



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota is home to approximately 250,000 working-age adults who have physical disabilities; and
- WHEREAS: Physical disabilities can compromise an individual's physical and emotional safety and well-being; and
- WHEREAS: Trained service dogs provide physical assistance which increases an individual's capacity for independent living; and
- WHEREAS: Helping Paws is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary as an agency that breeds, trains, and matches service dogs to individuals who have physical disabilities; and
- WHEREAS: Helping Paws is a Minnesota-grown organization, having evolved from a University of Minnesota program into an independent nonprofit serving Minnesotans statewide; and
- WHEREAS: With the help of hundreds of volunteers, Helping Paws has placed more than 160 dogs with human partners, resulting in expanded self-sufficiency, independent and active living, and mitigated isolation and loneliness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim May 20, 2012 as:

## HELPING PAWS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE