

Tails

FROM MINNESOTA
for the friends of Can Do Canines



Spring 2010 Vol. 21 Issue 2

Never In A Million Years Nick Pollock and Fisher

by Shelly Hiemer

Nick Pollock of Minnetonka, Minn. is a bright and sunny five year old. Energetic and exuberant, he loves to explore the world around him. But his parents, Linda and Robert, say that since his autism diagnosis three years ago, his world has continually become smaller. Frequent meltdowns, throwing himself on the floor, and bolting into unsafe situations had become everyday occurrences. Just getting Nick in or out of the car safely and keeping him from bolting across the parking lot and into traffic while also watching his sister, Alexandra, had become a daunting task.

“Our life had become a prison,” says Linda, “day to day things that everyone takes for granted, like going to the grocery store, had become such a traumatic experience because Nick would yell, throw things and meltdown, that it had become impossible for us to do.”

When the Pollocks met Violet and her Autism Assist Dog, “Holly”, they thought having an assistance dog might be a good tool to alleviate some of



Nick and Fisher

their worst fears for Nick’s safety. They applied to Can Do Canines and were matched with Fisher, a gentle 2-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever.

Linda and Robert quickly learned to use the skills needed for Fisher to work with Nick. For Autism Assist Dogs, the parents are in control of the dog, the child holds onto a “handle” on the dog’s vest and is tethered by a belt to the dog. When Nick tried to bolt, they quickly learned how to place Fisher in a “stay” to prevent Nick from getting into dangerous situations until Mom and Dad could get control.

On the second day Fisher was at the Pollock’s home, when his mom asked Nick to go to the bathroom, he threw himself on the floor and started to scream – his usual reaction to the bathroom. Linda looked at Fisher and said, “What are you going to do about this?” Steadfast as ever, Fisher walked over and began nuzzling Nick’s face. The gentle attention quickly calmed him down.

Two days later when Linda asked Fisher if he had to “get busy”, a Can Do Canines word for going outside to go potty, Nick jumped up and said “Nick get busy, Nick get busy!” and ran to the bathroom himself – something he had never done before. Nick’s school is reporting he is using the bathroom there if they ask him to “get busy”.

Now the family is going shopping again. Nick may still say “no store, no store” but as soon as he takes hold of the strap on Fisher’s vest, they walk together through the store.

“I never in a million years dreamed that a dog could make such a difference in Nick’s life and ours,” says Linda. “Our lives are so different because we are not prisoners anymore. We have freedom I never knew was possible. We get some sleep at night and we get some safety knowing that Fisher and Nick are together. I can’t even put it into words how much this has changed our lives.”



For information on making other Autism Assist Dog placements possible for those who are waiting, please contact Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153.

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THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Linda and Ken Weikert

Veterinary Services

Life Care Animal Hospital

Foster Home

The Turner Family

Puppy Raiser

Janie and Shauna Mullikin



From the Executive Director Al Peters

Hooray!

I am proud to announce that Can Do Canines™, home of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, has moved into our new home in New Hope, Minnesota! Finishing the building and making the move from our old facility was a Herculean effort. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and many volunteers, we have accomplished it and are thrilled with our new space. Now the dogs have wonderful accommodations and plenty of outdoor exercise space, while the staff and puppy raisers enjoy wonderful training and administrative spaces. Please join us for our first graduation at **our new facility on Saturday, May 22, 2010!**

Many thanks to all who made the acquisition and rehabilitation of the new building possible. Seeing our new space is an inspiration to almost everyone who visits. Can Do Canines is now poised for the next step in our growth. We can finally foresee a time where everyone who needs and wants an assistance dog can have one.

Puppies and More Puppies!

Things are pretty exciting at our new facility these days. We have two litters of puppies living in our kennel, both Smooth Coat Collies and Black Labs. They are being cared for by our kennel staff and Super Puppy Program volunteers. These puppy socializers visit with the puppies at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. each day, working on interaction with people and introduction to new sights and sounds. The puppies will soon be ready to make the transition into foster homes.

What will be different this time is that some of those foster homes will be located at a Minnesota Federal Prison. Ten puppies will move into the prison this month and will be paired with inmates. These pups will live in prison

until it's time to come back to our facility for final training.

Twice each month, the puppies will go "on parole" for a couple of days with families that live off the prison grounds, primarily the families of prison employees. These families will socialize the dogs in public settings and give the dogs a chance to be part of a regular family life that they would not experience inside the prison.

This is a wonderful step for our organization, as it helps us increase the number of dogs available to serve those who wait. We hope to expand this program at Sandstone and possibly at other federal penitentiaries in the future. These are exciting times!

Help Us Do More Annual Support

About the time you receive this newsletter, many of you will also receive a fundraising letter from me asking you to help support our work with a gift. Your contributions are needed more now than ever, so please be as generous as you can. We simply cannot continue our work without your *annual support*.

Capital Support

Although we have moved into the building, we have not completed construction and have not raised all the money necessary to finish the project. Portions of the work remaining include the second wing of kennels, an accessible parking lot, a caretaker apartment and additional offices. When you are asked to help with the capital campaign, please search your soul and reach deeply into your pocket to help with this special project. It's critical that annual support continues during the capital campaign, but also that we find those extra dollars to complete the work at hand. Thank you for generously supporting our work at Can Do Canines. ♥

Volume 21

Issue 2



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

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.

Can Do Canines
home of Hearing and Service Dogs
of Minnesota

9440 Science Center Drive
New Hope, MN 55428

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.

Executive Director: Alan M. Peters
Director of Operations: Michelle Calvert
e-mail info@can-do-canines.org
website www.can-do-canines.org



The Many Blessings of Bishop

Kimberly Hodges and Bishop

by Laurie Carlson

Kimberly Hodges of Minnetonka, Minn., has been living with multiple sclerosis (MS) since 1996. For her, the most difficult part of living with MS is fatigue. It affects her balance and makes her muscles stiff and weak. She would fall, drop items, and find it difficult to accomplish everyday tasks.

One day, chatting with another parishioner at church, Kimberly learned that dogs can be trained to help people with MS. She went online and found Can Do Canines. It didn't take long for her to apply to the program, be accepted and be paired with Bishop, a handsome Smooth Coat Collie.

The day she met Bishop, Kimberly says, "I was amazed at the number of things he could do. I had never seen a Smooth Coat Collie before, and he was so handsome! After meeting him, I was advised to think about going forward with training for a few days before calling back. I called back that day; I was so excited to start working."

Bishop and Kimberly are now inseparable. They go everywhere together, including to her son's out-of-town college basketball games. Bishop's special harness helps



Kimberly and Bishop

Kimberly with her balance, he braces himself to help her get up if she falls, and he retrieves items she drops. He also tugs a laundry basket and pulls clothes from the dryer. Bishop can also get an emergency phone if needed.

"Bishop loves to work. He is very proud of himself when he does things to help me--he prances!" Although Kimberly says Bishop is "mellow" around the house, she adds, "When he's working, he is very alert and

enthusiastic. The tail never stops wagging."

Kimberly says that Bishop has made a profound impact on her life. "I could never ask for a better dog," she says. "I adore him! He's already made my life easier and less stressful. As my disease progresses, I'll need him even more. He is a necessity."

She encourages people to support Can Do Canines. "Give as much as you can," she says. "There are so many people out there who could benefit from dogs like Bishop. They need your help." ♥

To help make more dogs like Bishop available for people on our waiting list, please visit www.can-do-canines.org. Thank you!

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Amy Ross

Foster Homes
Linda Wedul and
Inmates at the Minnesota
Correctional Facility in Faribault

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

More than 100 guests attended the Can Do Canines Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, held March 20 at our new facility in New Hope, Minn. The annual event celebrates the hard work and dedication of more than 300 volunteers, who make it possible for Can Do Canines to provide trained assistance dogs to people with disabilities.

"This has been a year of extraordinary generosity on the part of our volunteers," said Al Peters, executive director, at the luncheon. "People like architect Peter Hilger and interior designer Jackie Wulf helped design our new facility. Liz, Scott, Patty, and hundreds of others did everything from stuffing envelopes and answering phones to packing and moving us. And we couldn't fulfill our mission without our fantastic puppy-raisers. Our heartfelt thanks go out to each of you, who help us provide freedom, independence, and

peace of mind to people with disabilities by partnering them with specially trained assistance dogs. Because of the dedication of our volunteers, we will continue to provide assistance dogs free of charge to people who need them."

If you would like to know more about

2010 Can Do Canines Volunteer Recognition winners:



Special Hero Award Winner- Janice Parrow with "Tally", Volunteers of the Year - Stephanie and Seth Scott with "Marnie", Foster of the Year - Sharon Russell Volunteer Coordinator - Laurie Carlson with "Albert", Puppy Coordinator - Rob Carrick, Puppy Raisers of the Year- Kathryn and Scott Alexander with "Autumn" and "Quincy".

A Feeling of Independence

Carter Schaal and Rodney

by Shelly Hiemer

Carter is a bright eyed, curious four year old little boy with lots of energy. When his parents, Gina and Dan, noticed he wasn't interacting well with other people and new situations seemed to overwhelm him, they were determined to find out why. In the spring of 2007, their son was diagnosed with autism. This once active family who enjoyed camping and hiking found themselves staying home more. Home was a safe place where meltdowns and bolting into dangerous situations could be better controlled.

When a friend showed them an article about Can Do Canines Autism Assist Dogs, they decided to apply and were accepted into the program. Gina and Dan enjoyed the group training class for parents. They learned together about dog care, training, and the skills of an Autism Assist Dog. "I really enjoyed meeting the other families," Gina said. "We still stay in touch and are planning some summer outings together. It was great to talk to other families with children who have autism." After the initial training classes, they met and started working with Rodney, a two year old yellow Labrador Retriever.

Rodney quickly made himself at home. He sleeps in Carter's room and most nights they sleep together laying all over each other. Carter is doing well learning to feed and care for Rodney. He helps brush, feed, and play with Rodney. Carter attends occupational therapy (OT)



Carter and Rodney

twice a week. Before he got Rodney, he would sit for five minutes or less to work on a fine motor task. Now with Rodney at his side, Carter is able to concentrate for 30 minutes or more. Carter also works on throwing a ball to Rodney. The OT teacher has been very happy to have Rodney work with them.

Rodney knows his assigned seat in the car and often lays his head in Carter's lap. The family now walks frequently at area malls. Carter loves walking with Rodney. He will go to Rodney's side and pick up the handle on the dog's vest before Mom even gets the tether strap attached. "Carter is calmer in social

situations when Rodney is with him." Gina remarked, "He focuses on Rodney and seems to block out the things that may upset him. He is coming out of his shell more. This whole experience has made us realize how much Carter wanted to be like other kids – more independent. He did not want to sit in a stroller or have to hold our hand when we were out. Because of his bolting, we had to do those things to keep him safe. Now with Rodney, it's so exciting watching Carter walk with his head up looking and SMILING at people." Says Gina, "He looks so proud of his dog and of himself walking independently. It also puts a smile on our face to see Carter so happy and to also know he is safe! We get a lot of smiles from people when we are out with Rodney and it's been a good feeling to educate those who ask so that there is a better understanding of autism and how Rodney helps Carter." ♥

Would you like to help us make more teams like Carter and Rodney possible? Call Janet Cobus to find out how you can make a difference. 763-331-3000 ext. 153.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Rodney Sievers Kennel

Veterinary Services

Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital

Puppy Raiser

Laska Parrow & The Turner Family

The Second Time Around, Tale of a Successor Dog

Deb Molin and Oma

by Deb Molin

My name is Deb Molin, and I am a home-based dog groomer in Circle Pines. I have been involved with Can Do Canines since 1990. My first Hearing Dog was an Akita, Gaylee. Trained by the (then named) Hearing Dog Program of Minnesota, she was the first Akita Hearing Assist Dog, and we were the seventh team certified by the organization.

When Gaylee passed away in May 1996, a friend offered me one of her Akitas, which she was retiring from showing, as my next Hearing Assist Dog. Unfortunately, Strutt did not pass the medical requirements, so she stayed on with us as a pet. When she passed away in 2007, Executive Director Al Peters asked me if I wanted another Hearing Assist Dog. I replied that I wanted my next dog to be a Clumber



Deb and Oma

Spaniel. That is not a common breed of dog, and I knew that finding one appropriate for alerting me to sounds would be a challenge.

During 2007-2008, I corresponded with Training Director Julianne Larsen and the secretary of the Clumber Spaniel Club of America. Soon Christie Janusiewicz, a breeder from Anchorage, Alaska contacted me regarding a puppy she felt had the personality and temperament to do the job.

Oma arrived at my home in March 2008. She couldn't begin training as a Hearing Assist Dog until she was at least 1, and I had a lot of work to do in five months! I took obedience classes and began teaching basic household manners and a "touch for

(continued on page 5)

A “Charmed” Partnership

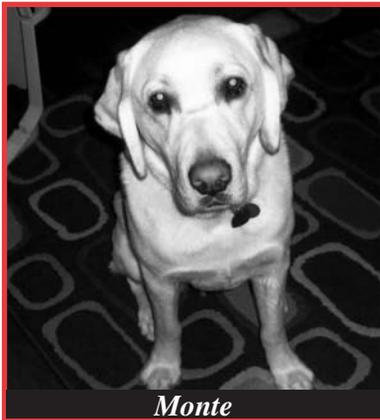
Charlene and Jerome Moser

by Shelly Hiemer

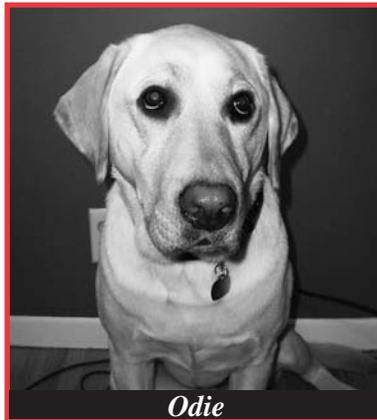
When Charlene Moser of Garber, Iowa got her first Labrador Retriever in 1974, she was thinking what a wonderful companion

Since 2002, seventeen Charm Labs have come through the doors of Can Do Canines and many more of the Labs in our program have Charm heritage. Currently two of their female dogs, Penny and Marnie, are in our breeding program.

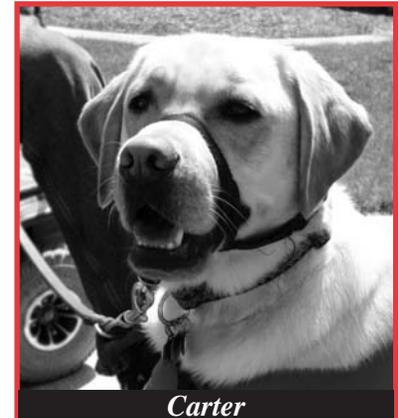
special buddy. But knowing he is helping someone and he is loved makes all the difference. It means a lot when we get to see our dogs at graduation and meet the people they are teamed with. One client told us she would probably be in a nursing home if not for her assistance dog.”



Monte



Odie



Carter

it would be for her children and how much they could learn by taking the dog to obedience class and 4-H events. She was soon involved in conformation (showing and judging the overall appearance and structure of the dog) classes and had a desire to improve the Labrador breed both in looks and in temperament. What ensued was a life-long love of Labs, dog shows, and a premier kennel business – Charm Labradors.

“I like to call them my Lap-radors,” jokes Charlene, “they love to sit on your lap and adore you.” When Charlene and her husband, Jerry, learned about Can Do Canines at the Land O Lakes dog show, they were intrigued. When they found out the organization placed assistance dogs with clients free of charge, they wanted to help.

An amazing 90% of Charm Labs have completed the training program and have become Hearing, Mobility or Autism Assist Dogs.

“It is important to us to keep donating puppies and young adults to Can Do Canines.” Charlene says, “Both Jerry and I have hearing loss and may someday need an assistance dog of our own. Our grandson has been diagnosed with autism and we see the difference our dogs make in his stress levels when he is near them. We will continue donating Labs for as long as we can.”

We would like to thank Charlene and Jerry for all the “charming” Labs they have placed with Can Do Canines. They are truly part of our Can Do Crew. ♥

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

“Gator was probably the hardest dog for us to give up.” said Paul, “He was my

Deb Molin and Oma (continued from page 4)

treats” command, which is the first step in teaching a dog to alert someone to sounds.

In spring 2009, I took Oma to Can Do Canines for her evaluation. She aced the evaluation, but I was told she needed to demonstrate a firmer alert touch. I changed it to a paw touch, which became a good, strong body slam. Oma likes that much better than a demure poke with her nose.

We applied, but training was delayed while I had knee surgery and recovered over the summer. Oma passed her health check and we were accepted! News travels fast, and there was much celebration among the Clumber folk.

The sound training went quite well,

even though at times I wondered what I had gotten into. Several times our trainer, Joan, had to remind me to back up, breathe and start over. Then, things started to click in Oma’s brain. She started waiting for me to catch up to her, which showed she knew that her job was to help me. It was wonderful seeing Oma’s pride in herself when she would finally understand what I was trying to teach her.

Anyone thinking of getting a Hearing Assist Dog? I can advise you to go for it. It’s a lot of work, but the sense of accomplishment is significant. Training is a lifelong process with a dog, so make sure you’re ready for that. Bonding with Oma was one of the most rewarding parts of the whole thing: we’re a team.

Looking for a reason to support Can Do Canines? Just look at the face of a dog with a job, and look at the face of the person on the other end of the leash. Know that your support is worthwhile. I’ve volunteered for the program for as long as I’ve known about it. It’s a wonderful group of people. ♥

Did you know that Can Do Canines is one of only a few organizations that will train a person’s pet dog to be a service dog? To learn more about assistance dogs and how you can help, call Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 or visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Field Trainer Joan Lisi-McCoy

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to all of our generous contributors - Without your support we would not be able to make our mission and vision a reality.

In consideration of the best use of all you give to us, beginning January 1, 2010 all financial, service and merchandise contributions will be recognized in our annual report published once each year. Volunteers and memorials will continue to be listed in the Tails From Minnesota. This will allow us additional pages to tell our tales without additional cost! Thank you for your understanding.

VOLUNTEERS

Puppy Raisers are noted by a 🐾 beside their names - Thank You!

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus Ilene Ahrens Jennifer Alexander 🐾 Kathryn & Jayson Alexander Mary Alexander Renee & Meghan Andryski 🐾 Dianne & Doug Astry Nancy & Travis Bachman The Bailey family Linda Barnett 🐾 Bill Beddie & Kathy Grant Jourdean & Kim Bennett Kim & Kalli Bennett Mary Bente Natalie Boike Mary Bot Bob & Mary Branham Sara Braziller Lions Darlene & Vern Breamer Karen & Robert Brekke Bob & Sue Brickley Sarah Bruce Julia Buege Freeman 🐾 Erin & Rob Bunting 🐾 Jean & Don Burdeski Charlie & Renee Burt Jennifer Burt Barbara Burwell 🐾 Darell & Julie Carlbom Dick Carlson 🐾 Rob Carrick Mary Carter Peggy Cerrito Fletcher Chambers & "Holly" Alexander Chrishanson Gary Cobus Vikki Clayton 🐾 Sue Crone Pat Dancisak 🐾 Jan & John Day 🐾 Bev & Yancy DeChon 🐾 Beth & Ronald Detloff Mitzi Dillingham Dan & Pam Droberg Elizabeth Eagle Clyde Eagle Becky & Kathy Eckert Jake Eichten Steve Ekdahl Lynne & Russell Enright Jean Euteneuer & "Lexie" Nancy & Jeremy Feist 🐾 Mike Ferber & Betty Otto Diane & Galen Fitzel Kirsten Fitzel Katie Fleming Kevin Florence 🐾 Leslie Flowers & Scott McClure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn Ford Cheryl & Chuck Fortman Marcia Fritzscheier & "Jack" John Fruth Kathy Galiger Randy Gatzke 🐾 Christina Giese & Erica Miller Gail Goettl Jackie Gohdes Mel Goldenbogen Katy Goodwin Kevin & Louise Gordon Esther Graney Elizabeth Granquist Stephanie Grant Ellen Grosh Ashley Hackett Nancy Haley 🐾 Stephen & Becky Hallan Corey Harris Merrie Harrison Shelah Heien Mayor Kathi Hemken Adam & Jennifer Henderson Bill & Jean Heyer Peter Hilger Peter Hollingshead 🐾 Mary Holsen Angela & Elizabeth Hurd Natalie Ingberg Anne Ingvaldstad Karen Irwin Drew Iverson Stephanie Jansen Joe & Melissa Jorgensen Chris & Erin Judson Mira Jurich Ashley Kelnhofer Katherine & Ryan Kensrud Joe Kincaid Peter Kingsritter Mark Kinstler Katherine Knauer & "Summer" Lisa Knazan Dana Knopic Don Knutson 🐾 Kim Kriesel Craig & Rose Kroenig Andriana Krstich MarySue Krueger Lynn & Terry Kubesta 🐾 Kristina Kulp Jeff & Sandy Larson Nancy Larson Peggy, Tom & Sandy Larson Jennifer Leingang Angie & Sheldon Libby Janet, JoAnne & Dave Lindgren Clifford Livingston | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Loken Liz Lucast Jody Ludden Jordan Lukes Anne & Dale Mackereth Cynthia Madsen Stephanie Magelky & "Jeff" Joe Mahon Lynn Maker Kuechle Lil Mandile 🐾 Aumori Matter Kathy & Jake Mattern Mike McCarthy Michele & Shawn McLane Jill Mohnk Mike Molzahn Jenna Moon 🐾 Angela Mulcahy Dan Mulligan 🐾 Janie & Shauna Mullikin Eileen Murphy Laurie Myren 🐾 Mary Nelson 🐾 Michelle & Shay Nelson Bob & Kathy Novak Terry Nowak Jayne Nystrom Frankie O'Brien Christopher O'Halloran Amanda & Levi Olson Monica Opalinski Jim Parrish Janice Parrow 🐾 Kyle Pavlick Judy & Sarah Pichler Sandy & Jon Pidde Derek Plahn Linda Pollock & "Fisher" Paul Pranghofer Maureen Pranghofer & "Ally" Mary & Randy Quist Tracey Racette Bonnie Reiss Mary Rhatigan & "Ebony" The Rog family Sharon Russell 🐾 Melanie & Barry Rutman Jenny Ryan Reed and Teal Schmitz 🐾 Jake & Jenny Schneider 🐾 Dora Schroeder Sue Schuster Audrey Scott 🐾 Seth & Stephanie Scott Mary Sears Laura Shirley 🐾 Dave & Marge Skeie Dave Snyder The Sorenson family Sharon Steinbrecher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken & Judy Stenzel & "Calvin" Cat Stevens Blythe Stillwell Julie & Lex Stolis Allie, Sue, Shawn & Shannon Sullivan Jill Tallman Haidee Tan Stephanie Tanner 🐾 The Abrahamson family 🐾 The Ehlert family 🐾 The Faust family 🐾 The Grabau family 🐾 The Grout family 🐾 The Heffernan family 🐾 The Herberg family 🐾 The Hiemer family 🐾 The Holicky family 🐾 The Hollerud family 🐾 The Johnson family 🐾 The MacKay family 🐾 The Merkel family 🐾 The Scott family 🐾 The Sears family 🐾 The Van Landschoot family 🐾 The Willms family 🐾 Madi & Jodi Theis Allie Thomson Lion Brian Toews Angela Tseng Elizabeth Tuan Katie & Ryan Turgeon Dawn & Brian Turner Jim, Jean & Betty Urie 🐾 Sandy & Kevin Vance Deb & Ted Vernon Christine & Eric Verseman Cia & Melanie Verseman Brian & Jodell Vidas Carlos Villalpando Leslie Vissage Jason & Sara Voss Jason Vouk Sue Wagner Jackie & Tony Wanned Len Washko Mary Watson Scott Waychoff The Wedul family Randy & Vicki Weingartz Robyn & William Welch Denise White Nicole Wiever Dawn & Sherri Jo Winslow Patty Wirz Derek Wolter John & Nicole Wongdock Barb & Guy Woodroffe Jackie Wulf Amanda & Charlie Yenni Vicki Zabel |
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New Board Member

Kevin Florence

Kevin is the Risk Control and Safety Manager for Best Buy's logistics/distribution operations, where he manages programs that prevent injury, prevent product damage, and that enhance the health and well-being of over 4,000 employees. Kevin served as the Chair of the Retail-Industry Leaders Association's (RILA) Environmental, Safety and Health Committee from 2002-2007. Previously, he worked in related functions for Northwest Airlines and local consultancies. He is a Certified Safety Professional and a Certified Industrial Hygienist (ret). He has volunteered in many capacities with his local school district. He has been

a member of the Can Do Canines board since January 2010. He became involved with Can-Do Canines through an introduction provided by a graduate and board member that lives near him. "Seeing the life transforming power of the right dog with the right training matched with the right client provided the inspiration for me to want to get involved" Kevin recently said. He added, "With our new facility and all of our tremendous staff and volunteers, Can-Do Canine's vision of being able to provide an assistance dog to every person that needs and wants one is closer to reality. I look forward to being a part of the next chapter in the amazing story of this great organization." ♥



Kevin Florence

New Staff Member

Technical Assistant - Allison Schildknecht

Allison joined Can Do Canines in August 2009. She takes care of Can Do Canines' technology, provides support to the staff and designs promotional materials. While earning her BFA in Painting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she worked for the Classroom Technologies department, answering tech support calls by bicycle. Allison grew up in suburban Chicago (which she visits often to play with her dog, Dewey) and lives in Saint Paul. In her spare time she enjoys reading several books at once, taking pictures, hiking, and Frisbee. ♥



Allison and "Dewey"

Join Us for the 17th Annual Heel and Wheel Walk!

The 2010 Heel and Wheel is looking spectacular! We have chosen the beautiful *Clifton French Park* in Plymouth on *Sunday, September 19* for our walk this year. A stunning setting with paved trails and a beautiful lake, this park is a perfect place to enjoy games, music, food and a walk to raise funds to help Can Do Canines say "We can do it!" for even more people who need our assistance dogs. The planning committee is looking for more people who would like to help make this a spectacular event. For more information, contact Shelly Hiemer at shiemer@can-do-canines.org or call 763-331-3000 ext. 115. ♥

THANK YOU!

- ✓ The February Applebee's pancake breakfast raised more than \$2,700!
- ✓ Twenty-five Kohls employees from five stores raised a total of \$2,500 by volunteering for the Applebees pancake breakfast and our moving project.
- ✓ February Phon-a-thon raised more than \$5,000 and recruited many people to attend our "Open House" event. Thank you to our volunteer project manager, Elizabeth Eagle, and 26 volunteer callers!
- ✓ MarySue Krueger for hosting a Table Captain gathering at her home in March.
- ✓ Volunteer Table Captains—more than 35 volunteers committed to filling a table of eight for our 6th Annual Tails of Independence Fundraising Luncheon held on April 29.
- ✓ Special Events Fundraising Committee—for all of their hard work organizing fundraising events, Can Do Canines asked them to choose a name for one of the smooth coat collie puppies to be named in their honor. They chose the name Apollo! ♥



Thanks to all the Kohls and other volunteers who made the Applebees breakfast a success!

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

by Janet Cobus

Third Annual - Take Me Out to the Ballgame for Can Do Canines!

Saint Paul Saints
Baseball Game
Tuesday, June 15
-7:05 pm - Saint
Paul Saints vs. Sioux City Explorers
\$15 per ticket includes: General
Admission, Hot Dog and Soda, Saints
Baseball Cap. \$5.00 of each ticket
benefits our programs. Stop by the Can
Do Canines "Tail Wagging" Tent and
get your free Can Do Canines Canteen!
Order & print tickets online at
www.saintsgroups.com and use
password 'cando' or order tickets by
phone - 651-644-6659



**Special
Events
Committee
- "Yappy
Hour" at
Can Do
Canines**

Thursday, June 24 - 5pm-7pm. Come
meet the committee in the "Can Do
Canines Cabana", go on a tour of our
new facility, learn more about our
volunteer opportunities, and maybe
visit with a few puppies who need
your help raising funds for their
education. We would love to see
you. Please RSVP with Janet Cobus:
jcobus@can-do-canines.org.

The Second Annual Great Garage Sale

Saturday, June 12 - 8am - 4pm
5611 Pompano Drive, Minnetonka
Because Jennifer Burt had such a
successful 2009 Garage Sale, which
raised \$1,050, she decided to hold
another sale to benefit Can Do Canines.
Jennifer states, "I encourage everyone
to consider having a garage sale this
summer - it's easy! We even have a
kit that tells you exactly how to do it!"
To donate your gently used items to
Jennifer's Great Garage Sale, contact
her: reliantjennifer@yahoo.com or 612-
805-1300.

Phone-A-Thon Callers Needed

Our annual Phon-A-
Thon has a goal to



raise more than \$20,000 to help meet our
goal to train and place 30 assistance dogs
this year. Won't you help? Email Laurie
Carlson, lcarlson@can-do-canines.org,
or call her at 612-729-5986 Ext. 113 to
volunteer for the following dates:
June 12-June 16 Shift Hours:
Saturday: 9:00 am - Noon
Sunday: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Monday-Wednesday: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm



Minnesota Renaissance Festival Is

Coming...we need 100 volunteers to
work the Pet Gate this year. Sign up
now to get your spot. These volunteer
positions fill up fast! Contact the project
coordinator, Patty Wirz at pattywirz@
yahoo.com for more information.

Name-A-Puppy Antics:

Richardson
Lakes Area
Lions Club
contributed
\$5,000 to
name "Ole"
Henry Sibley
High School
raised \$5,000 to name "Champ".
Seagate held a fundraising event in
March to name their third puppy,
"Cooper"!
Cottage Grove Middle School began
their fundraising program in April to
name a puppy by the end of their school
year.



We have puppies coming out of our
ears—won't you join the organizations
above to help name a puppy by raising a
minimum of \$1,500 for school groups or
\$2,500 for a service club or business. We
can help you get started today!

2011 Fetching Ball Gala Committee Forming

Our first "Fetching Ball" was held in
November 2009 and was a huge success.
Due to the move to our new facility, we
will hold our second "Fetching Ball" in
2011. We are forming a committee to
begin work on securing the date, location
and major sponsors. Contact Janet Cobus
at 763-331-3000 ext. 153 if you would
like to help or have resources to share.



Graduate Mary Rhatigan and Diabetes
Assist Dog, Ebony, Can Do Canines
Development Director, Janet Cobus,
and John Meister, Chairman of Wright-
Hennepin Electric Trust receive a grant of
\$5,000 for our programs.



Zack Greer, #88 for The Minnesota
SWARM with Zachary Lowe and
Autism Assist Dog, "Lincoln"
Zack Greer visited Can Do Canines
in February and offered a free family
night out at any April SWARM home
game for our current Autism Assist Dog
graduates and families on the waiting
list. Thanks Zack!



Barbara Burwell invited Puppy Raisers
Darryl Scott, Laurie and Sara Ehler to
attend a Blake High School basketball
game to introduce the attendees to Can
Do Canines and her Name A Puppy,
"Blake". Darryl also brought "Yukon",
an adult dog in training to demonstrate
a few of his skills - tugging a sock off
of a person and picking up a quarter.
The kids loved that and were very
impressed! ♥

Blessed In So Many Ways

Peter Morlock and Guido

by Peter Morlock

My name is Peter Morlock, and this is my buddy, Guido. We began working together in January, and it has been great! I am, as my friends and family will tell you, a fiercely independent individual who happens to have cerebral palsy.

When my family and I began working with Can Do Canines as puppy raisers, we wanted to do something unique to help someone in the community. What I discovered in the process of raising, training, and being trained by our puppy, Winston, is that I not only was helping someone else, but also that I was receiving more help than I realized. That realization led me to fill out an application for a Mobility Assist Dog, which led to Guido coming into our home.

Although I am still fiercely independent and often stubborn, the help that Guido brings each day is deeply appreciated. He is my extra pair of hands, able to retrieve things that are difficult for me to reach. He is the steady rock that can help me catch and keep my balance when



Peter and Guido

there is nothing else around. He is a full partner in my daily work as a chaplain in a long-term care center, where his presence brings comfort to the residents I visit. He is a great comfort and help at home, always near and ready to help, whether it's fetching my cane so we can go outside, helping me with the laundry,

or picking up items that I have dropped. All of these tasks I could do, and have done by myself, but Guido helps me to do them more safely and with less energy.

I am still discovering many things about my buddy, and I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with him. My family and I are richly blessed by his presence, and we are grateful to Guido's puppy raisers and the staff at Can Do Canines. ♥

Can Do Canines enjoys a long and rewarding relationship with many area animal shelters, humane societies, and rescue organizations. By selecting these special dogs we are giving them and their partners a new lease on life. Thank you!

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Puppyraisers

Bill Beddie & Kathy Grant

Foster Home

Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Faribault

From Enthusiast to Beneficiary: Rescue Volunteer Receives a Can Do Canine

Katherine Knauer and Summer

by Natalie Boike

Katherine Knauer has always owned a dog. Not only has she always had a pet dog (usually a Golden Retriever) in her Coon Rapids, Minn., home, but she also volunteered with a local rescue group. Even though she considers herself knowledgeable about dogs, she didn't realize how much help a Mobility Assist Dog could provide until Summer, a 2-year-old black Labrador retriever, was placed with her in January. "It's wonderful to have such a smart, capable dog," Katherine said.

Katherine was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 2004. It's a disease affects people differently, and it progresses at different rates as well. Three years later, the effects of the disease forced Katherine to leave her work as a dental hygienist and a dog-rescue volunteer. Today, she faces challenges that include tiring easily and chronic pain. In addition, she frequently drops objects that can be difficult for her to pick up.

The MS Society referred Katherine to Can Do Canines. Initially, she recalls, she didn't know how a Mobility



Katherine and Summer

Assist Dog could help. "But I've been pleasantly surprised," she says. Summer retrieves objects such as towels, metal objects and the TV remote. She brings the laundry up to Katherine's bedroom and tugs off Katherine's jacket. Katherine says Summer also provides her with peace of mind, because the dog can retrieve an emergency phone. "The most important thing is getting

the emergency phone to me if I fall," Katherine says.

Friends and family describe Katherine as an optimist who is adventurous and curious about life. Summer enables her to continue to moving efficiently outside her home. "It's been fun going on outings with her," Katherine says. "She's incredibly good with people and behaves so well, I couldn't believe what a difference it made in the way people received me when I went out in public for the first time with Summer. I feel very fortunate to have Summer with me. She's a great dog; she loves to work." ♥

Would you like to change someone's life by becoming a volunteer puppy raiser or foster home? Call Laurie Carlson to learn more at 763-331-3000 ext. 113.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Julie Mach

Puppy Raiser

The Grout Family

Veterinary Services

Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital

Getting To Know Each Other

Kirsten Weber and Sophie

by Shelly Hiemer

For Kirsten Weber, life has been about adapting to a quieter world as she has grown. Born with MELAS syndrome, an inherited disease that damages the mitochondria in the ear, Kirsten's hearing and balance have slowly declined over the years, resulting in a profound hearing loss. She relies on sign language to communicate.

Kirsten shares a townhouse in the northwest suburbs with her father and is active in her church. Her friends describe her as talkative and always willing to help others. When Kirsten met Can Do Canines graduate Linda Bolger and her Hearing Assist Dog, Shadow, Kirsten says she thought, "This may be just what I need to help me recognize sounds!" Although she had owned dogs in the past, she'd never had one trained to alert a person to sounds.

When she met Hearing Assist Dog Sophie, a chocolate Labrador retriever, she recalls feeling an instant bond. Field Trainer Joan Lisi-McCoy says, "Kirsten has an almost organic sense of Sophie. They got along very well right from the start."

Kirsten caught on to training

Volunteer Spotlight - Patty Wirz

Patty Wirz of Elk River, Minn. first became aware of Can Do Canines when she became involved with the PAWS group of employees at her workplace, Ameriprise Financial Services. The group focuses on projects to help animal groups. In the past, the group had helped Can Do



Patty Wirz and "Apollo"



Kirsten and Sophie

techniques very quickly, and the team improved markedly between Joan's visits. "Kirsten was such a joy to work with," Joan says. "She caught on very quickly. I never had to explain anything a second time. They just seemed to know how to work it all out."

Recently, Sophie mastered the art of telling the difference between regular visitors, such as the mailman or lawn

care people, and strangers. She is more tenacious about alerting Kirsten if someone she does not recognize is nearby.

Joan said, "Since training, Kirsten and Sophie seem to be getting to know each other even better. With Kirsten's great sense of what dogs need and how they think, I know they will be a great team." ♥

Please join us by supporting the vital work of Can Do Canines with your generous donation of time, talent or treasure. Visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org to see how you can help.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Lucky Dog Boarding & Training

Veterinary Services

Mounds View Animal Hospital

Foster Homes

Dawn Turner,
Kyle Pavlik, &

Field Trainer

Joan Lisi-McCoy

Inmates at the Minnesota
Correctional Facility in Faribault

by Laurie Carlson

Canines by volunteering at events like the Heel and Wheel dog walk, in addition to raising funds.

An opportunity arose that in 2008. Help was needed to assist the volunteer co-chairs at Can Do Canines in organizing the fundraising event at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. Volunteers were needed to staff the Pet Gate entrance on all weekends between mid August and the end of September. Patty jumped in, helping to recruit more than 30 Ameriprise employees and volunteer herself during shifts that needed coverage.

In 2009, Patty took over chairing the event, and was in charge of recruiting, scheduling and communications with volunteers (including 44 Ameriprise volunteers) for the Pet Gate that season! This was a huge undertaking for one person, and she did a tremendous job. She saved the Can Do Canines staff countless hours by running this fundraiser in addition to raising more than \$4,000

for our program.

During this time, she also joined the Special Events Fundraising Committee, which is involved with numerous projects to help raise money for the organization. From fundraisers like the Applebee's pancake breakfasts, and athletic events like the Saint Paul Saints and the Swarm, this committee thinks up new and interesting ways to raise money to train more teams. She's also represented the committee at our functions by staffing a table to encourage others to become involved.

Patty has also been a huge help in the last three years by volunteering at the Phone A Thon fundraiser, asking for donations to help Can Do Canines continue its mission.

Patty is always willing to help in whatever capacity we ask and has such a wonderful attitude. She is a Lions club member, and always keeps her club aware of our activities. We are truly blessed to have her involved with Can Do Canines. Thank you Patty! ♥

A Brighter Day

Alex Richter and Seymour

by Shelly Hiemer

When Loretta and Kirby Richter's son, Alex, was born 15 weeks prematurely, they knew they had a long and challenging journey ahead. As he grew, his parents noticed that he could easily become overstimulated, which brought on disruptive behaviors. When little Alex was diagnosed with autism at 4, a new journey began -- a journey to make his world safe and comfortable for their son.

Today, 9-year-old Alex is fun, happy, energetic and loving. Nevertheless, his autism limits his language skills, which makes interacting with people and peers difficult. Alex needs constant supervision, especially when out in public. He has a tendency to walk very slowly and not be aware of where he is going. He sometimes plops down in the middle of a parking lot or a shopping mall and refuses to move. "Safety is a big concern," Loretta says.

She heard about Can Do Canines from a friend and learned that an Autism Assist Dog could help Alex. After being accepted into the program, the Richters waited patiently for the special dog that would make a difference for Alex.

One and a half years later, Seymour, a black Labrador Retriever, became a big part of the family. "The whole family was excited," Loretta recalls. "Within a month, Alex and Seymour became very comfortable with each other. Alex is happy when Seymour hangs out by his



Alex and Seymour

side." In fact, she says, Seymour will seek out Alex, wanting to be near him even when Alex doesn't interact directly with him.

Having Seymour has stimulated Alex's speech. "We've heard Alex say, 'Seymour in room,' 'Doggie in room' and 'See doggie!'" Loretta says. "Those are things he had never said before."

She says that, with some prompting, Alex will feed and brush his dog. Alex also likes to throw a ball to Seymour. "Sometimes they look like siblings playing together in the backyard," she says.

Alex walks tethered to Seymour, holding a handle that's attached to Seymour's cape. The two walk side by side, and Seymour adjusts to Alex's pace. Loretta and Kirby say they've noticed that Alex sits down in inappropriate places less often and walks more consistently. They add that the family's biggest success has been that now they can go out to a restaurant, sit for an entire meal, and enjoy it. Before, Alex would get over stimulated and run all over the restaurant. "We would have to leave halfway through the meal, stressed out, with our food boxed up," Loretta says. "Alex now is able to sit, eat and stay calm with Seymour. We love it!" She adds that Seymour has helped make the challenges of living with autism easier. "We thank the staff and volunteers at Can Do Canines and those who contribute to this wonderful organization," Loretta says. "Seymour and Can Do Canines have really made a difference in our lives." ♥

To help make more dogs like Seymour available for people on our waiting list, please visit www.can-do-canines.org or call us at 763-331-3000. Thank you!

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Julie Mach

Puppy Raiser
Beth and Ronald Detloff

Can Do Canine "Cody" Honored by Minnesota Veterinarians



2005 Can Do Canines graduate Annie Kraft and her Hearing Assist Dog Cody were recently inducted into the Minnesota Animal Hall of Fame at the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association's (MVMA) annual convention. The Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding contributions that animal companions make to enrich human lives; heighten public awareness of the human-animal bond; and allow MVMA members to recognize outstanding patient accomplishments. Cody was recognized in the Professional Dog category. Congratulations to Annie and Cody! ♥



Executive Director Al Peters, Annie Kraft and Hearing Assist Dog Cody with Dr. Norbert Epping



Can Do Canines

home of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
9440 Science Center Drive
New Hope, MN 55428

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Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ **Mac computers (Minis, Macbooks, G5 iMacs)**
- ✓ Mac OS X 10.5 and 10.6 licenses
- ✓ Copier with scanning capabilities
- ✓ **LCD computer monitors, 15" or larger**
- ✓ Home Theater system for meeting room

Automotive

- ✓ Gasoline cards
- ✓ Mini Van
- ✓ Automotive GPS devices
- ✓ Auto repair/maintenance

Equipment

- ✓ **Riding Lawn Mower or donated lawn services**
- ✓ Gas powered power washer
- ✓ **Platform Truck, 1,000-lb capacity**
- ✓ **Warehouse Pallet Truck, 5,000-lb capacity**
- ✓ Microwave oven
- ✓ 6ft. plastic tables

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Gift cards to grocery and office supply stores
- ✓ 1st-class stamps
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner, laundry detergent
- ✓ Used motorcycle helmets with faceplates

Building Materials

- ✓ Kitchen cabinets
- ✓ Bathroom storage cabinet, small
- ✓ Gift certificates home improvement stores

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! ♥

Upcoming Events

- May 15 *Tails To Tell* Tour 10:00 a.m.
- May 22 Spring Graduation at Can Do Canines, 1:00 p.m.
- June 17 *Tails To Tell* Tour 7:00 p.m.
- June 15 St. Paul Saints Game 7:05 p.m.
- July 31 *Tails To Tell* Tour 10:00 a.m.
- August 19 *Tails To Tell* Tour 7:00 p.m.
- September 19 *Heel and Wheel* Walk

* All *Tails to Tell* tours take place at our facility, located at 9440 Service Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428
Please call our office at 763-331-3000 to reserve a spot.



Graduation is our favorite time of year!

It is a time for our volunteers, clients, and staff to come together with friends and family to celebrate the culmination of the hard work each of us has done to create another Can Do Canine Team. Won't you join us to celebrate? Admission is free.

Saturday May 22, 1:00 p.m.
Can Do Canines, 9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, Minnesota 55428