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Amie's Place Foundation Funds  
Record Third Year Support  
For Search and Care's  
Pet & Elder Empowerment Project (PEEP)

November 2012, New York, NY

Search and Care is privileged to announce that their ongoing partnership with Amie's Place Foundation has resulted in a third and increased award of funding for \$20,000 to support the non-profit case management agency's Pet & Elder Empowerment Project (PEEP). The PEEP program has now received a total of \$50,000 from the Foundation, enabling Search and Care to develop and implement a specialized volunteer service for Yorkville, Carnegie Hill and East Harlem's more frail and isolated elderly clients, providing unduplicated and free pet care support, and therapeutic pet visiting to seniors who critically need, but could never afford, such services.

Funding from Amie's Place Foundation has helped Search and Care to fulfill the needs of their clients with pets (approximately 10% of their census) by training volunteers to provide pet care assistance that includes dog walkers, litter changers, transporting pets to/from veterinarian appointments, as well as recruiting and supervising teams of volunteers and their own pets to visit isolated elderly clients in their homes.

By focusing on building community collaborations and networking, the agency has opened a referral stream for new clients as well as outlets for recruiting volunteers that includes pet shops, groomers, veterinarians, community activists overseeing local dog runs, and Marymount Manhattan College. A small stipendiary fund from this award was established to help defray unanticipated costs. It also helped seed a unique holiday stocking program for 75 clients' pets (dogs, cats, birds) which were filled with donations from Raising Rover, Furry Paws, The Pet Market, Best Pet RX, and TD Bank.

As Search and Care celebrates their 40<sup>th</sup> year of community service, this third year of partnership with Amie's Place Foundation will forge expansion into the East Harlem community whose dense senior population is rich in cultural diversity, yet among the highest in federal poverty levels. Creating bilingual support materials is among Search and Care's strategies to create awareness of the PEEP service in East Harlem. Brian C. Kravitz, Executive Director, states "we are motivated by an increasing client census in East Harlem, and their needs for help in maintaining quality of life not just for themselves, but for their companion animals. Thanks to the collaborative partnership with Amie's Place Foundation, we are able to offer services that address aging-in-place *together with one's cherished pet.*"

### **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. Our agency's nurse performs blood pressure checks, assesses nutrition, and monitors medication compliance. Occupational therapist interns evaluate activities of daily living, home safety/ergonomics, and emergency preparedness. Intergenerational multicultural 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, please visit us at <http://www.searchandcare.org/> or send an email to [SandC@searchandcare.org](mailto: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, MedicAlert Foundation International, PAWS NY and Search and Care. The Foundation hopes to see national replication of these model programs that help prevent the unnecessary separation of people from their pets only because no one is there to help them. For information about Amie's Place Foundation, please visit <http://www.amiesplacefoundation.org/>