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Tails from Minnesota

Winter 2011



In January, "Echo" and nine of her siblings will move into the women's Federal Correctional Institution in Waseca, Minnesota, where they'll begin their training as future assistance dogs.





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 Allison Schildknecht

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.

Board of Directors:

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From the Executive Director

Happy New Year

All of us at Can Do Canines wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We are excited about 2011 and have already put our new training facility to work. I am pleased to announce that we finished 2010 with 30 new graduate teams! The need increases daily, however, and our waiting list continues to grow. With your help, I know we can do more. And we will!

New Goals

Because of special gifts from a select group of individual and corporate contributors, we are able to add one employee to our training department for 2011. This additional position makes a critical difference in our ability to serve people. Given the success of our breeding program and the availability of increased kennel and training space, adding this additional Client Services Coordinator will enable us to certify 40 teams in 2011—33 percent more than in 2010. This is a lofty goal, and it will present some challenges, but I know we can do it. Indeed, we must do it to meet the needs of those who are waiting for an assistance dog.

New Needs

As with any business, an increase in services brings a commensurate increase in expenses. Because we provide our services at no charge, we must ask our contributors to help a little more during 2011.

Please support Can Do Canines with your volunteer time and financial contributions throughout the year.

New Look

As you may have already noticed, we are following our new name and new facility with a new look in this issue of *Tails From Minnesota*. I hope you'll agree that the new format is more attractive and more readable.

As we grow, and the number of graduating teams increases, we no longer have room to publish a separate article about each team. Instead, we will highlight every team in the newsletter, but pick just a few representative stories to publish in full.

We believe each team is unique and has its own special story, so we will provide detailed articles about each graduating team on our website at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter. I love to read the stories about the many ways our dogs change lives. Don't you?

Thanks for your continued support in 2011. Together, we Can Do it! ♥



Al with "Savannah" and "Echo"



New Board Member

Greg Stevens

Greg joined the Can Do Canines Board of Directors in May 2010. Greg and his wife, Catherine (Cat) have been involved with the organization for many years. They have volunteered in the roles of table captain, puppy raiser, foster home, Fetching Ball committee, name-a-puppy program, Heel & Wheel, etc.

Greg is a Senior Vice President at UBS Financial Services. His career has spanned 28 years where, as a financial advisor, he has worked with institutions, corporations, non-profits and individuals in helping them meet their financial goals.

When asked, Greg stated that he joined the Board because Can Do Canines "changes peoples' lives" and he wants to support our mission.

Greg lives in Arden Hills with Cat and Theo, a career-changed labradoodle. ♥

Both Greg and Cat went to college with Al Peters at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN and they *have tales to tell!*

More Than Words

Rachel Hamilton and Lars

by Jessi Hiemer



Rachel with field trainer Dan Herald and Mobility Assist Dog Lars

Rachel Hamilton of Hermantown, Minn., is a happy, active 19-year-old. She doesn't let cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or cognitive delays slow her down while she's fishing, swimming, and camping. She loves animals and likes spending time with family, being outdoors, and watching movies.

Rachel and her family have learned to embrace her life. They understand walking will be difficult and slow, that the doctor's office can be a place of high anxiety, and that Rachel needs to find a sense of independence. When her mom, Linda, heard about the work of Can Do Canines, she was eager to explore the possibilities of partnering Rachel with a Mobility Assist Dog. "Rachel depends on people to help her handle curbs, stairs without railings, and uneven ground," Linda wrote in the application. "Her left foot also gives out several times a day while walking. What we hope for is an assistance dog to help stabilize Rachel, motivate her while walking, and above all be a good friend."

When Rachel was matched with Lars, a 2-year-old black Labrador Retriever, it was a dream come true for the Hamilton family. Lars quickly learned to be attentive to

Rachel's needs. He retrieves items off the floor, gets the phone or another person if Rachel falls or needs help, acts as a brace to help her stand, and counterbalances her while walking. Her parents feel more secure and at ease, knowing Rachel is safe with Lars by her side.



Lars is "bracing" for a full life with Rachel.

Beyond the skills he was trained for, Lars has proven to be a gentle, loving cheerleader for Rachel. Before Lars, Rachel struggled to walk to the end of the street. Now, she's walking further every day so Lars can get the exercise he needs. In places that would normally make her anxious, Rachel is calmer because she can focus on Lars. She's more independent, taking initiative and feeling in charge of her life because Lars is her responsibility.

Rachel had to learn to be patient with herself when she couldn't pronounce commands clearly or make Lars understand what she wanted him to do. "And I had to learn to let go," Linda says, "allowing Rachel to do things on her own." The family says the trainers at Can Do Canines were a great help, encouraging them to take things slowly, give one another a break when they were frustrated, and continue to work toward their goals.

Rachel may not say much, but her actions speak loudly. "She's a happier person because Lars is a part of her life," Linda says. "For that, we cannot thank the volunteers and supporters of Can Do Canines enough" Linda lauds Lars' Puppy Raisers for the love and time they gave him. "They trained a great assistance dog, and they gave Rachel freedom to live her life," she adds. "Thank you is an inadequate phrase. I can't wait to meet them and tell them how much Lars has changed our lives." ♥



Lars helps Rachel safely navigate stairs.

New Teams



Kathe Lawson & Mobility Assist Dog Wanda

Wanda is making Kathe's life easier, safer, and more independent.

Thank You

Dog Source - Georgine Abramson & Rosalee Rogers
Puppy Raiser- Marge & Dave Skeie
Foster Home- Christina Geise & Erica Miller
 The Wedul Family, Michele & Shawn McLane

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



Michael Johnson & Mobility Assist Dog Winston

Thank You

Dog Source - Georgine Abramson & Rosalee Rogers
Field Trainer- Heidi Goethe
Puppy Raiser- The Morlock Family

Read their story on page 10

A Joyful Sound

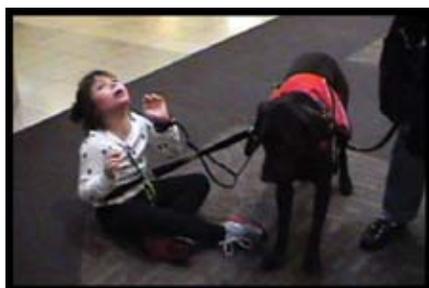
Anna Laufer and Capri

by Anne Ingvoldstad

Anna Laufer is part of a busy family. The energetic 6-year-old lives with her mom, Nancy, dad, Paul, and big brother, Ben, in Eden Prairie, Minn. Traveling and Ben's sports keep them on the go, though not always at the same time. That's because Anna has autism spectrum disorder, which affects her communication skills. She is easily overwhelmed in new circumstances.

"The possibility of Anna having a meltdown or bolting away from a distressing situation makes us wary of putting her in unfamiliar situations," Nancy says. As a result, often only one parent attends Ben's games, or the family takes two cars in case Anna needs to leave early. Nancy learned about specially trained dogs that work in classrooms alongside children with autism. That, coupled with Anna's positive response to a neighbor's dog, made the family wonder if a dog might benefit them. She researched Autism Assist Dogs and found Can Do Canines, right in her own backyard. After being accepted, the family waited two years to be matched with a dog. Nancy, who compares the process to waiting for an adoptive child, checked with Can Do Canines often for updates. Finally, in October, they were matched with Capri, a 2-year-old chocolate Labrador Retriever. "She has been a life changer for our family," Nancy says.

The number one reason the Laufers wanted an assistance dog was for



Capri "stays" to help keep Anna safe during a meltdown.

Anna's safety, and Capri has not disappointed her new family. "She keeps an eye on Anna, not only when she's wearing her cape and on the job, but around the house, too," Nancy says. "When I let Capri out, she'll alert me if Anna follows us outside." One night, Capri woke Nancy when Anna left her room and headed downstairs.

Nancy recalls that Anna once used a special-needs stroller when the family went out. "It provided a feeling of safety and comfort for Anna and for us, but now Capri provides that security," Nancy says. Capri wears a special cape that Anna holds on to. The two are tethered so that if Anna tries to bolt, Capri will stay in place until mom or dad can redirect Anna's attention. "We've been getting reacquainted with our neighbors because of all the walking we do in our neighborhood," Nancy says.

Autism Assist Dogs also provide companionship. Because Anna is nonverbal, Capri provides a social link for her to interact with others. "Having Capri is also a way for us to educate people about autism and the assistance dog program," Nancy says. "It can be hard to express the value of a friend, but Capri helps Anna stay calm and makes her laugh. Capri is generally very mellow, but every so often she will race around in circles, and Anna will laugh and clap. Hearing that laughter is a joyful sound!"



Anna and Capri



Anna is gaining confidence with Capri by her side

Other children at Anna's school are on the Can Do Canines waiting list. "Their parents are always excited to hear updates of how things are going with Capri," Nancy says. Can Do Canines is committed to providing these

children with their own assistance dogs, and we rely on contributions and volunteers to make this happen. "We thank everyone who generously supports this mission and provides wonderful dogs like Capri to kids like Anna," Nancy says. ♥

For information on helping to make other autism placements possible for those who are waiting, please contact Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153.

A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Deb Herczog and Oliver

by Laurie Carlson



Deb and Oliver

Deb Herczog of Stoddard, Wisc. lives a busy, fulfilling life with her husband, Dave. She works as a nurse practitioner and is praised by many for her volunteer work. "Deb has always lived a life of service by donating her time and medical talent to those underserved," says a friend.

Deb also lives with a significant hearing loss. She started losing her hearing as a young girl, and the condition has progressed throughout her life. She now has a cochlear implant in one ear and a hearing aid in the other. Still, friends worried that, asleep and with her hearing aids off, Deb might miss a smoke alarm, siren or other important sound.

Deb agrees. "I've lost many nights of sleep due to the fear that I wouldn't notice my vibrating alarm going off or wouldn't awake to the flashing alarm either," she says. "I purchased a vibrating watch, but it doesn't work that well." She worried that sleeping through the alarm would cause her to miss work. "When you can't hear, there can be a lot of fear," she says. "It brings uncertainty during the day, but especially at night."

Deb knew people who had Hearing Assist Dogs and decided she wanted one for herself. A friend sent Deb a list of reputable assistance dog organizations, and Deb applied to Can Do Canines.



Oliver wakes Deb up to her alarm clock.

She was paired with Oliver, a lively, happy 16-month-old terrier mix donated to Can Do Canines after being rescued from the streets. Deb says, "Oliver walked in the door and immediately lifted my spirits." Now Oliver alerts her to the alarm clock, door knock, intruder sound, smoke alarm and sound of her name.

Deb says she feels secure knowing Oliver will alert her to sounds. "I feel safer, because no one can break in without Oliver knowing about it!" she says. "He even alerts me to sounds he wasn't trained for. When the weather siren went off, he jumped on the bed and woke me!" The two have established a morning routine. Once Oliver wakes Deb and she starts the coffee, he goes to Dave's side of the bed and paws him awake, too.

Deb says it was wonderful seeing Oliver's joy and excitement when he first jumped up and woke her to the alarm clock. She says, "I'm so proud and impressed with how quickly he learned. He's such a good little dog. People always compliment me on how well-behaved he is. It's fun to see how he's grown and how we've bonded. I feel a real sense of accomplishment."

Although the team only recently finished training and certification, she says, "Oliver has already made such a huge impact. I've had some personal losses in the past year, but Oliver brings joy every day."

To supporters enabling her to receive Oliver at no cost, Deb says, "Thank you many times over for your generosity." She's relieved that she didn't have to worry about getting monetary assistance to receive Oliver. That would have taken much longer. "It's unbelievable that people would give like this to help others," she says. "It's a 24/7 gift that keeps on giving!" ♥

Can Do Canines gives homeless dogs, like Oliver, a second chance at a forever home. Visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org or call Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext.153 to find out how you can help.

New Teams



Amanda Merton & Hearing Assist Dog Lena

"I didn't feel comfortable being alone in the house or outside at night. Having Lena has had a big impact! She alerts me to sounds, and she will always be by my side."

Thank You

Dog Source – Joy Hahn

Field Trainer- Joanne Nichols

Puppy Raiser- Melanie and Barry Rutman

Foster Home- Julie & Lex Stolis
Anne Ingvaldstad

See their full story at

www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Linda Mosier & Diabetes Assist Dog Hamel

Thank You

Dog Source – Ellen & Mel McKinnon

Puppy Raiser- Dora Schroeder

Read their story on page 6

A Life-Saving Difference

Linda Mosier and Hamel

by Allison Schildknecht

A nurse, Linda Mosier has lived with Type 1 diabetes for 22 years. “I’ve seen the effects of poorly controlled diabetes, so I was strict with my glucose levels and my diet plan,” she says. “A few years ago, though, I became more brittle and unaware of my low blood sugars. I would keep working, unable to sense the symptoms, only to wake up on the floor, surrounded by paramedics with an IV in my arm.”

Linda’s last episode of unconsciousness took place in 2004. “I was shopping for picture frames, and I woke up in a wheelchair,” she recalls. The attending paramedics were stern, telling her that her blood sugar level was 22, dangerously low. “I thought, ‘Is that all?’ because I’ve gone even lower.” Linda says.

But the St. Louis Park, Minn. resident admits that the episode concerned her. Already, she was required to have her doctors certify that she was fit to drive. “I knew I could lose my driver’s license and, along with it, my freedom and independence,” says Linda. In April 2004, she applied for a Diabetes Assist Dog from Can Do Canines; that August, she received Ivan, a tri-color Smooth Collie.

Linda’s husband, Doug, says, “In the five and a half years Ivan was with us, we calculated that he alerted Linda to a low blood sugar 800 times, and any one of those could have been a lifesaving alert.” Linda notes that, during Ivan’s life, she never had another episode of unconsciousness.

Ivan was diagnosed with cancer in early 2010. Although the Mosiers sought treatment, the cancer was highly aggressive, and he passed away in May. “Even as he was going through chemotherapy, I applied again,” Linda says.



Linda and Hamel

Hamel carries Linda’s emergency food and medical information in his backpack.

assistance dog—I always knew someone would be there to help me. Just the words on the dog’s cape could draw someone to help.”

Linda was matched with Hamel, a tall, sandy-yellow Labrador Retriever with a cheerful expression. Hamel received his unique name from the Hamel Lions Club; its members raised funds to cover some of the cost of Hamel’s specialized training.

“Hamel is different from Ivan,” Linda says. “I am getting to know his personality. He’s energetic and puppyish,

“I knew I couldn’t be without an assistance dog. Ivan might have saved my life a hundred times.”

Linda waited five months to be placed with another Diabetes Assist Dog. “In those months, I never went anywhere without Doug,” she says. “I never knew when my blood sugar might go so low that I wouldn’t be able to help myself. That was the gratifying thing about having an

and of course he loves to retrieve.” Doug adds that Ivan was sometimes standoffish, as Collies can be. ““But he was always there to help us,” Doug remembers. “Hamel wants to be part of the family, and he always wants hugs.”

Linda smiles and strokes Hamel’s reddish-gold ear. Despite those differences, Hamel arrived ready to help Linda. “Whenever we put his cape on him and go out in public, he’s just as good as gold,” she says.

Hamel came to stay with the Mosiers on a Friday. “That evening, he nudged me to let me know I had a low blood sugar,” Linda says. “On Saturday morning, he nudged me

again, and I sat down at the kitchen table to check my blood sugar. He disappeared for a minute, then returned with a box of Tic-Tacs and put them right in my hand. I thought, "Oh, candy, sugar, of course," and was having a few when Hamel came back again, this time with Doug following him." Doug says Hamel gave him a nudge, looked at him as if to say, "Come on!" and ran back to the kitchen. Linda says, "We hadn't taught him the command "find Doug" yet. On his second day, he just instinctively knew that's what he should do."



Checking Linda's breath for the scent of low blood sugar

Hamel continually monitors Linda's breath for the scent of a low blood sugar. "It's wonderful to not have all the diabetes equipment out in public," Linda says. If Hamel detects a low blood sugar, he can bring her a bottle of juice. He can "find Doug" or "get help" to bring someone to Linda's side during an emergency. He can even "brace," steadying himself so that Linda, who also has osteoarthritis, can use him to help herself get up from the floor.

"I deeply, deeply appreciate everyone who donates and helps people like me to have dogs like this that could save our lives," Linda says. "For some people, an assistance dog improves their lives and gives them freedom. But for me, it's lifesaving." ♥

For information on helping to make diabetes assist placements possible for those who are waiting, please contact Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext, 153 or visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org.

Celebrating Graduation

November 6, 2010 was indeed a day of celebration at Can Do Canines as more than 350 people came together to witness our largest graduating class ever. Retired Air Force Brigadier General Dennis Schulstad addressed the crowd that included graduate Corey Briest, our first Iraq war veteran.



Seventeen new teams were applauded as they crossed the stage to receive their certificate, mortar board and "nylabone" certificate. Congratulations to each and every new team!



Can Do Canines is pleased to have **NutriSource** Super Premium Pet Foods as our sponsor

NutriSource provides all the food for our dogs in final training. Thank you, NutriSource, for your generous contributions!

New Teams



Lonna Nelson & Hearing Assist Dog Carlee

"Thanks Can Do Canines for all the fabulous work you do for so many. Matching canines with humans, where both prosper, is no small task and you do it so well. Carlee and I appreciate the fact you allowed us to become part of your wonderful organization."

Thank You

Dog Source - Pet Dog
Special Thanks - Bev DeChon

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

Jennifer Schmidt & Hearing Assist Dog Lily

"The rewards are amazing. I have so much more confidence and peace of mind now, it's so worth it."

Thank You

Dog Source
Lucky Dog Boarding and Training
Field Trainer
Dora Schroeder
Puppy Raiser
Christina Giese & Erica Miller
Foster Home
Stephanie Geise & Jay Wagner

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



Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ Giant Nylabones and lg. and 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)**
- ✓ **Dual-core PC desktops & laptops**
- ✓ Mac OS X 10.5 licenses
- ✓ LCD TV, 37" or larger
- ✓ **LCD computer monitors**
- ✓ 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

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Gift cards to grocery and office supply stores
- ✓ Office supplies (paper, markers, stamps)
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner, laundry detergent
- ✓ Framed dog-related art & framing services

Building Materials

- ✓ Kitchen cabinets and countertop
- ✓ Bathroom storage cabinet, small
- ✓ Gift certificates for home improvement stores
- ✓ Pipe and drape, black (6 - 8 x 10 ft sections)
- ✓ Stage skirting, black (24 inch x 32 ft)
- ✓ Sheetrock
- ✓ 2' x 2' ceiling tiles

Items in **bold** are our most pressing needs! For more items, please visit www.can-do-canines.org

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Bob Powers' 80th Birthday

Marie Boler, Helen Burke, Donald & Lois Casey
Marilyn & Michael Fetsch, Helen Nelson,
Jeanne Robbins, Teddy & Laura Wong, Mary
Forbes, Carol Mulroy, Marsha Stimpson

Collin Shaughnessy & Robert Hanson	"Cher"
Amboy Lions	"Darwin"
Dr. Nancy Kirsner	"Jasper"
Marian Veasens	"Ole"
Lex & Kathe Lawson	"Sasha"
Mary Astry	"Sinbad"
Margaret Walsh	"Sinbad"
Jeanne Labelle	Al Peters
Roland Franceschi	Alvera Franceschi
Leah Golberstein	Alvera Franceschi
Sharon & Thomas Metz	Anne Ingvaldstad
Voncille Martin	"Bauer"
The Leede Group	Brenda Olson
Charlotte Nelson	Cheryl Avelsgard
Susan Caldwell	Gary and Janet Cobus
Judith & Peter Jarnberg	Pam's Birthday
Pauline & Daniel Miller	Jeff & Jill Buncum
Shayna Berkowitz	Lisa Knazan

In Honor of the Wild Women Book Club

Theresa Emery, Michelle Gibney, Patricia
Lanctin, J.B. Loebel, Deborah Malone,
Beth Schmitz

(Gifts in Honor Of continue on page 11)

Development News

To learn more about any Development News item, please contact Development Director Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153 or email [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org)

Can Do Canines Ambassador Club

If you were not able to attend the January training and are interested in serving as an Ambassador, please contact me. Our next Ambassador Training Session will be Saturday March 26, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.

Save the Date!



Saturday, November 5, 2011

Earle Brown Center

Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Committee Chairperson: Dee Hollerud

The 2011 Fetching Ball Committee meets once a month to plan another exciting gala for Can Do Canines. If you would like to join the committee, please contact me.

Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs have been extended for 2011.

Qualified Charitable Distributions may allow some taxpayers to make charitable contributions directly from their IRAs. Distributions meet the IRA Required Minimum Distribution requirements for 2011 and can be especially attractive to IRA owners over the age of 70 1/2 who take the standard deduction on their tax return. Please consider a gift from your IRA to Can Do Canines in 2011. For more information consult your tax advisor.

Save the Date! Sixth Annual Tails of Independence Fundraising Luncheon

Golden Valley Country Club
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
11:30 am – 12:30 am

In order to train and place 40 assistance dog teams in 2011, we need to have a very successful fundraising campaign. The success of this luncheon depends on volunteer Table Captains who invite new people to learn about Can Do Canines by attending one of our monthly Tails to Tell tours and then invite them to the luncheon. If you can help by serving as a Table Captain this year, please contact me to sign up or for more information.



"Dinger", named by AJ & Lynne Allmendinger

Minnesota Lions Clubs raise more than \$75,000 for the Capital Campaign for Independence!

A major fundraising drive took place last year by the Minnesota Lions and after a lot of hard work, they succeeded in surpassing their goal of raising \$75,000 by December 15, 2010! Now that this money is raised, we will apply for a matching grant from Lions Club International Foundation to construct ten additional kennels to house twenty more dogs in training. Great job everyone! We appreciate your efforts on our behalf!



Name-a-Puppy – Not just for kids anymore!

In December, we received donations of \$2,500 or more from three individuals who wished to participate in the Name A Puppy Program: Mark Rethlake, Mike Branch and Nascar driver AJ Allmendinger and his wife, Lynne. Although schools are the most likely group to raise \$1,500 to name a puppy, the program is getting more popular with individuals and adult groups who are happy to raise \$2,500 for the honor of naming a puppy. If you would like a Name A Puppy brochure and fundraising kit, please contact me for more information.

Volunteer Spotlight - Bev DeChon

When Bev DeChon attended Game Fair in Anoka, Minn. in 2006, she noticed our booth and expressed interest in volunteering by fostering dogs for us. Since then, she and her husband Yance have become outstanding volunteers for Can Do Canines.

In addition to fostering and evaluating dogs for us on a short term basis, Bev and Yance also donated two Labrador Retriever puppies from their own lines to the program, and became puppy raisers themselves.

Bev has also volunteered in other ways as well. She joined the Name A Puppy committee, and handles the communication updates to participating schools and businesses who have raised money to name a puppy in training. She also currently helps Puppy Coordinator Rob Carrick with puppy training classes.

Can Do Canines sincerely thanks Bev and Yance for opening their home and hearts to our dogs, and for working so hard on our behalf. Thank you! ♥



In December 2010, Bev also took on fostering and socializing our newest litter of 12 Lab puppies along with their mother, Penny for 3 weeks—no small task!

Along with all the hands-on work with the dogs,

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.

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

Freddy Abrahamson
Sue Abrahamson
🐾 Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus

🐾 Valerie & Bradley Addis
Ilene Ahrens
🐾 Jayson & Kathryn Alexander

🐾 The Alexander family
James & Polly Allen
Doug & Holly

Ammerman
Kris Amoth
Brandon Antony
Maddie Apold

Ben & Peggy Armstrong
🐾 Dianne & Doug Astry
The Bailey family

The Bandy family
🐾 Teresa & Keith Barnes
Sara Bauer
🐾 Bill Beddie & Kathy Grant

Kim & Kalli Bennett
Mary Bente
Pat & George Berg
The Bergstad family

🐾 Bobbi Blair
Kristina Blasen
🐾 Darlene Blomberg
Jan Boe

Natalie Boike
Sue Bosch
Krystal Boutain
Brittany Bowman

Mike Branch
Bob Branham
Sara Braziller
Coco & Rachel Brietknetz

Betty Brietknetz-Miller
Julia Buege Freeman
🐾 Jean & Don Burdeski
Melisa & Patrick Burke

Jennifer Burt
Erin & Joyce Cain
🐾 Bob & Mary Cameron
🐾 Laurie Carlson

Nancy Carlson
Rob Carrick
Sue & Rod Carter
LuAnn & Catrina Chambliss

Wendy & Mike Christensen
Jane Chu

Sharon Clark
Nancy Cohen
Marys Cordie
🐾 Sue Crone

Nick Dahlman
🐾 Emily Danser & Sachin Ranarath

Jan & John Day & "Louie"
Bev & Yance DeChon
Kandy Dorlock

Pete & Jane Doyon
Tanya Dubrovsky
Suzanne Ducker
Amy & Kayleen Dudrey

Sherry Duggan & "Casper"
Judy Dunbar
🐾 Sarah Durant & Brian Klaas

Elizabeth Eagle
🐾 Sara Ehlert
Laurie & Ron Ehlert

Megan Ehlert
Sharon Elbert
🐾 Mona Elder
Sharon Erickson

Mary & Steve Erickson-Kamp
The Essen family
Jean Euteneuer & "Lexie"

🐾 Mike Ferber & Betty Otto
Stacey Ferguson
Kevin Florence
Leslie Flowers & Scott McClure

Samantha Franco
Ernie & Jeanne Frie
Marcia Fritzscheier & "Jack"

Pamela Glass
Katy & Alex Goodwin
Lashaun Graves
Becky Green

Rachel Gross
Becky Groseth
Savannah Gruber
🐾 Steve & Becky Hallan

🐾 Melissa & Brian Hanson
Jennifer Hanson
Nikki Hanson
Ronnie Hartman

🐾 The Herberg family
Jessi Hiemer
🐾 The Hiemer family
Shawn Higdem

Alicia & Keith Higgins
Sasha Hobart
The Holicks family
🐾 The Hollerud family

Wendy Homyak
Jeanette Howard
Anne Ingvoldstad
Aumori Johnson

Kelli Johnson
🐾 The Johnson family
Amy Joyce
🐾 Jen & Justin Kalvoda

Tracy Karth
Bill Kempton
Sue Kibler
Katherine Knauer & "Summer"

Lisa Knazan
Betty Knowles
Don Knutson
Shawn Knutson

Kim Kriesel
Jolie & Keith Kroska
MarySue Krueger
Kristina Kulp

Anne LaBelle
🐾 Amber & Steve LaMourea
Sara Lane Bowen
🐾 Julianne Larsen

🐾 The Larsen family
🐾 Jeremy Larson & Scott Henley
🐾 The Larson family

Graham & Becca Leathers
Lien Lee
Dena & John Lenneman
John & Bonnie Linden

Frank Loken
Travis Lott
Liz Lucast
Jody Ludden

Angela Mack
🐾 The MacKay family
Tammy Marquardt
Jean Martell

Mike McCarthy
🐾 Michele & Shawn McLane

Kim Medin
Rani Melby
🐾 Lindsey Merkel
🐾 The Merkel family

Christi Michaels-Flaherty
Tina Mischka
Amy Molis
Mike Molzahn

Penny Morris
Ricki Morrissey
Linda & Doug Mosier & "Hamel"

Angela Mulcahy
Midge & Doug Mulcahy
🐾 Janie & Shauna Mullikin
🐾 Mary Nelson

Joanne Nichols
Linda Niedzielski
Connie Norman
🐾 The Oeltjenbruns family

Sean Okerlund & family
Aryn & Justine Osum
Dianne & Logan Ouradnik
Janice Parrow

Kyle Pavlik
🐾 Leah Pentz
Lee Perish
Charlotte Perz

🐾 Alan Peters & Penny Marsala
Lindsey Peterson
Linda Peterson & family

Paul Peterson & family
Sandy & Jon Pidde
Kim Plamann
Deanna Polis

Paul Pranghofer
Maureen Pranghofer & "Ally"
Wayne Pulford
Mary Quist

Shaela Rabbit
Mary Rhatigan & "Ebony"
Lois Richards
The Rossiter family

🐾 The Ruppe family
Lee Rupprecht
Eleanor & Brittany Ruscher
Sharon Russell

🐾 Shirley Russo

Karma Ryals
🐾 The Sanborn family
🐾 Jerry Schendel
Aaron Schneberger

🐾 Dora & Howard Schroeder
Jennifer & John Schroeder

Kate Schroven
Sue Schuster
Ken Schwartz & family
🐾 Stephanie & Seth Scott

Darryl & Diane Scott
🐾 The Sears family
Adrianna Shannon
Laura Shirley

🐾 Marge & Dave Skeie
The Sorenson family
Robyn Steffenhagen
Sharon Steinbrecher

Ken & Judy Stenzel & "Calvin"
Greg & Cat Stevens
Lisa Stokes
Amber Stone

Dawn Throener
Brian Toews
Jackie & Justin Trevis
The Tuenge family

The Turner family
🐾 Patty Van Landschoot
The Van Skike family
Sandy & Kevin Vance

Dotie Veldye-Jones
Carlos Villalpando
Sue Wagner
Lisa Waldoch

Amarda Walz
Ying Wang
Biz Washko
Len Washko

🐾 Laura & Adam Waudby
The Wedul family
Rhondi West
Heidi Westerlund

Carolyn & Nancy Westphal
🐾 The Willms family
Nancy & Bill Winick
Patty Wirtz

Beth Wojahn
Stephanie & Billy Wyatt
Connie & Sarah Zimmerman



Nancy Bauman & Mobility Assist Dog Nigel

"Nigel has opened a whole different world for me."

Thank You

Dog Source – Spirit Standard Poodles
Puppy Raiser– Sandy and Kevin Vance
Foster Home– Bob & Mary Branham, Leslie Flowers & Scott McClure

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



Deb Herczog & Hearing Assist Dog Oliver

Thank You

Dog Source – The Clinton Family
Field Trainer– Carmen and Scott Hurley

Read their story on page 5



Anna Laufer & Autism Assist Dog Capri

Thank You

Dog Source – Sievers Kennels
Puppy Raiser– The Abrahamson Family
Foster Home– The Turner Family

Read their story on page 4

Free to Be a Kid

Michael Johnson and Winston

by Jessi Hiemer

Michael Johnson of Wausau, Wisc., is a vibrant, active 11 year old. He is bright and outgoing, loves being with his friends, using the computer, and playing video games. He is also living with spastic cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy affects his arms and legs, and as a result he uses a motorized wheelchair to get around.

As Michael grows, his family is realizing he needs the freedom and independence to just be a kid. When his Aunt Beth, a veterinary technician at the University of Minn., mentioned the work of Can Do Canines, the Johnsons got excited about the possibility of



Michael and Winston

matching Michael with a specially trained dog who could retrieve dropped items, open doors, and get help from someone else in the house if needed. In his application, mom Lisa wrote, "Michael is very excited about getting a dog to help him and be his special companion."

No one can tell you the amazing impact that Winston, a two-year-old black Labrador retriever, has had on Michael's life better than his dad, Scott. **This is the letter Scott sent shortly after Michael and Winston were certified as an assistance dog team:**

We just got word that my son and his dog have been certified as a Team! It hardly seems real – Winston came into Michael's life way back in June but it seems like just yesterday...

Michael is an 11 year-old boy with cerebral palsy. As you can imagine, some sort of school or therapy consumes almost every minute of Michael's day and this means that there is always at least one adult around. Can you imagine being a child and having no freedom to expand your environment, to explore, to get into trouble, or to simply be alone? Because of Michael's physical challenges this sort of "me" time is almost impossible. We needed a key to unlock this door that was preventing Michael from developing the self-confidence to blossom and get out on his own. Winston has become the key that has given him this opportunity.

Michael and Winston have grown together to become quite the pair. When training first started I wasn't so sure this whole experiment was going to work. Michael had never done anything like this before – and it showed. Winston wasn't familiar with Michael or our family – and it showed. The rest of the family was new to all of this – and it showed. Michael and Winston were blessed to have found the perfect trainer, Heidi Drenkler-Goethel, who had just the right amount of patience because her hands were full (with all of us). She had to train Michael, Winston, Mom, Dad, and Sister on how to work with an assistance dog. The question was occasionally asked, by me, "Is this gonna work?" "You bet!" was always Heidi's response. And she was right; Michael and Heidi never had a doubt.



Winston helps Michael be more independent.



Every night ends with Michael telling Winston, "I love you, buddy."

Six months and many dog treats later Winston has become a full-fledged member of our family and officially Michael's Best Friend. Every night ends with Michael telling Winston, "I love you, buddy" as Winston curls onto his pillow next to Michael's bed.

This experience has given Michael a new found confidence and responsibility that he has never had before; this experience has given Michael opportunities to explore and to grow that he has never had before; and most important, this experience and Winston has given Michael a key that will open any door that they choose to go through.

Thank you Can Do Canines for giving my son, Michael, a new best friend and an opportunity to unlock his world.

Scott J.

Michael's Dad and a Winston Fan ❤️

To help make more dogs available for children like Michael, visit us at www.can-do-canines.org.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Roland & Alvera Franceschi Bill Quinn
 Bonnie Genin Bud Arthur
 Roxann Zachman Craig Bindert, our friend
 and a wonderful man
 Yvonne Hemme Craig Bindert

In Memory of Lion Darwin Mathwig
 5M9 Lions, Buffalo Lions, Le Center Lions
 Josip & Lynn Lecnik - 5M13 Lions, Douglas
 & Carol Ogren, Riverside Fergus Falls Lions,
 Riverside Lions, Victoria Lions, Jeannine &
 Harvey Windels

In Memory of David Strobel
 Allan & Karen Brennan, Jodi & Dan Brunzel,
 Rita & Roy Chial, Peggy Herum, Suzanne
 Howes, Michele & Gregory Jepson, Dale
 Koranda, Marilyn Kruse, Raymond Lemmons,
 James & Mary Ann Linskey, Leanne & David
 Little, Wanda & Jon Lohman, Douglas & Mary
 Longfellow, Kathleen & James Malone, Cari
 & Rickey Mathias, Jo Anne Matthews, Lori &
 Michael McDonald, Marsha & Robert Peterson,
 Janice & Glenn Roseske, Lisa Rudeen, Selma
 Sarne, Patricia & Scott Schroeder, Jacqueline
 Strobel, William & Carolyn Toenjes

Alan & Jo Ann Hanson Derek
 Pennock Lions Dwight Anderson
 Gretchen Diegnau Gary G. Deiters
 Lucille Sukalo Janet Boland
 Lynn Slifer Judy Slifer
 Judy Sharken Simon Kaelis Simon

**In Memory of
 Lion Dr. Keith Cherryholmes**
 Merrill Overturf, Beth Cherryholmes, Fred &
 Rita Jensen, Frank & Judy Loken, Paul Loken

Gerald & Lynn Cox Kasey Wurms
 Janet Dubats Lion Earl Hamilton
 Janet Cobus Loving memory of
 our dog, "Lena"
 Voncille Martin Lucille Martin
 Lavonne Ludke Mandy
 Bonnie Genin Marvin Johnson
 Anne Mackareth Mavis Iverson
 Iris & Gary Johnson Merle
 Lynn & Ronald Hoekstra Robert Murdock
 Sharon Singleton Shirley S. Marihart
 Bonnie Genin Terry Lee Nolden

In Memory of Ted Beberg
 David & Diane Beberg, Patricia Beberg, Patricia
 Ireland, Rosemary Rosengren, Theresa &
 Thomas Carter

Bea Turner Tom Turner
 Elaine Denton Tony Denton
 Alice Schreifels Wayne Schreifels
 Kathy Grant Yvonne Grant
 Judith Theis Yvonne Grant
 Animal Wellness Center of Maple Grove
 "Annie" Erickson, "Comet" Lehfeltd,
 "Diamond" Ostlund, "Lila" Lindahl, "Max"
 Yursi, "Morgan" Rekestad, "Mr. Big" Thorn,
 "Niko" Cebula, "Noah" Sherman, "Pandora"
 Wheatley, "Pippil" Janssen, "Sammi" Raley,
 "Wilson" Radintz, "Abby" Tieszen, "Bailey
 Jean" Hare, "Chester" Fuller, "Indy" Rindahl,
 "Mandy" Schotzko, "Truffie" Pittman, "Vinnie"
 Dicapio, "Weezer" Elder, "Zoe" Magnuson
 Andriette & Keith
 Mortimore "Babe" and "Dusty"
 Holly Anderson "Bandit"
 Laura Fischer "Carmen" Fischer
 Jilene Perreten "Charlie" & "Max"
 Judith & Peter Jarnberg "Chevy"
 William Sulzbach "Daisy"
 Susan Januschka "Del"
 Deb Molin "Dusty" Hipp, "Tinker Bell"
 Duke, "Rocky" Schuster
 Jill & Steven Gottlieb "Ginger"
 Timothy Kopet "Guiness" the Dalmatian
 Steve Kittay "Maxine" Kittay
 Rita Eckert "Hayley"
 Michael Branch "Jessie"
 Judith Christensen "Juliette"
 Maria, Donna & Scott Solei "Keeko"
 Bruce Thorson "L.A."
 Pamela & Dennis Davis "Maxwell"
 Mary Lou Cody "Mikey" Brosdahl
 Rebecca Hansen "Muriel"
 Amy & Sergey
 Sullivan Pakhomov "Nikki" Cat
 Joan Tetzloff "Nikki" the
 German Shepherd
 Michael Walsh "Polly"
 Robyne Schulke "Rodney"
 Debra Noll "Sadie"
 Stacy & Kelly Wilkinson "Sirius"

New Teams



**Laura Helgerson
 & Mobility Assist Dog Brewster**
*"I'm doing things I didn't think I could
 because Brewster gets me up and gets me
 started. I'm more independent than I've
 ever been."*

Thank You
Dog Source – Sievers Kennels
Field Trainer- Shirley Richards
Vet Services- Valley View Pet Hospital
Puppy Raiser- Caylin Crawford and
 The Sears Family
Foster Home- Sue & Rod Carter, Kristin
 & Eric Alman, the
 Wedul Family
*See their full story at
www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter*



**Rachel Hamilton
 & Mobility Assist Dog Lars**
Thank You
Dog Source - Bev & Yance DeChon
Field Trainer- Dan Herald
Vet Services- Maryland Avenue
 Pet Hospital
Puppy Raiser- The Young Family
Foster Home- Mike Branch
 The Wedul Family

Read their story on page 4

GIFTS IN HONOR OF (continued from page 8)

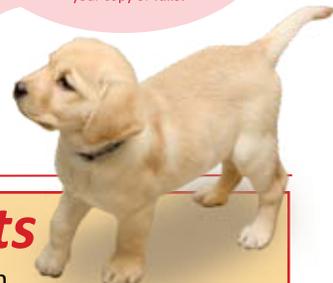
Millie Segal Beth Ann & Saul Segal's 35th Anniversary, Shussie & Alan Blumenthal's
 Anniversary, Michael Fallek's 40th Birthday, and Bette Ann & Richard Bloom's Anniversary
 Linda & Dennis Ellos Cody, Laura, Cayden and Connor for Christmas!
 Millie & Howard Segal Dr. David Brown's 75th Birthday!
 Alvera & Roland Franceschi Happy Holidays to the Ackerberg and Broton Families
 Walther & Mary Warpeha Jo Davis & "Romeo"
 Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben, P.A. Mary Rhatigan
 Susan & John McKendry Merry Christmas Bill and Jan Dubats
 Rosann Hebert Merry Christmas Mary Shelhamer
 Roland and Alvera Franceschi Merry Christmas to The Franceschis,
 The Russels, The Quinns and The Nicks!
 Carmaline Spurrier Mike Carmony, The Lewis-Carmony Family,
 The Cassidy Family, Loanne, Lindfous
 Erin Aldrich My mom, who taught us to love and respect dogs
 Roland and Alvera Franceschi Roland and Alvera's Anniversary
 Nancy & Timothy Kelly Stephanie Magelky & "Jeff"
 Alvera Franceschi Stuart & Romy Ackerberg's Anniversary, Ms. Leah Golberstein
 Amanda Grimm & Steven Pope The guests of our wedding. Oct. 22, 2010
 Bearcat American Legion Foundation Veterans' Service Dogs
 Barbara & Simone Glaser Wedding of Carly and Howard Hoffman



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home of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
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Visit me online!
You can read and share *Tails from Minnesota* online and receive every issue in your email inbox! Go to www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter and tell us how to deliver your copy of *Tails*!



Open House

Saturday, February 26th
Noon - 4 PM



Please join us to learn about assistance dogs, meet graduate teams, puppy raisers, volunteers, and staff all while



touring our state of the art New Hope facility!



Upcoming Events

- February 26 Open House, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- March 12 Pancake Breakfast at Green Mill, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
- March 26 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 10:00 a.m.
- April 3 Vaccination Clinic, 2:00-4:30 p.m.
- May 4 Tails of Independence Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- May 12 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 7:00 p.m.
- May 21 Graduation, 1:00 p.m.

* All *Tails to Tell* tours take place at our facility, located at 9440 Science 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!

Minnesota Jaycees are making Can Do Canines a Priority!



Thanks to one of our special volunteers, Jessi Hiemer, the Minnesota Jaycees have chosen Can Do Canines as a priority project. We will be working with a Jaycee program officer to coordinate the details of how their chapters can get involved this year to raise funds, awareness and secure volunteers for our organization.

Preventative Health Care, Low-Cost Vaccination and Heartworm Testing at Can Do Canines

Can Do Canines, in collaboration with the Animal Medical Clinic, is hosting a vaccination and preventative health day for *assistance dogs, puppies in training and pets belonging to the general public*. Please tell your friends and relatives to join us as this is a fundraiser for Can Do Canines!



Join us on **Sunday, April 3, 2011 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.** at Can Do Canines.

Dr. Joel Locketz and associates will provide vaccinations, microchipping, heartworm, stool and feline leukemia testing at significant discounts from regular rates. Each animal will receive a free healthy pet exam. Heartworm and flea/tick preventative medications will be available to purchase. No appointments are necessary. Check our www.can-do-canines.org for pricing and more information.

Mark Your Calendar!

Can Do Canines Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 12 12:00 am - 10:00 am
GREEN MILL RESTAURANT
2705 Annapolis Lane North,
Plymouth, MN 55441

Tickets: \$6.00 online at www.can-do-canines.org. Click **Donate Today** and select "Pancake Breakfast" and number of tickets.

