

# **LIFE** notes

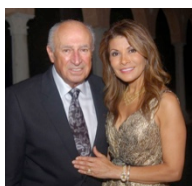
*LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.*

Issue 15, April 15, 2015

## *April Showers Edition*



### Star Board Members of the Month



Lou & Debbie  
Porreco

Debbie “White Dove” Porreco may have started life as the daughter of a Chief and served as model for many renditions of Indian Princess Pocahontas, but it wasn’t until she met the love of her life Lou Porreco that the real fairytale began.

In the 18 years since, Lou and Debbie have created a beautiful life together that includes her two sons from her first marriage. He is semi-retired, but still owns the largest Honda dealership in Pennsylvania. The Poreccos divide their time between Palm Beach and Erie, Pa., often spending days on their 95-foot Hargrave yacht.

Of course, as all LIFE board members do, Debbie and Lou share a love of animals, in this case two shorthaired miniature dachshunds Mia and Max. The two dogs mirror the love they see in their human parents, often sitting nose-to-nose and kissing!

### Upcoming events

September 12, 2015

**Countdown to Zero Adoption Event**  
Presented by The Lois Pope LIFE Foundation  
10 am - 6 pm  
Palm Beach County  
Convention Center

September 19, 2015

**American Humane Association  
Hero Dog Awards**  
Presented by  
The Lois Pope LIFE Foundation  
Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, CA

December 5, 2015

**LIFE’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
“Lady in Red” Gala**  
Masquerade Risqué  
Starring Howie Mandel  
6:00 pm  
The Mar a Lago Club  
By Invitation

To learn more or to donate visit  
[www.life-edu.org](http://www.life-edu.org) or call 561.582.8083.

## AHA CORNER



Dr. Robin  
Ganzert,  
President &  
CEO

On March 25, Butler, American Humane Association's spokes-dog and The Weather Channel Therapy Dog who is trained to help people following meteorological crises, joined me on a visit to a remarkable teenager who was severely injured in a weather-related accident. Austin, a 16-year-old teenager from Portland, TN, decided to take advantage of the recent snowfall and go

sledding down a steep hill near his sister's home. A fun day ended in tragedy when Austin crashed headfirst into a tree and was paralyzed. He was airlifted to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and three weeks later arrived in Atlanta, GA at the Shepherd Spinal Center to start his journey of recovery. When Butler and I arrived, Austin was decked out in his camouflage hoodie and cap, along with his beloved boots. We talked about his goal of gaining enough mobility in his hand to be able to hold a fishing pole again.

It was time for Austin's occupational therapy exercises, so the clinician and I brainstormed on how Butler might be able to help. When we suggested Austin try to throw the ball for Butler, he agreed to give it a try. Austin's determination paid off - he gripped the soft yellow ball and tossed it several feet away while Butler scampered after it. The broad smile across Austin's face had the wattage of a million light bulbs. He tossed the ball over and over again - with both arms - while Butler happily fetched it. Austin continued to play with Butler and made even more progress.

It was an honor to spend time with this young man who is filled with grace and determination as he continues his recovery process. We wish him all the best in achieving all his goals!

Dear Friends,

On Friday, April 24, 2015, I am hosting an event at The Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, a premier screening of **"Debt of Honor"**. This documentary film, which I have produced in collaboration with award-winning documentarian Ric Burns, chronicles the history of disabled veterans in America. I am delighted to let you know that this illuminating and thought-provoking film will also air on PBS November 10, 2015 at 9:00 pm.



Lois Pope,  
Founder &  
President of LIFE

As you know, this past fall I saw the fruition of one of my dearest dreams when President Obama dedicated the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, DC. This memorial will forever stand as a reminder to the public and legislators of the courage and sacrifices of the four million living disabled veterans and all those who died before them for the need to be vigilant in assuring their support, as well as being aware of the human cost of war. Yet, this is not enough; I am now working to have October 5 declared a national holiday in honor of the courage and sacrifices of our Disabled Veterans, who have given so much to defend our freedom.

I hope you can join me for this premiere, which will begin at 6:00 pm. The evening will include cocktails, dinner and viewing of the documentary.

Love,  
*Lois*

## *LIFE's 22nd Annual "Lady in Red" Gala Masquerade Risqué*

*Saturday, December 5, 2015*

*The Mar-a-Lago Club, Palm Beach*

For information or to request an invitation  
please call 561.582.8083 or email [life@life-edu.org](mailto:life@life-edu.org).



Entertainment by the hilarious  
stand-up comedian  
Howie Mandel

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