



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pet Partners Announces New Premier Facility Partner, MLK Community Healthcare

–This partnership will bring dedicated therapy animal teams to hospital employees in South Los Angeles–

Bellevue, WA – Pet Partners, the nation’s leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is proud to announce our newest Premier Facility Partner: MLK Community Healthcare (MLKCH) in Los Angeles, CA. As a Premier Facility Partner, MLKCH will receive exclusive benefits from Pet Partners, including the administration of a comprehensive and ongoing therapy animal handler recruitment program specific to the facility’s goals and needs.

MLKCH is a state-of-the-art 131-bed hospital providing maternity, critical, and inpatient care, as well as primary and specialty care through their outpatient doctors’ offices throughout South LA. Pet Partners will work closely with MLKCH as a Premier Facility Partner to support their goals for the hospital’s therapy animal program, ensuring they have access to our dedicated therapy animal teams. Pet Partners teams consist of a volunteer human handler and their pet, who have been educated and registered through our Therapy Animal Program to safely provide therapy animal visits with those in need. “We are excited to partner with the leader in the field of animal-assisted interventions to bring the benefits of the human-animal bond to our employees,” said Becca Jozsa, Employee Wellbeing Specialist/Counselor at MLKCH.

MLKCH will host its first-ever Week of Wellness April 18-22, 2022. This event will focus on caring for the caregiver. During this weeklong celebration, employees will be able to participate in daily events that support their overall well-being. As part of the Week of Wellness, Pet Partners teams will participate in the celebration of National Therapy Animal Day on Tuesday, April 19 where employees will be able to meet and pet therapy dogs in MLKCH’s Meditation Garden. “This partnership with MLKCH gives us the opportunity to expand our reach into a new community that can benefit from a visit from a therapy animal,” said C. Annie Peters, President & CEO of Pet Partners. “We are looking forward to learning how our teams have made an impact on the staff at MLKCH through this new partnership.”

To learn more about Wellness Week or the partnership between Pet Partners and MLK Community Healthcare, please contact Becca Jozsa at rjozsa@mlkch.org.

About Pet Partners

Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting the health and wellness benefits of animal-assisted therapy, activities, and education. Since the organization’s inception in 1977, the science proving these benefits has become indisputable. With thousands of registered teams making millions of visits annually, Pet Partners serves as the nation’s most diverse and respected nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams. Pet Partners teams visit with patients in recovery, people with intellectual disabilities, seniors living with Alzheimer’s, students, veterans with PTSD, people who have experienced crisis events, and those approaching end of life, with the goal of improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond. With the release of its *Standards of Practice for Animal-Assisted Interventions* and international expansion, Pet Partners is globally recognized as the industry gold standard. For more information on Pet Partners, visit www.petpartners.org.

About MLK Community Healthcare

About MLK Community Healthcare: MLK Community Healthcare is an integrated healthcare delivery system that provides quality care to the medically underserved community of South Los Angeles. MLKCH offers emergency and inpatient care through its hospital, and primary and specialty care through the MLK Community Medical Group, with practice sites in three locations throughout South LA. MLKCH also offers community health education and outreach to improve the health of our community. Since its opening in 2015, the hospital has earned awards and headlines for its innovative approaches to quality, safety and patient satisfaction. www.mlkch.org

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