

# Fact Sheet: The Little Dog Laughed Animal-Assisted Therapy



## Mission:

To use the joy of dog training in support of behavioral therapy professionals in their effort to nurture empathy and non-violent problem solving skills.

## Organizational History

July, 2011 - Founded as an LLC  
Dec, 2011 - Incorporated in the State of Oregon  
Feb, 2012 - Granted 501c3 nonprofit status  
Tax ID: 35-2431818

## Contact Information

**Message Phone: 971-266-1505**  
**FAX: 530-245-5665**

## Email:

**STAR@theLittleDogLaughed.org**  
**TLDLBoard@theLittleDogLaughed.org**

## Mailing Address:

*The Little Dog Laughed Animal-Assisted Therapy*  
7410 SW Oleson Rd. #323  
Portland, OR 97223

## Website:

<http://www.theLittleDogLaughed.org>

## Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/theLittleDogLaughedAAT>

## Insurance

**Insurer:** Hartford Fire Insurance  
**Broker:** MOURER-FOSTER, INC.  
615 N. CAPITOL AVE.  
LANSING, MI 48933

## Coverage:

General Liability: \$2,000,000 each occurrence  
General Aggregate: \$4,000,000

## 2017 Stats

6 S.T.A.R. Teams active (6 handlers, 8 dogs)  
258 at-risk children  
578 therapy sessions total

## 2016 Stats

11 S.T.A.R. Teams active or in training  
127 at-risk children  
368 sessions total

## 2015 Stats:

7 S.T.A.R Teams active or in training  
124 at-risk children + 124 Girl Scouts in summer camp  
456 sessions total

## Clients

- Beaverton School District
- Clackamas Women's Services
- Monika's House (Washington County)
- Raphael House of Portland (Multnomah County)
- Trillium Family Services / Parry Center
- Good Neighbor Center (Summer Camp)
- Portland Police Bureau BoyStrength
- HomePlate Youth Services (Washington County)
- Portland DBT Institute

## Program Evaluation

From 2013-2016 we worked with seniors in the Psychology Dept. at Pacific University to create an impartial evaluation of our methods. Under the guidance of Dr. Heide Island, the students collected and evaluated data about the effects of our intervention approach in two specific DV shelters. The process was rigorous and thorough, giving us the empirical evidence we needed to support our efforts.

## From the Summative Evaluation Report:

*Bottom Line: Based on the observational data, The Little Dog Laughed, Animal-Assisted Therapy Program demonstrated efficacy for child residents of two domestic violence shelters. Evidence was established through statistically significant behavioral improvement for each of the seven behavioral constructs (as represented by TLDL mission) within a single 15 to 20-minute animal-assisted activity session. TLDL Animal-Assisted Activity/Therapy model is adaptable to a number of contexts and target populations. It is conceivable that the seven behavioral outcome categories for child residents of domestic violence shelters could be modified for a variety of other populations, including but not limited to assisted living residents, youth and adolescent life skills training, and adults or children with physical or intellectual disability.*

**Full results of their efforts are available on our website.**

# Fact Sheet: The Little Dog Laughed Animal-Assisted Therapy

## Volunteer Board of Directors

- **Linda Keast – President, Chief S.T.A.R. Handler**
  - MA Spanish, MS Computer Science
  - 45 hours Training in Domestic Violence Advocacy
  - 6 hours PBIS training
  - Animal Assisted Play Therapy Level 1 Certification
  - TAGteach Primary Certification
  - Former DoveLewis AAT team
  - Former Pet Partner® (Delta Society)
  - "Kids on the Block" Powerful Puppetry
  - "SMART" reader, five years
  - "Be-a-Tree" Presenter
  - Licensed "Dog Stars"/ "I Speak Doggy" Presenter
  - Member: Assoc. of Pet Dog Trainers
  - Canine Dog Sport Competitor:
    - AKC/UKC Obedience/Rally (Utility level)
    - AKC Agility (Excellent B level)
    - Flyball (Flyball Master)
    - Canine Freestyle (Intermediate level)
    - K9 Nose Work®
    - Barn Hunt (RATN)
    - Do More with Your Dog (2 Expert Trick Dogs)
- **Tina Arth, Treasurer**
  - BA, English
  - Retired Director of Physical Science Student Affairs, UC Irvine
  - Judge for 12 years in the Music and Arts Program for Youth
  - Member of the Board, **Animal Aid, Inc.**
- **Lori Gamroth, Active S.T.A.R. Handler**
  - BS in Elementary Education, MS in Curriculum and Instruction, Spec. in Early Childhood
  - 30+ years of teaching and working with children and families in a variety of formal and informal settings
  - Former Child Development Instructor with NW Nannies
  - Former CASA for Yamhill County
  - Community Trainer for Oregon Registry for Childhood Care and Education
  - Positive Discipline Parent Educator
  - Taught conflict resolution for adults through the Oregon State Extension
- **Robert Robison, Active S.T.A.R. Handler**
  - BA, Social Work and MA, Public Administration
  - Crime Victims Services Manager, Retired, Multnomah County Community Justice
  - Taught undergraduate criminology students about working with crime victims, Portland State University
  - Proud owner of Dylan the Wonder Dog, his fourth Golden Retriever

# Fact Sheet: The Little Dog Laughed Animal-Assisted Therapy

## Advisory Board of Directors

- **Giang Pham, Training Director**

- MFA, Theatre Arts at Harvard University and Moscow Art Theatre School
- KPA-CTP Certified Dog Trainer
- Member of Assoc. of Professional Dog Trainers
- 18 years experience animal rescue and fostering
- Member of Columbia Agility Team
- Owner of [Lucky Pooch et Vous](#) private dog training

- **Linda Hamilton, Team Evaluation Consultant**

- BS Biology, BS Medical Technology
- Application Systems Analyst for Legacy Health Systems
- Owner/Trainer, [Cold Noses Warm Hearts Dog Training and AAT](#)
- Teaches an Animal-Assisted Therapy Prep Workshop, and provides mentoring for therapy teams
- Pet Partner® Team Trainer, and Team Evaluator
- APDT C.L.A.S.S. (Canine Life and Social Skills) Instructor and Evaluator
- Active member HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response and National Animal-Assisted Crisis Response ( NAACR)
- Served on DoveLewis Animal Assisted Therapy and Education (DLAATE) Steering Committee
- Experienced Obedience and Humane Education Trainer
- AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Instructor and Evaluator

- **Kristin Lewallen**

- BA, Psychology
- MA, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Clinical Specialist II at ProtoCall Services, Inc.
- 9 years of experience working with at-risk youth
- Trained in Trauma-informed Care and Nonviolent Crisis Intervention

- **Samantha Balmes, Youth Volunteer Coordinator**

- JD from Vermont Law School with certification in International Comparative Legal Systems
- BAA in International Business from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, with second emphasis on French and a Paralegal certification
- 5 years as pro bono counsel for animal nonprofits
- 15 years experience in event coordination and fundraising, event coordination, and volunteer management
- 4 years experience as a Girl Scout leader

**Contact information available upon request.**