



4 Paws for Ability announces new Executive Director

Board Member Mark Thomas to assume role after leading 4 Paws for Ability through its most recent campus expansion

The 4 Paws for Ability Board of Directors announced today that Mark Thomas has been appointed Executive Director of 4 Paws for Ability. The Board of Directors extends their sincere gratitude to Karen Shirk, Founder, for her two decades of service to children and veterans in need of service dogs.

Mark Thomas, a 4 Paws board member since 2019, has been a public servant for 30 years, serving on the Beavercreek Fire Department and as chief for seven years. In 2018, he began volunteering with 4 Paws and was immediately drawn to its mission, the people who accomplish it, and of course, the dogs.

Mark has been integral to the 4 Paws campus expansion project, which was approved by the 4 Paws Board of Directors in March 2020 to best meet the needs of the growing 4 Paws program. At the start of the project, Mark generously volunteered to serve as general construction manager. In that role, he continues to lead the project towards its successful completion, working closely with 4 Paws leadership to align this project as part of the overall campus plan.

“Mark has been instrumental to getting this much-needed expansion completed,” said board chair Helena Brooks. “We look forward to seeing his expertise lead 4 Paws into its next chapter.”

In assuming his new role as Executive Director, Mark succeeds Karen, who founded 4 Paws in 1998.

“We are very grateful to Karen for her dedication to 4 Paws over the past two decades and will continue to build on her legacy” said Brooks.

If you have any questions, the Board of Directors can be reached at boardofdirectors@4pawsforability.org.

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