

PAWS FOR PEOPLE at Fairleads Retirement Village

One of our residents, Rosa Nel who is a resident at Fairleads Retirement Village has been involved with Paws for People for a number of years and she would like to share the joy she gets from working with the dogs and the people. Paws for people visit Fairleads on the first Tuesday of every month at 18h30 and our residents always look forward to their visit and just love the dogs to bits.

Paws for People is a non-profit organisation and their mission is to bring dogs and people together in a responsible non-threatening manner. These therapy dogs are a valuable aid in helping patients in rehab, special learning needs children, and the elderly in care centres, abused and abandoned children as well as physically challenged patients.

They visit homes for the elderly as well as children's homes, hospitals, cancer patients, schools and pre-schools to teach children about dogs and bite prevention as well as how to care for and respect dogs.

One of the dogs, Aila, belongs to a lady by the name of Betty. Aila is Rosa's furry friend. She assists Rosa in helping children at Muriel Brand School which caters for special needs children. One of Rosa's special experiences while working with Aila, was when they were

partnered with a young boy living with Autism. At first he would not sit on the blanket with Rosa and Aila and he refused to brush Aila or touch her, nor would he look up or speak to them. They had to learn how to do heel work, sit stays and down stays. At first Rosa and Aila moved at a very slow

pace, but with a lot of patience, encouragement and praise, and lots of love from Aila, Rosa managed to break the ice. Rosa was over the moon when all the effort resulted in this boy winning a trophy for Handler of the Year! What an achievement! Rosa could not be more proud of him. One must never underestimate the unconditional love of a dog.

It really makes sense why God provided us with pets.



Fairleads Retirement Village
Cnr James & Pretoria Roads
Fairleads, Benoni

Tel: 011 686 1200



Methodist Homes

Providing affordable, secure and caring accommodation and services to the elderly