

## Building Your Business, continued

Invest  
in OthersFinding the Cause  
That's Right For You

LPL Financial Advisors continue to provide inspiration as leaders in their communities. Based on our conversations with many advisors and the heart-warming stories we received through the BranchNet Resource Center's Community Awareness Tool, it is clear to us that advisors have chosen a wide variety of ways to give back to their communities.

Advisor responses indicate that they have selected philanthropic causes that have meaning to them, going beyond the recognition they may have received from performing good deeds. In this issue of *The Ledger*, we are proud to share a story about Bob Fragasso, an LPL Financial Advisor who has found a cause that incorporates his personal interests with his professional expertise.

### Bob Fragasso, The Fragasso Group, Pittsburgh

*Active Board Member and Volunteer for Animal Friends*

Bob Fragasso was first introduced to Animal Friends 14 years ago when his daughter worked there for a summer. Bob and his family have always been pet lovers and owners, but when he started learning about animal welfare, he wanted to take his interest one step further. Animal welfare is about finding a place of refuge for animals, rehabilitating them, and finding them homes. He saw the need to help out by not only adopting pets, but also by applying his skills and expertise as a business owner in assisting Animal Friends build its support in the local community.

### Building Infrastructure and Finding Creative Solutions

Animal Friends is the only major no-kill shelter in the Pittsburgh area. The shelter is challenged to find homes for animals and maintain a consistent source of funding. Sympathetic to these challenges, Bob explains, "Our marketplace has limited resources so it is our (the community's) job to be creative and come up with innovative solutions." Because it is difficult to obtain funding for animal causes, Bob and Animal Friends had to consider other options for financial support. He points out, "If we combine people with

animals as program recipients, the benefits can be exponential, and it will also open new funding streams." Consequently, Animal Friends began working with community members, resulting in additional funding sources and significant benefits to people in the community. The programs described below highlight Animal Friends' partnership with members of the Pittsburgh community and show how a team approach can benefit everyone involved.

### Fighting For Two Causes

Animal Friends has established a relationship with the District Attorney's office to help press charges in animal abuse cases. In cities such as Pittsburgh, there is a strong correlation between drug dealing and dog fighting, which is an extreme form of animal cruelty. By cracking down on this inhumane activity and pressing charges against its perpetrators, the District Attorney's office has seen a sig-

nificant decrease in the number of drug dealers on the streets.

### Celebrate Urban Renewal—Mutt Strut

Urban planners and developers in Pittsburgh, like many other cities, have been trying to generate a renewed interest in urban living. For pet lovers, urban living comes with tradeoffs, such as giving up a yard. To spread the message that there is space for pets and that it is possible to live downtown successfully as a pet owner, Animal Friends holds an annual Mutt Strut parade. Each year, Bob and his adopted dogs participate proudly in this fun-filled family event for dog owners and lovers. He explains, "We bring shelter dogs for those who do not have a pet and would like to participate. The event ties into the downtown initiative. The goal is to show people that they can have a complete life with their animals and still live downtown."



Bob Fragasso participating in the Mutt Strut.

To spread the message that there is space for pets and that it is possible to live downtown successfully as a pet owner, Animal Friends holds an annual Mutt Strut parade.



## The Reading with Rover program brings children, dogs and literacy together.

### Golden Age Retrievers

Elder pets can be very challenging to place in adopted homes because of their lower energy levels. However, they make excellent pets for older people. This placement program, called Golden Age Retrievers, matches senior dogs with senior owners. This match-up is a win-win as the pets are grateful and their new owners are thrilled with the companionship. Additionally, Bob notes, "Seniors in nursing homes have responded very positively to pet therapy. When you put a dog in the lap of a non-communicative senior, it's amazing to see him or her become talkative and bubble with enthusiasm."

### Reading with Rover

Children with reading difficulties are often hesitant to read aloud because they feel judged. The Reading with Rover program brings children, dogs and literacy together. The children do not feel judged when they read to dogs, and they tend to open up and read better. Another program for kids is an interactive class that teaches kids about animal welfare causes and the proper way to care for and treat animals.

### Providing a Haven for Domestic Violence Victims' Pets

For domestic violence victims who are considering leaving their spouse/partner,

they often fear leaving a pet behind. To alleviate this concern, Animal Friends has worked with social services to educate victims on Animal Friends' Emergency Boarding Program. Animal Friends will board the pet until the victim can take him home.

### Building a Better Community

Through these community partnerships and programs, Animal Friends has been successful at raising money and is now in its final phase of fundraising for a new Animal Friends Center. The new shelter, which opened in March 2006, is 30,000 square feet on 13 acres with several walking trails just outside Pittsburgh.

Bob Fragasso's passion to help improve the lives of people and pets in the Pittsburgh area is just one example of how LPL Financial Advisors are manifesting their dedication to making their communities a better place.

Whatever your cause or level of commitment, we salute your good work and would like to continue to hear from you to learn more about your innovative ways of supporting philanthropic causes. Please visit the *Invest In Others* section of the BranchNet Resource Center to share your community outreach stories and learn what other LPL Financial Advisors are doing in their communities.

## Anniversaries

### 20 years

Jeffrey Omansky

Loren Orr

Rick Meyer

Michael Hudson

### 15 years

David Howard

Harper Goode

David King

Dwight Schaefer

Gary Wageman

James Bradford

John Triller

Scott D. Levin

Malcolm Epherson

### 10 years

Richard Holle

Andrew 'Aj' Macdonald

Gregory Nardolillo

Irvin Newberry

David Freemanwoolpert

David Gordon

Timothy Milaney

Jeffrey Bish

Jason Main

Jeffrey Jock

James Joly

Kristine Koczajowski

Gary Wise

Thomas Hale

John Piedra

Russell Sadler

D. Reed Ameden

Jeffrey Melton

Joel Hooper

Michael Milam

Neal Broidy

Michael Brenner

Karl Mc Ghee, Jr.

Geoffrey Matze

Rick Fischer

Donald Pepler

Gregory P. Fortner

Michael Blankenbecler

William Cappel

Michael Jowdy

Mark Mathers

Daniel Crum

Alan Smith

Wayne Von Borstel

Paul Goodworth

Gretchen Stangier

Lawrence Grimes

Jack Stitt

Neil Kitchie

Kevin Leahy

Steven Johnson

Dean Elliott

### 5 years

John Hellgren, Jr.

Matthew Christopher

Michael Morcos

Cary Leighton

Peter Kraus

Ronald Smouse