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**Vermont Children's
HOSPITAL**
at Fletcher Allen Health Care

July 11, 2003

Dear Friend to Ryan:


I'm writing to thank you all - from the bottom of my heart - for your generous donation and for making a child very happy. When I first contacted Deb at Vermont Therapy Dogs it was simply to ask for the names of reputable German Shepherd breeders. I never imagined that this phone call would develop into an interstate effort to raise enough money for a special boy to get a puppy.

Ryan is a 7-year old boy living with cancer. During his many and lengthy hospitalizations, he become very fond a particular therapy dog, a German Shepherd named "Buddy". In March of 2003 Ryan became critically ill and nearly died. Remarkably, he began to get well and as his health improved, he started talking about his desire to have a puppy. His parents were supportive of their son's wish and one of Ryan's doctors asked for my assistance in locating a puppy for him. Thus entered Deb. Once the wheels were in motion and Ryan knew that a puppy would soon join his family, everyday he would say to his doctor "Is today the day that I'm going to get my puppy". And as a result of your generosity, one beautiful June day, Ryan met "Star" at the hospital. Star instantly sensed that Ryan was a fragile child and acted gently and protective of him from the beginning. Now that Ryan and Star are home, Star continues to be Ryan's protector. Although Star is still very much a puppy that gets into mischief, she is very attuned to Ryan. I saw Ryan yesterday and he told me that Star met his "girlfriend" and she too was smitten with Star.

The ripple effect of your generosity has been far reaching. You provided the financial means necessary to unite Star and Ryan. Not only has Star brought joy to Ryan, she has infused new life into an entire family. Additionally, your generosity touched all of us at the Pediatric Oncology division at Vermont Children's Hospital. It is heart warming to know that people are willing to donate money so that a child could experience the joy of having a pet.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Penny S. DeGoosh, MSW

*Hi - I understand
that you were
instrumental in
pulling it all together
Thank you so much!
Penny*

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