



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Join Hand in Paw at its 21st Annual Signature Auction, Picasso Pets, Presented by VP Funds

Birmingham, AL: Hand in Paw will host its signature event, Picasso Pets presented by VP Funds, on August 13th, 2022 at The Harbert Center in Downtown Birmingham. Picasso Pets is Hand in Paw's largest fundraiser and ensures that their Animal-Assisted Therapy services can be delivered at no charge to over 60 facilities across North Central Alabama and Tuscaloosa.

The 21st annual Picasso Pets gala will begin with a chic cocktail reception featuring delectable drinks, gift card wall, wine pull and more. Following the reception, attendees will enjoy a delicious seated dinner and program hosted by Civil Rights Activist, Lisa McNair. During the program is the official debut of our 2022 Picasso Pets paintings. These paintings are created by prominent local artists who work with patrons and their pets to create exceptional commissioned pieces that are treasured for a lifetime. A live auction held by local philanthropist, Ken Jackson, will add to the evening's excitement, and Hand in Paw Therapy Teams will interact with guests throughout the event!

The 2022 Picasso Pets theme is "Secret Garden Party", and guests are encouraged to wear floral colors and prints to match the theme. The Faces of Picasso Pets are Fern and Olive Stoltzner who are both Hand in Paw therapy dogs and visit Children's of Alabama and other facilities with their mom Stephanie. Stephanie has volunteered with Hand in Paw since 2016 and was awarded the title of Volunteer of the year in 2019.

Margaret Stinnett, Hand in Paw's Executive Director, states, "Picasso Pets is the event that finishes the summer on a high note! This unique and beautiful evening brings together people from all backgrounds. Please join us to celebrate 26 years of Hand in Paw and our 21st Picasso Pets. Your attendance supports our Therapy Teams who provide FREE services to the vulnerable in the greater Birmingham and Tuscaloosa communities. And – if you need a little cheering up, we will have amazing Therapy Teams on site to give you some unconditional love."

Picasso Pets was created to celebrate animals' amazing ability to help people have a brighter day, to heal and realize their potential. Funds raised enable Hand in Paw to carry out their mission to improve human health and well-being through Animal-Assisted Therapy.

Picasso Pets General Admission tickets are \$250; reserved tables are available through different sponsorship opportunities.

To purchase tickets and sponsorships, or to learn more about Picasso Pets, please visit www.picassopets.com

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ABOUT HAND IN PAW

With a mission to improve human health & well-being, Hand in Paw is Alabama's premier Animal-Assisted Therapy provider and a national leader in this growing field. Hand in Paw's professionally-trained volunteer handler and animal Therapy Teams help improve people's day to day lives in several medical centers, schools, and human service organizations throughout North Central Alabama and Tuscaloosa. Our volunteer teams make thousands of beneficial visits through community events and participating facilities each year, helping countless children with special needs, at-risk youth, struggling students, and people with chronic and terminal illnesses. At no time has Hand in Paw charged for its services. For more information, visit www.handinpaw.org.