BIDEAWEE ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH AHRC NASSAU TO OFFER PET THERAPY SERVICES

Wantagh, New York, October 5, 2015 - Bideawee, a leading pet adoption and animal welfare organization serving Long Island and New York metropolitan area communities, announced a partnership with AHRC Nassau to offer Pet Therapy services. Bideawee Pet Therapy volunteers will visit the more than 100 AHRC locations across Nassau County aiding seniors, adults and children in residential and day programs. Bideawee Pet Therapy pairs of pet owner and dog or cat undergo an extensive training and accreditation program to become Bideawee Pet Therapy volunteers. Working in cooperation with AHRC, Bideawee will match Pet Therapy pairs with selected Nassau county community-based programs.

“Bideawee is thrilled to be partnering with AHRC Nassau, which is recognized for its dedication to excellence in educational programming,” said Nancy Taylor, President & Chief Executive Officer of Bideawee. “Our Pet Therapy volunteers are eager to develop relationships on a personal level with adults and children realizing meaningful lives in communities throughout the county.”

AHRC Nassau, established in 1949, provides a range of programs and services to support more than 2,200 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live self-directed lives throughout the county. Bideawee’s Pet Therapy program, offering unconditional love and attention from Pet Therapy pairs, has proven medical and emotional benefits for individuals. Bideawee’s partnership with AHRC provides an opportunity for AHRC adults and children to establish meaningful connections with animals in an informal, engaging environment, while also reaping educational benefits.

Bideawee was a pioneer in establishing a Pet Therapy program when it was launched in 1986. Today, the Bideawee Pet Therapy program is comprised of more than 100 volunteer pet pairs who visit children and adults in facilities throughout Long Island and metropolitan New York, including healthcare and special education facilities, community libraries, schools and rehabilitation centers.
Jerri Walker, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at AHRC Nassau, commented that the partnership with Bideawee is a natural extension of its affiliation with animal shelters in their local communities, either through AHRC volunteer support or donation of pet supply goods and materials.

“In building new relationships with the Bideawee pet therapy volunteers, people with special needs have the opportunity to make new connections through animal companionship, while also becoming more educated and inspired on how to become involved with animal welfare issues,” said Ms. Walker. “They are ready to lend a hand.”

About Bideawee

Bideawee, which means “stay awhile,” in Scottish, is one of the country’s oldest and most respected animal welfare and pet adoption organizations. Founded in 1903, Bideawee has been cultivating and supporting the life-long relationships between pets and the people that love them for more than 100 years. Bideawee provides an array of high touch services including adoption centers, animal hospitals, pet therapy programs, and pet memorial parks that serve pets and pet lovers on their lifelong journey together. Bideawee is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 humane animal organization and 100% of Bideawee’s funding comes from private sources. Bideawee operates one facility in New York City and two on Long Island, one in Wantagh, and one in Westhampton. For more information visit: www.bideawee.org.