

Tails from Minnesota



Jennifer & Apollo pg. 3



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Fall 2011



"I couldn't have a better someone."
Mike Chevrette & Gabby
pg. 4



www.can-do-canines.org

Volume 22 Issue 4



In 1988, Lucky, pictured above, was the first dog we 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.

Tails From Minnesota

Published quarterly for friends and supporters of

Can Do Canines

ASSISTANCE DOGS

Editor/Layout/Design

Alan M. Peters Sue Schuster Shelly Hiemer
Mary Rhatigan Lynne Kuechle Maker

Can Do Canines is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with specially trained dogs.

We envision a future in which every person who needs and wants an assistance dog can have one. Assistance dogs provide the gifts of freedom, independence, and peace of mind to our clients and their families. Our fully trained dogs, often adopted from local animal shelters, are provided to our clients who live with disabilities that involve mobility challenges, hearing loss or deafness, seizure disorders, autism, or diabetes complicated by hypoglycemia unawareness.

Dogs, training and supplies are provided to each client free of charge.

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To reach a staff member via phone, dial 763-331-3000. When you hear the greeting, press the extension number you need or press 3 for an employee directory.

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From the Executive Director

Celebrate

It's time to celebrate at Can Do Canines! This fall we will finish Phase II of our construction project, completing the interior renovation, the accessible parking lot, and the second wing of our Can Do Canines kennels.

Celebrate with us at the Fetching Ball Gala on November 5, 2011, too. The first gala event in 2009 was an outstanding success, and this one promises to be even more fun! The committee has planned an outstanding event that I can't wait to attend myself! To learn more about the Fetching Ball, go to www.fetchingball.com.

Even with construction going on, we continue to train teams and celebrate our work. On November 19 we will celebrate fifteen recently certified assistance dog teams at their graduation ceremony here at our facility. If you've never been to a graduation, it's time to come to this one. I promise you, it is an event that will touch your heart.

Puppy Raisers

With the new year approaching, many of us will be making changes in our lives to fulfill resolutions. Now is the time to make a plan to do something positive for someone in the community who can never repay you for your generosity. Become a puppy raiser. Raise a dog for someone who has a disability, and change their lives. If you're not sure it's the right thing for you, call us and we will connect you with someone who has done it. They know what a valuable experience it is. Raise a puppy: change a life!

Al with "Savannah" and "Echo"



Prison Program

In this issue we are proud to have three puppies featured that were part of a one-year pilot project at the Federal Correctional Institute at Sandstone. Ten puppies, twenty inmates, and countless guards and facility employees were part of this groundbreaking program. We are deeply grateful to the staff and inmates of that facility for the wonderful care they gave our puppies while they were there and to the "furlough families" who cared for the puppies on weekends to socialize them out in public. Look for Apollo, Bali and Becca's stories in this issue of *Tails from Minnesota*, and in our web-exclusive articles.

Capital Campaign

We continue to make good progress on our Capital Campaign for Independence and are currently at 82% of our goal of \$4.4 million. With dedicated volunteers to help us complete the campaign, more contributors will make a stretch gift so we can finish this important project. Completing the campaign will ensure a proper facility to support our work and create a debt-free organization that can concentrate all future contributions on placing more assistance dogs. Please help us complete the campaign!

A Dream Come True

For more than twenty years, it's been my dream to increase the number of assistance dog graduates to the point where we can have a true effect on the community. This year, we set out to increase the number of graduates from 30 in 2010 to 40 in 2011. I am proud to say that we are on track to meet that goal by year-end. It's my dream come true! You should feel proud to be a part of the wonderful process that makes 40 new assistance dogs possible for people with disabilities in 2011. Thank you! ☆

Definitely Wonderful

Jennifer Brisson and Diabetes Assist Dog Apollo by Laurie Carlson

Jennifer Brisson of St. Louis Park, Minn., is a young, active mother of two. While she and husband, Samuel, enjoy being outdoors, spending time with the kids and keeping busy, Jennifer has an added challenge in her life.

At age 25, she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Although she wears an insulin pump to help regulate her blood sugar levels, she began to develop hypoglycemia unawareness – which means that she no longer felt symptoms when her blood sugar dropped to dangerous levels. “Summer is the worst,” Jennifer says. “Because of the heat, I can’t feel symptoms at all.”

This can be a life-threatening condition. Worried that she might become unconscious while home alone with two small children, Jennifer knew she needed some other kind of help.

She heard about Can Do Canines from a neighbor who thought that perhaps a Diabetes Assist Dog could help her. Jennifer had heard about such dogs, but the service was through an organization in California that only placed dogs in that state. Happy to have found a resource in Minnesota, she decided to apply.

During training, Jennifer was one of three clients receiving Diabetic Assist Dogs. Jennifer was matched with Apollo, a handsome young Smooth Coat Collie. Apollo had been raised in Can Do Canines’ Sandstone puppy prison program. One of his inmate-trainers there wrote, “I still can’t believe I have a dog in my cell. Every day it just keeps getting cooler and cooler. The more I study (dog behavior) the more I learn and I raise the criteria (for Apollo). I will be able to put this experience on my list of accomplishments to help me be successful when I leave. I believe this was brought into my life for a reason.”



Jennifer and Apollo

Having grown up with dogs, Jennifer says, “Everything they said to us in training really made sense.” Working with a Smooth Coat Collie was difficult at first for her. Collies have distinct personality traits and learn differently than breeds such as Labrador Retrievers do. Jennifer had to learn to think like a Collie! “It was amazing,” she says. “It was fun, watching what he could do – so young and yet so smart!”

About three weeks after Apollo arrived, Jennifer says, she realized what having him in her life means. “We were going for a walk with a neighbor. I was ready to go, the kids were set and we were about to head out the door. Apollo stood in front of me and refused to move,” she recalls. “I insisted, again he refused. I thought, ‘I’d better check my blood sugar.’ Sure enough it was low. I hadn’t felt the symptoms yet, but if I had gone out I probably would’ve gotten into trouble.”

Jennifer advises others who are thinking of applying for an assistance dog that it’s “the best thing you can do for yourself.” She adds, “Be realistic, as it’s not perfect, but definitely wonderful.” She thanks the inmates, foster home volunteers and trainers who worked with Apollo.

To Can Do Canines donors, she says, “You are amazing. You’ve probably saved my life more than a few times now through the gift of Apollo.” ✨

Can Do Canines uses a variety of mixed breed and purebred dogs in our training. We have had great success with donated collies, like Apollo, and are thankful for breeders like Amy Ross who support our work. To learn more about donating a dog or puppy, visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org

New Teams



Chase Johnson & Autism Assist Dog Wanda

During the first week – Chase slept through the night – for the first time EVER. Michelle says, “Although it’s not every night, it’s a great start.... Everyone is more relaxed and happy because Chase is.”

Thank You

Dog Source - Georgine Abramson & Rosalee Rogers

Puppy Raiser- Marge & Dave Skeie

Foster Home- Janice Parrow

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Mike Chevrette & Mobility Assist Dog Gabby

“Now, the reality is, there’s always someone with me and I couldn’t have a better somebody.”

Thank You

Dog Source - Cross Creek Kennel

Vet Services- Arden Shoreview Animal Hospital

Puppy Raiser- The Brudney Family Erin & Rob Bunting

Read their story on page 4

Thank you to these partners who are helping make



a great place to
Come Sit, Play!

Freedom Partner



Warm Every Home,
Delight Every Day

Assistance Team Partners

Graphic Resources

Sunbelt Business Brokers
"Sunbelt – The Place to Go to Buy
or Sell a Business"



Minnesota Lion Past Council Chairs Frank Loken (left) and Jim Diehl presented Al Peters with a \$75,000 check from the Lions Clubs International Foundation during the August Graduation. The check represented a grant which matched the amount Minnesota Lions chapters raised to assist in the Can Do Canines Campaign for Independence.

A Bond Second to None

Mike Chevrette and Mobility Assist Dog Gabby

Mike Chevrette has always been an animal lover—specifically a Golden Retriever fan. His pet dog, Buddy, was Mike’s closest pal until he passed away at age 14. Mike is also a well-known advocate in the local disability community. He sustained a C5-6 spinal injury during a diving accident in 1979 resulting in quadriplegia. He has limited use of his arms and is unable to move his legs. After his recovery at the Courage Center, Mike became involved with many disability-related organizations; he’s currently on the board of directors for Opportunity Partners. Additionally, he has a radio show on AM 950 KTNF; at 2 p.m. every Sunday, where he discusses disability topics.

Although Mike has always been aware of assistance dog capabilities, an incident last winter cemented the need for one in his mind. He had dropped his phone shortly before he needed to leave his home in Fridley, Minn. for an appointment. Instead of taking the time to recover his phone—a time-intensive process that involved pushing it with a stick to the top of a ramp in the garage, and then going down the ramp in his wheelchair and picking it up—he left home without the phone. It was a cold winter day, and when his van broke down on the interstate, he had no way to signal for help. Mike waited 45 minutes on the side of the road without a jacket before a state patrol officer came to his aid. “I sat there thinking, this is a bad way to go out,” he recalls. With major life changes going on, Mike knew he

would soon need additional support to continue his independent lifestyle. He determined that one kind of support might be an assistance dog. Mike applied to Can Do Canines and after a short wait was introduced to Mobility Assist Dog, Gabby.

Despite his dog experience, Mike says he was still surprised by the bond that quickly developed between him and his new dog, a young Golden Retriever. “I’ve had dogs in the past that I cared for deeply, but there’s something more with an assistance dog,” Mike says. “She knows when I’m feeling good and when I’m feeling bad, and I feel the same for her. I can tell when she wants something or when she’s happy. It’s a bond that is second to none and it’s been the biggest surprise. She has exceeded all my expectations!”

Gabby helps Mike pick up dropped items, gets his roommates when he needs them, and helps him navigate doors—both at home and in public. Mike enjoys going to many activities: sporting events, music concerts, the theater and more with Gabby always at his side. He adds that Gabby seems to be a “green dog.” She



by Natalie Boike

picks up plastic cups and other discarded items for Mike to throw away without prompting.

“I feel more assured having her around. I know if I drop something she will be there to pick it up for me. Plus, if I need a hug, she’s there as well no matter what is happening.” Thinking back to that day last winter when he was stuck, he says, “Now, the reality is, there’s always someone with me and I couldn’t have a better somebody.”

Mike says there’s no way for him to thank the puppy raisers, foster homes, and even the donors who support Can Do Canines. “I can’t imagine having a dog like her for that long and having to give her up, but they do it knowing someone gets the benefit from what they’ve done,” he says. “I know volunteers get a lot out of it, but they have no idea how much we get out of it.” He encourages donors to continue to give, saying not many organizations make such a big difference to individuals. “This is touching an individual right at the core, right at the heart,” he adds. ☆

“Now, the reality is, there’s always someone with me and I couldn’t have a better somebody.”

We can’t continue this work without dedicated breeders, puppy raisers, veterinary clinics and volunteers.

Visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org to learn about the many ways you can help or call Laurie Carlson about volunteer opportunities at 763-331-3000 ext. 113.



Gabby tugs open doors for Mike

New Teams



Greg Ronning & Hearing Assist Dog Aggie

The greatest thing anyone can do is to serve – whether that is to serve your country, as Greg did, or to serve someone in need, such as Aggie is doing – it creates a bond that is strong.

Thank You

Dog Source - Secondhand Hounds
Field Trainer- Melissa Hanson
Foster Home- Midge & Doug Mulcahy

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Nathan Nordstrom & Autism Assist Dog Sinbad

“It really is a ripple effect on more than just Nathan’s life. Sinbad has made such a big difference, and everyone is so excited for Nathan.”

Thank You

Dog Source - Darcy Pesta
Vet Services- Globe University School of Veterinary Technology
Puppy Raiser- Dianne & Doug Astry
Foster Home- Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Faribault

Read their story on page 6



Sarah Breidenbach & Diabetes Assist Dog Moxie

"Moxie has lifted the weight of the world off my shoulders."

Thank You

Dog Source – June Holden & Kathy Marr

Puppy Raiser– Marge & Dave Skeie

Foster Home – Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter

**Welcome New Staff Member
Jessi Hiemer**



Jessi Hiemer began her role as Can Do Canines Program Assistant in June 2011. Before that, she was a familiar face around the organization as a member of the kennel staff, puppy raiser, and volunteer. Jessi describes herself as a “jack of all trades” with experience in veterinary clinics, retail sales, education, and home-based assisted living. All of this experience has proven very valuable as she helps new applicants and clients through the assistance dog application process.

Jessi lives in St. Louis Park with her Chihuahua, Bruiser, and cat, Dromio. When she’s not working, Jessi spends her time participating in projects and events with the Minneapolis Jaycees where she currently serves as the chapter president.

Welcome Jessi! ☆

The Ripple Effect

Nathan Nordstrom and Autism Assist Dog Sinbad by Laurie Carlson

Nathan Nordstrom is a busy 8-year-old: a fan of being outdoors, using the computer, playing Angry Birds and watching videos. He lives in Plymouth, Minn., with his parents, Ruth and Brian, and older sister, Madeline.

Nathan also lives with autism spectrum disorder, a condition that has become the family’s focus since Nathan was very young. Ruth and Brian research resources and programs for Nathan and devote much of their family time to getting him

through screens. Today he started to go out the top-floor window, and I had to take the window cranks off. We fear broken windows will happen next!”

Nathan was matched with Sinbad, a 22-month-old, cheerful, lovable Golden Retriever with a knack for human relations. His seasoned volunteer Puppy Raisers, Dianne and Doug Astry, refer to him as their “hairy angel” and say working with him was the best puppy-raising experience they’ve had.



Nathan and Sinbad

It didn’t take long for the Nordstroms to fall in love with Sinbad. The best part of having Sinbad in their lives, Ruth says with a laugh, is “more pleasant trips to Target!” In the past, store visits ended in meltdowns. Since Sinbad has come, there have been no tantrums. Nathan has become less impulsive and more verbal; he acts out less and is better able to communicate his needs.

the best of care and teaching. The family is involved in autism groups such as the Lazarus project and other efforts. The Nordstroms also love to stay active—camping, hiking, visiting parks and going to church.

The decision to apply for an Autism Assist Dog came when Nathan was 5. “Our biggest concern has always been his safety,” Ruth says. “He has no understanding of real danger and bolts frequently. The tipping point came when he dashed out the door and disappeared.” Brian searched the neighborhood and finally found Nathan on the second floor of a neighbor’s home. That evening, Brian searched the Internet and ultimately found Can Do Canines.

When the family applied, Ruth wrote, “Nathan has run off six times in the past two weeks. We lock doors and he breaks

Ruth adds that the family appreciates the companionship and comfort Sinbad provides for Nathan. In addition, Nathan has had to learn responsibility, because it is his job to feed Sinbad. “Nathan was used to everyone doing for him,” Ruth says. “Now he has a job too.” The family goes to parks, where each member takes turns throwing a ball for Sinbad. They’ve taken up tennis and gone to a few dog parks as well. “A whole new world has opened up for us,” she says.

Ruth tells donors and puppy raisers that they have “made a huge difference for Nathan, our family and our world.” She adds, “It really is a ripple effect on more than just Nathan’s life. Sinbad has made such a big difference, and everyone is so excited for Nathan.” ☆

To make more dogs like Sinbad available for children on our waiting list, please visit www.can-do-canines.org or send in your generous contribution. Thank you!

A Clever Little Boy

Shawn Higdem and Hearing Assist Dog Luke by Shelly Hiemer

Friends describe Shawn Higdem of Chaska, Minn., as an outgoing person always willing to help others. She spends her days working with kids at the YMCA, babysitting for friends and helping her parents out at their cabin.

When she is at home by herself, however, things are a little different. Shawn was born with a nerve fracture in one ear and a bone fracture in the other, which caused severe hearing loss. During the day, she relies on hearing aids and reads lips. But at night, after she takes out her hearing aids, she is in a silent world.

Shawn was raised with dogs, mostly Lhasa Apsos, and has a 13-year-old pet Bichon Frise named Sugar. A few years ago, she contacted Can Do Canines to see if Sugar could be trained to help her. Unfortunately, Sugar did not meet the program's requirements. As Sugar aged, Shawn became more concerned about being alone.



Shawn and Luke

When she applied to Can Do Canines last summer, she was again thinking of the little dogs she grew up with. But her new best friend came in the form of a Hearing Assist Dog named Luke, a bouncy 1 1/2-year-old Border Collie mix donated by Secondhand Hounds. Enthusiastic and full of energy, Luke was eager to learn the sounds needed to help Shawn feel safer in her home.

Training progressed quickly as Luke learned about Shawn's environment and began understanding what he needed to alert her to. Soon he was letting her know when someone was at the door, if a timer went off, or if a smoke alarm or an alarm clock was ringing. Shawn says, "Having Luke keeps me on my toes. He is a clever little boy, a lot smarter than he lets on!" One night in bed, Shawn could feel an

odd vibration but could not find the source. Luke jumped on her and then went right to her nebulizer (a machine that delivers asthma medication)—alerting her that it was vibrating. "He wasn't trained for that," Shawn explains, "but he knew it was a sound that shouldn't have been there, and he told me so."

Shawn's face shows her gratitude to the people who make assistance dogs possible. "Thank you to the foster family who took Luke in until I got him," she said. "I am so glad he was rescued and became my dog. I love him." To others who make it possible to train Luke and dogs like him, she says, "I know sometimes it doesn't seem like you are able to help much, but every little bit you do helps someone like me. Thank you." ☆

Contributions are critical to help us serve more people with disabilities and to give a good life to homeless dogs like Luke. Organizations like Secondhand Hounds, the Minneapolis Animal Control, and the Animal Humane Society are wonderful partners who assist us in finding just the right pups to help people. Can you help by contributing your time, talent or treasure to make more partnerships possible?

New Teams



Mary Ivy & Mobility Assist Dog Tessa

"When Tessa came she fit right in and we were buddies from the start."

Thank You

Dog Source - Stephanie Leddon
Vet Services - Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital

Puppy Raiser - Sue Engelsman & The Theis Family

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Jennifer Brisson & Diabetes Assist Dog Apollo

You've probably saved my life more than a few times now through the gift of Apollo."

Thank You

Dog Source - Amy Ross
Vet Services - Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital

Puppy Raiser - Inmates at the Federal Correctional Institute at Sandstone

Special Thanks - to the Furlough Families at Sandstone

Read their story on page 3

Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ I.Click Training Clickers
- ✓ Car Seat Belt Harnesses – All sizes
- ✓ Halti Head Collars
- ✓ Martingale collars
- ✓ Soft Treats (BilJac, Zukes, Pupperoni)
- ✓ Giant Nylabones and lg. & med. Kongs
- ✓ L or XL Vari-Kennels, new or gently used
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ Mac computers (Minis, Macbooks, iMacs)
- ✓ PC Laptops
- ✓ MS Office Suite 2010 licenses
- ✓ Windows Server 2008
- ✓ Wall mountable server rack 19U
- ✓ Mac OS X 10.5 licenses
- ✓ LCD TV, 37" or larger
- ✓ Home Theater system for meeting room

Automotive

- ✓ Gasoline cards
- ✓ Minivan
- ✓ Auto repair/maintenance
- ✓ Small Station wagon

Equipment

- ✓ Gas-powered power washer
- ✓ 6 and 8 ft. plastic folding tables
- ✓ Office chairs
- ✓ Office cubicles
- ✓ Commercial Treadmill, Exercise Bike, Elliptical, Rower

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Gift cards to
 - grocery stores
 - office supply stores
 - Michaels (craft stores)
 - Party City
- ✓ Office supplies (paper, markers, stamps)
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner, laundry detergent
- ✓ Framed dog-related art

Building Materials

- ✓ Kitchen cabinets and countertop
- ✓ Bathroom storage cabinet, small
- ✓ Gift certificates home improvement stores
- ✓ Pipe and drape, black (6 - 8ft x 10 ft sections)
- ✓ Stage skirting, black, (24 inch x 32 ft)
- ✓ Stage Lighting
- ✓ Several large landscaping pots (call office for details)

Items in bold are our most pressing needs!

For more wish list items, please go to www.can-do-canines.org

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



Thank you to Nutrisource for providing food to our Can Do Canines in for final training!

Development News

For information on any of the projects listed here, contact Development Director Janet Cobus: [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) or 763-331-3000 ext. 153

World's Finest Chocolate – the perfect holiday gift!

Sell a variety box with Chocolate Almond, Dark Chocolate Almond, Caramel and a Milk Chocolate Krispy bar—YUM! There are 50 bars in a box and each bar sells for \$1.00 to benefit Can Do Canines. Contact Jessica to request a box. jnadeau@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000, ext 152.



Can Do Canines Holiday Gift Card – Give the Gift of Love

Giving a Can Do Holiday Gift Card this season is a special way of honoring people or pets; living or those who have passed. By giving a gift to Can Do Canines as tribute to a loved one, you are helping provide life-changing assistance dogs to people with disabilities and children with autism.

Donations of \$25 or more may request to have a Holiday Gift Card sent to the person or family you are honoring. Order a holiday tribute card online and we'll personalize and send it for you. Or order by phone at 762-331-3000, Ext. 153.

When you give a Gift of Love in honor of someone special—a loved one, friend, colleague—we'll send you a beautiful "gift—in-honor" card and envelope to announce your gift to that person.

Make your Holiday Gift donation on our secure website by pressing the "Donate Now" button at www.can-do-canines.org. Let us be the first to wish you a Happy Holiday!

Name-A-Puppy Program Participants:

- “K.C.” – White Bear Lake Lions Club
- “Roco” – Seagate
- “Ruby” – Steve Kittay



“Roco”

If your group would like to raise funds and have the honor of naming a puppy entering our “Puppy Pre-School”—contact us for a brochure

The General Motors plant of Hudson, Wisc. raised funds for the Name A Puppy program and chose the name “Chevy”.



Pictured at the check presentation are Plant Manager Kevin Buscher, Graduate Chad Engstrom, Diabetes Assist Dog Hazel, and Shop Chair of UAW Local No. 722 Kenny Carrier



Minnesota Renaissance Festival Pet Gate & Charity Auction

Can Do Canines had 116 wonderful volunteers work the Pet Gate at this year's Renaissance Festival and earned more than \$4,500 for our programs. Thank you to the following groups for providing volunteers: Ameriprise, Women of Today and Minnesota Lions Clubs. Kohls employees from Shakopee, Chaska, and Rogers earned an extra \$2,000 for our programs bringing the grand total raised to **\$6,500**. Thank you to the Renfest Pet Gate chairperson, Patty Wirz for another fabulous job!

We were also chosen to receive the proceeds from the festival's Charity Auction that raised \$1850 for our programs. ☆

Volunteer Spotlight - MarySue Krueger

MarySue Krueger of Eden Prairie, Minn. first heard of Can Do Canines in 2004. She saw a television feature and was intrigued. When she decided to volunteer, she brought MANY talents to share. MarySue is self employed as a video producer, voiceover talent, writer, water color artist and has recently appeared in television commercials.



MarySue with Gus (left) and Mattie (right)

Over the years she has become an integral part of our success at Can Do Canines. She lent us her wonderful voice to numerous videos and serves as master of ceremonies for our graduation celebrations and Tails of Independence luncheons. When we need to create informational and inspirational videos, MarySue writes scripts, coordinates graduate schedules, assists in production and provides the voiceover talent.

MarySue joined our Board of Directors in 2007 and currently serves as the Vice

President. She pitches in where needed at numerous events, and has been a Table Captain at our fundraising luncheon for the last 5 years. She served on the Fetching Ball Committee in 2009 and again in 2011. MarySue speaks to groups about Can Do

Canines, trains volunteers at our Speakers Bureau, and is a wonderful Ambassador for the organization.

MarySue, we sincerely thank you for all your hard work for Can Do Canines over the years, and we appreciate the time and talents you share with us. Thank you MarySue! ☆

To be recognized in the volunteer spotlight, a volunteer must be involved with our organization for at least one year and have volunteered in at least three different areas of the organization. Nominees are submitted by Can Do Canines staff members.

What about you?

Are you willing to give the gift of your time? We need help in the following areas:

- Regular vehicle maintenance
- Facility maintenance
- Puppy Raisers (14-16 months)
- Foster families (2-4 weeks)
- Daytime office help
- Assistant for event planning

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 ext. 113.

In Memory of Anne Indrelie

Debra & Thomas Campbell, Jeffrey & Teresa Hyde, Hazel Johnson, Michael & Dana Ottesen, Jodi Hultgren

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Donated By In Honor Of
 Erin Aldrich My Mom
 Daniel & Patricia Astry Margaret Walsh's Birthday
 Mary Astry Margaret Walsh's Birthday
 Lyle Astry Margaret Walsh's Birthday
 Dianne & Doug Astry.. Margaret Walsh's Birthday
 Jodi Baer Susan Youngberg
 Mike Branch
 Samantha Day North Metro Leo Club
 Roland Franceschi Virginia Fazlo's Birthday
 David Eichholz Gerald O'Connor
 James & Elizabeth Johnson Karen Kelly
 Gretajo Northrup "Wyatt"
 Suzi Ramirez "Miles" & "Cruiser"
 Jamee Stasik Team Lenzmeier - Capella University
 Dana Tennon Gracie Jones
 Nicole Zenner Allison Evans

New Teams



Heather Leide & Mobility Assist Dog Becca

"She's amazing. I'm so fortunate to have her in my life, I love her to pieces."

Thank You

- Dog Source** - Can Do Canines
- Vet Services** - Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital
- Puppy Raiser** - Inmates at the Federal Correctional Institute at Sandstone
- Special Thanks** - to the Furlough Families at Sandstone, Pat Smith, Deb Wolden, The Burdeski Family

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Sue Youngberg & Mobility Assist Dog Bali

"She's been perfect from day one. She's really enriched my life."

Thank You

- Dog Source** - Can Do Canines
- Vet Services** - Animal Wellness Center
- Puppy Raiser** - Inmates at the Federal Correctional Institute at Sandstone
- Special Thanks** - to the Furlough Families at Sandstone, Pat Smith, Deb Wolden, The Burdeski Family

Read their story on page 5

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Donated By In Memory Of
 Joel &

Rebecca Anderson.....Shirlee Schroeder
 Animal Wellness Center "Angel" Raley,
 "Annie" Dinninger, "Annie" Prince, "Daisy"
 Grzeskowiak, "Hazel" Ireland, "Jordan"
 Carlson, "Kristi" Anderson, "Lady" Brown,
 "Louie" Schatz, "Mimi" Jeppesen, "Patsy"
 Williams, "Peanut" Petrie, "Sadie" Freeman,
 "Sasha" Morton, "Tess" Gordon, "Tigger"
 Goodin, "Winnie" Arlt, "Cody" Kroll, "Diosa"
 Lindgren, "Harley Davidson" Horejsh, "Jenna"
 Vangstad, "Lucky" Korolev, "Maggie" Fena,
 "Nissa" Dahlberg, "Polly Anna" Budniak,
 "Pooh" Brandeen, "Spencer" Hruska, "Penny"
 Skinner, "Lucy" Robin
 Animal Wellness Center

of Maple Grove Addison Detaeye
 Cokato Lions Lion Steve Dietman
 Sally Erickson Leona Nelson
 Donna &

Patrick Gallagher.....Shirlee Schroeder
 Bonnie Genin..... DeAnna Lehman
 Bethany K. Johnson..... Viola French
 Patricia Make "Reggie"
 Deb Molin "Doogie" Krause, "LuLu"
 Cowan, Kevin Kennedy
 Mary Beth Pflgebraar Ethel Pflgebraar
 Doug & Jill Schauburger "Shadow"
 Lynn Slifer Judith Slifer
 Van Erp - Bluffton Lions..... Marie Van Erp
 Toni Yeamans "Luna"

Heel and Wheel

The 18th annual Heel and Wheel was a great success! The committee ordered beautiful weather and the walk around the Carlson Towers was wonderful. 197 walkers and 90 well-behaved dogs joined in to raise more than \$46,000. Thanks to everyone who participated in the walk, volunteered, and pledged! A special thank you to the hard work of the Heel and Wheel Committee, led by Elizabeth Eagle.

Seventeen teams participated this year. Top team honors went to two teams: Top overall team was the **Can Do Canines Puppy Raisers** who raised \$7,533.67 and top Lions fundraising team was **Sandstone Rollers** with \$1,687. Congratulations!

Top 5 Fundraisers!

Sandy Vance	\$3020
Al Peters	\$2431
Andrea Miller	\$1640
Melissa Hanson	\$1553
Joe Mester	\$1200
Susan Youngberg	\$1001

Thank you to all of our generous walkers, volunteers, sponsors and contributors who made the Heel and Wheel a great success!

Freedom Sponsor



Independence Sponsor



Peace of Mind Sponsor



Assistance Sponsor





Mark your calendars for the 19th annual Heel and Wheel on August 5, 2012!

Volunteers and Puppy Raisers

Thanks to all of our volunteers and puppy raisers— we couldn't do it without you! Puppy Raisers are noted by a 🐾 beside their names

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Diana Adamson 🐾 Jayson & Kathryn Alexander 🐾 Mary & Jon Alexander Linda Altergott Derek Anderkay Tom Antikainen Maddie Apold 🐾 Dianne & Doug Astry The Bailey family 🐾 Theresa & Keith Barnes Nancy Bauman & "Nigel" Austin Beatty 🐾 Bill Beddie Mary Bente Patricia Berg 🐾 Darlene Blomberg Natalie Boike Mike Branch Bob Branham Sara Braziller Darlene & Vern Breamer Jim Bremer Kathy & Kyle Broten Patricia Browne & "Solstice" Julia Buege Freeman 🐾 Jean & Don Burdeski Lou Burg Deb Burke & "Pepsi" Jennifer Burt Manny Camilon Julie Carlblom 🐾 Pia & Ben Carlson Dick & Nancy Carlson 🐾 Laurie Carlson Diane Carr 🐾 The Chang family Beth Cherryholmes Vicki & Lou Chouinard Nacia Dahl Beverly & Norman Dann | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Bev DeChon Liz Dillon 🐾 The Dion family Jamie Dobbs Rory Donovan Kandy Dorlack 🐾 The Doyon family Judy Dunbar Elizabeth Eagle Laurie & Ron Ehlert Megan Ehlert 🐾 Sara Ehlert 🐾 Mona Elder Grace Enebo "Sparkplug" 🐾 Lia Enger Galen Engholm Jill & Jerry England & "Hailey" Marky Engler Chad Engstrom & "Hazel" Jean Euteneuer & "Lexie" 🐾 Mike Ferber Stacey Ferguson Tom Fiecke Duane Finger Allen Fischer Kevin Florence Leslie Flowers Madie Friedman John & Katie Fruth The Furlough families of Wasca Betsy Gardner Bonnie Genin 🐾 Chris & Cheryl Gibbons Sarah Gibbons Marcia Gilman Diana & Michele Gillman Mark Given Jackie Gohdes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diane Golden Donna Gora Josh Gow Esther Graney 🐾 Kathy Grant Phil Gronhovid Becky Groseth Savannah Gruber Amanda, Ernie & Tracy Guille Susan Hager & "Mattie" 🐾 Steve & Becky Hallan Colleen & Sloan Hamilton Steve Hamilton 🐾 Mel & Brian Hanson The Hanson-Nelson family Ronnie Hartman Sherrie Hartmann The Heffernan family Roxanne Henderson 🐾 Scott Henley The Herberg family The Herr family Al & Shelly Hiemer Jessi Hiemer The Hill Murray Girls Tennis Team 🐾 Matt & Laura Hofkens The Holickey family The Hollerud family Dawn Imgrund Anne Ingvoldstad Ruth Johnson 🐾 The Johnson family Jackie Julien 🐾 Jen & Justin Kalvoda Bill Kempton Lora Kennedy Pete Kleingartner Katherine Knauer & "Summer" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa Knazan Rachel Knock Don Knutson Deb Koehnen Ken Kolding Terri Krake & "Brody" MarySue Krueger The Lamers family 🐾 Julianne Larsen 🐾 Karen & Ray Larsen 🐾 Jeremy Larson The Larson family 🐾 The Lenneman family Carol Lenning Steve Linder Paul Loken Liz Lucast Jody Ludden Jan Lund 🐾 The MacKay family Anne & Dale Mackereth Kathy Madison Stephanie & Dorothy Magelky Carrie Maloney Melinda Markell Jean Martell Penny Marsala 🐾 Christina & Nick Martinez Scott McClure Dick & Bonnie McGinnis Michele & Shawn McLane Dr Lindsay Merkel 🐾 The Merkel family Amanda Merton & "Lena" Gene Miller Mike Molzahn Terri & Ron Moore Jan Morton Kelly Neal Lori & Melissa Neeb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Mary Nelson Diane Neumeister Joanne Nichols 🐾 The Niederloh family Ron Norton 🐾 Paul Oberhaus 🐾 The Oeltjenbruns family Alison Olausen 🐾 Betty Otto Dee Otto Marisa Papsin Janice Parrow Kyle Pavlik Julie Pelletier 🐾 Al Peters Sandy Pidde Nancy Piotrowski Paul Pranghofer Christina & Jesse Ploessl Maureen Pranghofer & "Ally" Kirsten & Erin Purvis Mary & Randy Quist Ellen Ramsey Mary & Merlin Reed Jared Rhatigan Mary Rhatigan & "Ebony" Kathy Rice Melody Rossiter 🐾 The Ruppe family 🐾 Sharon Russell 🐾 Shirley Russo 🐾 Dave & Mary Sandstrom 🐾 Poornima Sathyanarayanan Curt & Nancy Savstrom Jami & Ayden Schaffer 🐾 Jerry Schendel Mike Schik Allison Schildknecht 🐾 Dora & Howard Schroeder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 The Schroeder family Arlene Schroeder Kate Schroven Judy & John Schwab 🐾 Stephanie & Seth Scott The Sears family Carrie Sherno Kathy Sherwood Laura Shirley 🐾 Dave & Marge Skeie Michelle Skrypec Corina Snoeren Dave Snyder Kathleen Sprole 🐾 "Kramer" Melissa Stam & "Kramer" Sharon Steinbrecher Greg Stevens Blythe Stillwell Shawn Stone John Sturgess Travis Thiel Melanie & Craig Thielke Brian Toews Dawn Turner 🐾 Patty Van Landschoot Sandy & Kevin Vance Sara & Marianne Ventura 🐾 Madhu Viswanathan Sue Wagner Erica Walerius Beth Walser Len Washko 🐾 Laura & Adam Waudby The Wedul family 🐾 Bobbi Wenger The Willms family Pam Wright Susan Youngberg & "Bal" Karen Ziemniak |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|

An Enriched Life

Sue Youngberg and Mobility Assist Dog Bali by Karen Ziemniak

Sue Youngberg, a Minnesota native, enjoyed living the California life for many years before returning in 2008. She quickly found a wonderful community here and settled into her new life, even with the challenges she has. You see, Sue was diagnosed with syringomyelia, a rare neuromuscular disorder in which a cyst formed within the spinal cord when she was 32.

Because the spinal cord connects the brain to nerves in the extremities, the cyst can cause pain, weakness, and stiffness in the back, shoulders, arms or legs. After nearly 40 years of living with this condition, Sue has triplegia; she has lost the use of both legs and one arm. She now uses a power wheelchair and a handicap accessible vehicle to get around.

In California, Sue had looked into getting an assistance dog, but the organization she checked into had a two-year waiting list. It also required traveling to its facility for two to three weeks, something she would have found very difficult to do. When Sue moved to an independent living facility in Minnesota, a maintenance person, who is a member of the Lions, told her about Can Do Canines. He suggested that she look into applying. Sue liked the training methods much better. Can Do Canines was more flexible about meeting at the facility, the client's home, and in the community. She decided to apply.

Soon Sue was paired with Bali, a 17-month-old black Labrador Retriever. Bali is the first Can Do Canines graduate dog to be raised from puppyhood to adult in a prison program (at Sandstone Federal Prison). Bali, along with her littermates and a litter of Collies, were taught obedience, good manners and the skills important for an assistance dog by the prisoners. They had 'furloughs' several times each month, when prison employees took the puppies to their homes and taught them how to behave in social settings, such as restaurants and stores. Bali proved she was motivated and mature enough to quickly finish training back at Can Do Canines and was matched with Sue.

When asked what the biggest challenge to training was, Sue laughs. "Bali knew everything," she says. "The challenge was

my learning everything that she knew!" Bali can retrieve dropped items, get an emergency phone, and open and close doors for Sue. The team is working on teaching Bali to help Sue with laundry, too. "We'll keep learning more as we grow as a team," she says.

Now, Sue says, life is certainly more interesting. "Life before Bali was quiet and routine," she explains. "Now we meet people all the time. Bali gets me up and outdoors. She's a great ice breaker!" Sue enjoys going to concerts, seeing movies and taking care of daily errands with confidence. "She's been perfect from day one," says Sue. "And she's really enriched my life."

Sue thanks the inmates at Sandstone who trained Bali. "They did an outstanding job!" she says. She's also grateful to the trainers who helped Sue and Bali become a team, and she's deeply thankful for donors. "I hope people keep donating," Sue says. "Dogs really do change people's lives." ✨



Sue and Bali

New Teams



Lori Thorn & Mobility Assist Dog Chuck

"I feel 100% more confident. We've now gone on two outings all by ourselves: to the gym to work out, and we went to the dentist. My confidence has gone even higher!"

Thank You

Dog Source - Can Do Canines
Julie Mach

Vet Services - Animal Wellness Center
Puppy Raiser - Laura & Adam Waudby

See their web-exclusive story at
www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Shawn Higdem & Hearing Assist Dog Luke

"I am so glad he was rescued and became my dog. I love him."

Thank You

Dog Source - Secondhand Hounds
Rescue

Volunteers - Mary Sears &
Karen Ziemniak

Read their story on page 7



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to www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter
and tell us how to deliver
your copy of *Tails!*



*It's not too late
to catch the Ball!*



Come, Sit, Play

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Go to www.fetchingball.com to:
reserve your tickets
preview silent and live auction items
get a sneak peek at celebrity models!

Book Presentation

*Animals and the
Kids Who Love Them*

by Allen and Linda Anderson
Tuesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
Common Good Books, St. Paul



*Extraordinary
true stories of
hope, healing, and
compassion featuring
Can Do Canines
graduate Zach
Yanz and Autism
Assist Dog Midas.*

Upcoming Events

- November 3 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 7:00 p.m.
- November 5 Fetching Ball, 6:00 p.m.
Earle Brown Heritage Center
- November 16 Give to The Max Day!
- November 19 Graduation, 1:00 p.m.
- December 10 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 10:00 a.m.
- January 19 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 7:00 p.m.

* All *Tails to Tell* tours take place at our facility,
located at 9440 Sevice Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428
Please call our office at 763-331-3000 or email info@can-do-canines.org to reserve your spot!

GET OUT THE VOTE!

Can Do Canines video "*Giving: It Feels Like a Million Barks*"
made it in the top five videos in the GiveMN Video Contest.

Vote for us at:

<http://givemn.razoo.com/p/gtmd>

Public voting ends November 1, 2011

You can only vote once

The winning video will be featured on the GiveMN.org home page for the
entire 24 hour Great Minnesota Give Together on November 16

The winning video will garner a \$1,000 grant!

- Vote today
- Share the link
- Ask everyone you know to vote too!

THANKS!

giveMN.org
Click. Contribute. Change Your World.

Can Do Canines Gets SMART:

Can Do Canines now offers a mobile version of our online giving
page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart
phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's
Quick Response (QR) code reader! Give it a try and put your
phone to GOOD use! Thanks.

