

A message from Frank V. Sacco, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer

Good day,

We greatly value the contributions of our four-legged pet therapy volunteers and their owners. They visit patients throughout Memorial Healthcare System, bringing love, affection and support – and leaving lots of smiles on faces of all ages.

Here's a letter from the daughter of a patient whose life has been brightened by two of our dedicated therapy dogs.

Thank you,



Dear Mr. Sacco,

My mother is 89 and in home hospice care. Recently, she was in Memorial Regional Hospital. One morning, two of the hospital's volunteer therapy dogs, Storme and Lacey, came to visit. I will never forget the smile on my mother's face! She talked to the dogs and even remembered their names after they left.

My mother enjoyed Storme and Lacey so much that after she left the hospital, I asked your therapy dog volunteers, Dennis and Myra Kalodish, if they could make a home visit. They came to see my mom once again – and once again, she was so happy. It was a Saturday, a day when most people are running errands and trying to catch up from a busy week. But the Kalodishes came without question. They deserve every recognition for that.

Whoever is responsible for the therapy dog program, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I'm a retired nurse and have been in healthcare for 36 years. I've never seen any responses like the ones these dogs bring out in their patients. I am truly amazed.

I hope a service like this has all the support it needs to continue, because it provides such unbelievable comfort to those who can benefit.

My mom was blessed to have crossed paths with Storme, Lacey and the Kalodishes. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janis

Department leaders please post this for all employees who do not have access to email.

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