teams and visitors, we were pleased to be able to continue our mission to provide in-person visits to those in need of a non-judgemental source of relief and comfort.
- Continued the Paw-Pal program in partnership with elementary schools across the Ottawa area, which included a number of online visits with our volunteers to talk about the work of OTD. This program aims to enhance children's reading and writing skills by providing the opportunity for a child to write to one of our current Ottawa Therapy Dogs, retired therapy dogs or friends of OTD. The Paw-Pal program helps advance children's literacy while helping to spread awareness of the work we do in our community. In 2021, over 600 letters were sent to classrooms within the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Ottawa Catholic School Board and Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario.
- In August 2021, two of our volunteer teams completed a first-time visit to the Tukimut Summer Camp at Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families. Olive and Isaac had the opportunity to uplift the children's spirits at this special site visit, expanding our reach in the community.
- Visited Terrace Wellness Group in September to provide support to youth coping with mental health challenges.
- Provided a special in-person visit in September as part of IKEA's appreciation event for staff at their Ottawa location. This helped provide encouragement to support the well-being of staff during the height of the busy back-to-school season.

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2021 IN REVIEW:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTD



KR1 Define and concentrate on key areas for animal-assisted interventions to increase our impact.

- Provided special visits to staff at the Youville Centre, at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CHEO and with the Occupational Therapy staff at The Ottawa Hospital. These visits help provide comfort to those working closely with vulnerable populations.
- Isaac, Harry and Copain attended CHEO's Kids Come First COVID-19 vaccination clinic for children who are immunocompromised, individuals with autism or anxiety and those who have a condition that makes it challenging to be vaccinated in a more public community space. While wearing their festive holiday bells, they helped minimize the stress and fear for children in a safe and kid-friendly environment.



Thank you VERY much for writing back to the students in my class. To say that they were THRILLED to receive your letters is a bit of an understatement. The letters from your generous volunteers were engaging and thoughtful. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

- Mrs. S. Ramsay, Bells Corners Public School

2021 IN REVIEW:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTD

KR2 Improve the effectiveness and reduce wait times of recruitment, training and evaluation processes.



- In September 2021, we hosted our first in-person Orientation Session since the onset of the pandemic featuring Lorraine Douglas, Operations Manager and Catherine Mirsky, Chair of our Standards & Practices Committee. These in-depth sessions help streamline our recruitment process by providing candidates with insight into a number of priority areas including determining suitability of handler and dog, infection control, confidentiality and expectations for in-person visits and evaluations.
- Hosted an in-person Evaluation in the fall to expand our therapy dog teams. This resulted in the addition of 3 new volunteer teams.
- Hosted a Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.)® evaluation, which allowed us to add 3 new teams that are trained to work specifically with children.
- Updated our Grooming Standards video to feature Julie and Isaac, one of our volunteer teams, which highlights important maintenance requirements for all visiting therapy dog teams.
- Hosted a virtual event for our members with keynote speaker, Jane Madigan, who delivered her talk, 'A Working Dog's Perspective'. Jane joined us to share her insights from training Guide Dogs and how it relates to therapy dog work. As a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, Member of the Pet Professional Guild and TTouch Practitioner, Jane's knowledge was invaluable as a training resource for our volunteer teams.
- Provided copies of 'Teaming with your Therapy Dog' by Ann Howie to handlers as a resource to provide ongoing training and development to our dedicated volunteers.
- To help increase efficiencies in volunteer management, we acquired new volunteer management software through Better Impact. This highly integrated platform allows our volunteer teams to record their volunteer hours, upload their mandatory volunteer forms, view waitlists for facilities and view upcoming volunteer events within their own portal. It also provides online application forms for new volunteers and e-learning modules.

2021 IN REVIEW:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTD

KR3 Develop financial and human resources to build capacity through focused programs & processes.

- Extended Jenna Hobin's contract as a Communications Consultant for the duration of 2021 to provide support in the areas of communications, the planning & implementation of community outreach initiatives and fund development.
- Participated as a Scotiabank Charity Challenge partner as part of the 2021 Ottawa Marathon Tamarack Homes Virtual Race Weekend. Through registrations, registration referrals and charitable donations, \$4221.00 was raised as part of this initiative. As a partner, we also had the opportunity to increase our engagement with the community through the social media accounts of the event organizers.
- In November, we hosted our first-ever 'Pawliday' Photoshoot Fundraiser at the Central Experimental Farm in partnership with local photographer, Mae Media. Within 2 weeks of launching the online booking system, all 42 time slots were sold out. Thanks to our generous supporters and our photographer, over \$2200 was raised in support of OTD.
- Launched a successful Giving Tuesday in collaboration with our generous partners at Access Storage Canada who provided \$3000 in matching funding. Thanks to the incredible support of individual donors, over \$3100 was raised for OTD on Giving Tuesday 2021, totalling \$6100 in charitable contributions.
- In December, we launched our 'Bone Appetit Community Cookbook' featuring over a dozen recipes from local Ottawa restaurants including Fairouz Café, Gezellig, Farinella, Perch, Red Apron, Fraser Restaurant, North & Navy, Supply and Demand, Das Lokal, Pure Kitchen, NeXT and the Soca Kitchen. Through online sales and in-person sales at Red Apron, 211 copies were sold which raised over \$1390 towards our programming in support of children and youth mental health.

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2021 IN REVIEW:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTD

KR3 Develop financial and human resources to build capacity through focused programs & processes.

- Received a generous grant from the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation to help support programming for children and youth mental health. Their funding will help us increase our capacity through recruitment efforts and providing specialized training to our volunteer teams in the areas of mental health.
- Received funding through the generous support of the Ottawa Community Foundation to bridge the gap between the escalating need for in-person visits with children and youth and the limited number of current teams trained to work with children. This funding will help support our ongoing recruitment efforts, including the training and evaluation process for teams to work specifically in this area.



As we approached each unit, the staff exited the nursing station en masse and gave Sandy a jubilant greeting. They declared how he had been missed, how glad they were to see him returning, and how good it felt to give the pats and scratches in all his favourite spots. His tail was never so busy responding to all the warm wishes.

- Dona Bower, Sandy's handler, on their return to visits at The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre

CONNECTING WITH OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY

Social Media provides a platform for us to engage with our community in a meaningful way. Through our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts we have been able to increase our outreach with our followers, provide updates from OTD and gain philanthropic support for initiatives including Giving Tuesday, the Bone Appetit Community Cookbook and the 'Pawlday' Photoshoot Fundraiser, among others.



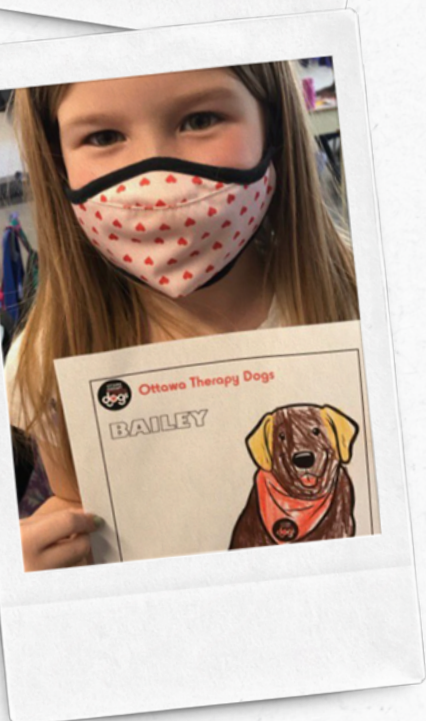
1,547



1,253



2,203



We are so happy! Thank you to Ottawa Therapy Dogs for taking the time to write us back, we love you! You have left lasting pawprints on our hearts.

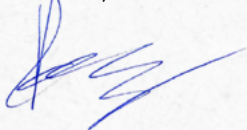
- Ms. Casey from St. Anne School in response to receiving letters from their Paw-Pals

Ottawa Therapy Dogs
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2021
 Confidential
 Unaudited; Internally Prepared

	As of Dec 31, 2021	As of Dec 31, 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$ 123,081	\$ 130,060
Prepaid Expenses	457	1,918
Total Current Assets	123,538	131,978
Non-current Assets, Restricted		
Endowment Fund - OCF	150,000	150,000
Total Non Current Assets	150,000	150,000
Total Assets	\$ 273,538	\$ 281,978
Liabilities and Surplus		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable (A/P)	994	
Accrued Liabilities	5,196	3,696
Total Current Liabilities	6,190	3,696
Total Liabilities	6,190	3,696
Surplus (Deficit)		
Opening Surplus	278,282	327,089
Excess (Deficit) of revenue over expenses, current year	10,934	48,807
Total Surplus (Deficit)	267,348	278,282
Total Liabilities and Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 273,538	\$ 281,978

These internally prepared financial statements have been approved and signed by the Board Member who serves as the Treasurer of the Ottawa Therapy Dog Board.

Randy McCoy
 Treasurer, Ottawa Therapy Dogs
 March 26, 2022



Ottawa Therapy Dogs
Statement Of Revenues And Expenses
 For the year ended December 31, 2021
 Confidential
 Unaudited; Internally Prepared

	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2021	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2020
Revenue		
Donations	\$ 30,148	\$ 23,492
Grants	54,287	15,000
Membership Revenue	1,400	1,445
Other Income	10,912	1,503
Total Revenue	96,748	41,440
Expenses		
Administrative Expenses	18,199	7,479
Payroll Related Expenses	64,930	58,325
Professional Services	23,721	24,267
Program Related Expenses	752	175
Other Expenses	80	1
Total Expenses	107,682	90,247
Excess (Deficit) of revenue over expenses	\$ 10,934	\$ 48,807

OTTAWA THERAPY DOGS IN THE MEDIA



CBC Radio Canada, August 24, 2021

Ottawa Therapy Dogs was featured on All in a Day with Alan Neal to share updates from OTD including what our volunteer teams have been up to during the pandemic, and what our plans were as we returned to in-person visits.

The Ottawa Hospital Blog, December 2021

The Ottawa Hospital featured two of our volunteer teams—Michel and Copain and Sandy and Dona—in their article, [Not just another furry face: The scientific benefits of therapy dogs.](#)



What you do is unexplainable...the staff were teary eyed while watching [the] patient smiling and interacting with your dog and the handler because she normally never does... Your Team made a huge difference in this patient's morning.

- Hemodialysis staff at the Ottawa Hospital

OUR TEAM:

Staff:

Lorraine Douglas (Operations Manager), Jenna Hobin (Communications Consultant)

Board of Directors:

Sho Sengupta (Interim Chair, Director at Large), Melanie Mohammed (Incoming Chair), Desiree Pachkowski (Secretary), Mireille Pitre (Past Chair), Lynn Douglas (Past Secretary), Randy McCoy (Treasurer), Thalia McCready (Director at Large), Krista Walsh-Murray (Director at Large), Kristin Harold (Director at Large)

Standards and Practices:

Catherine Mirsky, Frances Holmes

Advisory Board:

Melcha Wolanski, Nemer D. Abourizk, Dr. Judy Makinen, Marie-Adèle Davis

Thank you to our generous supporters for helping us make a 'pawsitive' difference in the community!

Community Enterprises:

- Access Storage Canada
- Hearty Tails Gourmet Pet Treats, care of Ottawa Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Foundations:

- TELUS and the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
- Ottawa Community Foundation

In Kind:

- The Training Hall
- Best Friends Dog Training
- Mae Media
- Spruce Creative
- Holly Michael Graphic Design

