

ABBY'S PAWS 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW NEWSLETTER

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What a Difference a Dog makes!

The lead dog is Roadie who with his handler Kim Stanton (founder of Abby's Paws for a Cause) strives to make a difference for youth in our community sometimes with a little help from his friends



Gizmo for Mental Health Program

It was a difficult year for many and Abby's Paws wanted to do something to get youth thinking about the importance of mental health so they provided a new program this year, Gizmo for mental health. This is a one time program that includes a story about Gizmo, a therapy dog, and talks about feelings, thoughts and actions. At the end of the program students develop a mental health plan, received a stress release kit and got an individual picture with Roadie. The Gizmo program was provided to over 200 youth in Chemung and Steuben County

A quote from one student after the participating in the Gizmo program " I keep the picture of Roadie with me to remind me to take care of myself."



Summer Fun

Summer is for making new friends and learning a little along the way. This summer we visited seven sites between Summer Cohesion and Town of Southport Parks Program. Youth participated in the Gizmo Program, read books and did kindness activities.



ChIPs-Children of Incarcerated Parents (or family member.)

ChIPs is an original program developed by Abby's Paws for a Cause and the Kramer Foundation. The purpose of the group is to provide a safe space for youth to talk about their emotions and concerns about having a family member who is or was in jail or prison and hopefully to break the cycle of incarceration for these families. In the winter and spring of 2021 we continued to make home visits to 12 youth that had attended the program before the school closer. In December of 2021 we began new groups at Riverside and Hendy with a total of 16 new students attending. We continue to keep in contact with previous members many who now attend Ernie Da-



This ornament is a way for ChIPs members to discuss emotions of having a family member incarcerated during the holidays. Ear ribbon represents an emotion and each bell a positive memory

Who Says School Cant be Fun?

Roadie visits Ernie Davis Academy and Broadway Academy regularly to provide emotional support. He visits with about 50 youth weekly at the two schools. For some it is much easier to talk to him than anyone else and he is great at relieving stress and bringing on the smiles. Sometimes I don't know who is happier the youth or Roadie ,



Quote from a school youth “ its much easier to come to school on the days I know Roadie will be there.

Quote from a parent-” I came to the school really upset up something that had happened and I saw you (Kim) and I saw Roadie and I knew things would be OK.”

Out of school time with Roadie,

Roadie visits several out of school time programs in Chemung and Steuben County where we have provided the Gizmo for Mental Health Program and stopped to provide some Holiday Cheer. He is also a regular at the Chemung County SPOT Program

Volunteer Spotlight!

Abby's Paws for a Cause has many human and dog volunteers that help make us a success. Some of our youth volunteers have been part of the program since it started and worked with my first therapy dog Abby!



Closing out 2021

As we close out 2021 I want to thank all the youth that have participated in programs (over 300 this year) .

All the sites we have visited (13 total throughout Chemung and Steuben County.)

All that have volunteered or helped organize our programs.

And last but not least to all those that have provided grants and personally donated, without you we couldn't do the good we do.

Goal for 2022– to continue to grow Abby's Paws!

Wishing you all an amazing 2022!

Sincerely,

Kim Stanton and Roadie