



Hello BARK friends!

In my 2 years as BARK President, we have seen tremendous transformation within our organization. When I accepted the mission to help save dogs, it was from a fiduciary and parliamentary perspective, and I took that job seriously. You see, I wanted to set BARK, an already solid organization, on an even better path to success. One of the greatest challenges of any nonprofit is steady cash flow. In smaller communities, the challenge can be even greater, so we embarked on ways to strengthen BARK. It just required a clear and concise vision, goals and the right people to bring it all together. Thankfully, our BOARD is made up of the perfect mix of individuals who gladly donate their gifts and talents to better our cause.

As a result, I am pleased to inform you that BARK is now on more solid ground.

In the past 12-18 months we:

- Received financial support which enabled us to provide heartworm testing to every dog at BARK and monthly preventative for each dog. To test and administer preventative meds to all dogs at once was costly so this was a blessing! With our dogs spending so much time outside, this was an early goal that was achieved thanks to a generous donor! As a result, we've added heartworm testing and preventative care to our intake protocols for each new dog we welcome to our BARK kennels (including fosters).
- Clarified our bylaws to remove confusion, define board member roles and responsibilities and added fiduciary protections, including a budget mandate, to the bylaws to protect BARK's money...which is DONOR money.
- Wrote and passed a solid budget that provides clear direction and freedom, as well as limits, to ensure that every dollar donated is allocated to the highest priorities. *(The budget also helped us to set and achieve fundraising goals!)*
- Applied for, and received a major grant from Texas New Mexico Power which has increased our community presence as well as make some needed improvements to our kennels. What a WIN for the doggies!
- Partnered with local National Honor Society students to spread the BARK mission while giving back to THEIR organization!
- Completed one phase of kennel improvements. Pop in for a visit and let our kennel team give you a tour!
- Implemented raises for our kennel team! *(This was the goal from DAY-1 and we finally did it!)*
- Raised the most money in BARK's history from a single event – our 20th-anniversary Gala was truly a memorable event! BARK supporters showed up in mass and gave BIG! We set a goal of \$75,000 (plus expenses) and after counting the money, YOU, our donors helped us raise \$81,000! The Gala

Committee and team of volunteers went above and beyond to make this event extra special, and the donations of silent and live auction items was, by far, the best yet! The entertainment and food were incredible and every volunteer who donated time contributed to our success. Special thanks to our underwriters and friends of BARK stepping up and covering important expenses. It truly takes a village!

- Earmarked all money raised from Gala to cover ALL our 2023 budget! This has NEVER happened! In addition to our Operating Budget, we established an emergency fund for doggie emergency doctor visits! *(Special thanks to our Treasurer whose long history of accounting provided the missing piece to our financial puzzle! Wendy keeps the books straight for us each month and provides detailed reporting in a way we all understand.)*
- Reduced the number of fundraising events we will host annually. We want to focus on quality events with clear goals....

As President, I applied additional financial mandates to provide clear direction and goals while adequately saving for BARK's future... for example: ALL general donations are divided among four funds: Building Improvement Fund, Doggie Emergencies, "Rainy Day" Savings and Next year's Operating Budget. By strategically applying funds to each of these areas, we assure BARK has what it needs. As always, when you earmark a donation, 100% of your gift is applied solely to that need. Not only is the law, it's just the right thing to do!

All of this gives me great pride in knowing that BARK is on a much better path to a more secure future because we now have concise templates for others to follow and, most importantly, our improved structure allows us to do what we do best – SAVE MORE DOGS!

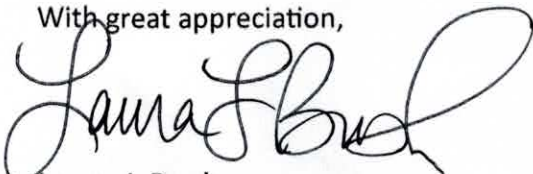
With all these incredible accomplishments, I am in awe that every goal I set has been achieved and believe my purpose at BARK has been served. As I shared with the Board at our March meeting, it is with a heavy heart I must resign as Board President which will be effective April 30, 2023. My rapidly growing business demands that I do so. After months of prayer, I am confident that I am leaving BARK in more than capable hands who are committed to the continuation of building BARK's legacy.

I have been a loyal BARK supporter for nearly five years. My exit from the Board does not change that. It has been a true honor to serve as your President, alongside my fellow Board Members, and I will always be committed to BARK's success!

My tenure at BARK will go down in my history as one of the greatest experiences of my life. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

God bless you and may God continue to pour His blessings upon BARK.

With great appreciation,



Laura L Bush
BARK President