

- [Home](#)
- [Local News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Classified Rates](#)
- [Display Rates](#)
- [Business Directory](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Where are They Now](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Subscriber Services](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Town Hall](#)
- [World News](#)
- [Stocks](#)
- [Downloadable Forms](#)



[Subscribe](#) | [Easy Pay](#) | [Gift Subscriptions](#) | [Going on Vacation?](#)
[Pay Bill](#) | [Change of Address](#) | [Refund Policy](#)

Serving the Waynesboro and Greencastle areas

Saturday, June 11, 2005

HONDA
Civic
SALES

The First National Bank
 GREENCASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA 40 Center Square, Greencastle, PA 17225 • (717) 597-2137

Parlor House
Restaurant
 Click Here For
 Monthly Specials

Local News

Therapy dogs provide special comfort to clients of hospice



OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA

[Woman returns the kindness local couple showed a stranger](#)

[Therapy dogs provide special comfort to clients of hospice](#)

[Driver is seriously injured](#)

[Quincy Orphanage created fond memories for alumni](#)

[G-A School Board ups property taxes](#)

[G-A grads advised to 'go enjoy life'](#)

[Waynesboro woman a pioneer in newest surgical procedure](#)

[College student trying to 'paint the town red'](#)

By Kate Andrews The Record Herald

CHAMBERSBURG - Emma is a very good therapist.

KELLER, KELLER, & BECK, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 Accident Cases
 (No initial consult fee)
 Wills & Estates
 Elder Law
 Business Law
 Civil & Criminal Cases
(717) 762-3331

Spring View
Appliance & Mattress
 2890 Gullford Springs Road
 Chambersburg, PA
 717-375-2505
 800-328-4450

HEARTHSTONE

RETIREMENT HOME

golden corral
 Buffet & Grill
 1543 E. Main St.
 Waynesboro

[Grads told to live their dreams](#)

Her gentle brown eyes immediately put her clients at ease.

She's a wonderful listener - never judging and never interrupting.

When she walks into a room, problems just seem to disappear.

But it's her happily wagging tail that really sets her apart.

Emma is a therapy dog with Kindly Canines, a volunteer organization in Chambersburg.

She and a few fellow dogs are part of a new pet therapy program launched by Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

"We wanted to be able to offer clients additional services, and we are familiar with pet therapy and the benefits of it," said Melanie Furlong, director of community relations for the hospice.

The hospice, a program of Lutheran Home Care Services of

Chambersburg, serves 80 to 90 clients in Adams, Franklin and Fulton counties.

The agency provides physical, emotional and spiritual support to terminally ill patients and their families. Pet therapy is offered free to all hospice patients.

Pet therapy benefits

The benefits of pet therapy are immediately obvious, Furlong says.

"It almost seems to take pain away," she said. "It takes their mind off of it."

Noncommunicative patients will come out of their silent shells.

"When they see the animals, they get smiles on their faces and brighten up. I don't know what the animals do, but they do something," said Janet Dell, hospice director.

A therapy dog once stepped on the legs of a man who had severe pain throughout his body, according to Furlong. But the man didn't mind.

"For these 20 minutes, I have no pain," he said.

Another woman, who suffers from anxiety and dementia, believes that she is riding a train. She can't close her eyes for fear of missing her stop.

With Emma cuddling up to her and Emma's handler, Pat Worthington, promising to watch for her stop, the woman will finally close her eyes.

"It's amazing how these animals (respond). It's like they sense what they are doing. They're very gentle and very loving, and it's like they can tell what's going on," Furlong said.

Dale Shoop, 80, of Fayetteville gets visits from one of the pet therapy dogs.

"She takes my mind off of myself and makes me think of how people are trying to help (by way of this program)," he said.

The program



The pet therapy program is completely run by volunteers.

Hospice patients can set up pet therapy through their hospice liaisons. They are then matched up with the right dog and a schedule is set up.

Hospice patients can have a visit once a week or "however often they want," Furlong said.

All pet therapy dogs come from Kindly Canines, which was founded by Marti Heater of Chambersburg two years ago.

"We work with her because of her expertise. We wouldn't want to try to start something on our own out of the blue. Not just any old dog can do this," Furlong said.

Heater trains and certifies the therapy dogs and works with handlers.

The volunteer handlers also go through hospice volunteer training, which teaches them about death, dying and handling the emotions of working with hospice patients.

Anyone interested in training to be a hospice volunteer can call Furlong at 800-840-9081.

[Back to top](#)

[Email this story](#)

[Print this story](#)

You can now subscribe to our online edition for as little as \$3.50 per month!

The online edition includes a digital replica of our print edition including classified ads and display ads.

[Click here to get to our online edition!](#)

Kulla, Barkdoll, Ullman & Painter
762-3374 *Family Law*

Copyright © 2005 The Waynesboro Record Herald

[Home](#)	[Local News](#)	[Sports](#)	[Obituaries](#)	[Classifieds](#)	[Classified Rates](#)
[Display Rates](#)	[Business Directory](#)	[About Us](#)	[Subscriber Services](#)	[Health](#)	
[Entertainment](#)	[Town Hall](#)	[World News](#)	[Stocks](#)		

30 Walnut Street
Waynesboro, PA 17268
717-762-2151