



Music City Pet Partners is extremely pleased to nominate Geralda M. Aubry for the Volunteer Spirit Award at the 15th Annual Franklin Tomorrow Exemplary Community Volunteer Awards for 2021. Music City Pet Partners is a non-profit, all-volunteer, organization, dedicated to providing qualified therapy animal teams to facilities, as requested. We serve hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, courts, libraries, schools, universities as well as other type facilities.

Geralda served tirelessly as President of Music City Pet Partners for four years before stepping down when her second term expired in July of this year. She was one of three original founders of this organization, was instrumental in increasing our membership from 20 to our current number of 85 active therapy animal teams, as well as visiting facilities with her therapy animal partner, Caity the Corgi.

Geralda began her volunteer therapy animal adventures in 2002 with her first dog, Dallas, a rescue from Happy Tails; then, over the years, came Chance, Stella and currently, Caity the Corgie. All her dogs were rescues. It takes a significant amount of time and effort to train an animal to become a therapy animal. Geralda, while working full-time as a Social Security Attorney, spent a significant amount of time training her dogs to become therapy animals, then an even greater amount of time, visiting nursing homes, homes for the developmentally delayed adults, Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital, St. Thomas Neuropsychiatric Department, and Tennessee Oncology chemo patients. Geralda remembers a particular visit at the Neuropsych Department in which a patient who suffered from a movement disorder, stopped moving when he began to pet Caity. The doctors remarked on this the next day.

Geralda also became an evaluator. This position required additional study and testing, and was in addition to her regular therapy animal visits. As an evaluator, Geralda was responsible for the testing of potential handlers and their animals to meet the standards of Pet Partners. Currently, she is the Evaluation Coordinator for Music City Pet Partners and continues to make visits to various facilities.

Geralda has appeared before Franklin mayor and Board of Aldermen for the past several years for proclamation celebrating National therapy animal day