PAWS believes that all people deserve opportunities to live with dignity, companionship, and confidence. We also believe that each of our dogs deserve an opportunity to thrive and to serve their best, highest purpose helping people and communities. Over the past 18 months, with these two beliefs as our bedrock, PAWS started to envision our dream for the future.

**We set two ambitious goals for the next ten years:**

- Double the number of people we serve through a life-changing Assistance Dog
- Purposefully place 90% of all our dogs in working careers that change lives and communities

**Critical to achieving these goals is support from you.**

You have stood by our side and answered our call for over 40 years. You were called upon to help us move from our founder’s garage to a small shop on Leonard Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan. And like any good friend, you picked up when we called for help to move again to our current facility on five acres in three buildings with 67,000 square feet of space in Wayland, Michigan.

You also answered the call to help us train more than Hearing Dogs when we realized there was a need. We changed our name from Ears for the Deaf to Paws With A Cause and began serving people who needed help with their mobility. You bolstered PAWS once more when we launched the training of Seizure Response Dogs and Service Dogs for children with autism. And we thank you once again for answering our call to provide your wisdom as we take these next steps into the future of PAWS. In June, we sent an electronic survey to all of you for whom we have a valid email address. And you responded!

You affirmed that you believe in PAWS and, in fact, 63% of you shared that PAWS is one of your highest (or even the highest) philanthropic priorities. You shared that our mission is our biggest strength and that we are powered by our people, our volunteers, clients, staff, and donors, all of whom join together to make our work possible. You recognized our world class breeding and training programs and our unique, tailored approach to serving our clients.

You also understand our challenges. You know that the demand is high for a PAWS Assistance Dog and that the need is greater than we have the capacity to serve. You understand that PAWS remains a "best kept secret" and needs to grow our community of volunteers, donors, and supporters. And you recognize that we need to build sustainability in our buildings, infrastructure, and operations, if we are going to continue our legacy for the next forty years and beyond.

Thank you for your wisdom and candid feedback. You are helping us to chart our next steps and to continue to honor our past as we dream of the future. If you missed the survey and want to share your thoughts with us or if you are interested in joining us as a volunteer as we start these next, strategic steps, please reach out to Carrie Simmons, PAWS Director of Advancement at csimmons@pawswithacause.org, or to Michele Suchovsky, PAWS CEO, at msuchovsky@pawswithacause.org or call us at (616)-877-7297.