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Winter 2012/2013

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Making Memories E-News Winter 2012-2013

Big Animals for Little Kids mission is to bring joy into the lives of children facing health, emotional or socio-economic challenges.

Volunteers regularly visit children in hospitals, homeless shelters and foster care facilities.

A majority of Big Animal events support kids at Rady Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Kaiser Hospital as well as organizations such as: The Make a Wish Foundation, the San Diego Center for Children, Christie's Place and ChildHelp.

Big Animal Firsts - 2012...

2012 was a very busy year and it held many firsts for Big Animals For Little Kids. We were invited to new events such as meeting with the children of Rady's medically fragile unit or visiting at the Child Safety Community Event held at the Jacobs Center.

We did new types of events such as partnering with Make A Wish to be part of the wish granting presentation! On one such occasion we provided two Animals who helped present a Wish Kid with their wish - a pop-up trailer! :)

We had fantastic new experiences with old friends at places we've been to many times before. We plan to be back time after time of course for events such as the Heart Party, The Celebration of Champions, and the Breast Cancer 3-day Walk.

We made new friends and contacts and gained new volunteers and watched happily as volunteers grew into more responsible executives positions. We added a new executive position, Vice President for Fundraising. Margaret Horde has taken on that challenge. You go, Margaret!

Donate Today

To make a gift today in support of giving magical moments to children in San Diego with serious, chronic, and life threatening illnesses, consider making a gift today.



Upcoming Events (Partial List)

You can now view Big Animal's calendar of events right on our website by clicking [HERE](#)

Saturday 3/16

10:00am-noon

DS Action @ Vertical Hold in Kearny Mesa

Climbing to New Heights

Saturday 3/16

1:00pm-3:00pm

Noah Homes - Spring Valley

St. Patrick's Day Dance

Friday 4/5

9:00am-2:00pm

Christie's Place

Spring Fling

Saturday 4/6

10:00am-2:00pm

Rock Church

Love 'Em Up Event

Sunday 4/21

9:00am-11:00am

Nobel Athletic Fields 8810 Judicial Dr., San

In 2012 we were invited to go room to room doing bedside visits at Rady Children's Hospital! We have been doing this for years at Kaiser Hospital, and this year the program was extended to Children's. Thanks to the hard work of Big Animal Volunteers we are now welcome furry guests of the hospital!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for bringing smiles door to door at Rady!

One thing was the same as it has been for over a decade now.... We spread love and joy. Just the same old same old there... :)

Big Animal Firsts in 2013...

The Dr Dog Project meets Big Animals

We are going to be contributing toward a wonderful project in the near future! We look forward to our partnership with the Dr Dog Project!

Stay tuned for updates in the next edition of the Newsletter for details, background, AND pictures from our first event with them!!

Diego, CA 92169
Friendship Walk

Saturday 4/27
10:00am-2:00pm
Alpine location of Southern Indian Health Council
SIHC Spring Gathering

Saturday 5/18
9:00am-2:00pm
Embarcadero at Seaport Village
Celebration of Champions

To volunteer with Big Animals [email us today!](#)

Linda Sue and Pooh

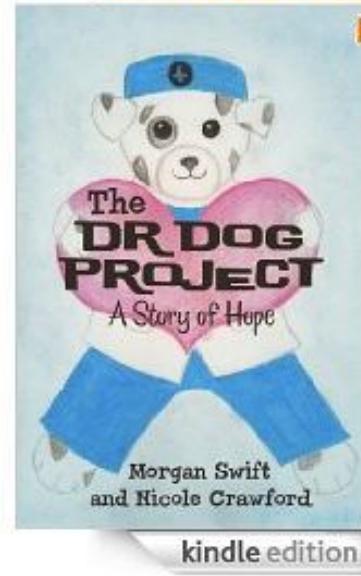
One of our first-year volunteers this year shared some of her most memorable experience from her first year. Here are her words direct to you:

Linda Sue - written Jan 18, 2013



Thumbs up with Linda Sue!

[Click to LOOK INSIDE!](#)



The Dr Dog Project by Morgan Swift

[Please Click Here to visit the Dr Dog Project WebSite](#)

[Click here to go to Amazon.com to purchase the inspiring book by the Dr Dog Founder for your Kindle](#)

Sharing Big Animal Love With You by Luanne McPherson

Big Animals for Little Kids met Riley at the Celebration of Champions in 2010.

"I'd like to share my most memorable experience with Big Animals as a newbie this year. It was the San Diego Children's Foster Day Event.

I was very apprehensive not knowing what to expect. But sitting there trying desperately to create tattoos on the children and even though I knew it wasn't as good as others who had done the tattoos for a long time, just seeing the children's faces while they were sitting there was priceless.

And one girl said "nobody has ever done that for me before" and I could see she was getting emotional. Well it only takes me seeing that and I got weepy myself. I had gotten so involved in the getting the tattoo just right that I had forgotten what the purpose of being there was; a brief moment helping the children to forget their problems.

To know that these children were not with their parent(s) full time was heartbreakng. Luanne and I became close friends and she introduced me to Big Animals and I've been hooked every since. I love being around children, helping them, and making them forget for even one short moment what their life stresses are is priceless. The smiles on their faces make up for all the angst in everyday life.



Riley and The Wabbit!

Riley was in treatment for Wilm's tumor (kidney cancer); she was very tiny, and frail - but totally surrounded by the most loving family ever.

For me, it was love at first sight.....and so began a lasting connection!

The Big Animals attended a Make-A-Wish fundraiser for Riley that summer - and even more of our group fell in love with this sweet little girl, and became a part of her cheer leading family. We attended with a surprise for Riley - Elmo - and the moment she spotted him across the room, she ran and threw herself into his arms!

Thank you Big Animals for everything you do for the children. Witnessing every volunteer's eagerness to help and their excitement and dedication to Big Animals just gives me a warm heart. I am so blessed to be able to give as much love and caring that I can at every event and I happy I found you!!!!"

Photo Galleries

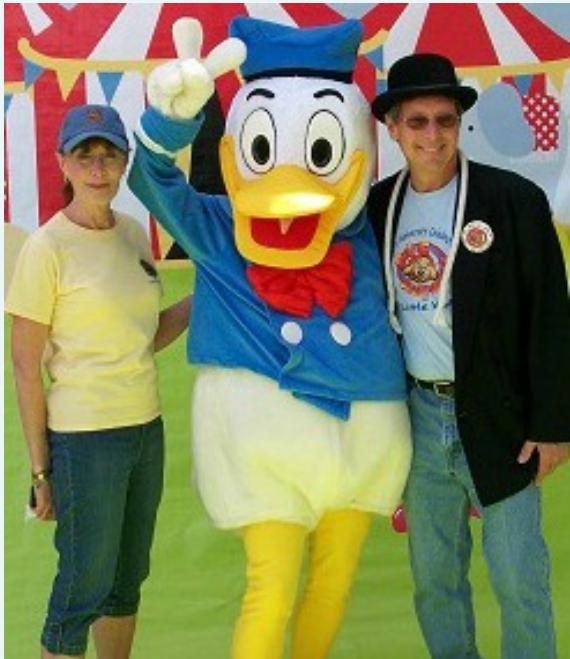


Click the picture to see the Facebook photo album from this visit to Kaiser!



We were at the Walk for Wishes at Sea World in early 2011, walking for Team Adam (Adam Carpenter), and who should we run into but sweet Riley, wings and all!

Click the picture to go to the Facebook photo album and see more from the first event of 2013 - The Heart Party!



Click the picture to go to the Facebook photo album and see more from this day!



Click the picture to go to the Facebook photo album and see more from our Beach Party 2012!



Riley and Frank at the Walk For Wishes!

And that spring, at the Celebration of Champions, we were there to witness Riley make her own victory lap - holding that torch high!!

This photo says it all.....she's running, looking at her little feet as she goes! Woohoo!!! Go Riley!!!!

**Be A
Top
Dog!!**

**Be A
Big
Dog!!**

Help Us Create More Magical Moments!

**Big Animals For Little
Kids has begun a new
fundraising program
called "Top Dog"!**

**Any donor gifting \$500
or more will attain "Big
Dog" status and those
gifting \$1000 will get
the grand title of "Top
Dog"**

**More details to come
soon...**

Offer Expires: Never! :)

**[Click Here to Bring Joy to Children in
Hospitals](#)
[Please Make a Tax-Deductible Gift.](#)**



Riley running at the Celebration of Champions!!

**At the Relay for Life in Santee - 2011, Riley was a huge hit,
and was the youngest survivor there.**



Riley and Luanne

Frank taught her how to make huuuuuge bubbles that day!!



Riley and Frank making bubbles!

The following year, Riley had her very own team at the Relay.

Watching Riley's brave journey down a path that most adults would find daunting has been a privilege indeed!

**And now - here we are - 2013. Riley is turning 6 in February.
She has been in remission since August, 2010.
And that little bald head has been covered with beautiful,
shiny hair.**



Riley with her bright smile and beautiful hair!

We've been so blessed to see her triumph and become healthy!!

Her smile has never ceased to amaze everyone who is fortunate enough to meet her!

Her laughter is the best.....her entire family is amazing!! I love her so!!

This is the type of experience that we Big Animals get to share in - life is so good!!! :o)

Riley is SO special - as are ALL of the thousands of children that Big Animals For Little Kids bring magic to each year



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