

WHAT IS THE ACTIVE RE-ENTRY INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM?

Active Re-Entry Center for Independent Living Program (ARECIL) is a community based program which assists individuals with disabilities to achieve or maintain self-sufficient and productive lives in their own communities. Our program is committed to promoting the rights, dignity and quality of life for all persons with disabilities.

P.A.W.S.



ACTIVE RE-ENTRY

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Independent Living Programs

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www.arecil.org

ARECIL is a proud
United Way
Partner Agency.



Active Re-Entry is a registered 501c3
non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible.

HELP US MAKE A PAWS-ITIVE DIFFERENCE!

Demand for the services of well trained PAWS handler teams is growing daily and we are always seeking potential new volunteer teams – as well as financial support – to increase our ability to provide our services.

The Active Re-Entry, P.A.W.S. Program welcomes all who want to lend a helping paw. You can support our efforts in the following ways:

- Become a PAWS member: \$35 membership fee entitles you to a T-Shirt or Hat and an invitation to all PAWS activities.
- Volunteering (along with your pet) to be a Pet Partner handler.
- Corporate and institutional sponsors and/or supporters are also welcome. We will be glad to send a representative to speak to your organization about our work.



P.A.W.S.

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

PEOPLE &
ANIMALS
WORKING TO
SERVE

A PROGRAM OF
ACTIVE RE-ENTRY CENTER
FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



“We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.”

— Robert Louis Stevenson

www.arecil.org/PAWS.html



The bond between animals and their humans is strong. Animals love unconditionally and see everyone with love -- no matter what their physical, mental or emotional abilities are. Animals don't judge. It is this love and bond that Animal Assisted Therapy and Animal Assisted Activity programs harness for the benefit and support of our consumers.

BRINGING COMFORT AND HEALING TO THOSE IN NEED:

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is the use of animals to facilitate positive changes in a broad spectrum of of therapeutic settings. AAT is becoming a more accepted, appreciated and valued standard of promoting physical, emotional, cognitive and social improvement for people with special needs.

In Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) programs, volunteer teams become formally involved in patient treatment regimens, helping to motivate the achievement of a wide variety of goals and objectives. As those who share their lives with animals will attest, there are benefits that animals can provide that often times people cannot. Research is now corroborating this conventional wisdom. Miraculous improvements have occurred during animal-assisted therapy visits.

The Active Re-Entry P.A.W.S. Program participates in both AAT and Animal-Assisted Activity (AAA) programs, in which volunteers visit informally with hospital patients, nursing home residents and people in other facilities.

WHAT IS A THERAPY ANIMAL?

A therapy animal possesses the necessary skills and aptitude to facilitate therapy under the direction of a health care or human services professional. Therapy animals are owned by volunteers, not by the people or organizations that they serve. Pets must be current on vaccinations, well-groomed and well socialized with other animals and people. Dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, horses and llamas are some of the species that have been certified as therapy animals.

libraries, hospitals, long term care facilities and others) the animals must be comfortable in different situations and especially being petted and 'loved' by strangers. Volunteering in these community settings requires different temperaments than what your animal may display in their home environment. There are many great family pets who are not comfortable being petted by strangers or being asked to 'perform' in diverse settings.

The handler team must be able to pass an aptitude and skills test developed by the national Delta Society and each team is re-evaluated every two years. The team evaluation process shows how well the handler interprets and manages the animal's behavior and how the animal responds to the handler. The evaluation will include situations or activities which may be encountered during visits, such as: sit, come, down, stay, walk nicely on a leash, leave items alone when told, be around other dogs, calmly react to various noises, be comfortable around wheelchairs/walkers, enjoy being petted by strangers and in crowded situations and ultimately how well you work together as a team.

