



Amie's Place Foundation Renews Support
For Search and Care's
Pet & Elder Empowerment Project (PEEP)

October 2011, New York, NY

Search and Care is truly delighted to announce their continued partnership with Amie's Place Foundation, with a second award of \$15,000 in support of their Pet & Elder Empowerment Project (PEEP). Amie's Place Foundation has now awarded the agency a total of \$30,000 over 2011 and 2012. This support is enabling Search and Care to develop, expand upon, and fully implement a specialized volunteer service for Yorkville, Carnegie Hill, and East Harlem's more frail and isolated elderly clients, bringing vitally needed pet care support and pet visiting, at no fee whatsoever!

PEEP adds an increasingly important component to Search and Care's exemplary, compassionate and comprehensive care model for vulnerable and otherwise at-risk elders, by addressing the unique and beneficial role pets can play in the lives of their owners, and their concern about the welfare of their beloved companion animals. With Amie's Place Foundation support, and the collaborative involvement of Search and Care's professional staff and dedicated pet volunteer brigade, these clients – who could never afford to pay for such essential services as dog walking, simple grooming, litter changing, cage cleaning, couriering the pet to/from veterinarian appointments...or even a simple toy – experience a sense of hope that the bond with their pet will remain absolutely unbroken for as long as they choose to live independently. This, in turn, helps ensure the elders' continued health and well-being.

Brian C. Kravitz, Search and Care's Executive Director, shared just one example of how meaningful their partnership with Amie's Place Foundation is, and the profound benefits made possible for their pet-owning clients.

“Martha, a beagle/collie mix and rescue dog, is so attached to her loving owner Mrs. L, age 81, she refuses to walk with anyone else. And for that matter, Mrs. L is equally attached to Martha, who has opened up her world again, helping Mrs. L. feel less isolated, closed in, and alone. This presented a big dilemma when Mrs. L, who has multiple sclerosis, returned home from a recent hospital stay, and was too weak to walk her beloved Martha without some help. Enter PEEP Volunteer Randy to the rescue! Now Mrs. L confidently rolls down Second Avenue with Randy pushing her new wheelchair and Mrs. L firmly holding the leash of Martha who strolls right along side them, making for a most happy threesome. This is just one of many clients where Search and Care has been able to construct simple, elegant solutions to maintaining the elder/pet bond, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the Amie’s Place Foundation partnership helping support and foster this unique pet volunteer brigade.”

This second year of Search and Care’s partnership with Amie’s Place Foundation will include 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), in keeping with our goal of making it easier for every agency elder’s pet to be an integral part of their life.



About Search and Care

Search and Care is a 501 (c) (3) non-sectarian, not-for-profit agency, founded in 1972. Our mission 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 with 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 and entitlements; information on homecare and 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

evaluates 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 offers 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.

For more information about PEEP or other Search and Care services visit us at <http://www.searchandcare.org/> or send an email to SandC@searchandcare.org.



About Amie's Place Foundation

It all began in 1982 in Long Beach, Long Island, 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 in New York City to fund organizations that provide programs for people who need help caring for their pets, who risk losing them during times of crisis, or who face barriers limiting access to their pets when they most need each other. 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 relationship 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. The Foundation hopes to see these model programs replicated around the nation to prevent the unnecessary separation of people and pets that need each other.

For information about Amie's Place Foundation, visit us at <http://www.amiesplacefoundation.org/>. or email: info@amiesplacefoundation.org