



MEDIA RELEASE

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Volunteer BIO:

Paula Edrich – Volunteer at Pets for Therapy

“Volunteer work is one of the best things I ever took on.”

Having gone from full time to part time work to raise my son I decided to embark on some volunteer work, where I could share my care and passion for dogs and people. It soon became clear “Pets for Therapy” was my perfect choice.

The aim of Pets for Therapy is to give joy, laughter and love to people and groups within our community. We visit aged care, respite centers, hospitals, children, community groups and more with our temperamentally tested and obedient dogs.

I came on board with Gypsy, my then 9 year old Belgian Shepherd and Zak, my two year old son, which was a big call I thought, but Yvonne Cody, founder, was very welcoming and accepted us into the group quickly. Gypsy, at 14 has now retired and we are now working with our new addition, Baron, a 2 year old Swiss Shepherd.

After five years with Pets for Therapy we all still enjoy our visits and experiences and I am lucky that my employer supports what I do as I now have the flexibility and opportunity to offer more hours, both to assist Yvonne in our selection & training process and include more visits in my schedule.

Aside from the benefits we see to the recipients on our visits, the benefits to our family have become evident too. I love the balance in my life between work, school, family & community, my dogs receive stimulation and socialisation and for children to learn to “give back” is a great thing.

Residents love to see familiar faces and their favorite dogs on a monthly basis so it is important to have a committed team of volunteers. Having said that Pets for Therapy is open to whatever time volunteers can offer, as long as they are passionate, caring, reliable and prepared to work on required skills.

P4T recently received an Australia Day Community Service award and due to the high demand for this service P4T would love to welcome additional volunteers in 2011.

To learn more about volunteering options on the Gold Coast that may be suitable for your unique interests, head to www.volunteeringgc.com.au

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Media Contact

Chantel Charchalis
Marketing and Public Relations Officer

Volunteering Gold Coast
Ph. 5526 2811 or Email chantelc@vgcvs.org.au
www.volunteeringgc.com.au