



## Malley Monhart Capers

June 26, 2010 - February 16, 2022

There's something truly special when you meet a dog who genuinely loves people. For seven-plus years Malley brought smiles to thousands of faces with over 394 therapy dog visits to her credit. From the day I brought her home, I knew that Malley had that special something that would make her a great therapy dog.

Malley was certified as a therapy dog by Therapy Dogs International (TDI). From her first therapy dog visit at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) on May 20, 2014, Malley provided unconditional love to children and others at an elementary school, a nursing home, a business, as well as a college. Malley's gift was to intuitively know what a person needs and how to support them in their darkest and most trying situations. No matter where she has been, or who she has been with, there is nothing she enjoyed more than spending time with children.

The opportunities afforded to Malley as a therapy dog at NCH included being able to interact with people from all walks of life, who came to the hospital from across the United States as well as from multiple countries around the world. This circle of international children and families who came to NCH seeking treatment gave Malley the ability to communicate across any language barrier where no interpreter was required. The universal language of love, care, compassion and understanding is all that was needed during her

visits as a therapy dog, no matter what the setting. The visits at NCH often bring children and their families into high stress situations. Oftentimes these children and families are also forced to leave behind other family members or much beloved pets of their own. Malley's presence as a therapy dog acts as a bridge for healing which often results in putting a smile on someone's face. The attention given to her by children and their families provides much needed stress relief. Belly rubs are her favorite thing, and that was the only currency she needed to continue the most important job she would ever have.

In December 2021, Malley retired from duties at NCH due to medical reasons. As a retirement Christmas gift from Malley, 695 boxes of crayons and 131 coloring books were donated to NCH. This was a collective effort for which we are grateful to the many people who helped Malley reach these numbers. (Originally this was supposed to be for Malley's 10th birthday donation, but then COVID happened).

Malley was my partner for so many years. She brought so many smiles and warm fuzzies to so many children and their families. I could not be more proud or humbled by Malley's volunteer work as a therapy dog. This was not an easy decision to make but it is what was best for Malley.

When Malley wasn't volunteering, she enjoyed using her super sniffer to participate in Scent work trials. She was busy sniffing her way across Ohio and Indiana for the past six years. During that time she came within two legs of completing her overall Scent Work Excellent level title. This would have put her two legs away from competing at the Master level.

-Melinda