The Buddy Project

is one of many programs at Our Companions that nurture the Human/Animal Bond - the deep and powerful connection between people and animals.

It is our goal that these programs will ultimately help to create a more humane and compassionate society.

To learn more about The Buddy Project contact:

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Program benefits for youth at-risk:

- Help youth develop a sense of personal accomplishment.

- Provide youth with a humane education experience that promotes feelings of empathy.

- Teach youth to train dogs using humane, positive based methods to serve as a model for the development of more positive interpersonal relationships.

- Provide youth with exposure to potential vocational opportunities.

- Help social service agencies design Animal Assisted Interventions (AAIs) for the youth they serve.

- Collaborate with referring social service agencies to develop measurable goals.

- Provide Sanctuary dogs with training and socialization to help prepare them for successful adoptions.

- Provide rescued dogs and their families with ongoing support and education to help ensure the success of their adoptions.

The Buddy Project works with social workers, teachers and parents to identify youth who can benefit from this program. Lessons are individualized based on the needs of the students and the dogs.

Youth participate in weekly training sessions, which teach the foundations of positive reinforcement dog training.

Students are given the opportunity to work with previously trained rescues during the first two or three lessons.

Following that, youth are given the opportunity to work with dogs from the Sanctuary, helping to ready them for successful adoptions. Students may train recently adopted dogs to help ensure the success of the adoptions.