

Wanted: Volunteers and their pets to bring joy and love

For the past nine years, the Pet-a-Pet Club has been bringing volunteers and their pets together with people who can benefit from the special love and attention an animal can give.

Pet-a-Pet volunteers make regularly scheduled group visits to more than 45 different types of facilities, including hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers,

day care centers and nursing homes. The legion of volunteers continues to grow as 200 people and pets travel throughout the metro area, including Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"The response to the program has been phenomenal," according to Ruth Curry, president of the Pet-a-Pet Club and founder of the group. "When I think of starting

out nine years ago with just myself and four others, and look at where we are today, I'm just amazed."

Much of the interest in animal visitation programs such as Pet-a-Pet comes from recent studies that have proven the health bene-

fits of interaction with animals. Pet-a-Pet volunteers have seen this in action many times, Curry said.

"I've seen elderly people who have not communicated with anyone suddenly open up and start talking when they hold a warm,

purring cat," Curry said. "And the handicapped children are able to stroke and pet the dogs and cats that come to visit."

The Pet-a-Pet Club offers you and your pet a chance to become a part of this new type of therapy. Volunteers must bring their own

pets, and pets must be friendly, well behaved and have current vaccination records.

Visits are scheduled once a month and last about an hour. For more information call Ruth Curry at (313)535-0410 or Joann Gressens at (313)464-8944.

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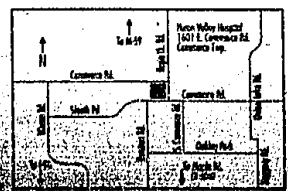
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