

# WALK THIS WAY!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Joyce and Mark Massaro

**W**hen Joyce Massaro retired from the banking industry seven years ago, she decided to use her new free time to indulge her lifelong love of dogs and volunteer at Paws and Claws Humane Society (PCHS). She enjoyed spending time with the dogs and seeing positive changes in them during their walks and playtimes. Her husband, Mark, noticed how much she loved volunteering at PCHS so he decided to join her a few months ago and now they walk the dogs together.

Joyce and Mark like to learn about the dogs' unique personalities and help them adapt to change. Working with the dogs has taught them to be patient, and they love when that patience pays off and the dogs are excited to see them.

They find walking and playing with the dogs is as therapeutic for them as it is for the rescues. Even if they have a very determined or energetic dog, they find their time with them relaxing. They see the hard work all the employees do by giving the animals a clean, comfortable, and loving environment. As volunteers, they hope to add to this by giving the dogs additional exercise and as much attention as possible. Joyce and Mark like to learn about the dogs' unique personalities and help them adapt to change. Working with the dogs has taught them to be patient, and they love when that patience pays off and the dogs are excited to see them.

Two of the dogs they have worked with at PCHS have ended up as family members! Allie (formerly April), a five-year-old Shar Pei mix joined the family in May 2019, and Essie (formerly Trinity), a four-year-old Australian Shepherd/Rat Terrier mix joined them in September 2019.



*Joyce and Mark Massaro spend quality time together while volunteering at Paws and Claws. The couple enjoy spending time outdoors and reap the benefits of walking while providing exercise, personal attention and socialization for the dogs. A win-win situation!*

Joyce and Mark moved to Rochester from Ohio 26 years ago. They have two grown children, one grandchild and four grand-puppies! Mark is still working for an insurance company. When they're not working and volunteering, they like to spend their time doing anything outdoors – which is a pretty good place to walk dogs!

Joyce and Mark would like to encourage others to consider volunteering at PCHS. They feel a couple of extra walks or romps in the fenced yard each week is like a little field trip for the dogs staying at the shelter. And you might reap the benefits the Massaros do too!



*Lets walk! Amazing dogs available for adoption. From Left: Matteo, Messi, Parker, Petunia, Salli, & Mittens*