

GrandPaws Pantry

Presentation to Advisory Council
on Aging

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Goals of GrandPaws Pantry

01 Encourage
Rescue pet adoption

02 Educate
About senior mental health
and the positive impact of
companion pets

03 Provide
Pet supplies to senior
citizens with pets that live
in assisted living facilities

04 Advocate
For mental health
awareness and resources
for the senior citizen
population



How it Started

I grew up visiting my great-grandmother who lived her later years in an assisted living facility and over time, I began to know my great grandmother's friends, many of whom has companion pets that lived with them. I began to wonder how seniors were able to care for their pets when they experienced illness, financial hardship or other challenges.



The Early Years

I initially planned simply to help seniors at the facility my great grandmother lived at

Funded these efforts through birthday gifts and donations from friends and family

I approached my vet clinic to request to do a pet food donation drive



I created and secured the name for my organization and designed the logo

I researched how to create a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

I used the skills I learned in technology class to design a website for GrandPaws Pantry

Senior Companion Pet Care Program



Aid Seniors on Limited Income

GrandPaws Pantry is focused on providing to seniors with financial need at ALTCS approved facilities



Reduce Surrenders

Many seniors also have senior pets that they might have had to surrender without the aid of GrandPaws Pantry



Funding

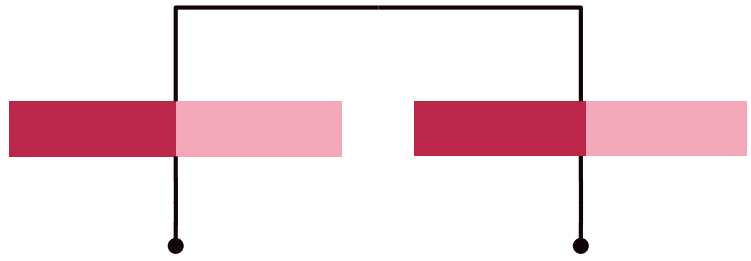
Grant Applications



Found grants and learned the skills to apply for them

Developed a modest social media presence on Facebook and Instagram

Community Fundraising



Built community partnerships and networked

Developed budget and organizational goals

Youth Ambassadors



Youth Ambassadors help with packing pet food supplies, delivering those supplies to the seniors at assisted living facilities and helping out at special events



The Challenge of COVID-19



Fundraising

In person fundraising events were suspended and I needed to find other funding options



Isolation

Many assisted living facilities entered lockdown leaving seniors more isolated than ever



Growth

At the same time, the number of seniors contacting GrandPaws Pantry increased exponentially

Media Coverage 2022

- ABC 15 Phoenix
- CBS Evening News
- Women's World Magazine



UPLIFTING ARIZONA

**Teen delivering thousands of pounds
of pet food to seniors in need**

Cameron Polom

Seniors & Mental Health



The pandemic revealed the mental health crisis within the senior population

I heard...

- Fear
- Sadness
- Loneliness

I realized seniors were incredibly desperate for conversation and connection

Newsletters/Care Cards



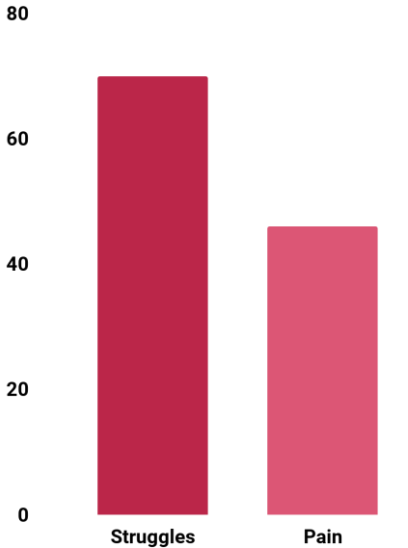
- Monthly Newsletters include...
- Pet care information
- Important GrandPaws Pantry Updates
- Mental Health tips for wellness
- GrandPaws Care Cards... volunteer from home opportunity

Mental Health

1 in 4 senior suffer from anxiety or depression

70%
Struggles

70% of seniors who have companion pets report that having a pet helps them cope with their physical challenges and emotional struggles



46%
Pain

46% of seniors report that having a companion pet helps them manage their physical pain

Source: National Institute on Aging

Cost of a Pet

Initial Expenses

Carol Ann is an ALTCS recipient and receives Medicare/Medicaid assistance

\$19

After assisted living cost of care, Carol Ann has \$19 left to spend per month

Frequency

Nearly every senior GrandPaws Pantry provides to has the same story

\$22.98

One month's cat food costs \$22.98



Recommendations



Staff Requirements

Mental health staffing



Facility Licensure Requirements

Accept seniors with companion pets



Funding

Expansion of Medicare/Medicaid to include cost of companion pets



Community Partnerships

Collaboration with other non-profits and businesses





Thank you!

Contact

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