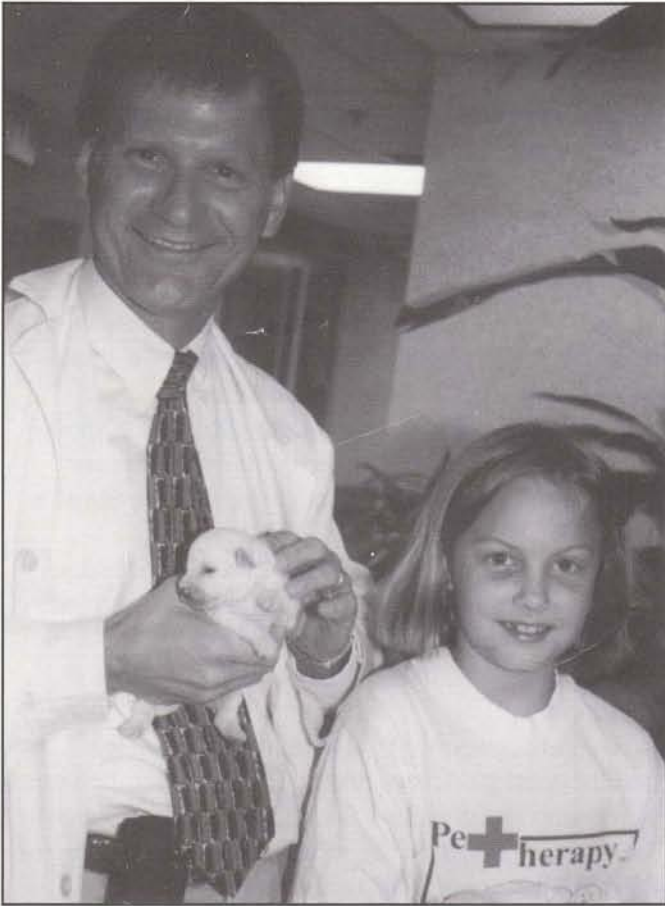


Pet Therapy Brings Hope and Happiness Through Puppy Love



Dr. Glen Adams and Pet Therapy volunteer Shannon Price cuddle Bichon Frise puppies at Integrated Health Services.



I'm growing up to be part of the Pet Therapy program. If you and/or your pet want to join me in bringing smiles to seniors, call the Pet Therapy office at 366-2226. Some of the places we visit include Senior Meadows, Heron House, Sunnyside Village, The Springs, Beneva Park Club, The Arbors, The Inn at Lakepointe Woods and Emerald Oaks. I love traveling in the Pet Therapy van because everybody thinks I'm special. Thanks, Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation recently awarded a grant to Pet Therapy from the **Sarah Greer Mayer Fund** for the purchase of a van and we've all been in puppy love ever since. The mission of Pet Therapy is to brighten the lives of seniors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Pet Therapy offers residents weekly visitations with dogs and puppies using the services of 35 children and 40 adult volunteers.

Research has shown that cuddling a canine or feline friend can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, lessen feelings of isolation, and increase social interaction. Seeing the same volunteers and the same pets every week create an extended family for many patients and the visits become an integral and cherished part of their routine.

Kathy Alexander, Director of Pet Therapy, reports that the Pet Therapy mobile currently visits 20 nursing homes or assisted care facilities each week, reaching more than 2,000 patients and staff members. There are 13 pets with the program and another 45 that often participate with their owners who are part of the volunteer pet patrol. Want to be part of

this community effort? Phone Pet Therapy at 366-2226.



Sukoshi (an adult Bichon Frise whose name means "little one" in Japanese) has a special pillow to relax on when she comes to spend time with one of her friends at Integrated Health Services.



Lido stops by to visit a good friend.