
2020 & 2021 BI-ANNUAL REPORT



**Bringing People and Animals
Together for Healing**

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Gerald Dubinski Jr.
President

As Therapy Animals of San Antonio (TASA) transitioned into 2020 we celebrated our 31st year of service to the greater San Antonio area. We were excited about expanding the number of animal therapy teams and coverage areas, in addition to program development that included innovative school programming and implementing a program focused on the use of animal teams for disaster/crisis intervention work across an expanded area of South Texas. I entered my second 2-year term as President and we were excited for the new year.

However, in February 2020, COVID 19 and pandemic protocols began impacting our plans. COVID 19 required the organization to think outside the box and to utilize new strategies such as zoom meetings to conduct business with our Board, teams, and community members. Therapy visits were cancelled as facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and others closed to outside visitors. Evaluations of teams, both new and renewals, were suspended for safety considerations. Our yearly Income was substantially impacted as Fiesta® 2020 was cancelled and our primary fundraiser, the Fiesta® Pooch Parade in Alamo Heights was not able to be held. We relied on savings and donations to maintain our office space and related monthly expenses. The pandemic continued to interrupt services in 2021 however vaccination's, masks, and other protocols such as the use of a large gym allowed team evaluations to be held in May 2021. As the year concluded, sites were still limited due to the pandemic concerns.

Due to service interruptions noted above, this report covers a 2-year time frame. As an all-volunteer organization, our annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on our mission, to recognize our dedicated volunteers, and to share our efforts with the community and other readers. Our volunteers are important ambassadors who spread the message of the power of the human-animal bond and bring people and animals together for healing. Our organization continues to engage in proactive opportunities to serve our community. We are grateful for the many community members and others who believe in our mission and who have supported our work through grants, donations, sponsorships, and memorials. This allows us to provide our animal therapy services free of charge.

We strive to meet or exceed local, national and where applicable, international standards. This includes our ongoing commitment to professionalism and remaining current with new health policies that might impact our work and staying well-informed of national and international research in human-animal

relationships. We are an affiliate member of the International Association of Human-Animal Interactions Organization (IAHAIO).

Our Board of Directors provides guidance as we adapt to the changes in the field of animal activities and therapy, the accompanying intra-organizational relationships, and overall community needs. We encourage our members to attend Board meetings and to be active members in all aspects of the organization. Contributions by many, both as a human-animal team and as individuals, are all valued and needed.

As the president, I have been honored to serve this organization and am excited about the future and the program development that has taken place and is ready for implementation.

Sincerely,

Gerald Dubinski, Jr. President
Therapy Animals of San Antonio

Therapy Animals of San Antonio is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and Coordinators. Officers and Board members are elected for two year terms with approximately half being elected each year. Additionally, several members fill support or coordinator roles.

2020 Officers & Board

Gerald Dubinski, Jr. President & Officer
Lisa Lejk, Vice-President & Officer
Tamara Yates, Secretary & Officer
Beverly Oakes, Treasurer, Volunteer System Manager & Officer
Kathi France, Team Training Chair
Dr. Russell "Pat" Smutz, Evaluation Chair
Eileen Gaughran, Membership Chair
Dr. Linda Porter-Wenzlaff, Education Chair
Susana Holland, Phone Committee Chair
Erica Garcia, Webmaster Chair
Danielle Lewis, StoryTails Chair
Mary Lou Wilson, Facility Assessment Chair
Dr. Kathy Meade, Operations Chair

2021 Officers & Board

Gerald Dubinski, Jr. President & Officer
Walter Macias, Vice-President; Officer, CARE Co-Coordinator
Tamara Yates, Secretary & Officer
Beverly Oakes, Treasurer, Officer, and Volunteer System Manager
Kathi France, Team Training Chair
Dr. Russell "Pat" Smutz, Evaluation Chair
Eileen Gaughran, Facility Placement
Dr. Linda Porter-Wenzlaff, Webmaster and Education Chair
Susana Holland, Phone Committee Chair
Mary Lou Wilson, Facility Assessment Chair
Dr. Kathy Meade, Operations Chair

Additional Program Support

Dr. Linda Porter-Wenzlaff – CARE Coordinator
Dan Lindahl - Story Tails & Ronald McDonald House Coordinator
Sara Morgan – Social Media & Fundraising Coordinator
Sandra Olsaver - Alamo Heights Coordinator (Pooch Parade)
Bev Oakes - University Hospital Coordinator
Dr. Pat Smutz - Military Coordinator
Lynda Melendez, DVM - Krier Center Coordinator & Lead Team Evaluator
Gerald Dubinski, Jr. - Methodist Health Systems Coordinator
Steve Fontenot – Children's Bereavement Center Coordinator



Walter Macias
Vice-President

Walter actively visited with his German Shepherd Hans at a local hospital until the dog's passing on May 13, 2020. He has continued as a volunteer to support the mission of TASA, working to learn all aspects of the organization. He was elected to an Office position on the Board and has taken an active role in administrative issues including assuming a Co-coordinator role for the CARE program.



Tamara Yates
Secretary

Tamara's responsibilities as an Officer and Board Member included recording and disbursing meeting minutes along with other clerical tasks such as sending condolence and thank you letters.

Tamara visits facilities as a Team with her dog Yogini and also became a TASA (Local) Evaluator, a role that she continues in 2022.



Beverly Oakes
Treasurer & Volunteer System Manager

Beverly is our long-time Treasurer, a position requiring many hours of careful work to oversee our organizations finances and budget. She prepares monthly financial reports and presents these to the Board and general membership. She manages expenditures and reimbursements for projects approved by the Board and provides documentation to our public accountant for use in yearly tax preparation.

Beverly also oversees the Better Impact Volunteer System, software that helps to manage over 100 volunteers, donors, and facility information. The system provides a communication and information conduit to and from the volunteers and allows volunteers to access various documents, policies, and facility information. Data collection is completed via this program.

Beverly donated over 1000 service hours during the two-year period including visiting with her therapy dog, Tessa, and therapy cat, Zane Grey. Sadly, she lost Tessa at age 14 in 2021.



Eileen Gaughran
Facility Placement Chair

Eileen is a long-time member of the organization. She concluded several years as the Membership Chair and then was elected and transitioned to the Facility Placement Chair in 2001. As new teams successfully evaluate, Eileen assists the members in finding placements in the community based on their interests and community requests.



Christi Miller
Membership Chair

Elected in 2021, Christi's responsibilities include tracking memberships, sending renewal reminders, and as necessary, archiving membership information. She also is involved in initial contacts with potential members who may wish to become teams. This includes assistance with program information and becoming a team.

TASA membership remains strong however declined during Covid with the closure of facilities to outside entities.



Susana Holland
Phone Committee Chair

A committee of approximately 4 volunteers answered the TASA phone line throughout the year and responded to community inquiries. Referrals are initiated to the appropriate TASA member for follow-up. Thanks to Mary Lou Wilson, Dan Lindahl, Hilda Statz and Susana Holland. As the chair, Susana attends all Board meetings helping to shape organizational direction in addition to actively visiting in the community with her animal partner, Frida.



Linda Porter-Wenzlaff
Webmaster, Education Chair

As Webmaster, Dr. Porter developed a new website with enhanced technology and capacities to share our mission.

Dr. Porter provided online services to potential new members and the use of zoom technology allowed individuals to complete classes online. Completing the course was a step toward becoming a team. She developed a spreadsheet to show the progress of each individual and for communication with other members involved in the training-mentoring processes. Dr. Porter also spent many hours working to develop the Crisis Assistance Manual and organizing/hosting an in-person class on June 12th, 2021, for 18 members/teams. She is a valuable consultant across all phases of operations and contributed over 950 hours of her time in support of the mission.

Dr. Porter is also actively engaged in visiting with her dog, Indigo Moon, when Covid permits. This includes a strong focus on school system programming.



Kathi France
Team Training Chair

As the Team Training Chair, Kathi France sent out registration packets to prospective teams, answered process-related questions, and coordinated scheduling people to attend a class. Kathi retired from this position at the end of the 2021 year.

Kathi was an active team with both her Cairn Terriers, Zac and Duncan, although sadly she lost her partner Zac at 14 years of age in 2021. Zac achieved his 200 + award several years ago.



Dr. Russell "Pat" Smutz
Team Evaluation Chair

The evaluation process is coordinated by the Evaluation Chair, Pat Smutz, who visits with his partner Kira. This chair position requires good computer and interpersonal skills; flexibility; patience; and an understanding of the multiple components necessary to ensure all teams have an opportunity to evaluate and complete all required documentation for appropriate registration. No evaluation process is exactly the same and each process seems to have its own unique challenges. The challenges were further complicated with covid. (see Evaluation section for additional). Pat has volunteered over 364 hours in the dual role of therapy team and evaluation chair.



Mary Lou Wilson
Facility Assessment Chair

Facilities requesting services complete an online form or send an email to the organization. These requests are fielded by the Facility Chair, Mary Lou Wilson who speaks with the facility contact. She completes a facility form that provides potential teams information about the population to be served, the visit location, and program expectations. This coordination of information is integral to the overall mission and connecting teams with facilities.

Mary Lou is also a regular volunteer at events including team evaluations and special events.



Malinda Red Cloud
Community Events & Presentations Chair

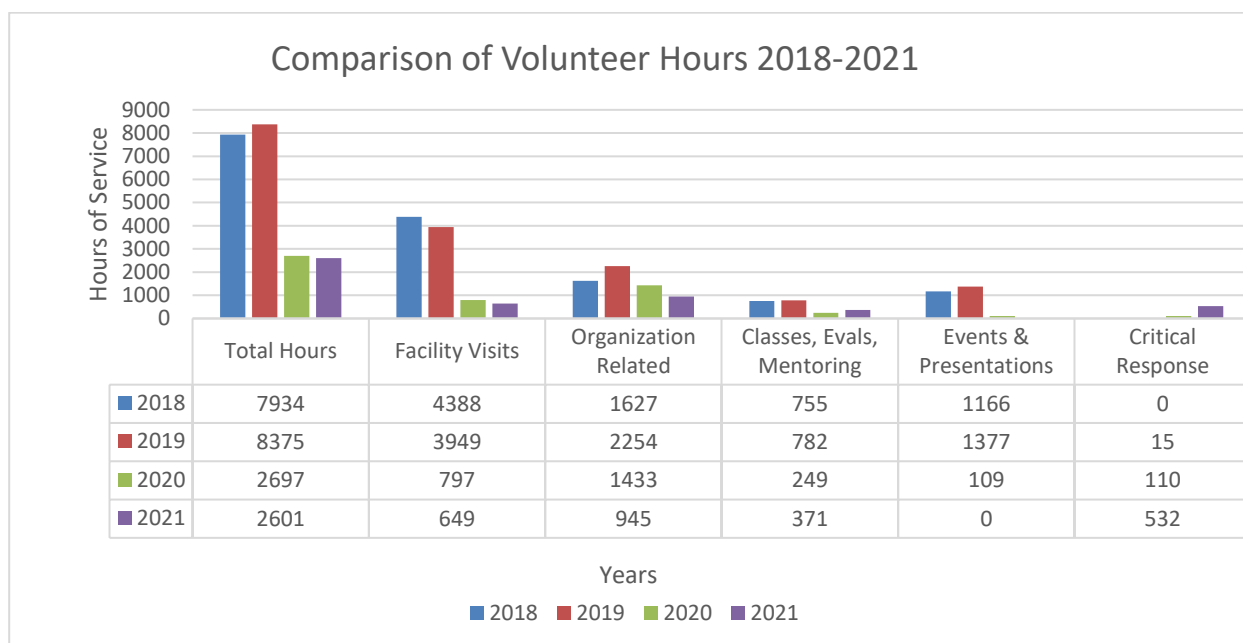
Malinda coordinated community events and presentations that touch many lives. Unfortunately, Covid significantly curtailed group activities. At the conclusion of 2021, Malinda retired her therapy dog Bonnie and TASA role to take on other community-based services.



The Therapy Mission

The primary mission of Therapy Animals of San Antonio remains the provision of animal assisted activity (AAA) and animal assisted therapy (AAT) to the vulnerable populations across San Antonio, the surrounding 11 counties and the Houston area. AAT involves a team working with a professional to provide specific treatment based on goals identified and documented by a professional for each visit. AAA is more spontaneous, without specific treatment goals, and is often described as a “meet and greet” contact.

As noted throughout this report, Covid significantly impacted our ability to engage in therapy services in 2020 and 2021. A significant reduction in hours occurred across all categories. The chart below provides a comparison of the two years before and two years during Covid protocols. New programming involving Crisis Animal Response (CARE) and hours primarily occurring in 2021 and that involved education and program development.



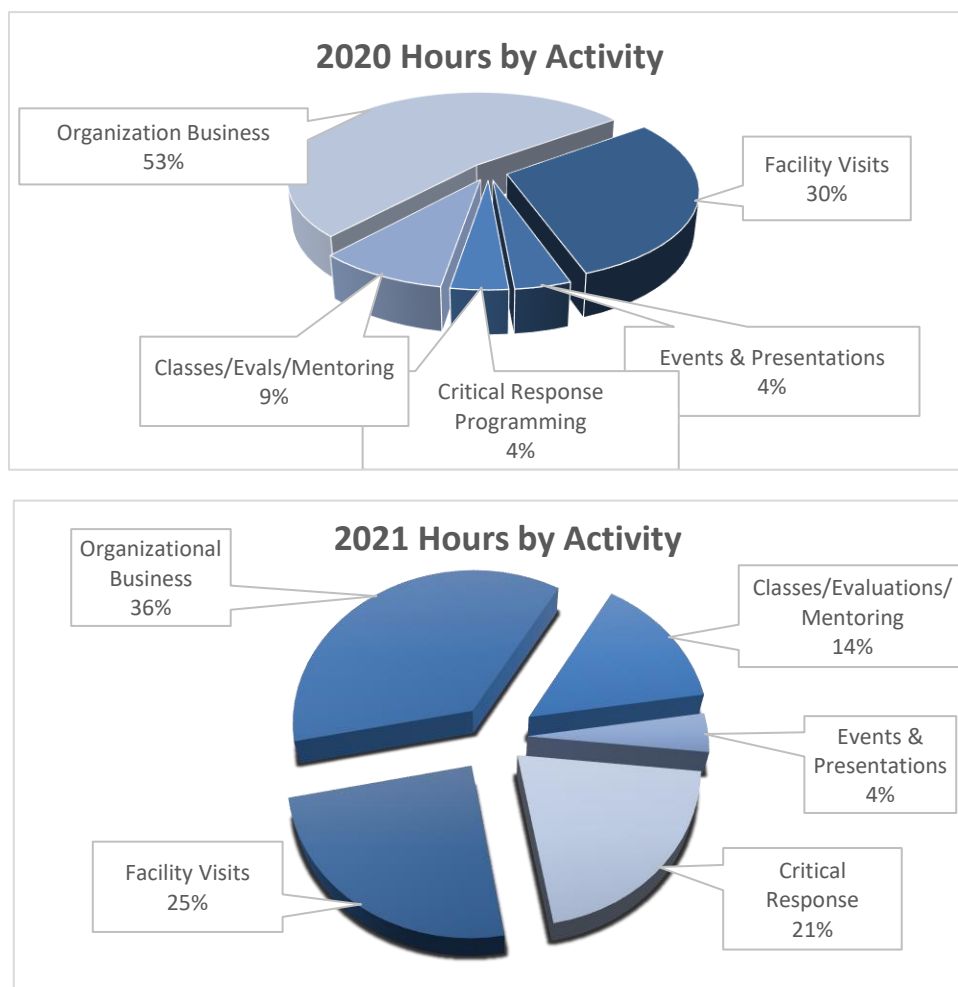
Our teams recorded 797 hours of animal assisted activity (AAA) or animal assisted therapy (AAT) at 43 facilities in 2020 and 649 hours at 24 facilities in 2021. This represents a significant decline in the number of facilities we were able to visit as compared to 2019. For example, when teams visited 69 different facilities 3,949 hours of service were recorded. Facilities include care facilities (nursing homes; assisted living, hospitals, memory and day programs, military programs, schools, and other facilities where a vulnerable population is served by our animal teams.

The category of organization related business was the least impacted area as meetings and major organizational decisions continued albeit in different forms. These included adapting zoom technology for board and other operational meetings. Office tasks were put on hold.

Therapy team class programming was developed to accommodate individual online learning. While this allowed for education, the group learning process and connection to each other was missed. Evaluation opportunities were reduced and with the absence of open facilities, no mentoring processes could occur.

Teams and support individuals attended various events and presentations in 2020 and 2021, with 109 hours of service recorded, a total that reflects the impact of the pandemic when compared to 2019's total of 1,377 hours. This category includes college de-stressors, staffing booths at events such as parades, corporation/company visits; presentation or TASA introductory visits; and the Pooch Parade. Group gatherings became non-existent if the facility was even open. All San Antonio Fiesta Events were cancelled by City Officials which included our primary fundraiser, the Pooch Parade.

The last category is identified as Critical Response. TASA via our education chair, Dr. Linda Porter, began developing the CARE program in response to school and community-based critical incidents. This represented approximately 4% of the 2020 overall hours recorded, however the program continued to grow and develop in 2021 to "response ready." CARE is discussed in more depth in the next section.



Crisis Animal Response Program (CARE)

TASA previously established a school-based crisis intervention program in partnership with local school districts. Trained crisis canine response teams are deployed at the request of the school. Teams work with school counselors in providing support to students and others impacted by school related losses, traumas, and other critical events. The program has received very positive feedback from both school personnel and the teams. Teams responded to several events in 2021 and to date in 2022, teams have participated in an introduction of teams at a district training event and one deployment to a school crisis event.

Successful collaboration with the community and schools in addition to past community tragedies (major apartment fires; church shooting) along with other world events provided the impetus for program expansion with potential for a statewide animal assisted crisis response. The CARE program addresses a growing diversity of service demand, as well as, requiring more teams, with increased training requirements and greater organizational management.

Implementation of this program came to fruition in 2021. Based on extensive work by Dr. Linda Porter and supported by a steering committee consisting of President Gerald Dubinski Jr, Vice-President Walter Macias, Dr. Kathryn Meade and Dr. Pat Smutz along with additional support from Beverly Oakes (Treasurer/System Assistance) and Sara Morgan (Branding/Marketing) the program is now a reality.

A course and policy manual was developed ensuring that the course and field work met the 2010 Animal Assisted Crisis Response (AACR) National Standards. Experienced teams meeting specific criteria and volunteering, prior to attending the course at the office, were required to complete online courses and policy training prior that included: 1) FEMA Emergency Management Institute court course: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System; 2) Human CPR & First Aid; and 3) Pet CPR & First Aid. All volunteers then participated in a one-day class on June 12th, 2021 led by Co-Coordinator's Dr. Porter and Mr. Macias with guest speaker, Dr. Billy James, a licensed psychologist with specialties in crisis management, disaster, and trauma intervention.

Teams are identified by CARE specific shirts, CARE ID tags and CARE and CARE dog vests.

As of this writing, the CARE team has deployed once to the Houston area.





StoryTails

Our StoryTails Program focuses on increasing the reading skills of younger school age children, supporting literacy through the message that reading can be fun, and promoting overall life-skill development. The process involves the student reading an age-appropriate book to our animal team in settings that include schools and libraries. The combination of the loving acceptance of the animal and the enjoyment of the animal interaction allows reading to become



fun and non-stressful. Research has documented measurable grade level reading skill improvements made by students involved in animal assisted reading programs. Teams attend a program specific raining class (either in person or online) prior to providing this service in addition to being a registered team.



Team Evaluations & Support

TASA is committed to providing resources, training and ongoing evaluation of our Teams. The process of becoming a new team is rigorous and it is not uncommon for prospective teams to need support as this process unfolds or to need additional time and development to successfully evaluate. Our ultimate goal is a well-developed team that can engage across our communities of service with confidence and provide consistently positive human animal interactions.

All therapy teams must re-evaluate at least every two years, a process that includes a veterinarian completing a health check on the animal and the volunteer passing a background check. Teams must be current with their registration in order to visit in the community and to be covered by insurance.

Two independent registration options are offered by TASA (Local or Pet Partner) to provide flexibility to Teams depending on their needs. Both have Evaluators specific to registration option and standardized processes that are research-based and that meet or exceed national best-practice processes. Both evaluation types are typically scheduled one time per quarter however more evaluations are scheduled if additional teams need evaluations. Covid changed our location for testing (2 evaluations were conducted at a gym for increased space/distancing) and also the number of evaluations conducted.

The bi-annual period saw four evaluations for Pet Partners and five evaluations for Local option. We thank all the volunteers who support the evaluations. Each evaluation has 2 evaluators; 4 actors (3-female; 1-male); 1 neutral dog team; and individuals that man the check-in/out processes (typically 3 to 4 additional volunteers).



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for 2020 was cancelled due to COVID and the lack of a facility but was held in November of 2021 at Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch, a facility located in Helotes, TX. We thank Anthony Pedrotti for his continued support of this event and providing the wonderful facility, staff, and food for our organization. His space allowed for social distancing for both our members and therapy animals who joined.

The meeting included recognition of new teams and general comments; Officer and Board reports; and nominations and elections of the Officers & Board. Several folks spoke to the impact of our services within the community. After formally concluding the meeting, the newly elected Board met as required by Bylaws. This meeting concluded our "administrative year" and we resumed monthly Board Meetings in January via Zoom or a combination meeting of in-person/zoom.

Financial Report

As an all-volunteer organization, Therapy Animals of San Antonio is extremely fortunate to have a stable financial situation as a result of the Fiesta® Pooch Parade, special donation or grant funding that supports our mission and good fiscal management. We are a GuideStar Exchange Platinum Participant.

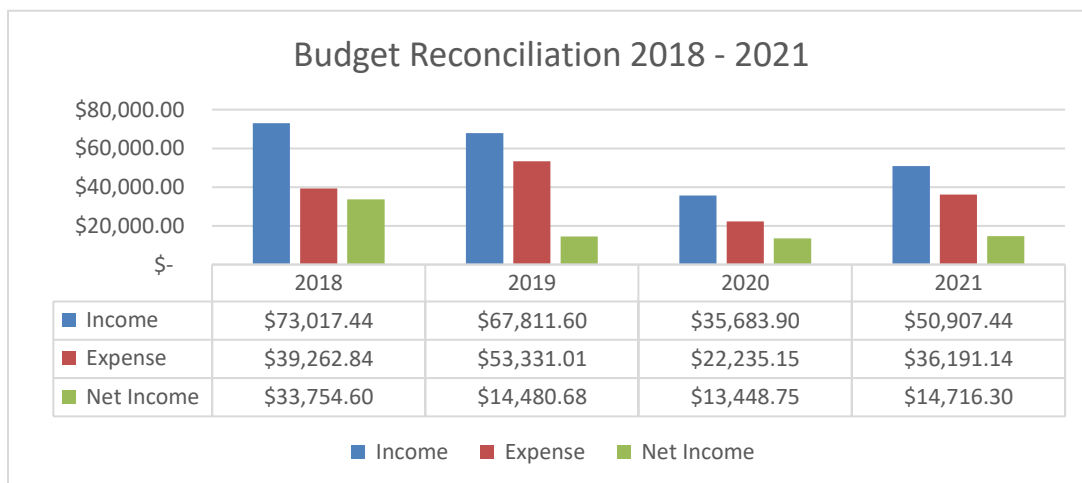
Treasurer Beverly Oakes tracks and ensures the organization's financial soundness. As the Treasurer she is responsible for ensuring that we meet 501(c)(3) requirements, that we file documents supporting our income and expenditures for tax and auditing purposes, and that appropriate payments are made or collected. Thanks to the previous years of the Fiesta® Pooch Parade, past and current donations, and grants our organization is financially sound and allows us to rent office space (to conduct meetings, evaluations and other business as needed in addition to storing necessary equipment and supplies), to support our members, to provide educational outreach to the communities we serve, and to develop new programs and community service such as the Crisis Animal Response program. Grant funding when available is set aside for specific purposes or program goals.



The 2020 profit & loss statement reflected total income of \$35,683.90. The majority of the income was generated from a Virtual Pooch Parade & Costume contest (\$10,095.00) and a Matching Grant Challenge (\$10,000). Total Expense for the year was \$22,235.15 with the major expenses including facilities and equipment of \$13,140; business expenses including insurances of \$2,836.08; operations cost for postage, mailing, and communications of \$748.51; computer software/hardware of \$1891.86; and the virtual pooch parade costs of \$2,721.59.

The 2021 profit & loss statement reflected total income of \$50,907.44. The majority of this income was derived from donations, business contributions and grants in the amount of \$37,469.85 and our second virtual parade that generated \$7443.06 in pre-expense income. Total expense for the year was \$36,191.14 resulting in net income of \$14,716.30.

Major expenses included business expenses including insurances of \$2531.48; CARE program development \$5,574.49; facility rent and equipment \$17,520.00 and computer software and equipment.



IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO PASSED IN 2020-2021

Zac, Partner of Kathi France

Bisca, Partner of Darby Stacey

Moose, Partner of Dan Lindahl

Pax, Partner of Jeanne & Lynda Melendez

Hans, Partner of Walter Macias

Willie, Partner of Pat Durcan

Vixon, Partner of Danielle Lewis

Tessa, Partner of Bev Oakes

Beauden, Partner of Tom & K'Lynn Ball

Lucy Destin,
TASA Team Member, Retired
