

Volunteer Spotlight

February 2022



meet

Joan and
Frankie

Pet Pals

860 Life Hours

14 years 4
months

What motivated you to volunteer and why did you choose St. Luke's?

I started at St. Luke's in 2008 following a pet therapy class from which graduates were recruited to volunteer. I have stayed because I like the contact with patients and staff, and the camaraderie among pet therapy volunteers.

What do you find most rewarding about your volunteer assignment?

I like to share my dogs with people who enjoy them. Many hospitalized people miss their family and pets, and appreciate pet visits. It is especially rewarding to see how the dog becomes a stress reliever. I appreciate the stories about people relaxing and sleeping better after a pet visit. I also find hospice visits rewarding. People appreciate petting the dog and the opportunity to talk about their lives. The dog often is a catalyst for conversation.

What do you love most about volunteering in healthcare?

I like appreciate staff and patients who are excited to see the dogs. I appreciate the nurses who have treats for the dogs. My dogs have their favorite units to visit based on the enthusiasm that greets them there.

What do you wish your team knew about you ?

I met Frankie 4 years ago when he was at a rescue run by acquaintances where I took my dogs for training. I was not interested in adopting another dog because I already had two, one still in training. She brought him out to meet me because "not many people like hounds". She convinced me to foster him by saying that he would be a good therapy dog. He is a very gentle, sweet dog and is with me forever.