



Dogs On Call, Inc.

Letter From The President

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I would like to take a moment to thank all of our members for the time that you spend volunteering. Some of our members are out there multiple times a week visiting, while other can only manage a visit once a month because their lives are that busy already! No matter how often you visit with your Pet Partner, it always brings a smile to the faces of those that you see. Those smiles are the reason that we continue to do this type of volunteer work. THANK YOU for giving of yourself and your Pet Partner.

We have a busy summer season coming up with many Dog Bite Prevention presentations to give to young children, Safety Saturday on the Square, and Mounds Dog Fest. If notices have not been sent out yet for these they will be coming. We have also been contacted by a few different organizations to come for their family reading nights this summer—there will come a call for R.E.A.D. teams coming soon for those also.

Stay safe this summer, have fun, and remember to volunteer and put a smile on someone's face,. You may be the only visitor they have that day.

Laura, Kooper, and Oliver

Save The Date

Sunday, September 13th will be our Dogs On Call annual picnic. This is a fun day for DOC members and their families! And, of course, your Pet Partner is invited too!

The picnic is held at the home of Don Machnik, S185 Lyndon Road, Wisconsin Dells 53965. Don has a huge fenced-in yard and ten acres of woods and field. Plenty of room for everyone!

This is a perfect time to be able to just sit and talk to other members, something we don't get a chance to do often enough. We will also hold our annual meeting. Please plan on attending!

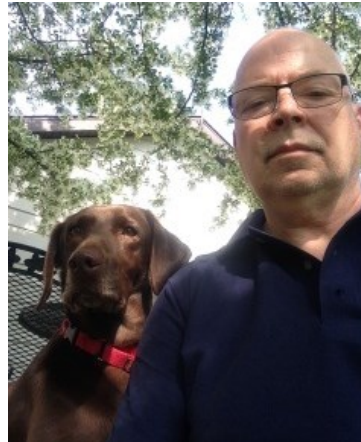
Artie, Sacajawea, and Henry

Hospital News

Welcome!



Amy & Rooster (UW Hospital)



Scott & Sazzy (Meriter)

Good-bye ...

We've lost several teams at the hospitals due to dogs' retirement or death. It's so sad to see the aging and loss of our Pet Partners teams after several years of dedicated service. Thank you, handlers, for sharing your dog with us!

Nurses' Week Visits to UW Hospital

Six Dogs On Call teams visited just the nursing staff on May 4, the start of Nurses' Week at the UW Hospital. Visits were held in the select units where our teams regularly visit: Inpatient Rehab, Adult Psych, Cardiology, Neurology, Neuro ICU, the Emergency Department, and General Medical unit. Between the six teams, all three nursing shifts were covered, so all staff in those units got a chance to meet our therapy dogs and get some well-deserved stress relief.

Thanks to the teams who participated:

Amy & Rooster

Andrea & Samantha

Kay & Daisy

Lynn & Gypsy

Karen & Zombie

Michelle & Kenny

Hospital News

Don't Forget Pharmacists, Too

DOC received a last-minute call from a pharmacy resident asking for a visit for about 20 co-workers. These residents work on advanced studies in pharmacy and put in about 70-80 hours per week. These people definitely need stress relief! Thanks to teams that visited with these doctors:

Andrea & Samantha

Karen & Zombie



Zombie, smiling for the photographer

Thinking of Hospital Visits?

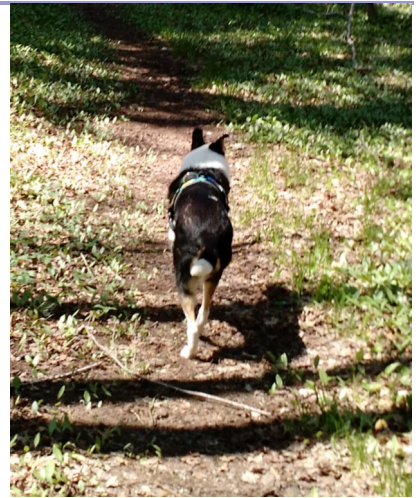
Because of the loss of several therapy dog teams, we sure could use more teams visiting the hospitals! You'll be cheering bored, lonely patients, harried staff, and worried family members. It's really easy – just show up with your dog and smiles pop out all over the place!

If you'd like to see what hospital visits are like before you make a commitment, contact Karen at karenp@dogsoncall.org and we can set up a tour of the areas we visit at Meriter and/or UW Hospital.

Karen and Scout

Havana

It's hard to believe that Havana went from having the best flyball tournament in her life at the United Flyball League International's Tournament of Champions to complete crate rest in just three months, but thanks to Inter-Vertebral Disc Disease (IVDD) that is exactly what happened. There was no obvious traumatic injury. A bit of a limp after visiting residents at Central Wisconsin Center, a little more of a limp or weakness in that hind leg after flyball practice or playing with puppies in class, but nothing anyone would notice unless you were me and pointing it out to other dog people.



I brought Havana to Dr. Dawn Mogilevsky at Harmony Vet for a chiropractic adjustment. She didn't see anything out of the ordinary, so she recommended 7-10 days of leash restriction and to evaluate her from there. After seven days there was no improvement, so Havana visited her regular vet. Physical exam, blood work, and x-rays showed us a very healthy eight-year-old dog with no reason for the limp in her rear leg.

On the advice of both Dr. Dawn and a friend who rehabilitated her dog after an injury, I contacted Dr. Deanna Clark. Dr. Deanna spent more than an hour with Havana, watching her movement, taking her history, and doing a thorough physical exam. She felt Havana's issue was neurological, so our next stop was the UW Vet School. By that time, Havana was actually dragging her foot for about half the time.

Havana, being Havana, caused confusion at the vet school. She had poor placement reflex (when the dog's paw is turned under so the top of the toes touch the ground – a healthy neurological system will immediately right the paw) most of the time, but not all of the time. She did not present any obvious numbness or pain. And at one point the vet students took turns testing Havana's startle reflex. According to the neurological resident, a dog will flinch or blink when a hand comes quickly toward her face. Havana again showed inconsistent responses and what reactions she had were minimal. There was mention that this could be a symptom of a brain tumor. I suspect an experienced therapy dog who has lived with young children her entire life lost her strong startle reflex long ago!

Through more x-rays, blood tests, and ultrasound, we determined Havana did not have cancer, nor any growths on her extremities. We had two choices - the MRI and surgery if a disc issue was found and strict crate rest for 4-6 weeks, or simply keep her on strict crate rest for 6-8 weeks and see if she improved after that time. Since Havana would be on crate rest either way, we elected to put off the surgery unless it was needed after the six weeks. It wasn't an easy decision, but when the neurologist, chiropractor, and rehab vet all felt that was a reasonable treatment option, it was easier to feel a conservative approach was the right thing for us to do.

I won't lie. It was a long six weeks. Havana stayed in her crate like a good girl and didn't fuss, but she so badly wanted to be out. Unfortunately, whenever she was out, she would overdo it, especially since our floors are primarily tile or wood and she would slip and fall. Havana hates to potty on leash unless we've walked for about half a mile. With her strict rest we were no longer able to walk that far and at one point she refused to eliminate for almost three days. We did some fun training to work her brain, but she was pretty much in one crate or another except for 3-4 short walks a day. And because we had to be protective of Havana's spine, we couldn't risk doing therapy visits where someone might pet her a bit too vigorously in the wrong spot and re-injure her, so we had to cancel her dorm visits and postponed starting visits at the GROW Academy.

Havana—continued

We were in contact with Dr. Deanna who shared a preliminary study that aggressively treating vertebral issues with acupuncture could result in the same positive outcome as surgery. So after about 2-3 weeks on crate rest, Havana began getting acupuncture treatments with Dr. Dawn every 7-10 days. Some dogs use acupuncture time to chill out and enjoy being petted by a couple of people at once. Not Havana. She would inevitably wait for Dr. Dawn to have the electronic muscle stimulators in place and then she'd need to stand up and turn around. But despite being a slightly less than ideal patient, we began to see improvement. Her paw placement got increasingly better. She stopped dragging her rear foot and she slipped less on the slippery floors. (We had mats and rugs down, but Havana chose not to walk on them.) And her spark slowly came back.

At the six week mark, Dr. Deanna came to our house to check Havana's progress. She was very pleased with how Havana was doing and gave us a series of exercises to do with Havana, primarily to strengthen her core muscles, but also to get her rear legs working strongly again. I was not an ideal patient-caregiver, but I did the best I could to keep up with the exercises. Havana was not a fan of her rehab exercises, but she was incredibly excited to discover we could gradually, over many weeks, increase the distance of our walks. I still restricted her activity – no freedom to charge around wildly in the yard and playmates had to be small or mellow and typically interacted on leash so we had more control.

We are now nine months past the initial onset of symptoms and seven months from when we started treatment. Havana will always have IVDD, so she will never play flyball or do agility again. She will only be able to interact with dogs who will not slam into her, so no dog parks, and she may or may not be able to work sheep. She may be on a regular chiropractic/acupuncture schedule of every 6-8 weeks for the rest of her life. We had to retest with Pet Partners in an Easy Walk harness because she can no longer be walked on a collar. But this weekend she was able to have full access to our yard and was on full squirrel patrol. She played with several dogs and was able to run full out and spin and turn. And she returned to her absolute favorite therapy visits, the UW dorms. She had her play date and two dorm visits within 48 hours and I am happy to report she was tired, but no sign of a limp or hind leg weakness!

Neurological diseases can be devastating and they are certainly limiting, but they don't have to be an automatic retirement from life. Rehabilitation is slow going, but so worth it to see your dog return to do many of the things she loved so much. I told Dr. Deanna and the neurologists that my goal was for Havana to be able to have unrestricted access to our yard and to be able to go on therapy visits. Thanks to our great medical team and patience, we have achieved our goal!

Jill and Havana



Dog Bite Prevention Program

Dogs On Call presented our Dog Bite Prevention program to 200 4K kids at Oschner Park in Baraboo on May 21st. It was perfect timing, as it was National Dog Bite Prevention Week. When one of the kids had come to school with stitches in her lip from trying to give her own dog a hug, Mary B., the 4K Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, contacted DOC. Todd and Izzie, Karen and Zombie, and Artie and Sacajawea did the presentations, 10 in all.

We have been teaching kids for years what to do when a strange dogs approaches: Be A Tree and Be A Rock. Now statistics show that of the 400,000 dog bites to children each year, 77% of the bites come from dogs they know. We are adding to our presentation to include being appropriate around dogs you know - Grandma's dog, the neighbor's dog, even your own dog.

There is a great video on DOC's Facebook page that everyone should watch. The requests are coming in for presentations this summer. I will be sending out a call for volunteers very soon.

Artie, Sacajawea, and Henry

Summer Danger!

I hope I'm "preaching to the choir," telling you what you already know about leaving an animal in a car, but I thought this chart was a good visual reminder. The study that created this chart found that cracking the windows open or parking in the shade made little difference. More information at: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/pets-in-vehicles.aspx>

Estimated Vehicle Interior Air Temperature v. Elapsed Time						
Elapsed time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Courtesy Jan Null, CCM; Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

Karen and Scout

Don't Give Up On Your Dog

I got Love when she was 2 ½, hoping to have her for six months, then test her for therapy work. However, Love was very shy. I did attempt to test her after the six months, and it was a disaster. We got to the Out For A Walk exercise, and she hid under the evaluators table and would not come out! Later, I got Sacajawea, who had already been a Pet Partner with Joyce Ryan, and Sach and I passed with no problem. So, I had my therapy dog with Sach and a wonderful pet with Love.

This went on for many years, Sach and I visiting and Love waiting in the car or at home for us. Then about a year ago, Love started loving everyone! I took her to a nursing home, not as a Pet Partner, just on my own, and she did a fabulous job, she loved it! I told myself we would do a little more work and then attempt the evaluation process again. I kept putting it off, thinking more work needed to be done. I think I made the mistake we sometimes make of comparing one dog to another. Love is only two years younger than Sach but much more active, much livelier. I guess I thought Love should be more like Sach before testing.

Then something we all dread -- in February of this year, Love was diagnosed with cancer, a real surprise. Newfies don't go from cancer; the heart is their downfall. And because the treatments involved a drug that is hard on the heart, I choose not to put a 10-year-old dog through it.

On February 22nd, I had to be at evaluations and Love could not be left alone for the entire day, so I took her with me to hang out in the volunteer room and I could keep an eye on her. We had extra time, so we were practicing with Love, and ended up testing her that day. She passed -- Complex! So all this time I wasted, waiting for her to be just a little better, was time lost. I knew Love's time was limited, but chose to go ahead and register her with Pet Partners and get her a DOC vest, which she loved!

Unfortunately, Love's health declined and she passed the first part of April. She never got to go on an official DOC visit, but did get to be neutral dog for some tests and did get to wear her vest and tag around the house!

I miss Love with all my heart, but I'm very glad she finally got to be a Pet Partner. I only wish I had enough faith in her to do it sooner.

Artie, Sacajawea, and Henry



New Member Profiles

Sherie S.



Sherie S. purchased her Golden Retriever, Caleb, from Decorah Kennels. Caleb is one year old and is Sherie's sixth Golden. Also in the household are two cats, Zuli and Sloopy. Working with children is a favorite activity of both Sherie and Caleb, and they hope to focus on Dogs On Call activities with children – R.E.A.D. sessions and visiting the juvenile detention centers. Visits at the hospitals and the prison in Portage are additional things they'd like to try. Sherie is quite active outdoors, as her hobbies are hiking, biking, and canoeing. Cooking is another favorite and, like most of us, playing with dogs.

Ed L.



Ed and six-year-old Scout, a yellow Labrador mix, live in Waunakee. Ed found Scout at a shelter after a nine-month waiting period to get a different dog. A 19-year-old rescued farm cat, Jenny, is Scout's boss at home. Ed's two visiting goals with Scout are the VA Hospital and Waunakee Manor. Other than dog activities, Ed enjoys reading, teaching, spending time with his family outdoors, and perfecting his role as Grandpa.

Chelsea S.



Thanks to Chelsea, Captain the Beagle has a much larger world to explore. He was adopted from the MATC Vet Tech program in 2013 and was previously used in a research lab. Captain, who is six years old, plays with his "sister," Nutmeg, a 12-year-old Golden Retriever, who loves to nibble on Captain's neck. Chelsea wants to visit a variety of facilities with Captain to find the best fit. Becoming a R.E.A.D. team is a primary goal. Captain's hobbies include jumping through his hula hoop, practicing his agility moves, and sniffing out his next adventure. Chelsea is just as active, as she enjoys camping, hiking, biking, and both downhill and water skiing.

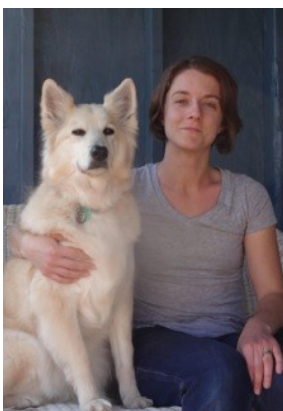
New Member Profiles

Stephanie, Aaron, and Bane



You'll definitely know Stephanie and Aaron T. of Middleton when you see them. They will be accompanied by "Bane the Dane," a Great Dane who is 1-1/2 years old. Bane came from Berlin, Wisconsin, as an early Christmas present for Stephanie. He joins Bella, a four-year-old Corgi mix and Avi, a hound mix who is 2-1/2 years old. Steph and Aaron's original plan was to visit area hospitals with Bane, but they were excited to learn of all the other places and events available to Dogs On Call members. "We can't wait to see what Bane likes to do!" says Steph. Other than walking dogs, Steph has a passion for photography and Aaron loves mountain biking.

Sarah and Synnove



A trip to the Great Lakes Pet Expo was the first meeting between Sarah and Synnove, a mixed breed who is now 13 years old. One month later, Sarah adopted Synnove when the foster family couldn't care for her any longer. (Sarah says she is not allowed to go alone to the Pet Expo any longer!) Sarah also owns a Buhund named Tryggvi, cats named Ms. Jilly, Smoochie, Mr. Squiggles, and Gizmo, and five chickens (no names provided). For Dogs On Call activities, Sarah says they'd like to visit nursing homes and possibly be a R.E.A.D. team. In her spare time, Sarah likes to garden and bake.

Karen and Scout

Have you ever thought about how you can become more involved in Dogs On Call? The annual election for the DOC Board Of Directors will be coming up in fall. Please think about running for a position on our board. If you would like more information on what is involved in a specific position please contact a board member.

VA Luncheon

On April 29th, the Madison VA Hospital held its Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Rex's Innkeeper Restaurant in Waunakee. Three Dogs On Call members were in attendance: Gina S., Kathy W., and Lynn M. All received recognition certificates, and Gina and Lynn received their 100 hour pins. Deb S. also earned her 100 hour pin. Pictured are Kathy, Gina, and Lynn receiving their certificates from Tim D. of the VA. DOC currently has 11 teams who visit three units weekly at the VA.

Artie, Sacajawea, and Henry



Clothing Items Available For You And Your Dog!

A DOC member recently retired from activities and generously donated a few items to whoever can use them. We have:

- One cobalt blue DOC logo short-sleeved polo shirt from Lands' End, women's size medium.
- One red UW Hospital Volunteer polo shirt, women's size small. (UW Hospital teams only)
- One red R.E.A.D. logo short-sleeved polo shirt, women's size large. (R.E.A.D. teams only)

- One red R.E.A.D. bandana, measures 20" along one side, tie closure
- One yellow nylon Pet Partners bandana, measures 18" along one side, Velcro closure

Contact karenp@dogsoncall.org if you're interested.

Silent Comfort

Carts holding dinner trays stand in the hallway.
Congealed butterscotch pudding,
crumpled napkins,
stray spears of broccoli are visible.
But it's the scent of cold meatloaf
that catches her attention.
She resists though
with only the slightest tug on her leash.

As we enter this hospital unit
a few patients are gathered in the lounge.
One is watching TV, another is still eating,
a woman is visiting with a friend.
A voice says, "The dogs are here!"
More people come from their rooms.
They come to pet, talk, or just silently watch.
Lady sits in front of them or just plops down.

A patient sits on the floor next to her-
stroking her back, scratching her ears.
She moans softly with pleasure.
The man smiles.
"I had a dog once." he says.
The petting goes on.
Lady's silky fur, her deep brown eyes bring ease
to places in his mind no words can reach.

Pauline

Pauline's Pet Partner, Lady, passed away unexpectedly on May 22, 2015. Lady brought a lot of joy to the people that she visited while she was a Pet Partner. Please keep Pauline in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Taming the Dreaded Oreckasaurus Rex

Some dogs run and hide at first sight of the vacuum cleaner, or unleash a barrage of barking, lunging, and biting at the dreadful thing. Cleaning house becomes stressful for dog and owner alike. I can help you.

Imagine what a vacuum cleaner appears like from a canine perspective. Dogs are conscious of height, size, and elevation as it relates to their sense of security.

When two dogs challenge one another, they stare directly into the eyes of their antagonist, puff out their chest, and rise up in posture, trying to look *larger* and more intimidating. A direct frontal approach the increases the threat.

Picture little Bowser looking up at a large and strangely configured thing that moves unlike any animal previously encountered and has a long snakelike tail. Suddenly, it utters a loud high-pitched persistent roar... while the body puffs up.

Yikes! Poor Bowser retreats to a safer spot, only to be threatened repeatedly as the monster pounces and retreats, staring with eyes that never blink.



A terrible Oreckasaurus on the prowl!

Taming the Dreaded Oreckasaurus Rex– Continued

Now that we have a different perspective on how our dog perceives the vacuum cleaner, let's solve the problem. One choice is to *manage* the situation; another choice is to change the (fear) response that the dog has learned to associate with the vacuum cleaner.

It may be easier to simply put your dog in the yard or in another room with a tasty treat or favorite toy so you can clean your house and your dog is not exposed to the scary stimuli. Many people will find this the easiest, choice but it does not address the fear.

The other option is to engage in a series of exercises that change how your dog feels about the vacuum cleaner. This is called classical *counter-conditioning*. Rather than avoid the problem, it actually fixes it.

With three Labradors in my home, shedding hair like year-old Christmas trees shed needles, house cleaning was a daily chore. Gandhi was terrified of the cleaner and I chose to fix the problem.

First, I set the vacuum cleaner in the living room and left it there a few days. I moved it every other day to generalize that it was a harmless part of the environment.

Then, I started placing treats on parts of the cleaner when Gandhi was not present. When he returned to the house he discovered the previously scary thing had become a fountain of goodies.

After a few, days I moved the vacuum cleaner to the middle of the room and we practiced obedience training within sight of it. Gradually we moved closer, then further away, and closer again. By that point, Gandhi was comfortable approaching cleaner and I rewarded him by only placing treats on the machine.

The next step was to turn on the vacuum cleaner motor. While the motor ran, I practiced with Gandhi was in a different room. He learned to ignore the sound of the motor and focus on me, and was rewarded for doing so.

Had he been afraid, I would have asked my wife to flip the motor on and off a few second, repeatedly. Each time the motor started Gandhi got a treat; when the motor stopped Gandhi got no treats.

Over the next few days, I gradually moved Gandhi closer to the vacuum cleaner while the motor was running, and began placing treats on the cleaner.

Moving the vacuum cleaner with the motor running was the final step and I began by pushing the cleaner *away* very slowly with one hand, while giving Gandhi treats as far away as possible with my free hand. Each time the cleaner moved, Gandhi got a treat. If he had been too afraid, I would have asked my wife to move the vacuum while Gandhi and I worked at greater distance.

Jake and Buddha had already learned to enjoy the vacuum cleaner and it took only a couple of weeks to convince Gandhi that Oreckasaurus was tame after all. My only problem then was in getting the dogs to move out of the way each time I had to clean up after them.

Dan and Buddha

Volunteering to Provide Unconditional Love



Most people can agree there are three basic human needs: shelter, food, and water. Often overlooked, however, is love.

Erin H., witnessed firsthand the effect of unconditional love when she responded to a request by a co-worker.

“Teresa’s mother was in a nursing home that had a program where volunteers would bring in dogs to visit with the patients. However, Teresa’s mother wanted to visit with a cat,” says Erin.

“Teresa asked if I’d be willing to bring my cat, Ben, in for a visit. The experience was life-changing!” When Erin brought Ben to the nursing home, his impact was immediate. Everyone wanted a visit with Ben.

The experience led Erin to Dogs On Call, a local nonprofit that matches therapy animals with various programs in southern Wisconsin. Dogs On Call tested both Ben and Erin’s dog, Sheba, to become therapy animals. Both passed with flying colors. As Erin continued to volunteer with Sheba and Ben, she soon realized that her pets had different preferences and skills. While Ben preferred to visit the residents at the assisted living center, Sheba, a fan of belly rubs, enjoyed working with children. A Dogs On Call coordinator encouraged Erin and Sheba to participate in a program at the Rock County Youth Services Center, a juvenile detention center in Janesville, Wis.

Surrounded by fences and guards, the Rock County Youth Services Center is intimidating. It was hard for Erin to fathom that children, not adults, were locked away behind the bars. When Sheba and Erin visited for the first time, she found it unsettling.

“You walk into the building through heavy steel doors and see deputies on alert. It is difficult to remember that you are going to visit children,” says Erin. “You enter a windowless cell and are faced with a violent offender who is a risk to the community. But after a little time, you realize these are kids with troubled backgrounds who have never experienced many of the nicer things in life.”

The environment never swayed Sheba. Erin says her dog loves the weekly visits. As time moved on, the children began to open up to Sheba, and by default, Erin, in ways they never had before.

“The kids look forward to Sheba’s visits. A lot of them run up to Sheba and hug her, happy to have someone who unconditionally loves them,” says Erin. “Sheba has become a reward. If the kids do their homework and behave, they are able to visit her. One girl has a picture of Sheba that she keeps on her wall. She told me that when she is sad she looks at the picture and she isn’t sad anymore.”

Erin says the best part of what she and Sheba do is to inspire the children. “After visiting with Sheba, many kids say they want a dog once they get out of the program. Sheba offers them a goal,” says Erin. “While getting a dog is a little goal, it is something that they may have never had before.”

Erin marvels at her pets’ abilities to change lives, especially at the youth center. Sheba’s unconditional love has made an impact on the children, Erin says, breaking down any walls they may have built and planting a seed of hope.

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