



Tails FROM MINNESOTA

For Friends of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota



Fall 2006 Vol. 19 Issue 4

In 1988, Lucky, pictured above, was the first dog HSDM adopted from an animal shelter. She was homeless and was scheduled to be euthanized that day. Lucky served as our demonstration dog for 11 years. She is symbolic of our commitment to save homeless dogs while fulfilling our mission to serve people with disabilities.

Magic in Starbuck

Neil Klimek and Merlin

by Brenda Hilburn

Neil Klimek of Starbuck, Minn., says he was waiting for a little magic in his life. It arrived on August 8, in the form of a Golden Retriever mix named Merlin.

Neil, 22, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was 4. He applied for a Service Dog through Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) after being on a waiting list with another organization for more than four years. On his HSDM application, Neil said a dog could “help bridge the gap between the disabled community and the non-disabled community.”

Although Neil is independent, he’s quite involved with his church and community. “Neil knows everybody in this town, and everybody comes up and wants to hear all about Merlin,” says field trainer Sarah Granger, who worked with the team. “They will be good ambassadors for HSDM because



Neil and Merlin

Neil answers everyone’s questions.” Neil adds, “We’re going to answer questions for people who don’t know there are organizations that train and provide Service Dogs.”

Sarah and Neil did some training at a local nursing home. “People were amazed at what Merlin could do for Neil,” she says. “We even showed off a little. Now that we’re done with training, Neil looks forward to going back to the nursing home just to visit.”

Neil also works as a returns restocker at Wal-Mart. He shares a home with his mother, Laurie, his stepfather, Jim, and his brother, Jordan. In addition, two 15-year-old German Shorthaired Pointers, Sid and Ellie

Mae, are part of the household.

Friends and family say that Neil is friendly and outgoing, and he doesn’t let anything stop him. Recently, Neil told a friend, “I don’t see myself as disabled. I just find a new way to do things.”

Neil says the hardest part of training was “remembering everything I had to do—I had to retrain my brain to remember all the commands for my dog.” Sarah adds, “It was amazing when the two of them clicked. It was like a light bulb came on for both of them. Neil started getting the commands right, and Merlin was happy and pleased to do things for him.”

Neil adds that he appreciates everyone who helped him get Merlin. “Keep on doing what you’re doing,” he says to HSDM supporters. “There are so many people who benefit from these dogs—it’s unbelievable.” □

Inside This Issue

<i>From the Executive Director</i>	2
<i>Annie Kraft & Cody</i>	3
<i>Julius Coffman & Archie</i>	3
<i>David Lee & Noel</i>	4
<i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>	4
<i>Tim Liddy & Honor</i>	5
<i>New Board Member</i>	5
<i>Development News</i>	8
<i>New Staff</i>	8
<i>Pat Browne & Solstice</i>	9
<i>Amy Burke</i>	10
<i>Financial Report</i>	10
<i>Heel & Wheel Results</i>	11
<i>Financial Report</i>	12

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Minneapolis Animal Control

Veterinary Services
Inver Grove Heights
Animal Hospital

Foster
The Turner Family

Trainer
Sarah Grainger



From the Executive Director *Al Peters & Demonstration Dog Beau*



Unique Fundraisers

One of our most treasured friends, Barbara “Babs” Koch, sponsored three fund-raising events for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota over the summer. The events took place in beautiful surroundings—the Minneapolis Club, the Women’s Club and the Minikahda Club. Each had delicious meals and the best hostess anyone could hope for in Babs. Nearly 90 people attended the events, making pledges and contributions of more than \$21,000 for our annual fund. Thanks, Babs, for your generosity and dedication to our mission!



Buddy gives Babs a proper thank-you on behalf of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota.



Babs and David Koch visited with Al Peters and Graduate team Chris Reichel and Service Dog, Odie.

Graduation

Twelve Hearing Dog and Service Dog graduates will join us on stage for our Fall Graduation event at Anne Sullivan School. The graduation ceremony lasts about an hour and will take place at 1 pm on November 4, 2006. The event is open to all our readers so please join us for this heart-warming presentation.

A Holiday Prayer

I recently heard a Franciscan benediction that stopped me in my tracks. At first, I found it abrasive—almost negative. Then it made me think of the blessings in my life and why I do the work I do. I believe it will inspire you, too.

*May God bless you with discomfort—
at easy answers, half-truths, and
superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within
your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger—
at injustice, oppression, and exploita-
tion of people, so that you may work
for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears—
to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation, and war,
So that you may reach out your hand
to comfort them and to turn their
pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough
foolishness—
to believe that you can make a differ-
ence in this world, so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done.*

Amen.

As the holidays approach, I wish you these unusual blessings—discomfort, anger and tears—with this benediction in mind.

And I especially wish you the foolishness necessary to believe—and know—that the good you do in supporting our work here at HSDM **does** make a difference in the world—turning pain into joy and doing what many people thought couldn’t be done. ☐

Tails From Minnesota

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Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

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Alan M. Peters Sue Schuster Paige Kite

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or disabled by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with specially trained dogs.

Hearing Dogs are adopted from local animal shelters, placed with deaf or hard-of-hearing clients and specially trained to alert clients to important sounds in their environment. Service Dogs are trained to help people with physical disabilities by pulling their wheelchairs, picking up or carrying objects, opening doors, flipping light switches and performing other daily tasks. Dogs, training and supplies are provided to each client free of charge.

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Touched by Cody

Annie Kraft and Cody

Annie Kraft of St. Paul, Minn., was born with mild cerebral palsy, which affects her hearing. Although she has additional physical challenges, she decided that a Hearing Dog would benefit her most. Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) matched Annie with a Labrador mix named Cody.

From day one, Cody appeared happy to have a permanent home and a job to do. The team made incredible progress and couldn't wait for new sounds to be introduced. Annie says that Cody's favorite part of training was the "touch for treat," where he learned to touch Annie to alert her to sounds. "That was his favorite, because he loves food," Annie shared. The toughest part, she says, was the door knock. "Cody didn't want to leave the door and come back to touch me because he knew there was someone outside the door," she explains. "He couldn't wait to meet the person at the door."

The team's only training setback occurred before it became apparent that once Cody had learned a sound, he no longer wanted to practice it. Once Annie and the trainers



Annie and Cody

discovered that trait, training got back on course. Annie says that introducing the smoke-detector sound, the final sound in the training process, was one of the best moments of training. "The first time the smoke detector was set off, Cody jumped up and was very excited to work on a new sound," she says. "He didn't need any training on it—he just did it. I understand that some dogs need a little coaxing to accept the piercing sound the smoke detector makes, but not Cody."

Annie says that the practice paid off when Cody showed how well he understands his job. One day someone knocked on her door and her telephone rang at the same

time. Cody hesitated for just a second, then took it all in stride. He brought Annie to the phone first, then took her to the door. "Cody takes his job very seriously," Annie says. "Even when we're visiting family, Cody follows me everywhere, ready to work should the need arise."

Annie thanks the people who helped her practice sounds with Cody: her parents, Richard and Suzanne Kraft; her friend, Teri; and her neighbors, Deb and Linda. She also thanks HSDM and their supporters for bringing Cody into her life. "HSDM is a great organization," she says. "I'm amazed at how hard everyone works to accommodate the dog's needs and the people's needs." □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Minneapolis Animal Control

Veterinary Services *Trainer*

Inver Grove Heights HSDM Staff
Animal Hospital

Foster Home

The Karth Family

Obedience

Petco, Roseville

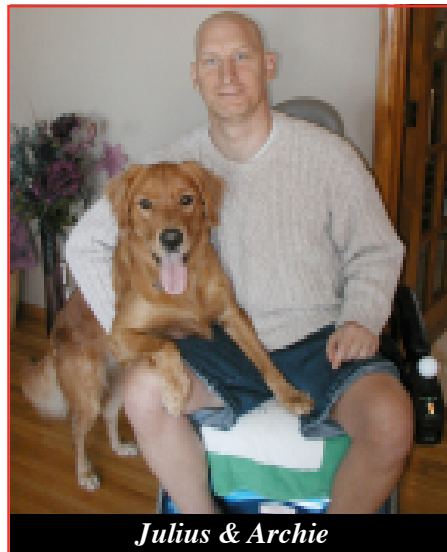
Archie's Wake-Up Call

Julius Coffman and Archie

For many people, picking up something from the ground is a simple movement. For Julius Coffman, who lives with chronic pain, such a movement is much more difficult.

Today, Julius has help from a Golden Retriever named Archie. Julius heard about Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) from graduate Deb Burke, who inspired him to get a Service Dog of his own. After spending two months in a hospital, Julius came home, and Archie joined him. With help from the staff at HSDM, his wife, Laura, his granddaughter, Zoe, and his son, Quentin, Julius got used to working with Archie.

Julius notes that Archie took to his tasks well. He is best at opening doors — some more than others, says Julius. "He loves to open the refrigerator and look inside," he adds. Although it took Archie a little longer to master fetching a phone, he now does so reliably. Archie also helps Julius



Julius & Archie

by retrieving dropped items and assisting him with mobility.

With Archie's companionship, Julius says it's easier for him to avoid focusing on

his chronic pain. "It's amazing how much companionship affects you," he comments. Archie wakes him with a sloppy tennis ball and an invitation to play fetch, but Julius doesn't seem to mind the attention. After admitting that he started playing with Archie early in the morning, he smiled and warned owners to be careful about starting habits with their animals.

Julius says he's very thankful for the HSDM experience. "The money you're donating affects somebody's life," he tells HSDM supporters. □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Veterinary Services

Mounds View Animal Hospital

Foster Homes

Rhonda Johnson & Family,
Joy & Jack Kraft

Trainer

HSDM Staff

by John Axel Kohagen

Christmas in September

David Lee and Noel

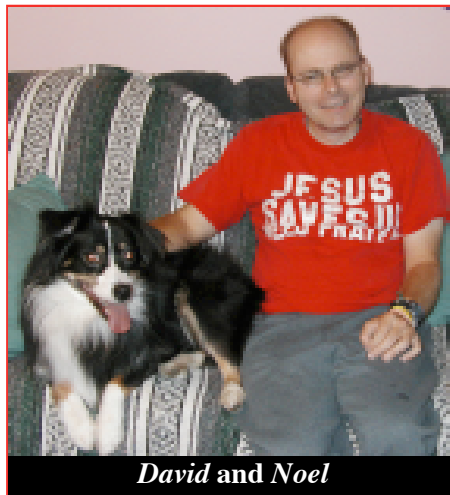
by Laurie Carlson

David Lee of White Bear Lake, Minn., is celebrating “Noel” early this year. Service Dog Noel, a 2-year-old Australian Shepherd, was placed with David this summer. The team finished training in September.

In 1987, David was in the Navy. While playing softball, he was injured and experienced a traumatic brain injury that left him with many challenges to overcome. He now uses an electric wheelchair and a walker, and he has difficulty speaking loudly enough to be heard.

David, active and independent, was determined to stay that way. He is very active in church, and he notes that his faith plays a big part in his life. Several friends and acquaintances have Service Dogs, and they convinced him that a helpful companion to keep him company would also help him stay independent. David approached two other Service Dog agencies, but had no luck until he saw a listing for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) in the phone book.

When Noel came into his life, the work began. It took time for the two to learn to work together. Mona Elder, client services coordinator, helped David learn how to handle Noel in public. He says, “Mona is a very good teacher. She was very



David and Noel

patient with us. The whole organization has benefited me very well. Everyone was very respectful of me and my situation.”

David says Noel makes life better for him, especially in the morning. “Sometimes it’s hard to get up and get going,” he says. “In the past, I might not have wanted to eat breakfast. I could decide to just lie around. With Noel, I have responsibilities to take care of her. It helps motivate me.”

Noel picks up items David drops, such as his keys, and is trained to get an emergency phone if needed. She helps him with the laundry by tugging a full basket across the room to a chair, where he can fold clothes. She also opens doors and the refrigerator.

David loved the challenge of passing the public access test at a mall. “I’m very proud of Noel,” he says. A trip to the mall, however, takes a little longer now than it did in the past. People are drawn to Noel, and David is happy to explain what she does for him. “People accept me more when Noel is with me,” he says.

On a recent visit to a chiropractor, David fell off the table. Because his voice is too soft to carry through a closed door, no one heard his calls for help. Noel stayed by his side, comforting him until the doctor returned.

David says, “People said I couldn’t handle a dog. They made snap judgments because of my disability. I proved them wrong.” To HSDM supporters, he says, “You contribute to a good and worthy cause. Thank you!” □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Mark McGinley Mariposa Farm

Veterinary Services

Lake Animal Hospital

Puppy Raisers

The Essen Family

Volunteer

Joanne Nichols

Trainer

HSDM Staff

Volunteer Spotlight

John and Jan Day

John and Jan Day of Golden Valley, Minn., began volunteering for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) in 2002. After seeing a television spot and a newspaper article about raising puppies, they contacted HSDM. Soon afterward, they welcomed Brandy, a Labrador retriever, into their home.

John and Jan have raised five puppies and offered a short-term foster home to many other dogs. The Days also have staffed the HSDM booth at many events and they speak to the public about puppy raising. In addition, Jan is a mentor to new puppy raisers and coordinates smaller, more intimate classes for our youngest puppies. She also interviews people who apply to provide short-term foster care and raise puppies. John has staffed the “pet gate” at the Renaissance Festival and solicited donations for our annual Heel and Wheel fund-raising event.

“John and Jan are huge assets to our organization,” says Al Peters, HSDM’s executive director. “We appreciate all that they do. Their great attitude and commitment to the program is truly inspiring!” □

[Photo to be emailed to GR on Friday](#)

John and Jan with puppy, Daisy

Living with Honor

Tim Liddy and Honor

by Kim Hyde

Tim Liddy of St. Louis, Mo., says he's always been an active and outgoing person. At 16, he was injured while playing hockey, and today he describes himself as an "ambulatory quadriplegic." Tim is an artist and an art professor at Fontbonne University. He serves on the board of directors for Paraquad, a nonprofit organization that provides independent-living services for people who have disabilities.

For more than 12 years, Tim worked with Delaware, a German shepherd he'd trained as a Service Dog. When Delaware died, Tim says, he and his wife, Rebecca, felt that a part of them was lost. After some time passed, Tim began searching for another German Shepherd Service Dog.

Unable to find a dog with the characteristics he was looking for, Tim was referred to Marilyn Pona, St. Louis area coordinator for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM). Marilyn says, "I was sure that HSDM had the perfect dog for Tim and I encouraged him to apply." Soon Tim met Honor, a black German Shepherd who was waiting for the right client.

Tim and Honor both had to make adjustments during training. Tim had trained Delaware using German commands, so he had to learn new commands for Honor. Honor had been trained around a wheelchair, but Tim uses a Segway transporter.



Tim and Honor

Although it took Honor a few days to adapt, she now loves to run beside it. Honor also has formed a friendship with Tim and Rebecca's cat, who likes to tease her, and she loves children.

Tim says he appreciated Marilyn's training style and felt she was easy to work with. "She has a holistic approach to training, which I really enjoyed," he says.

After losing Delaware, Tim realized how much he had depended on his

friend. "I was forced to develop creative, time-consuming ways to pick things up," he says. Honor fills the gap by retrieving dropped objects, opening doors and accompanying Tim everywhere.

The team is working to get the word about HSDM out to others who have disabilities. "I see so many people with disabilities that would benefit from a Service Dog," he says, "but they think there are too many hoops to go through. They think applying is a difficult and unattainable process. Aside from the practical things a Service Dog can do for you, having a dog is reassuring."

Tim says he looks forward to continuing training and sharpening Honor's skills. "I find it hard to believe that Honor is only 2 years old and yet is so talented," he says. "The fact that she's going to get better is unbelievable!" □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Humane Society for Companion Animals

Veterinary Services

Arden Shoreview Animal Hospital

Puppy Raiser

The Turner Family

Foster

Mary Bente

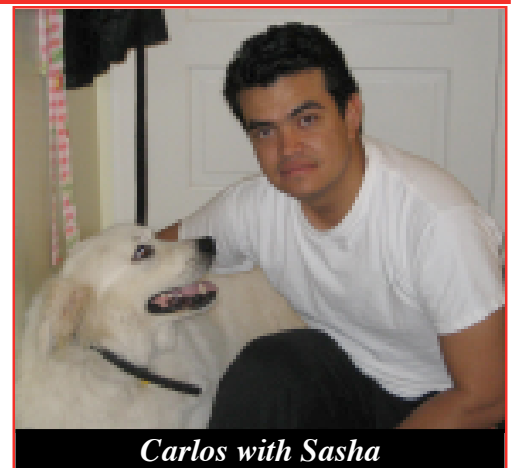
Trainer

Marilyn Pona

New Board Member

Carlos Villalpando Joined the Board of Directors in June of 2006. Carlos is a support manager for Fidelity National in Mendota Heights. He earned his MBA from the Carlson School of Management in Minnesota and has worked in information technology for more than fifteen years.

Carlos lives in St. Paul with his wife, Norah, and their dog, Sasha. Before moving to Saint Paul he and his mother bred and showed Great Pyrenees for over fifteen years in Mexico. His hobbies include biking and teaching group fitness at the YMCA. □



Carlos with Sasha

CONTRIBUTORS

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is supported by many agencies, companies, and individuals. A very special thanks to you all! The following contributions were received in our office by September 30, 2006. Contributions received by December 31, 2006 will be included in the Winter 2007 issue of Tails From Minnesota.

\$5,000 or more

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Renee & Michael Bergquist	Merald & Ann Nesje
William & Sheila Hanley	Karen Norby-Skrivseth
Darlene & Kenneth Johnson	Jill & Timothy Poirer
Oscar & Gloria Johnson	Raymond & Anne Ricci
Richard & Cynthia Johnson	James & Janice Seifert
Thomas & Rachel Johnson	Donald & Diane Skrivseth
Kathleen Kauppi	Milton S. Skrivseth
Kimary S. Knutson	William Skrivseth
Phyllis Mattill	Dan & Sue Substad
	Donald & Avis Swenson
	Jeffrey & Jo Weber
	Jon & Karen Woestehoff

Honorariums

Donated by **In Honor of**
 Katie Adams Katie Nelson
 Askov Area Lions
 Sandy Sandwick & The Heel & Wheel Walk
 Padilla Speer Beardsley
 Cub Foods in Megan Ehlert's name
 John Benson Babs Koch
 James & Donna Cook
 The work of Joanne Nicols, James Cook's sister
 Jean Dietrich "Gwen"
 Jan & Bill Dubats
 Bill & Dessie Park's 50th Wedding Anniversary
 Thomas Ferber Michael Ferber's Birthday
 Dr. David & Sue-Ann Garvis
 Dr. Mary Bloom & Dr. Stephen H. Levine
 Lauren Johnson Doug Wendler
 Sandra Lenarz Dr. Reierson & "Jesse"
 Keith & Andriette Mortimore "Babe" with Love
 Jason & Stephanie Pommier "Pepsi"
 Daunne Schaller
 The marriage of Scott & Monique Morton
 Michael Sher Robert Dildine
 Lange Susan Lin "Sugar"
 Linda Vlasich C.S. Lindsey & Tina Lindsey
 Robert & Gwen Wood
 Vicki & Lou Chouinard's Anniversary

Puppyraisers

Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus Dude
 Bill Beddie & Kathy Grant Camille
 Julie & Darell Carblom Traeh
 The Carlon family Denver
 Chris & Sarah Cerney Austin
 Sue Crone Jasper
 The Davidson family Buddy
 Jan & John Day Daisy & Buckley
 Megan Ehlert & family Dillon & Reno
 The Grout family Fergie
 The Heffernan family Fonzie
 Brenda & Mark Hilburn Jonah
 Kim Kriessel Emmitt
 Dave Madison Gideon
 The McCloskey family Rudy & Cisco
 Gene McNamara & family Millie
 Bev & Richard Mensing Felix
 Lynn Mercer & family Oreo
 The Schoessow family Gus
 Marge & Dave Skeie Gibson
 Tam Strand & Jerry Enright Lance
 Dawn & Brian Turner Merlin & Oreo
 The VanLandschoot family Holly

In Kind

John Alexander Animal Health Center Arden Shoreview Animal Hospital Arrowhead Dog Training Academy Sharon Bazant Donna Beadle Vicki Chouinard Judith Christensen Edward & Suzanne Constantine Jan & John Day Dr. Faye Larry Dr. Feeney	Dr. Olivero Karen Gardner Lisa Holden Hudson Road Animal Hospital Ann Jackson Linda Jarrett Judy Johnson Linda Keye Dana Knopic Babs Koch Lake Animal Hospital Sharon Lanz Life Care Animal Hospital Andrea Lim	Rhonda Littlefield Michael Lundquist Karen Mikowski Minneapolis Animal Control MN Valley Humane Society MN/WI Collie Rescue Mpls. Animal Control Janice Parrow Annie Piper Prior Lake Pet Hospital Rockford Road Animal Hospital	Marcia Scheele Second Chance Animal Control Brian Sheehan/Rural Computer Consultants, Inc. Sharon Singleton Dee Spilleth John Stevens - Davanni's The Barking Ark U of M Small Animal Clinic Carlos Villalpando Kathy Waldrap
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Volunteers

Grace "Sparkplug" Enebo Diana Adamson Jennifer & Mary Alexander Darla & Pat Badzinski Janice Barrier April Beavens Mary Bente Betty Berger Lora Biele Al & Lois Bienias Bonnie Bond Kelly & Ryan Boyer Jay Bozicevich Kippy Bracke Jill Brant Virginia Brekke Coco & Marie Brietkrietz Betty Brietkrietz-Miller Richard Brown Barry & Mary Buchek Julia Buege Freeman Jean & Don Burdeski Melissa & Patrick Burke Debra Burke & Pepsy Gayle Burmeister Jennifer Burt Laura Campbell Nancy Carlson Sheri Cassens Mary & Rick Chasin Brandy Cobenais Wendy & Howard Collins Sue Crone Jan & John Day Linda Dillon Leslie Downwind Kathy Drews Monique Durda Elizabeth Eagle Jenny Eckman Vida & Katie Edmond Megan, Ron & Laurie Ehlert Jim Erickson Sharon Erickson Chelsea Eslinger Jennifer Estes Jeanette Evens Leah Falon Mike Ferber Tiffani Flaws Shelley Frederickson	John Fruth Kathy Galiger Karen Gardner Cindy Gess Christina Giese Rae Ann Godfrey Linda Graf Becky Groseth Christine Gunther Heidi Gustavson Heather & Joe Haider Jenny Halek Nancy Haley Heidi & Steve Hamilton Karen & Mikki Hansen Alex Harkness Nora Hartman Valerie Hash The Heffernan family Rosalee & Michael Heidinger Kathy Heinkel Brandy Hell Scott Henry Shelly Hiemer Brenda & Mark Hilburn The Hoffart family Ginny Holtz Trent Horsfall Kay Huffman Dawn Hughes Becky, Natalie & Valerie Huls Scott Hurley Sammy Huston Sue James Aimee Jaroscak Duane & Svetlana Jindra Kim Johnson Rhonda & Bruce Johnson Michelle Juip The Karth family Dawn Kessler Alana King Dana Knopic Joy & Jack Kraft Amber Krause Kim Kriesel Mary Sue Krueger Timeka Kuhnley Trudi Kussmaad Karen Lampi Sara Lane Bowen	Alyssa Larson Nancie Lauritsen Anna Leahy Jodi LeBaron Dena & John Lenneman Anne Letness Liz Lucast Rachel Ludeking Anne & Dale Mackereth Stephanie Magelky & "Jeff" Lynne Maker Kuechle Miriam Maples Steve Marciniak Tammy Marquardt Jean Martell Stephanie McCollum-Henry Mark & Stephanie McLaughlin Gene McNamara The Mercer family Pat & Tony Mikols Karen Mikowski Erica Miller Kathy Miller Barb Milligan Jenny Mitchell Zandara & Junise Mitchell Deb Molin Michon Monteau Jim Mulroy Martin Murphy Jr & "Myster" Sandy Neddersen Lori, Melissa & Elizabeth Neeb Joanne Nichols Stacie Olson Debbie Orelup Katie Osiak Teoht Otten Elizabeth Otto Cindy Parker Jayson & Kathryn Parker Janice Parrow John Parzych Marcia Passi & "Lila" Kathy & Rand Patton Lee Perish Cathy Pierce Annie Piper The Pollock family	Marilyn Pona Robert Poulton June Prange Maureen & Paul Pranghofer & "Ally" Mary & Randy Quist Julie & Tim Rainey Susan Rapacz Kristi Russo Sue Schadow Rhonda Schaefer Sherie Schild Kay Schroven Jeff & Debbie Schuhwerck Dr Vicki Schultz & family Carolyn Schurr Sue Schuster Kathy Schwarzhoff Marge & Dave Skeie Becky Smith Amy & Mark Sperry Diane Spicer Trudy Stiefenhoefer Blythe Stillwell Alex & Julie Stolis Mary Stoner & family Tam Strand The Sullivan family Noe Tallen Rebekah Teague Janet Tetzner & family Bill Therrien Jill Thompson Allie & Peter Thomson Dawn Throener Dawn & Brian Turner Jenny Vanderbloemen Patty VanLandschoot Robin Verdejo Carlos Villalpando William Voedisch Miranda Vogtman Lisa Waldoch Len J Washko Kristen Wedul & family David Welper Tracy Wheatcraft Kelly Wierdsma Jim Willems Patty Wirz Kathy & Roger Wright Callan & Riley Young & family
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Heel & Wheel In Kind

94.5/KS95 FM Holly Bell Buca Di Beppo - Mpls Julia Buege Freeman Byerly's - Golden Valley Dick & Nancy Carlson Laurie Carlson Cheesecake Factory Chevy's Fresh Mex - Mpls	Chipotle Cobra John & Jan Day Frito Lay Graphic Resources Millenium/Hotel Minneapolis/St Paul Magazine Noodles & Co. Panera Bread - Maple Grove Pearsons Candies	Renaissance Festival J & Sue Robinson Simon Delivers Spaghetti Factory TC Dog The Jewel golf course Theatre Jeune Lune Toro Giving Program WCCO-TV Kathy & Roger Wright
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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

by Janet Cobus

NAME-A-PUPPY

We encourage area schools to choose the Name-a-Puppy program for their community service projects this school year. Student groups that raise \$1,000 can name a puppy and receive a photo of that puppy. This is a great educational project! Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) gives presentations about assistance dogs at participating schools. Our graduates take part by demonstrating their dogs' abilities.



2006 RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

For the second year, our volunteers came through in great numbers at the Renaissance Festival. Their efforts gained visibility for our agency and earned a contribution to support our programs. Our thanks to the RenFest staff for choosing HSDM as the Pet Gate charity again this year. Nearly

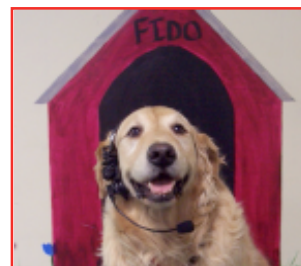
100 volunteers braved the heat, rain and cold to work the Pet Gate at the festival—and they had a good time doing it! The event raised more than \$4,100 in 2005, and we expect similar success for 2006.



2006 PHONE-A-THON CAMPAIGN

In July, 26 dedicated volunteers called many of you. Two even spent their wedding anniversary making phone calls, saying, “We can’t think of a better way to spend our anniversary than by helping HSDM raise funds for its very special program.” That’s dedication!

Because of our volunteers and more than 200 contributors, we raised nearly \$22,000 in pledges to support our 2006 annual fund. Thanks for your efforts and contributions.



“HELLO, Is anyone home?”

PLANNING YEAR-END GIVING

As the year closes, you’ll likely receive mail from various charities requesting your financial assistance. We hope you’ll remember HSDM and our ongoing financial needs. We’re eager to conclude this year in good financial shape, so we can confidently face the opportunities and challenges of the future. Your special year-end gift will strengthen us considerably. We encourage you to consider the federal tax benefits associated with gifts of appreciated stock, real estate and, in some cases, individual retirement account (IRA) savings.

Please contact Janet Cobus for more information about any of these special opportunities. She can be reached at [jacobus@hsdm.org](mailto:jcobus@hsdm.org) or at 612-729-5986 ext. 8 #.

New Staff

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota welcomes Audrey Galm and Shelly O’Brien to our staff.

Audrey Galm previously worked as an administrative assistant at Colorado State University’s Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Fort Collins, Colo. She moved to Minneapolis with her husband, Mike, a Minnesota native, and their dog, a 6-year-old Australian Shepherd named Murphy. Along the way, Audrey and Mike have also lived in Oregon and Georgia. Audrey serves as administrative assistant for HSDM. Her responsibilities include supporting the training department and handling many of our technology needs. □



Audrey with Murphy

Shelly O’Brien has 15 years of administrative experience with nonprofit organizations. Her passion is animals, especially dogs.

“Working for an organization where dogs play a critical role in its mission is ideal,” she says. In her personal life, Shelly adopts older dogs and gives them a wonderful retirement. She lives in Apple Valley and is again in the process of adopting another older dog. □



Shelly with Mandy, who was adopted at 8 and lived to be 17 1/2

Losses and Gifts

Pat Browne and Solstice

by Alan Peters

Pat Browne of Deer River, Minn., knows something about loss. Just five months after losing her life partner, Aggie, to breast cancer, Pat suddenly lost her Service Dog, Brick, to the canine equivalent of Lou Gehrig's disease.

Brick had supported Aggie and Pat through Aggie's 6-year struggle, and he had cared for Pat in the first terrible months after Aggie's death. When Brick died, Pat says, "The world became a dark place. I had to face life without the two beings I loved most." She was also living with a neurological disability and intractable chronic fatigue.

Then along came Cross Creek Winter Solstice, an 11-month-old, exceptionally calm and sweet Lab who was a gift from a friend. "Solstice immediately set out to take care of me," Pat says. "I believe that Aggie and Brick sent him by special delivery."

A few years earlier, Pat had met Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) trainers at a horse show. After receiving Solstice, Pat remembered that HSDM considers admitting self-chosen dogs into its program. Kim Hyde, director



Pat and Solstice

of training, accepted Solstice with one condition: that HSDM somehow find an appropriate field trainer near Pat's home in northern Minnesota.

Enter another gift—Nancy Johnson, an expert obedience trainer who had worked with HSDM some time ago. With guidance from Kim, Nancy and Pat worked hard to teach Solstice three major skills:

- Bracing Pat to help her stand up and maintain her balance while walking

- Pulling Pat gently but firmly up stairs and hills or across uneven ground
- Leading Pat outside to a calm place when she experiences sensory distortion in a public building

Although Pat's chronic fatigue made the training sessions challenging, Nancy's support, expertise, and enthusiasm kept the team going. Nancy, Pat, and Solstice were elated when Solstice passed the skills test.

Although Pat admits to being a worrier at heart, she says Solstice never worries. "He is steady, confident and calm, even in the midst of chaos," she says. "And he's very gentle when interacting with me."

Pat notes that she is profoundly grateful to HSDM, its supporters, Nancy, and everyone who helped Solstice become her skilled helper and companion. "The world is a much lighter place with Solstice at my side," she says. □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Pet

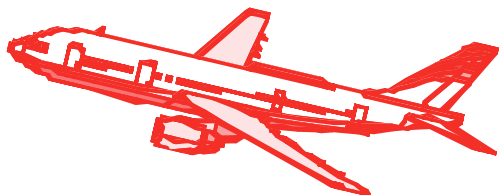
Trainer
Nancy Johnson

Help Us Soar!

We would like to attend the Assistance Dogs International conference in Baltimore, Maryland in January 2007. Educating and enlightening our staff to the developments in our industry is critical to producing more and better Assistance Dogs for those who need them.

Generous individuals have provided tickets to help get us there on many occasions in the past. Can you help this time? Donations can be in the form of airline tickets, frequent flyer coupons or monetary contributions to help with hotel and conference fees..

Call Al Peters at 612-729-5986, ext. 6#, or 612-729-5914 tty. Thanks! □



Upcoming Events

November 4	Graduation, Minneapolis Anne Sullivan School, 1PM
November 11	Tails To Tell Tour • HSDM, 10:00 AM
November 23 & 24	HSDM Closed for the Holidays
December 7	Tails To Tell Tour • HSDM, noon
December 25	HSDM Closed for the Holidays
January 1	HSDM Closed for the Holidays
January 5, 6 & 7	Land O'Lakes Kennel Club

A BEEM of Independence

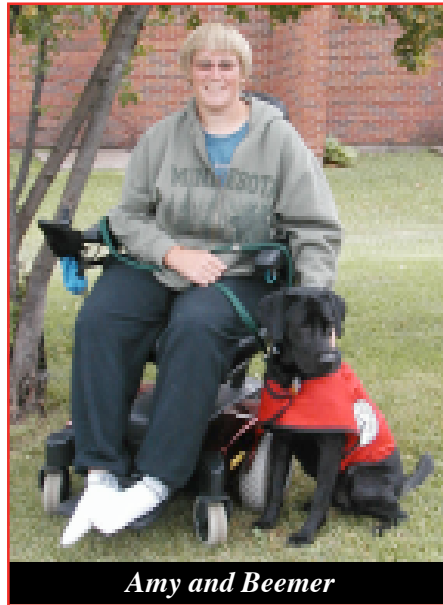
Amy Burke and Beemer

by Amy Burke

Hi! My name is Amy Burke. I live in Duluth, Minn., and I just became certified with my first Service Dog, a Lab named Beemer. I have reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), caused from a trampoline accident. RSD affects the autonomic nervous system and causes burning pain that never stops. It can lead to rigid muscles and being unable to move your body. It is a debilitating disease that can cause you to be a vegetable if you don't work to keep what you have.

When my disability put me into a wheelchair, I realized that to get around I would always need someone to assist me. After a year of constant assistance, I needed a change. I am an outdoor person, but I was afraid to go outside for fear of getting stuck in the wheelchair and needing someone to help me. Then I realized that, with my love for dogs and my need to have someone with me at all times, a dog would be the perfect solution. So I started researching how to get a Service Dog.

The most surprising thing about the training process was how willing Beemer was to work with me from the first day. The most amazing part was that Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) was willing to come to my home to train with me. My favorite part of training was going out to restaurants with Beemer. I think it is so cool that I can take him with me and that he is so well-



Amy and Beemer

behaved. I am the envy of everyone in the restaurant!

Beemer pushes the buttons or push-plates for elevators and automatic doors. He can tug open my fridge door and close it, which makes it easier for me to get objects out of the fridge. Beemer can open my apartment door for me, making it much easier to exit the apartment. Beemer also gets my phone if I have an emergency.

The most significant thing he does for me is to retrieve dropped objects. I have "butterfingers" and tend to drop things a lot. Formerly, when I dropped something I would have to wait for someone to pick it up for me. That would stop me from doing my work until I could get help. Now I ask Beemer to get things, and I can con-

tinue on with my work.

Beemer is giving me back my independence and courage, and he is helping me to better deal with my disability. I now get out on my own and am starting to have a social life. The medical community and insurance companies were unwilling to provide me with equipment so that I could get outside on my own. But thanks to your contributions, HSDM provided me with the best tool I could ever imagine to help me regain some of my independence. And it was done completely free of charge!

I cannot thank the people who support HSDM enough for making this miracle happen for forgotten community members with disabilities. Thanks again for everything. I cannot even begin to tell you how awesome it is for me to have Beemer! ☐

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Greg Strilzur

Veterinary Services
Arden Shoreview
Animal Hospital

Puppy Raiser
Julie & Joe Moreau
Rachel Vosejпка

Obedience
Arrowhead Dog Training
Academy

Foster Home
Krystal Klein

Trainer Staff

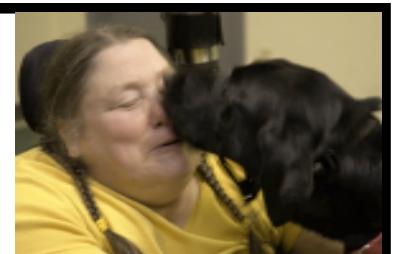
Graduation!



readers of *Tails From Minnesota*, so we hope to see you there! ☐

Join us for our November 4, 2006 graduation! Twelve new teams will graduate that day in a touching, meaningful ceremony. The program begins at 1 p.m. and takes place at Anne Sullivan School, 3100 East 28th Street in Minneapolis. This event is open to all

HSDM is highlighted in the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation annual report! To download a copy go to www.phillipsfnd.org and see us on pages 16 and 17! ☐



The
Spring Lake Park
Lions
Present...

HEEL & WHEEL 2006!

The 13th annual Heel and Wheel for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota was a very successful event, with 114 registered walkers raising almost \$34,000! Walkers, who joined their families and numerous day-of-the-event volunteers, won thousands of dollars in prizes, including travel, electronics and dinner/lodging packages.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

SPRING LAKE PARK LIONS
LIONS LOGO HERE

PLATINUM BONE SPONSOR

LOGOs HERE
Graphic Resources
Mpls/St Paul Magazine

THE TOP FIVE!

Top five pledge earners:

Dave & Jackie Strobel	\$2,016
Gage Miske	\$1,920
Dana Knopic	\$930
Kathleen Heffernan	\$751
Alicia Blank	\$575

GOLD BONE SPONSORS

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™
Petco Foundation Logo here
Chipotle Logo here

SILVER BONE SPONSORS

Cobra
Target TC Dog Magazine
PetSmart

Bronze Bone Sponsors and prize donors are included on page 7.

Walkers and their guests were entertained by activities that included interactive dog games, clowns, face painting and a caricaturist. Everyone was invigorated by the music of Blue Wolf before and during the walk and all agreed that the new location at Phalen Park was outstanding and we plan to use that facility again.

The Top Dog Trophy was won by the Coon Rapids Lions for the second year in a row! They raised \$1,220 for HSDM! We will proudly display the trophy in our office until next year's walk.

The 14th annual Heel and Wheel will take place on Saturday, September 15, 2007. Plan to be there!

If you would like to help organize next year's event, please call Laurie Carlson. No experience is necessary, and there are many ways for you to help. ☐



**F
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E
!**



Graduate Martin Murphy with Service Dog, Myster, Al Peters, Collision Center owners Terry Geffre and Ricky Schmitz, and event organizer John Kiffmeyer enjoyed a moment together after the Collision Center golf outing. ☐

Collision Center, Inc., of Golden Valley, Minn., hosted its eighth annual golf outing to benefit Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota (HSDM) on Sept. 17. John Kiffmeyer, Collision Center employee, chaired the event again this year.

Hole sponsors were Alliance Car Rental, Allstar Affordable Auto Parts, Inc., Buerkle Acura, D & S Sales, Enterprise Car Rental, Eastside Beverage, Juergen's Dent Kraft, and Loffler. Collision Center paid for the day's greens fees and Finishmasters,

Inc. again generously underwrote the cost of the luncheon that followed. A special contribution was made by Task, Inc.. HSDM received proceeds of \$6,368!

Martin Murphy and Service Dog Myster, made a presentation after lunch. Proceeds from the fundraiser sponsored Myster's placement with Martin. Our thanks to everyone for making this fund-raiser an outstanding success! ☐



Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
 The Companion Dog Connection, Inc.
 2537 25th Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55406

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Please Note!
If you are receiving more than one copy of Tails from Minnesota, have moved, or you do not wish to receive our newsletter in the future, please call 612-729-5986, 729-5914 tty, or e-mail info@hsdm.org.

Wish List

- ✓ **Dog treats!!** (Pupperoni, Milkbone)
- ✓ **LCD computer monitors, 17" or larger**
- ✓ Palm Treo Smartphone for Verizon
- ✓ Palm PDA devices
- ✓ **More puppy raisers!**
- ✓ Plastic Dog crates: All sizes
- ✓ **Dog grooming services**
- ✓ Van with wheelchair lift, good condition
- ✓ 25' extension cords
- ✓ **Home Theater** for our meeting room
- ✓ **Mac G4 Computers, laptop**
- ✓ **4-drawer file cabinets**
- ✓ Small wagon or hatch-back for delivering dogs
- ✓ Microwave cart with drawer
- ✓ Spare tire for trailer
- ✓ Camcorder, Digital
- ✓ **Exercise pens, 36"-48"**
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Gentle Leaders & Haltis, sizes M & L
- ✓ New Smoke Detectors
- ✓ 8-1/2 x 11 copy paper
- ✓ Plastic "Playschool" benches and table
- ✓ Batteries, AA & AAA
- ✓ 4' or 5' round folding tables
- ✓ Heartworm Preventative
- ✓ **Kongs, Nylabones (large)**
- ✓ Gift certificates to pet stores, computer stores and home improvement stores
- ✓ Newer wheelchairs, manual Quickie-type
- ✓ 1st-class stamps
- ✓ Purebred puppies
- ✓ leashes

A special thanks to all of you who previously supplied us with wish list items! You made our wishes come true! ☐

Financial Report

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota strives to invest your contributions with wisdom and prudence. A year-end 2005 financial summary is presented below. ☐

**Companion Dog Connection, Inc.
 dba Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
 Statements of Financial Position for the year 2005**

ASSETS	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,254,026
NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	9,183

TOTAL ASSETS **\$1,263,209**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$16,303
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,246,906

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$1,263,209**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$602,644
FUNDRAISERS (NET OF DIRECT COSTS)	28,209
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS	- 0 -
OTHER REVENUE	16,328

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE **\$647,181**

EXPENSES	
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$517,605
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	58,567
FUNDRAISING	52,866

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$629,038**

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	
BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEM	\$18,142
EXTRAORDINARY ITEM: LAND SALE	491,188
INCREASE IN ASSETS	509,330

NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR **\$737, 576**

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR **\$1,246,906 ***

***Subsequent to the year end sale of vacant land, the board of directors resolved to establish a building fund of \$800,000 to be used to acquire a permanent facility for the organization.**