

Search and Care

No one should fall through the cracks

Pet & Elder Empowerment Project

Amie's Place Foundation Support

Enables Search and Care To Launch New

Pet Care and Pet-Visiting Services for Frail, Homebound, and Isolated NYC Elders

With a new \$15,000 FY11 underwriting award, Search and Care, a New York City agency that has helped more than 8,000 frail, homebound, and isolated clients since 1972, is excited to announce a unique new partnership with Amie's Place Foundation. Together, they will bring vitally needed pet care support and pet visiting, at no fee whatsoever, directly into the home of the agency's more indigent clients living in New York City's Yorkville, Carnegie Hill, and East Harlem neighborhoods.

Says Brian C. Kravitz, Search and Care's Executive Director, about "PEEP" (which stands for Pet and Elder Empowerment Project) "this new enhancement to the agency's service model, will effectively address the ongoing care and upkeep of our clients' pet companions, often their only source of affection and a most important relationship which they are fearful of losing. Keeping and maintaining clients' pets means everything to them! As well as helping care for the pets of our vulnerable elderly clients, Search and Care will arrange to bring friendly, cheerful furry four-legged friends directly into the homes of clients who desperately long for such companionship. The agency plans on accomplishing both the new client pet care and pet-visiting components by cultivating an extraordinarily patient, pet-focused volunteer brigade."

While Search and Care strives to provide exemplary, compassionate and comprehensive care for vulnerable and at-risk elders, one missing component they have encountered is addressing the unique role a pet can play in the lives of their clients. Mr. Kravitz noted "the wisdom and generosity of Amie's Place Foundation support, addresses this missing link in elder care management models; preserving and protecting those exceptional bonds that form between elderly people and their pets. With Amie's Place Foundation support, and the collaborative involvement of Search and Care's professional staff and new dedicated pet volunteer brigade, clients will experience a sense of hope that they and their pets will remain inseparable as long as they choose to live independently, and this in turn helps ensure their continued health and well-being."

Unique features of the Search and Care's new Pet and Elder Empowerment Project also include emergency pet escorting/transporting to vets, the formulation of a new Upper Manhattan pet-owner's resource guide (e.g. low-cost pet suppliers, vets, pet-friendly parks, etc.), the introduction of a pet stipendiary support fund (helping underwrite the costs associated when urgent or emergent pet-care situations arise with the more indigent pet owner), and the eventual development of a user-friendly, cost-conscious guidebook (a "blueprint or roadmap") other smaller-sized agencies can refer to in replicating a volunteer-based animal upkeep and visiting program to benefit their client populations.

The current Search and Care volunteer team is made up of 125 very special, dedicated New Yorkers who support the agency's comprehensive care model for vulnerable and at-

risk elders. This new team of 10-15 PEEP volunteers will help perform such tasks as dog walking and simple grooming, changing a cat's litter box or cleaning a bird cage, going to pet stores and/or escorting clients to purchase supplies, taking pets to/from veterinarians when required, and making it easier for agency elders to still touch, interact and be an integral part of their pet's life.

About Search and Care

Search and Care is a 501 (c) (3) non-sectarian, not-for-profit agency, founded in 1972 with a mission of Search and Care is to seek-out older people in the community who need help in managing life's daily activities or accessing essential services and to provide them the support and companionship they require to live with security and dignity in the manner they choose.

Search and Care's range of no fee services, often provided directly in a client's home, include assistance applying for and obtaining benefits/entitlements; arranging homecare/transportation; advocating in legal, healthcare and housing matters; providing financial care (bill-paying, daily money management and income stipendiary support); and assessing mental health needs to determine appropriate therapeutic referral and follow-up options. Nursing interns perform blood pressure checks, assess nutrition, and monitor medication compliance. An occupational therapist and occupational therapy interns evaluate for activities of daily living, home safety/ergonomics, and emergency preparedness. Intergenerational volunteers provide additional supports (e.g. escorting, errands/shopping, socialization, companionship). Our team also facilitates ongoing therapeutic groups (weekdays, evenings, Saturdays), and provides surrogate, family-like support for isolated elders who have few (if any) family or friends to rely upon.

<http://www.searchandcare.org/>



About Amie's Place Foundation

It all began in 1982 in Long Beach, Long Island, New York with the exceptional work of Lewis Gelfand, DVM who provides pet care treatment and assistance, for people too ill to care for their pets. Based on Dr. Gelfand's work, Amie's Place Foundation was established to fund organizations that provide programs for people who need help caring for their pets, who risk losing them during times of crisis, and who face barriers limiting access to their pets when they most need each other. When pets matter, they matter deeply. In light of the profound healing effect that pets have on individuals who are going through a difficult, sometimes life-changing event, the Foundation works to provide necessary pet-care assistance and to promote public awareness of the unique bond a beloved pet and its human companion share. Grants have funded the first senior center and hospital-based programs at the Caring Community and St. Vincent's Hospital, in Greenwich Village, New York City. Amie's Place Foundation has funded programs, that include Beth Israel Hospital, JASA, Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals and Search and Care which it believes can also serve as best practice models for programs around the nation to prevent the unnecessary separation of people, and pets that need each other.

<http://www.amiesplacefoundation.org/>