

BUNNY BESTIES

LEARN ABOUT OUR NONPROFIT SERVICES

INVITE US TO VISIT YOUR SPECIAL COMMUNITY



BUNNY BESTIES

BUNNY BESTIES

We welcome you to our publication, where our community can learn what our nonprofit is up to from month to month.

In this issue:

- A Letter from Jennifer
- Outstanding Volunteers
- Results Really Matter
- Our Nonprofit Mission
- Results Matter
- Bunny Besties Bookings
- Safe Practices with COVID
- Contact Information

Please visit our website to learn more about our organization.

www.bunnybesties.org

hello@bunnybesties.org

Dear friends,

We have opened our summer calendar and are ready to start booking for June, July and August. Contact us to get on our calendar this summer. We plan to be busy hoppin' all over town spreading bunny love to everyone who needs it!

Not only will we be traveling but we will be setting up our new location July 1st and doing lots for our community in house. We are so excited. We are hoping this big move will help us expand our community outreach with volunteerism. Our mission is strong and there is so much work to do.

We have had a recent price increase voted on by our Board of Directors. We are signing a lease this month on our new location in Deephaven. There are so many expenses that have to be covered like our rent and veterinary expenses now. The costs have increased across the board and we need to cover them.

We hope that you will consider to support us as we make this important step towards our future.

We are actively increasing our volunteer team. Let us know if you would like to get more involved in our nonprofit organization.

Love Grows Here



Thanks, Jennifer Smith

www.bunnybesties.org



Learn About Bunny Besties

A GREAT NONPROFIT SERVING ITS COMMUNITY

Bunny Besties has been working out of the Minnetonka / Wayzata area of Minnesota since summer of 2014. We became an official nonprofit in May of 2017. This past May was our five year anniversary. Our mission has become so much stronger and purposeful through the stress of the pandemic. Our community is strong and we want to serve the greater community in our own unique way.

Our rabbits are highly trained in Animal Assisted Interactions (AAI). They are certified healthy by our close work with our veterinarian. We also carry \$2 million in liability insurance that covers us in our endeavors visiting in the community. Feel assured that Bunny Besties is the most professional of organizations you can be working with.

We are proud to be rated by Great Nonprofits (www.greatnonprofits.com) as a Top Rated Great Nonprofit. We are so happy to have excellent five star reviews. We really love the community of bunny love we have created. In so many ways we have been able to reach out during the hardest times during the pandemic and help others. We are proud of this. Kindness matters now more than ever and we are happy to be part of that movement.

We also have a nonprofit store that helps us with the costs of running our nonprofit. It is called the Bunny Besties General Store. We are proud to support the local rabbit owning community with the very best rabbit supplies at great prices. We also offer education to new owners and resources too. Our store is found online and at our future location in Wayzata.



RESULTS REALLY MATTER

Bunny Besties pre-pandemic had been traveling around our community since 2012 serving our mission on-site for our partners. Our partners have included the University of Minnesota PAWS program, homeless shelters serving children, libraries, nursing homes, hospice programs, and Minnetonka High School.

We have served our partners with 446 on-site visits to their facilities. We have volunteered 8,420+ service hours from our organization into their organizations resulting in serving more than 23,749 community members. We may be a small nonprofit, but we want to continue to impact those in our community.

We hope that we can hop over to your facility and bring the kind of joy only a Bunny Bestie can bring!

MISSION

Bunny Besties mission is to provide Animal Assisted Interactions (AAI) to support the emotional wellness of our community.

We provide sanctuary to the rabbits in our program as well as resources and education to rabbit owners in our community.

Bunny Besties' vision is to be a resource for our community for emotional wellness, stress reduction and education with rabbits.

Services:

BY BUNNY BESTIES

SERVING THE TWIN CITIES

Bunny Besties' rabbits are highly trained in Animal Assisted Interactions (AAI). That is what makes us different than other organizations. Hundreds of hours have been put into the care and training of our fluffle. It sets us apart along with ten years of experience working in this specialized field.

What is AAI you might ask?

"Animal-assisted interactions includes utilizing an animal to improve the lives of humans. It is a subset of Anthrozoology, the study of interactions and relationships between humans and animals. The human-animal bond helps to reduce anxiety, grief, depression, isolation and blood pressure, designating animals as benefit to humans."

Source:

Animal Assisted Interactions Resource Guide
publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/docs/AnimalAssistedInteractionsResourceGuide.pdf

In the following pages is the programming that we provide as a service to your facility. Let us bring our special kind of bunny love your way.



Bunny Besties Bookings



BY JENNIFER SMITH

Bunny Besties is a 501c3 nonprofit organization located in Minnetonka. Just three miles from Wayzata and a short distance from Minnetonka Boulevard and County Road 101, we are at a great location to help those in need right in our community.

Bunny Besties has specialized in visiting nursing home residents since its earliest inception in 2012. We use our depth of experience to meet the unique and stressful times that COVID19 has brought to nursing homes in Minnesota. Facilities are stressed to the maximum in every possible way.

The great news though is there is a small nonprofit just a hop away that is eager to help ease the stress workers and residents

are feeling. Let us bring some joy into your facility with our highly trained therapy rabbits. These rabbits have had hundreds of hours of experience to be trained in AAI. Their docile nature makes them the ideal therapeutic animal for memory care and hospice work most especially. We bring smiles!

Please visit our website at www.bunnybesties.org and click on the button for "Book a Visit." Make sure to read all about us and at the bottom of the page are the options available and the costs. Please fill out the available contact form and we will respond quickly.

Jennifer Smith
hello@bunnybesties.org
www.bunnybesties.org



Services:

TRANSPORTATION FEE

All services brought to your facility include a transportation fee. This is dependent on the amount of miles it takes to get to your facility. We also rent a cargo van for larger events including agility and our castle. This fee is to be decided on distance.
(\$25 - \$125).

BEDSIDE BUNNIES \$150

Bunny Besties' rabbits are highly trained. They are trained in AAI and Animal Assisted Activities. Our rabbits are ready to come and make visits right to someone's bedside. Invite us to come to those who are confined to their room for a loving bunny visit.

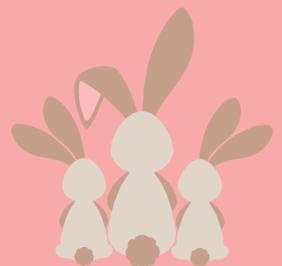
Sometimes people just need a pick me up and a Bunny Besties visit is just what they need. One volunteer will come and bring a pair of rabbits to do room visits at your senior home.
Time = 60 minutes.

HOSPICE \$150

Bunny Besties' rabbits are highly trained. They are trained in AAI and AAA. Our rabbits are ready to come and make visits right to someone's bedside during hospice care. We have a great deal of experience working with hospice patients and their families. This can be a very stressful time for the family dynamic and Bunny Besties can help with bunny love.
Time = 60 minutes.

BOOK A VISIT

BUNNY BESTIES



BUNNY BESTIES

Bunny Cuddle

BUNNY CUDDLES & BUNNY LOVE



BOOK A VISIT

BUNNY BESTIES

GROUP BUNNY CUDDLE \$225

Bunny Besties' rabbits are highly trained. They are trained in AAI and Animal AAA. Our rabbits are ready to come and visit your group of 10 to 15 residents for cuddles and love. Bring residents out of their room and to your community space. We would arrive with two to three volunteers and up to six therapy rabbits. This visit would be for an hour at your facility. There is not much set up time or clean up, just about fifteen minutes on each side of the hour. This is a wonderful up close and personal visit, especially loved by the animal lovers missing contact with a pet.
(Time: 60 minutes).

BUNNY MEDITATION - \$750

Looking for the perfect event for a group to help with stress management skills. Then look no further than Bunny Meditation brought to you by Bunny Besties.

Submerge yourself in rabbit country for an hour and a half and join our mediation leader on a journey to the bunny castle. Meet the therapy rabbits right where they are and learn to perceive the world in a new way. Maybe there are new ways to see things if one is just offered a new vantage point. Join us in this Animal Assisted Interaction based meditation to learn a new way of seeing a world that exists but has yet to be shown to you.

Bunny Meditation is a powerful experience is relaxation and stress management. Come feel what the rabbit feels, see what they see, and begin to notice the world as the notice it. Gain a new perspective on how to approach life.
(Time = 90 minutess).





Our Castle

BUNNY ENCHANTMENT FOR YOU



Services:

BUNNY CASTLE CUDDLE \$425

Bring the magic of a bunny castle to your facility and wow everyone with the enchantment of bunnies at playtime. We will join your community for an engaging talk about all there is to learn about rabbits as a species. Get to know our Bunny Besties rabbits and about our mission in the community. Watch this Hoppy Hour on the bunny castle while we also enjoy bunny cuddle time with the therapy bunnies.
(Time = 90 minutes)

THE GRAND EVENT - \$599

We have been training all through the pandemic to bring our new and improved visit to your senior living facility. Our highly trained rabbits will wow your residents with their hopping abilities. The video at the description on our book a visit page can show you what it looks like.

There are five agility rabbits, six volunteers and three cars full of equipment. We also bring our cuddle crew of bunnies for visits while the show is going on.

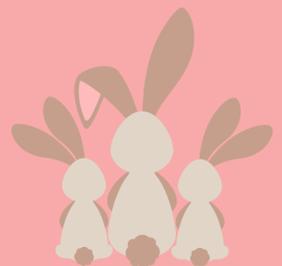
We will need the largest room at your facility to spread out. Set up will begin 45 minutes before and the show will last for an hour with visits for a half hour after.

Afterwards tear down and clean up usually takes us another 45 minutes. On hand will also be some therapy rabbits just for visits with residents.

There is something for everyone and is sure to delight!
We prefer to book these events for Sunday early afternoons. This show lasts one and a half hours.

BOOK A VISIT

BUNNY BESTIES



BUNNY BESTIES

Grand Event

RABBIT AGILITY IS SO FUN!



Founders Story

As the founder of Bunny Besties, I have had the opportunity to share the story with some you firsthand. Some of you may not know how we came about or why we work to be a part of the community of nursing homes. As word has spread about what we do, there is an understanding that we are different than the therapy animal teams that might visit your facility. We come and really engage your residents and want them to come out of their rooms and enjoy our visit. We build for that hour a community of friendship that surrounds our little Bunny Besties rabbits, and it is unique and very special to them.

When I train my team, I think about my studies and experiences. My story of getting to this point has not been an easy one but I have been a perspective not many get the chance to see. Ten years ago, when I started volunteering, I was really looking for a way to feel better about my life. I had lost so much and continued to fight a losing battle against a rare disease. I spent so much time at Mayo Clinic. I spent so much time hospitalized. I found myself at times rehabilitating in nursing homes. Yes, I was a resident, in my early forties.

I decided in 2012 when studying at the Mayo College of Health Sciences, as the first patient to get the opportunity, that I would live my life in service to others. Mayo had taught me that if you want to feel better about your own life then live - really live. We had our first bunny Piper then and I adored her. I decided that she and I would start volunteering. We would be a team and we would venture out together.

I continued to fight really hard and in December of 2017 I was not expected to make it through a terrible bout of pneumonia. After weeks in the hospital my legs decided to forget how to walk, so I entered a nursing home in Wayzata to relearn how to regain function. It was supposed to be a short visit but ended up being months as I fought one infection after another and was in and out of ICU. It was during this time that my friends came together and formed Bunny Besties as an official nonprofit. We got our 501c3 nonprofit status in May five years ago. We just celebrated our five-year anniversary on May 3rd and ten years of us doing this work.

There we started to build up from what was just a dream, of someone who should not even be dreaming of a life beyond illness. Looking back, it gave me something to live for, so I fought hard. A couple years in Mayo Clinic found a new drug for me that had just been approved by the FDA and it was the miracle we needed. Finally, I could be successfully treated. I would now have a second chance and I decided to use that miracle to live my dream of dedicating my life to helping others. I understand what it is like to visit nursing homes, but I remember vividly what it was like to live in one. Illness can be a great teacher.

Today, five years later in a pandemic, Bunny Besties comes to bring your resident's joy. We strive to visit, engage and show we care. We know a lot of residents do not get any visitors. We are coming to visit and to let them love our Bunny Besties, because they still have so much love to give. We hope it shows how dedicated we are to spreading bunny love, building community and bringing friendship. Thank you for allowing us to do our work in partner with you. It is an honor to serve your community.

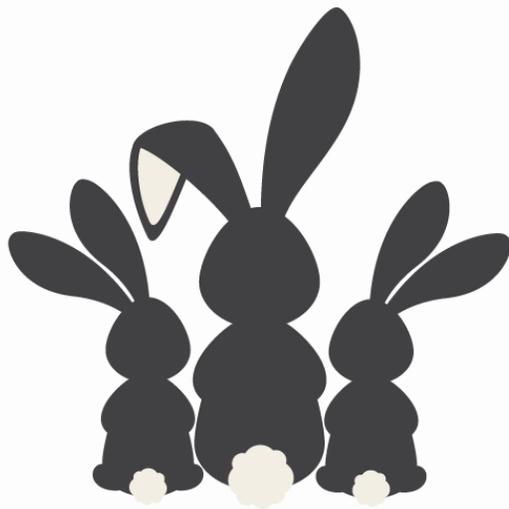
Jennifer

Safe Practices

BUNNY BESTIES PRACTICES ALL THE MOST CURRENT SAFETY PROTOCOLS TO KEEP OUR VISITS SAFE. OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE VACCINATED AGAINST COVID19 AND INFLUENZA. WE ALSO REQUIRE BOOSTER SHOTS. WE WILL WEAR MASKS AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN YOUR FACILITY AND BE HAPPY TO ABIDE BY ANY ADDITIONAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS.

PLEASE BE KIND TO US AS WELL AND LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE HAVING AN ACTIVE OUTBREAK OF ILLNESS AT YOUR FACILITY SO WE CAN RESCHEDULE.

THANK YOU!



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www.bunnybesties.org

Visit our "Book a Visit" page

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Wayzata, MN 55391