

Making a Difference Following Crises

Ryleigh King, Sherry Rigel, Rylie Patterson, Taylor Gunn
With Dr. Yvonne Eaton - Stull



Founded 2001 following 9/11

Cindy Ehlers and Tikva

Mission: To provide comfort and encouragement through animal-assisted support to individuals affected by crises and disasters

All members trained to meet AACR National Standards

Thoroughly screened, trained, and certified

300 certified crisis response teams in seven US regions and Canada

Team Leader

A trained and certified manager who supervises and coordinates the response of up to four canine/handler teams. Typically, the team leader works without a canine.

Team

An AACR team is a canine/handler team with specialized AACR training and certification which provides animal-assisted comfort, stress relief, emotional support and crisis intervention services for people affected by crisis and disaster.

Training Workshop - Erie

October 22-24, 2021

Gannon University

History, Understanding Dogs, Mental Health presentations

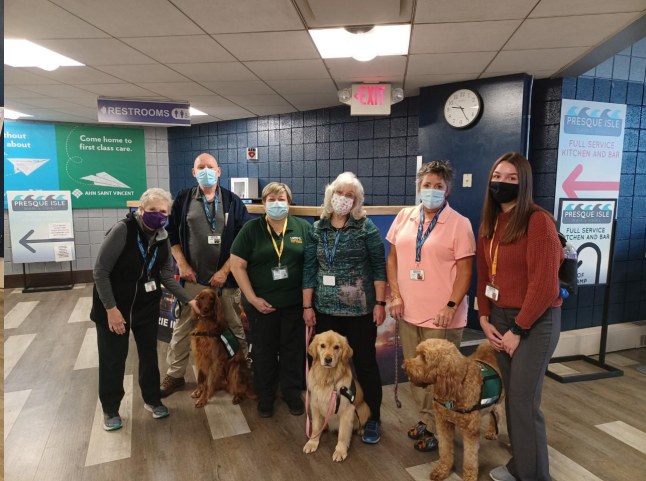
Support Student Athletes

TSA Screening

Fire Department Exposure

14 new members (5 TL, 9 T)





HOPE for Heroes

- ❖ November 6-7, 2021
- ❖ Butler Memorial Hospital
- ❖ 3 canine handler teams and 1 team lead was present
- ❖ A staff member mentioned “I really had a rough week, thank you for coming in to visit us this is amazing”.



Pictured below are:

Team Leaders Yvonne Eaton-Stull and Kathy Frisina.

Dog teams: Debbi Hutchins & Mily, Gayle Bragg & Hoot, John Knauer & Finnegan.



Here is a picture of the staff at Butler Memorial Hospital with dog team Yvonne Eaton-Stull and Chevy.



New Wilmington Schools



December 12, 2021: Student Death

- HOPE teams responded to New Wilmington School District following an accidental student death.
- Delanee Ann Schiek was only 15 when she passed.
- HOPE teams were stationed in the Resource Room & were available throughout the day for students & faculty to visit with the dogs for any comfort/support needed.
- 7 Dog teams were present, representing both HOPE-AACR and Lawrence County Comfort Canines: Bear, Emma, Murray, Chevy, Mily, Ziggy, and Leo.
- HOPE responded twice to this school district following the crisis, seeing over 700+ students and faculty.
- HOPE team leaders Ryleigh King & Sherry Rigel were informed that the dogs really had a great impact on the students & were grateful that we were able to bring some comfort to those affected.



HOPE Crisis Response Dog
Murray!



HOPE responds to a student suicide 12/06/21

Sherry acted as Team Leader for three canine/handler teams, together they provided 1500 interactions with students and staff at the high school.

"I wanted to say thank you so much for bringing the therapy dogs into the IHS and SHS. As a parent of an 11th grader and an employee of the district, it was so well received." - Melissa Gaguzis

HOPE responded back to Seneca Valley just two weeks later for a second student suicide and a third time as well to provide continuing support, where Ryleigh led four canine/handler teams at the middle school bringing comfort to 700 students.



Finnegan brings comfort

Moving Forward...

HOPE-AACR members are expected to engage in ongoing training to maintain membership:

FIRST YEAR

- Human First Aid
- Human CPR
- Pet First Aid
- FEMA Course: Introduction to Incident Command

SUBSEQUENT YEARS

- Two training courses or activities with certificate/documentation
- Three experiential activities with Regional Director approval

QUESTIONS

