



PCCOA
Aging well for life

Helping People + Helping Pets: A Community Collaboration

PAAW Semi-Annual Meeting

Friday, October 4, 2019

About Pima Council on Aging (PCOA)

Mission: To promote dignity and respect for aging, and to advocate for independence in the lives of Pima County's older adults and their families, now and for generations to come.

We are:

**The Area Agency on Aging for
Pima County**

Located in Tucson, Arizona

**501(c)3 Non-Profit
Organization**

**Provide Home-Delivered
Meals Service** through
subcontract with Lutheran Social
Services of the Southwest

About Cody's Friends

Cody's Friends supports the crucial bond between human and animal welfare.



History and Mission

Started by (then) 5th grader, Cody Allen

501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

One of 24 national Rescue Bank affiliates

35 Donations Stations & ~ 1 Million Lbs.

Pima Alliance for Animal Welfare,

an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona



Human Animal Bond workgroup:

Exploring the opportunities to embed animal welfare into existing social service organizations, especially those serving low-income seniors and home bound individuals



Why is the Human Animal Bond Important for Older Adults?

“The human-animal bond is a mutually beneficial dynamic relationship between people and animals that is influenced by behaviors that are essential to the health and well-being of both.” - American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Companion animals can help to:

- Decrease social isolation (through touch, exercise, attachment)
- Increase self-esteem and self-worth
- Fight against depression; enhance mood
- Add social support
- Provide sense of purpose and love
- Increase heart health, including lowering blood pressure and cholesterol



Community Needs Assessment and Actions

In 2016, PAAW's Human Animal Bond workgroup conducted a community needs assessment in collaboration with PCOA about the needs of older adults related to their companion animals.

Top identified issues for older adults:

- Pet food delivery
- Transportation to the vet
- Respite services for pets
- Education about available free and low-cost resources for pets
- **Action:** Presentations to older adult agencies about pet resources
- **Action:** Advanced directives for pet owners
- **Action:** Home-delivered pet food for home-bound older adults



The Pet Food Delivery Program

Community Group:
gathered community partners



Funders:
Meals on Wheels America
Bonnie Kay

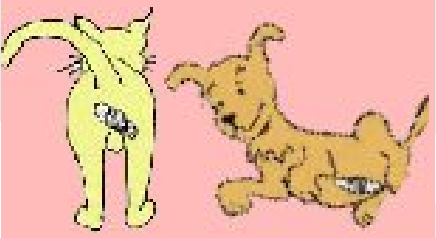
Meals Providers



Pet Food



Volunteer Training





Considerations for Developing the Program

Program staff time

Volunteer recruitment

- Level 1 fingerprint clearance,
- able to lift pet food, and
- able to drive to client's homes

Training volunteers

Teach the basics about safely interacting with animals

Potential funding sources

- Community Foundations
- Local Donors
- Grants: Meals on Wheels America, Banfield Pet Charities, PetSmart Charities

Food bagging

Storing food

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona

A subcontractor of PCOA

Home-delivered meals delivered by paid staff

Volunteers introduced by case manager at first

Twice a month delivery

Additional pet services including dog walking, kitty litter and outdoor clean up, transportation to vet/groomer

Requires fingerprint clearance for volunteers

Medically tailored meals

Home-delivered meals delivered by volunteers

Once per month delivery

Delivers kitty litter

Does not provide additional services including dog walking, kitty litter clean up, outdoor clean up, transportation to vet/groomer

Pet food delivery through volunteers

Cody's Friends for food

Requires rabies vaccine and licensing

Uses PCOA's Helpline as referral

Funding

Results

Pima Meals on Wheels through Lutheran Social Services

Current Service

Total Dogs: 38

Total Cats: 31

Total Households: 39

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona

2018

Total Dogs: 59

Total Cats: 48

Total Households: 64

2019

Total Dogs: 107

Total Cats: 68

Total Households: 104

Client Quotes:

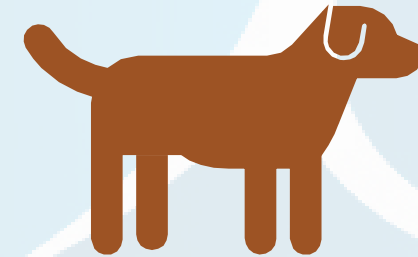
“The food makes little guy and me happy.”

“I no longer have to decide between prescriptions and dog food.”

Results

Most service recipients “strongly agree” that:

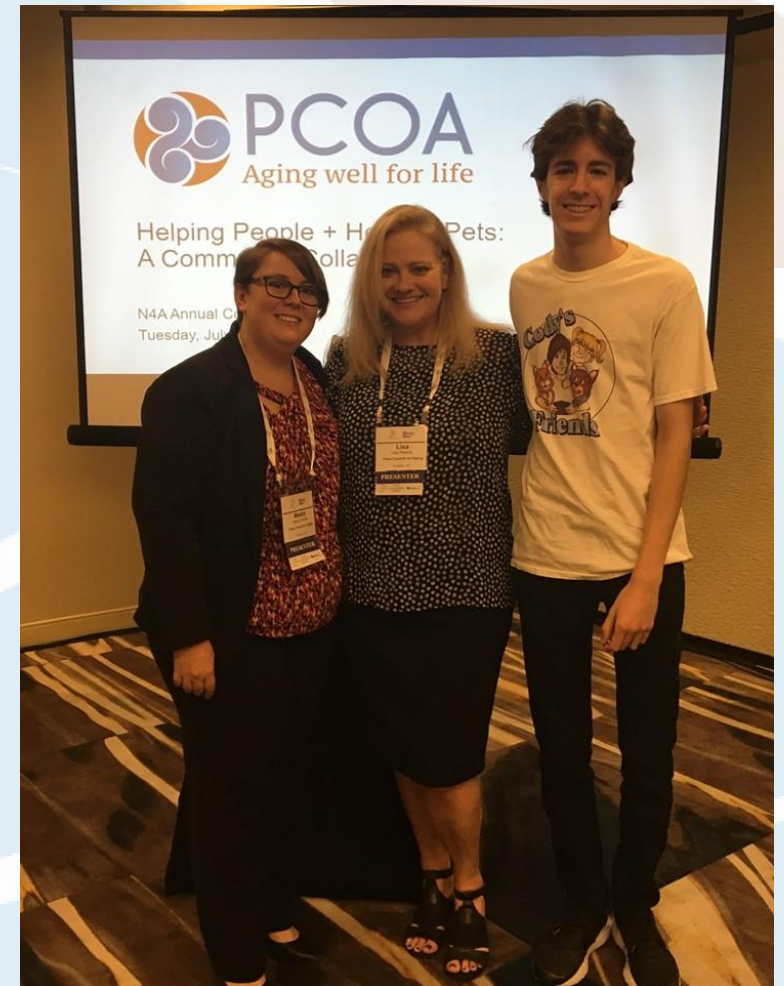
- “I would have to sacrifice other important budget items in order to provide for my pet(s) if I didn’t have support from the pet program.”
- “I feel more confident about meeting my pet’s needs as a result of receiving services through the pet program.”
- “The pet program has allowed me to maintain companionship with my pets.”
- “Pet program staff and/or volunteers care about the wellbeing of my pet(s) and me.”



National Recognition

National Association for Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) annual conference in New Orleans July 28-31, 2019

- PCOA and Cody's Friends presented a workshop about the collaboration to leaders of aging organizations across the country
- PCOA was recognized with a 2019 "Aging Achievement Award" for the development of this collaborative program



Contact Information

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