



September 28, 2024

Pet Partners  
**WORLD'S  
LARGEST  
PET WALK**

PRESENTED BY:  
  
**WELLNESS  
PET COMPANY**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024**

# 2024 Walk Champion

## DIANE ALEXANDER AND BINDI

I have fond memories of my childhood pets. While I was working, I found it easier to have cats. When I was home more I added dogs, most of them re-homed or rescued, back into my life.

I came back to Tucson from Los Angeles in 2004 to take care of my elderly father. Our “blended” family included his standard poodle and my miniature poodle mix and three cats. Both my dad and his beloved dog passed away in 2009. I contacted Arizona Poodle Rescue and I adopted a 2-year-old white standard poodle who came with the perfect name—Ella.

After meeting Ella, a friend who is a mental health professional said, “She would make a great therapy dog.” That started me on a journey that continues today. Ella and I became a registered Pet Partners team in 2011.

We volunteered at our community hospital, at-risk youth programs, and our federal prison. I also love managing our Pet Partners community partner group that I helped create. There is something special about people who volunteer to share the love they have for their animals with others. It is a nurturing and affirming group. Nothing makes me happier than filling team visit community requests, especially when I find the right team to fill a special request.

I lost my poodle mix when Ella was nine. Bindi, an 8-week-old Australian line mini-Labradoodle, came home on Mother’s Day 2016. Ella loved her and mentored her in life skills including how to look adorable for treats, and more!

I always hoped that Bindi would also be a therapy dog. When I retired Ella at fifteen, I got serious about Bindi’s training. That August we passed our evaluation and became a Pet Partners team. Bindi has grown into the job and gets so excited when the vest goes on!

We are honored to be the National Walk Champions for the 2024 World’s Largest Pet Walk, presented by Wellness Pet Company. Bindi and I will walk with members of Pet Partners of Southern Arizona to raise awareness of the key role we play in the health and well-being of Tucson and southern Arizona communities.



Read their full story at [petpartners.org/featured-teams](https://petpartners.org/featured-teams)

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