

Tails from Minnesota



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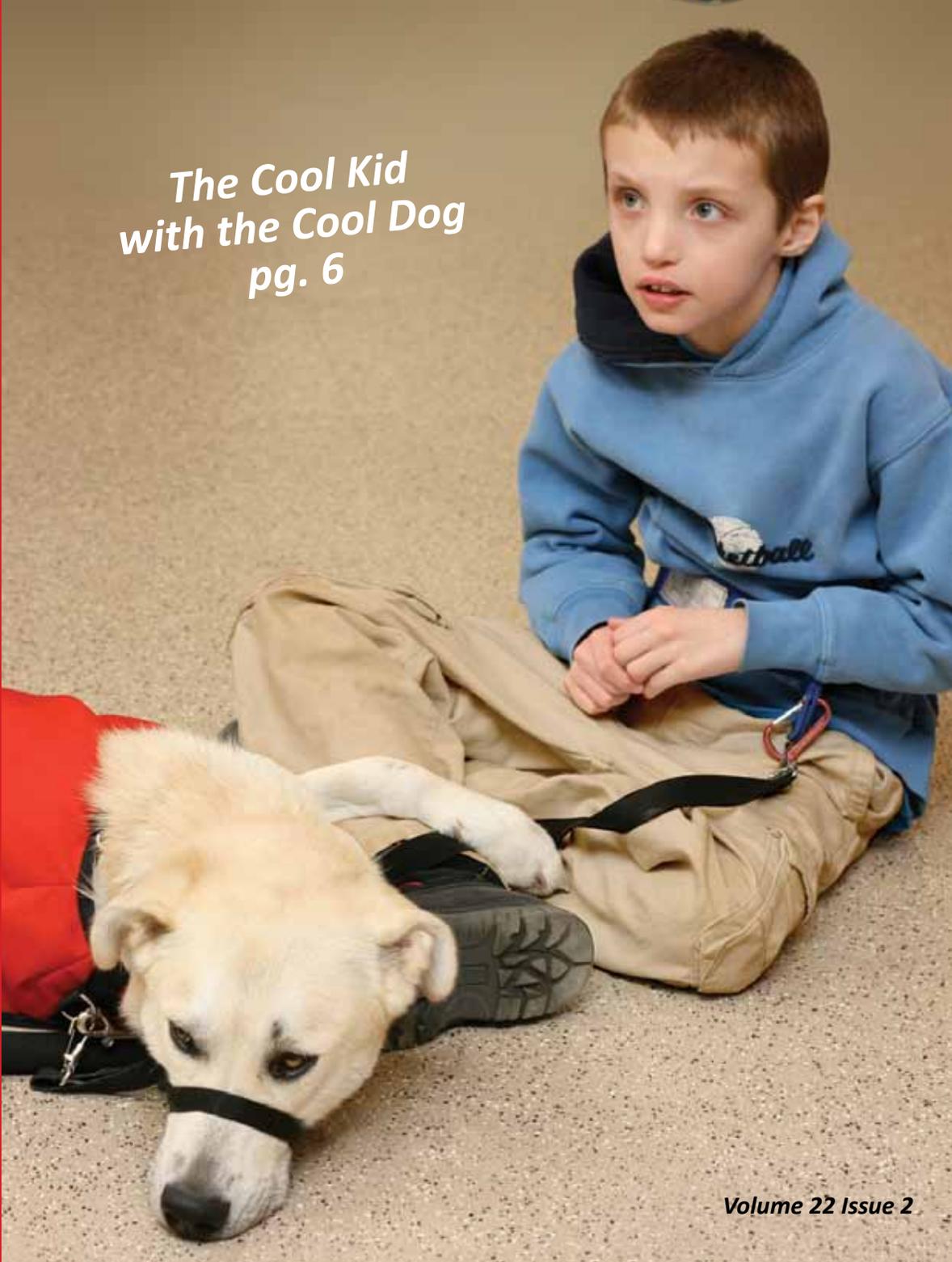


www.can-do-canines.org

Spring 2011



*The Cool Kid
with the Cool Dog
pg. 6*



Volume 22 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 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.

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From the Executive Director

We're Growing

More Puppies

Can Do Canines™ is growing in leaps and bounds. We have more than 100 dogs and puppies in training right now and on April 22nd, Vi, one of our Labrador moms, had her second litter—six healthy puppies, four girls and two boys! Join us for our first ever “puppy shower” on June 25, 2011.

More Puppy Raisers

In order to keep an increased level of graduates moving forward we need to increase the number of puppy raiser volunteers. Could being a puppy raiser be the right volunteer activity for you? Attend one of our facility tours or visit one of our puppy raiser training sessions to watch and learn. Being a puppyraiser is one of the most rewarding experiences you could ever have.

As well as needing more puppyraisers locally, we are fortunate to have built a new relationship with the Federal Correctional Institution in Waseca. Twenty female inmates are working with 10 young Lab puppies. The puppies moved into prison at the end of January and they're doing just great! Waseca is the third prison location training dogs for Can Do Canines.



Can Do Canines is pleased to be providing a new vocational training program at the Federal Correctional Institution at Waseca

More Graduates

With all of these puppies being prepared, we are in the unusual but wonderful situation of having too many graduates to include in only two graduation ceremonies per year! We want to be sure to honor each of our graduates appropriately during graduation, so we do not want to try to pack too many teams into a single event. Consequently we are adding an extra graduation this year, on Saturday August 13, and expect to have three graduations during 2012 as well. Our next graduation will be Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 1:00pm. Please join us for both of these outstanding celebrations.



Al with “Savannah” and “Echo”

More Space

Thanks to continued fundraising support from the Lions in Minnesota and from a number of significant contributors to our Capital Campaign, we are confident that we will have enough funding to move forward this summer with Phase Two of the construction project on our new building. We will complete work on the two unfinished spaces in our building, producing additional office space, meeting space, and residences for a caretaker and visiting clients. We will also add an additional bank of ten two-dog kennels. Finally, we will complete the outside renovation of the building including a new drive-through entrance-way and additional handicap parking near our front door. We are thrilled to be able to complete this project!

However, the Campaign is not done and we still need your help. We need significant support from our contributors to complete the funding needed. When asked, please generously support the Campaign for Independence.

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

We give them love, the time we can spare. In return, dogs have given us their absolute all. It is, without a doubt, the best deal man has ever made.

- Roger Caras

A New Sense of Independence

Chad Engstrom and Hazel

by Laurie Carlson

Chad Engstrom of Star Prairie, Wisc. is a very busy man. He works as the Director of Human Resources at Westfields Hospital and is kept busy with family life, including his wife Linnea and children Kaisa, Mattios and Amalia. The Engstroms also train and show Quarter Horses.

Chad lives with Type 1 diabetes, which he has had since he was six years old. He works diligently to maintain his blood glucose levels in the normal range but, despite his efforts, he struggles with hypoglycemic unawareness. He says, "I no longer feel my insulin reactions, and have had several bad reactions. I live in constant worry about having a severe drop in blood sugar and being alone with no help. Right now, there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about managing my diabetes to try to avoid the lows or being too high as well. I want to be around for my wife and children"

On one occasion, Chad's blood sugar dropped dangerously low in the middle of the night. He was so weak he had to drag himself to the refrigerator and eat something before he passed out. As a result of growing concern about his condition, Chad began researching Diabetes Assist Dogs and how they help people with diabetes. He was fascinated to find out dogs can smell a low blood sugar and wanted to learn more. He discovered Can Do Canines online and sent for an application.

Chad applied in May of 2010 and in December he was matched with Hazel, a two-year-old Labrador Retriever. Hazel is trained to alert him to low blood sugars by touching him in a specific way, which lets him know to check his level. She can retrieve a juice or snack if needed, get an emergency phone or go get help from Chad's wife or another person in the house.

While Hazel was growing up with her puppy raisers, she was exposed to many different sights and sounds including horses and children. This made her a perfect match for Chad, whose family has three young children, and competes and shows horses on a regular basis.

In an unusual twist, Can Do Canines trainer, Mona Elder, had to figure out a way that Hazel could alert Chad even when he is riding a horse. The solution was to have Chad wear a specially designed rope attached to his belt – if Hazel needs to alert him, she pulls on the rope. Chad is gradually transferring that skill to a similar rope attached to the stirrup on his horse's saddle.



Chad and Hazel

Since Hazel has joined the Engstrom family, Chad reports "The kids refer to her as dad's special dog. The transition has gone very well." He adds, "I'm still getting used to having a dog with me all the time. It's a little different but it's going fine."

Hazel was quickly accepted at work and around the community. "Most people say 'Hi Hazel' before they say 'Hi Chad,'" he laughs. Hazel was greeted with great enthusiasm by hospital staff. Both the local newspaper and his Rotary Club announced her arrival and explained how she helps Chad. When they go to work at the hospital, Hazel also sports her own personal ID badge which reads "Hazel, Human Resources".

Chad and Hazel bonded quickly. She has been taking her job very seriously and doing it well. In the first 24 hours, she alerted him to a 'low' while he was running on his treadmill. In just the first month since being placed with Chad, she has alerted him to low blood sugars six times. Chad says "I would say that's excellent. It usually takes about three months for a dog to transition, but she has picked it up very quickly. I'm feeling a whole new sense of independence."

"Thank you to everyone who has been part of the process of training Hazel." Chad says, "It's a wonderful thing. My family and I are so appreciative of all the help that was provided so that I could receive Hazel." ♥

Would you like to help? Call Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153 to learn how.

New Teams



Jean Lundquist & Diabetes Assist Dog Juno

"I am so thankful that Can Do Canines does the work that they do every day. I know they must hear this all the time, but it makes such a world of difference to people like me."

Thank You

Dog Source - Julie Mach

Vet Services - Globe University - Rochester

Puppy Raiser - Shirley Russo

Field Trainer - Pete Otterness

Foster Home - Inmates at Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

See their full story at

www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Cyan Ogden & Autism Assist Dog Lilly-hound

"The gift you gave us isn't just for Cyan. Lilly-hound is an important part of the whole family. We're seeing more love and affection in our house because she is here."

Thank You

Dog Source - The Ottum Family

Foster Home - The Sorenson Family

Read their story on page 5

Getting Through the Day

Terrie Schrank and Willow

by Sue Lockrem

Terrie Schrank of Webster, Minn. is an active, involved 'empty nester.' She is a registered nurse working as a Healing Touch Practitioner and volunteers with her church and throughout her community.

Dogs have been a passion of Terrie's for a long time. She and her husband, Jerry, have bred Springer Spaniels for many years, and in 2005, she decided to volunteer with Can Do Canines. They became short-term foster parents for three Lab puppies and were Puppy Raisers for a yellow lab named Dexter. For Terrie, this was a way of giving back to the dogs she loved so much and to help someone going through a struggle similar to her own.

Terrie has lived with Multiple Sclerosis for more than 20 years. This progressive disease affects her vision, mobility, sensation, and at times, her memory. As she was raising Dexter she thought, "Maybe someday, I'll be the one who needs an assistance dog."



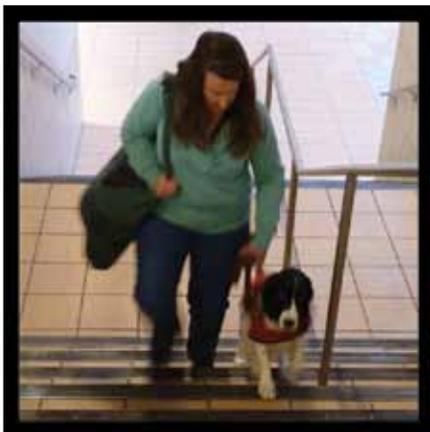
Terrie and Willow

that were born at the Schrank home. Willow was already assisting Terrie at home but needed help fine-tuning her skills. So, they applied to Can Do Canines as an owner trained team and, after Willow received her health and temperament clearances, they were both accepted into the Mobility Assist Dog Program.

How did Terrie know that Willow, out of all her pups, was the one? "Willow has always had the extra drive and willingness to work until the job is done. She always goes above and beyond." Terrie says as she strokes Willow's soft head. "Life with her is fun and exciting, never a dull moment. She always wants to learn new things."

When Jerry is not at home, Terrie says it is a comfort and a help to have Willow at her side. Their daily routine includes Willow tugging open the refrigerator door to bring Terrie her medicine and to retrieve a covered syringe off the kitchen counter. On the days when Terrie's MS is bad and she has trouble moving, Willow will bring Terrie her crutches and the phone if needed. She also helps with tugging off Terrie's socks. "Willow often knows before I do when I'm not feeling well. She is a constant reminder for me to take my medicine."

Now the two travel everywhere together. During meetings in the community, Willow lies perfectly calm by Terrie's side. At one meeting, Terrie removed Willow's coat and took her outside for a break. She started jumping around



Willow assisting Terrie up a flight of steps

Today, Terrie and her Mobility Assist Dog, Willow, are a unique Can Do Canines team. Willow, a lively black and white Springer, is one of Terrie's puppies



Willow bringing a phone and a crutch to Terrie and tugging off her sock

and acting like any other dog. "People thought I had a totally different dog. She just knows when she's working and when it's time to play".

Terrie expresses her appreciation of Willow by saying, "Dogs are really an extension of your spirit. When I'm not feeling well, and Willow puts her head in my lap, I know I can get through the day." ❤️

Did you know Can Do Canines is one of only a few organizations that will train a person's pet dog? To learn how you can help, visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org.



Hear Those Lions Roar!

On March 16, 2011, the Lions District Governors-elect from Lions Multiple District 5M visited Can Do Canines for a series of presentations, a facility tour and a delicious breakfast. The Lions learned about the various types of assistance dogs placed by Can Do Canines and heard stories about the impact these canine helpers have on the lives of our graduates.

Worth the Wait

Cyan Ogden and Lilly-hound

by Jessi Hiemer

Cyan Ogden is an energetic ten-year-old. She lives in the small town of Cologne, Minn. with her mom Christine, brother Channing, and grandma Joyce. She loves to read and watch movies. Cyan is also living with autism spectrum disorder, which makes it difficult for her to gauge social situations and respond correctly.

When Christine heard about the Autism Assist Dog program at Can Do Canines from a family friend in 2008, she was eager to get Cyan on the waiting list. In her application, Christine wrote "I want an assistance dog who can keep Cyan safe and as focused as possible. More than that, we want a companion for Cyan, a dog who will always be there and always show her love and affection."

The Ogdens waited patiently for three and a half years while staff searched for the perfect dog for Cyan. When Lilly-hound, a two-year-old Labrador Retriever/Hound mix was donated by the Ottum family, staff knew she would be a good fit! Her foster family described her as a "wise, steady, calm, hound who loves kids, other dogs, and food". Under the guidance of training staff, Christine and Cyan learned to work with Lilly-hound and to rely on her calming influence to make everyday life a little easier.

Even as a newly certified team, it's easy to see the connection Cyan and Lilly-hound share. When Cyan tells Lilly-hound to "down," she gets on the ground next to her to snuggle together. Cyan is more social because she likes to talk about her dog. When Lilly-hound brings a ball to play or seeks her out for attention, Cyan is learning to spend time doing things they both enjoy. With Lilly-hound's gentle, tail-wagging encouragement, Cyan is walking further and with less resistance than ever before.



Cyan and Lilly-hound

Christine would like to offer advice to individuals and families waiting for their assistance dog. "Be patient. There were times over the last three years that we were ready to give up, but we stuck it out and I am so glad we did."

If you are one of the many donors who make teams like Cyan and Lilly-hound possible, Christine wants you to know your donations are important. "The gift you gave us isn't just for Cyan. Lilly-hound is an important part of the whole family. We're seeing more love and affection in our house because she is here. Thank you will never be enough, but that's all we can say." ♥

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.

Pictured with the Governors (front row, L to R) are graduates Cole Anderson & Mobility Assist Dog Dixie, Terri Krake & Seizure Assist Dog Brody, Amanda Merton & Hearing Assist Dog Lena, and Executive Director Al Peters.

Lions provide about 10% of our annual support. Recently they raised more than \$75,000 in additional funds toward the construction of a second wing of kennels and we hope that the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) will match that in the near future for a total of \$150,000.

New Teams



Matt Pruner & Mobility Assist Dog Teddy

"Teddy is now more like a family member to us, and it's hard to remember life when he wasn't here."

Thank You

Dog Source - Deb Carver
Puppy Raiser - Mike Ferber & Betty Otto

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



Chad Engstrom & Diabetes Assist Dog Hazel

Thank You

Dog Source - Ellen & Mel McKinnin
Field Trainer - Kathy Derrick
Vet Services - Pine City Animal Hospital
Puppy Raiser - Stephan & Becky Hallan
Foster Home - Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

Read their story on page 3

Volunteer Appreciation



left to right: Executive Director Al Peters, Volunteer of the Year Bev DeChon, Special Recognition recipient Dee Hollerud, Puppy Raisers of the Year Marge & Dave Skeie, Foster Home of the Year Dawn Turner, Special Recognition recipient Ron Ehlert, and Volunteer Spotlight recipient Patty Wirz.

More than 100 guests attended the Can Do Canines Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, held March 19, 2011 at our 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 for people with disabilities, free of charge.

Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson comments, "We could not fulfill our mission without our fantastic, enthusiastic volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you for sharing your time and talents with us!"

If you would like to know more about the volunteer opportunities available at Can Do Canines, visit our web site at www.can-do-canines.org or contact Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 x113.



Labs from the "C" litter attended and were celebrated as they turned one year old. Pictured are Jenn Alexander and "Carlee", Kathryn Alexander and "Claire", Sara Ehlert with "Chloe", and Stephanie Scott with "Charity"

The Cool Kid with the Cool Dog

Ben Fliearman and Kipper

by Allison Schildknecht

Ben Fliearman, 9, of Bloomington, Minn. is a quadruplet. "Early on, we found out something was different with Ben," his mother Molly says. Ben has autism and epilepsy. "We're fairly restricted in what we can do," Molly says. "Ben gets overstimulated in public easily, and he's getting bigger and harder for me to handle when he does have a tantrum." Ben's dad Greg says, "We used to be able to throw him over our shoulders and run. Those days are over."

"When we first considered getting a dog for Ben, the thought of coming up with the funds for something like that was overwhelming," Molly says. "There are a lot of life expenses when you have a child with a disability." Can Do Canines provides dogs to people with disabilities free of charge, but the high demand for Autism Assist Dogs meant the Fliearmans waited for almost two and a half years to meet Ben's dog.

At last, Ben was paired with Kipper, a leggy Great Pyrenees mix with a fluffy white coat and a demeanor Molly calls "chill". Kipper came to Minnesota through the Animal Humane Society and was adopted by a family with a young daughter. When that family found they were expecting another child, they decided to find Kipper a new home. Kipper's family brought him to Can Do Canines for evaluation. Client Services Coordinator Leslie Flowers says, "I was amazed at how mellow he was. Their little two-year-old girl was walking him around by the leash and she didn't even come up to his head."

Molly says, "Kipper knew right away that Ben was 'his boy'. I was surprised that a dog that didn't know us could come into a house with four boys, all the same age, and on the first weekend gravitate to Ben. He loves all the boys, but there's a direct relationship with Ben. If Ben is upstairs and the other boys are downstairs, Kipper chooses to be upstairs. Those things have come very naturally."

Kipper gives Ben more confidence, even in situations that used to overwhelm him. "When I took Ben to his first medical appointment with Kipper, the two things that came to mind were confidence and



Ben and Kipper

pride." Molly says. "I could step back and say, 'Okay, Ben, get up on the exam table for the doctor' without having to hold him physically," she says. "Ben can have some independence, which has to feel good." The Fliearmans have seen physical improvements as well. "Ben's gait is much more typical when he walks with Kipper. I never imagined there would be a physical therapy benefit to having him walk with a dog, but he walks more purposefully when he walks Kipper. There's less stomping, less giant steps, less stimming with his hand."

When asked if she and her family have tried more things with Kipper along, Molly laughs, "Much more! Mall of America... on a Saturday! That's never happened before. Every time I used to think of doing those kinds of activities, I would cringe back and think, 'What about Ben?' Even larger parks would have overwhelmed me. Malls, baseball games—we can do those things now."

Kipper doesn't attend the K-5 school with Ben, but he does walk Ben into school every morning and back to the car every afternoon. "Before, Ben was just the kid who came in, who went into that room and you didn't see him at lunch," Molly says. "He was the boy who didn't talk and did funny things with his hand. Now kids are coming up to Ben and asking him for high-fives. He's the cool

kid with the cool dog. Kipper's practically become the school's mascot." Molly recently took Ben and Kipper to the second-grade classroom to talk about the partnership between Ben and his dog. "It made me wish I talked to them about Ben before—they asked such good questions. With Kipper there, it was all the more intriguing."

Molly has some tips for those who might consider getting an Autism Assist Dog. "Relax and trust the bond. You don't have to force the bond. The things that you were afraid to do— try them. Remember that the dogs like to work. Finally, keep an open mind and a clean counter!" she laughs "You expect a perfect dog, and, you know, they're very well-trained, but they are dogs. It can be pretty funny. Kipper certainly knows the difference between being in cape and being out of cape."



It was near Christmas when the Fliearmans heard that their long wait was over and that a dog would soon be placed with them. "I said to Ben's brothers, 'You know, Ben never asks for anything.' We sometimes get a little sad around Christmas and his birthday because he can't articulate what he wants. It's to his credit that he's not materialistic!" Molly laughs. "...but what a gift to finally be able to give him!" ♥



Ben & Molly Fliearman and Bill McNeely with Kipper

Bill McNeely helped make the Fliearmans' dream come true by sponsoring the entire cost of placing Kipper with Ben. Can you help us make more dreams come true? Contact Janet Cobus at [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) or by calling 763-331-3000 ext. 153.



As different as it seemed at first, Molly says she's gotten used to bringing Kipper as many places as possible with Ben. "I miss Kipper when he's not out in public with us." she says. "He clues people in to the fact that there's something bigger going on with Ben, gives them a clue what we're dealing with. Kipper's brought us some peace that's hard to put our finger on — not that it wasn't a happy house before, but there's been a lift in our moods. Just to be able to take walks..." Molly glances down at the dog. "You've brought a sense of calm to our house, Kipper."

New Teams



Megan Krantz & Autism Assist Dog Savi

"What Savi does for Megan so outweighs any small adjustments we had to make. It was worth the wait!"

Thank You

Dog Source - Valorie Muggli
Vet Services - Valley View Pet Hospital
Puppy Raiser- Shay & Michelle Nelson
Foster Home - The Sorenson Family

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



Karen Kelly & Diabetes Assist Dog Joy

"Joy didn't just change my life - she changed it for all of us. My family can sleep soundly, knowing Joy is here for me."

Thank You

Dog Source - Julie Mach
Vet Services - Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital
Puppy Raiser- The Hiemer Family
Foster Home - Inmates at Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

Read their story on page 10

Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ I.Click Training Clickers
- ✓ Car Seat Belt Harnesses – All sizes
- ✓ Halti Head Collars, sizes 2 & 3
- ✓ Martingale collars
- ✓ Soft Treats (BilJac, Zukes, Pupperoni)
- ✓ Giant Nylabones and lg. & med. Kongs
- ✓ L or XL Vari-Kennels, new or gently used
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ Mac computers
(Minis, Macbooks, iMacs)
- ✓ PC laptops & desktops, dual-core
- ✓ Mac OS X 10.5 licenses
- ✓ LCD TV, 37" or larger
- ✓ Home Theater system for meeting room

Automotive

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

Equipment

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

Miscellaneous

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

Building Materials

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

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! ♥



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!

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)

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 40 assistance dogs this year. Won't you help?



Contact Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 ext. 113 to volunteer for the following dates:
May 22-26, 5:30 – 9 pm

Puppy Shower

Saturday, June 25, 2011, 2:00 –4:00 pm
at Can Do Canines

"It's a boy, a girl, another girl, oh wait...another boy"

Vi, our beautiful black Labrador, delivered her babies on April 22, 2011! We are planning a shower to welcome these special dogs into puppyhood. You can bring toys, blankets, puppy chew toys, and financial support to help us raise these puppies to be assistance dogs! We'll also have special treats and fun games for people and puppies! Don't miss it!

Sponsorships Needed for Can Do Canines Events

You can make your gift to Can Do Canines more meaningful by sponsoring an important activity that furthers our work. Your sponsorship gift can come from an employee group, service club, serve as a way of advertising your business, be a unique gift to honor another person, or simply be one more reason to support our efforts. There are a variety of opportunities and benefit levels available through these events:

- Tails of Independence Fundraising Luncheon - \$250 - \$10,000**
- Graduation Sponsorship – \$250 to \$2,500**
- Puppy Raiser Picnic Sponsorship – \$500**
- Heel and Wheel Fundraising Walk – \$250 to \$10,000**
- Fetching Ball Gala Sponsorship: \$500 - \$15,000**

Please contact Janet Cobus at jacobus@can-do-canines.org for more details.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame for Can Do Canines!

Fourth Annual Saint Paul Saints Game Fundraiser
Sunday, June 26
Starts at 1:05 PM
St. Paul Saints vs. Wichita Wingnuts



Your \$15 ticket includes general admission, a Saints baseball cap, a soda and a hot dog! \$5.00 of each ticket benefits our programs.

Order and print tickets online at www.saintsgroups.com and use the password 'cando' or order tickets by phone – 651-644-6659

Holy Land Deli Coupons

Do you eat Holy Land brand hummus (any flavor), tabouli and baba ghanouj? If so, save the coupon on the back of the label and send it to Can Do Canines, 9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428. For every coupon saved and sent in, 25 cents will be donated to Can Do Canines! Holy Land products are available at many local grocers including Cub, Target, Kowalskis, Byerly's, Rainbow and also at the Holy Land store at the Midtown Global Market on Lake Street. What a tasty way to raise funds for Can Do Canines! Any questions, call Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000, Ext. 153.



Name-A-Puppy Update:

Spring has sprung for our Name-a-Puppy Program. Recent Puppy namers include the Minnesota Women of Today, Seagate (holding a Spring Auction to name their fourth puppy!) and the General Motors plant in Hudson, WI with their Bowl-a-Thon.

Three named puppies are also graduating on May 21, 2011: Savi (named by Seagate); Hamel (Hamel Lions Club); and Capri (Capri Chelgren)

We have puppies coming soon— join the organizations above and 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!



Volunteer Spotlight - Sharon Steinbrecher

Sharon Steinbrecher of Cedar, Minn. first discovered Can Do Canines when she attended the 2007 Home & Garden Show and stopped at our booth.

She began volunteering in 2008 with the Special Events Fundraising Committee. She jumped right in, and soon became an integral part of our organization. In 2009 she accepted the position of Chairperson for this committee. She leads the other volunteer members in discovering ways to raise money by planning and running events like pancake breakfasts, dinners at California Pizza Kitchen and Cosi, Saint Paul Saints games, holding garage sales, and anything else the committee can dream up!

Sharon has also volunteered at many other Can Do Canines functions including the Heel and Wheel dog walk,



Fetching Ball gala, and in house events like our open house and graduations.

At one of our most important fundraisers, the Tails of Independence luncheon, Sharon has served as a table captain each year since 2009. She also helps out every year at our annual Phone-a-thon fundraiser.

We sincerely appreciate all the hard work Sharon does on our behalf and are truly fortunate to have such a wonderful volunteer represent our organization. Thank you Sharon! ♥

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
- Assistance with event planning

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson at carlson@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

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| <p>🐾 Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus</p> <p>🐾 Brad & Valerie Addis</p> <p>Ilene Ahrens</p> <p>🐾 Jayson & Kathryn Alexander</p> <p>🐾 Mary & Jon Alexander</p> <p>James & Polly Allen</p> <p>Tina Allwardt</p> <p>Linda Altergott</p> <p>Doug & Holly Ammerman</p> <p>Cole Anderson & "Dixie"</p> <p>Stacia Anderson</p> <p>Tom Antikainen</p> <p>Maddie Apold</p> <p>🐾 Dianne & Doug Astry</p> <p>Terri Bailey</p> <p>🐾 Theresa & Keith Barnes</p> <p>🐾 Bill Beddie & Kathy Grant</p> <p>Mary Bente</p> <p>Pat Berg</p> <p>The Bergstad family</p> <p>🐾 Bobbi Blair</p> <p>🐾 Darlene Blomberg</p> <p>Kim Bloomer</p> <p>Sue & Pete Bosch</p> <p>Mike Branch</p> <p>Janet, Emily & Steve Bratkovich</p> <p>Kelsey Braun</p> <p>Sara Braziller</p> <p>Vern & Darlene Breamer</p> <p>Kathy Broten</p> <p>Julia Buege Freeman</p> <p>🐾 Jean & Don Burdeski</p> <p>Deb Burke & "Pepsi"</p> <p>Jennifer Burt</p> <p>🐾 Bob & Mary Cameron</p> <p>Manny Camilon</p> <p>Julie Carlblom</p> <p>Dick Carlson</p> <p>🐾 Laurie Carlson</p> <p>🐾 Pia & Ben Carlson</p> <p>Fletcher Chambers & "Holly"</p> <p>Beth Cherryholmes</p> | <p>🐾 Sue Crone</p> <p>🐾 Emily Danser & Brian Klaas</p> <p>Jan & John Day & "Louie"</p> <p>🐾 Bev & Yance DeChon</p> <p>Jim Diehl</p> <p>🐾 The Dion family</p> <p>🐾 The Doyon family</p> <p>Suzanne Duckler</p> <p>Sherry Duggan & "Casper"</p> <p>Judy Dunbar</p> <p>Elizabeth Eagle</p> <p>Laurie & Ron Ehlert</p> <p>Megan Ehlert</p> <p>🐾 Sara Ehlert</p> <p>Sharon Elbert</p> <p>🐾 Mona Elder</p> <p>Galen Engholm</p> <p>Jill & Jerry England & "Hailey"</p> <p>The Essen family</p> <p>Jean Euteneuer & "Lexie"</p> <p>Mark Falstad</p> <p>🐾 Mike Ferber</p> <p>& Betty Otto</p> <p>Tom Fiecke</p> <p>Duane Finger</p> <p>Kevin Florence</p> <p>Ernie & Jeanne Frie</p> <p>Tammy Gatzke</p> <p>Bonnie Genin</p> <p>The Gibbons family</p> <p>Marcia Gilman</p> <p>Tim Graham</p> <p>Laura Gregory</p> <p>Savannah Gruber</p> <p>Sue Hager & "Mattie"</p> <p>🐾 Steve & Becky Hallan</p> <p>Heidi & Steve Hamilton</p> <p>Karin Hansen & "Sweetie"</p> <p>🐾 Mel & Brian Hanson</p> <p>🐾 The Heffernan family</p> <p>Dianne Hennes</p> <p>Jesse Henning</p> <p>🐾 The Herberg family</p> <p>Jessi Hiemer</p> | <p>🐾 Shelly & Al Hiemer</p> <p>Jack Hines</p> <p>Kim Hodges</p> <p>🐾 The Hollerud family</p> <p>Dawn Imgrund</p> <p>Anne Ingvoldstad</p> <p>🐾 The Johnson family</p> <p>🐾 Jen & Justin Kalvoda</p> <p>Mary Kelley</p> <p>Karen Kelly & "Joy"</p> <p>Pat Kennedy</p> <p>Bill Kempton</p> <p>Pete Kleingartner</p> <p>Katherine Knauer</p> <p>Lisa Knazan</p> <p>Don Knutson</p> <p>Deb Koehnen</p> <p>A-Team Kohls /Maple Grove</p> <p>Ken Kolding</p> <p>Terri Krake & "Brody"</p> <p>Kim Kriesel</p> <p>Jolie & Keith Kroska</p> <p>MarySue Krueger</p> <p>Ann La Valley Wood & family</p> <p>🐾 Amber & Steve LaMourea</p> <p>🐾 Julianne Larsen</p> <p>🐾 Jeremy Larson & Scott Henley</p> <p>🐾 The Larson family</p> <p>Nancy Laufer & "Capri"</p> <p>John & Bonnie Linden</p> <p>Steve Linder</p> <p>Sue Lockrem</p> <p>Frank & Judy Loken</p> <p>Paul Loken</p> <p>Liz Lucast</p> <p>Jody Ludden</p> <p>Jan Lund</p> <p>Anne Mackereth</p> <p>Stephanie Madsen</p> <p>Carrie Maloney</p> <p>Christina & Nick Martinez</p> <p>🐾 The MacKay family</p> <p>Kari Martin</p> <p>Mike McCarthy</p> <p>🐾 Michele & Shawn McLane</p> | <p>🐾 The Ruppe family</p> <p>🐾 Sharon Russell</p> <p>🐾 Shirley Russo</p> <p>🐾 The Sanborn family</p> <p>Barb Sargent</p> <p>🐾 Jerry Schendel</p> <p>Brian Schroeder</p> <p>🐾 Dora & Howard Schroeder</p> <p>🐾 The Schroeder family</p> <p>Kate Schroven</p> <p>Fiona Schumacher</p> <p>Sue Schuster</p> <p>🐾 Stephanie & Seth Scott</p> <p>Ken Schwartz & family</p> <p>🐾 The Sears family</p> <p>Adrianna Shannon</p> <p>Judy Sharken Simon</p> <p>Kathy Sherwood</p> <p>Laura Shirley</p> <p>🐾 Marge & Dave Skeie</p> <p>The Solei family</p> <p>The Sorenson family</p> <p>Melissa Stam</p> <p>Sharon Steinbrecher</p> <p>Ken & Judy Stenzel & "Calvin"</p> <p>Greg & Cat Stevens</p> <p>🐾 Melanie Thielke</p> <p>Brian Toews</p> <p>The Tuenge family</p> <p>Dawn Turner</p> <p>🐾 Patty Van Landschoot</p> <p>Sandy Vance</p> <p>Dallas Volk & family</p> <p>Carlos Villalpando</p> <p>Sue Wagner</p> <p>Len Washko</p> <p>🐾 Laura & Adam Waudby</p> <p>Mary Weisel</p> <p>Heidi Westerlund</p> <p>🐾 The Willms family</p> <p>Patty Wirz</p> <p>Jodi Ann Wisheart</p> <p>Ron Wolff & "Freckles"</p> <p>Julie Yanz & "Midas"</p> <p>The Young family</p> |
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New Teams



Dylan Orndorff & Autism Assist Dog Munroe

"We started talking about the possibilities our family will be able to experience with Dylan in the future. Simple things families take for granted such as going to McDonald's; out for pizza, a movie, or walking to the park instead of driving, hoping Dylan did not have a meltdown."

Thank You

Dog Source - Kathy Marr
Vet Services - Globe University - Rochester
Puppy Raiser- Mary Nelson
Foster Home - Dora Schroeder

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



Terrie Schrank & Mobility Assist Dog Willow

"Dogs are really an extension of your spirit. When I'm not feeling well, and Willow puts her head in my lap, I know I can get through the day."

Read their story on page 4

A Joyful Life

Karen Kelly and Joy

by Jessi Hiemer

Karen Kelly of Andover, Minn., is a mother of two whose daughters, Megan and Mackenzie, keep her busy with their activities. She enjoys spending weekends at the family's cabin, gardening, and being outdoors. Her life is often complicated by Type 1 diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness. A diabetic for 24 years, Karen is accustomed to checking her blood sugar up to 10 times a day. During the past ten years, however, her body stopped giving her the signals that used to alert her to dropping blood sugar levels. This made daily life difficult for Karen and a constant source of worry for her husband and teenage daughters.

"My blood sugar often gets low without me knowing it," Karen says, "I've had paramedics come to the house several times, and had a car accident due to low blood sugar. Sometimes, my kids can't wake me up, or we're out in public and I don't make sense and can't get help myself. My girls have had to learn, the hard way, that they have to be the responsible person and look after Mom." The stress of being constantly on alert and knowing someone you love could become very ill without warning, can take its toll on the families of people living with diabetes. This is especially true for children, who feel they have to take care of a parent.



When her daughter, Mackenzie, got a flyer from Can Do Canines and suggested they attend the fundraising luncheon, Karen was surprised to learn about the variety of assistance dogs the



Karen and Joy

organization provides. She decided to apply for a Diabetic Assist dog with the hopes of gaining a sense of security for her and her family. The staff at Can Do Canines matched Karen with Joy, a two-year-old chocolate Labrador Retriever.

Once the pair became accustomed to living together, Joy happily settled into working with Karen. Joy alerts her to low blood sugar levels before they are dangerous by pawing at Karen. Joy can also get juice, find help from someone else in the house, and retrieve an emergency phone.

Joy takes her job very seriously. She's brought Karen juice without being asked

because she understood it was needed. She also stopped Karen from leaving the house one day. When Karen checked her blood sugar, she realized it was dropping rapidly. Had Joy not been around, Karen might have become disoriented while driving.

Karen says she's surprised how quickly Joy fit into the family. "Joy is a very social dog. She loves attention and wants to be petted by everyone." The whole family loves Joy and feels more secure knowing she is always on duty to protect and help Karen. "We all love her, but she's definitely my dog. At work, even though she likes visiting my coworkers, she won't let anyone distract her when she has to go through the building to retrieve my juice from the break room."

Karen and her family would like supporters of Can Do Canines to know what a special gift Joy is. "We can't say thank you enough. Joy didn't just change my life - she changed it for all of us. My family can sleep soundly, knowing Joy is here for me. I'm more comfortable being on my own because I'm never really alone. Your hard work, donations, time, and energy are well spent on Joy and dogs like her." ♥

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

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Donated ByIn Honor Of
 Erin AldrichMom
 Lisa BugmanSally Nelson's Birthday!
 Donna & Sam FascianaMaria Solei
 Mike FerberJoshua Gene Ferber
 Roland FranceschiSandy's Birthday!
 Alvera Franceschi
Toni Goldstein - Northridge Masonic
 Roland FranceschiVictoria Franceschi's Birthday
 JoAnn & Berge HansenCindy Uhlemann
 William Heegaard "Iken"
 Kimberly Hodges "Bishop"
 Lisa Knazan Happy Birthday Steve Arneson!

Donated ByIn Honor Of
 Jamie LeeGreg Lee & "AJ" The Wonder Dog
 Jean Martell "Kiki" Nordby
 Leslie Matton-FlynnToni Yeaman & "Reggie"
 Sandra MeuwissenRich Meuwissen
 Jay MorganSusan Youngberg
 Cindy NessKim Bloomer
 Beryl PatnerLisa Knazan & Dennis Levendowski
 Cora & Billy QuinnHappy Birthday Rollie
 Susan RussellRoland and Alvera Franceschi
 Ellen SeeselThe Sharken Simon Family
 Philip and Joanne SusagJohn and Jan Day
 Joan WillshireMurphy- Rev Sams

In Honor of Alvera Franceschi's Birthday
 Cora & Billy Quinn, Leah Golberstein,
 Roland Franceschi

In Honor of Ben Flierman
 Vicki Roe, Molly & Greg Flierman

In Honor of Capri Chelgren's Birthday
 Barbara & Coy Chelgren, Karen Olesen,
 Tina Nordsving, Amy & Timothy Stensrud,
 Robert & Marie Yttretness

Leave a Legacy

Did you know that you can include Can Do Canines in your estate planning?

Including us in your estate and other forms of planned giving are an important part of ensuring that Can Do Canines has the resources to continue fulfilling our mission of enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with specially trained dogs.

Planned gifts can be as simple as donating stock or other appreciated assets or as complex as setting up a charitable trust designed to provide tax benefits to the donor while providing income or assets to the charitable beneficiary.

For more information on how you can include a planned gift for Can Do Canines in your estate planning, contact Janet Cobus at [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) or 763-331-3000 ext. 153.

Can Do Canines Wins a New Website Overnight

Can Do Canines was one of only 18 nonprofits selected to participate in the fourth year of the Overnight Website Challenge, sponsored by Twin Cities web design firm The Nerderdy. This 24-hour event matched needy nonprofits with all-volunteer teams of professional web designers and challenged them to build a website in a single (very long) day. 24 hours after our arrival, Can Do Canines and our volunteer team, "Push & Run", launched the all-new www.can-do-canines.org. Check it out! Our sincerest thanks go out to the eight spectacular, sleepless web pros that made it happen. ♥



Superhero web team "Push & Run" celebrates the early-morning launch of Can Do Canines' new website with Executive Director Al Peters.

New Teams



Ben Flierman & Autism Assist Dog Kipper

"Now kids are coming up to Ben and asking him for high-fives. He's the cool kid with the cool dog."

Kipper's practically become the school's mascot."

Thank You

- Dog Source** - The Hedburg Family
- Vet Services** - Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital
- Puppy Raiser-Sponsor** - The Hollerud Family
Bill McNeely

Read their story on page 6

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Donated By	In Memory Of
Harvey & Wendy Graves Alheim.....	Douglas Wendler
Betty Anderson.....	"Foxy"
Martha Anderson.....	GRCH Ynda's Last-Of-The-Mohicans, CGC ROM
Animal Wellness Center of Maple Grove.....	
.....	"Abby" Hendricks, "Chloe" Cohen, "Chloe" Parker, "Hildy" Maegi,
"Katie" Amundson, "Katrina" Deane, "Kidu" Lawrenz, "Penny" Spanagel, "Tom" Martin, "Ashley" Blashack,	
"Callie" Ostlund, "Cuddles" Silver, "Lenny" Rebling, "Louie" Hollenbeck, "Missie" Brooks, "Scrappy" Shoe,	
"Tigger" Rostamo, "Ben" Adkins, "Buttons" Baumann, "Cloe" Anderson, "Gabby" Grzeskowiak, "Lilly" Holtz,	
"Sean" Abresch, "Alexx" Hafner, "Bo" Campbell, "Callaway" Moriarty, "Cheeba" Christians, "Emma" Wolf,	
"Loki" Carlson, "Molly" Benson, "Pedro" Morton, "Smidget" Washington, "Sinickers" Billitteri,	"Willie" Arens, "Yang" Rosenthal
Mike Branch.....	"Jessie"
Linda Chaffee-Hampton.....	"Leah"
C. Lynn & Gerald Cox	"Mandy"
C. Lynn & Gerald Cox	Kirby Gordon Hanson
Lois Crunstedt & Claudia and Peter Hines.....	Carl Stacey
Janet Dubats.....	Joseph Tim Zimmerman
Alice Engelman	"Raven"
Marcia Fritzmeier.....	"Maddie", "Emmy" & "Duke"
Mary Gaffney.....	"Roxie"
Bonnie Genin.....	Sharon Neuberger's Mom
Mary Jo Haaland.....	Lion Dennis Haaland
Lynnette Hansen.....	"Baxter"
Harold & Alta Hanson.....	"Olivia"
Patricia & Roy B Harvey.....	"Emily" the yellow lab
Ann Hollick.....	Basil
John & Jennifer Howe.....	John Howe Junior
Judith Ingram.....	"Samantha", "Maya" & "Sadie"
Lauren Johnson.....	Leah Arneson
Margaret Johnson.....	Mary Jean Sampson
Dr. Nancy Kirsner, PhD.....	"Simbee" Kirsner
Lisa Knazan.....	"Nelly" the dog
Kenneth Kolarik.....	Theodore Eugene, Ted Beberg
Tim Maus	"Saga" & "Sprocket"
Julia Miller	"Puppy"
Morris Lions Club.....	David Baukol
Andriette & Keith Mortimore.....	"Dusty" & "Babe"
Sharon & James Neurburg.....	Laura Kummer
Pat Nimmerfroh.....	"Claire", deeply missed by Anna & Tom
Marcia Passi.....	Dr. Don Purnell
Steven & Sherry Sletten	"Tudii"
Mina Stahl.....	Edward Stahl
Kathleen Stark.....	Rebecca Stark and her kitty "Carmel"
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation - Paul Loken.....	Lion Keith Cherryholmes
Karen Vogel.....	Cisco Eagle
Joseph & Marilyn Zimmerman - Anoka Lions.....	Tim Zimmerman

Welcome New Staff Member Dora Schroeder

Dora Schroeder began employment at Can Do Canines in December of 2010 as a Client Services Coordinator with a special interest in autism placements. She also spearheaded the Can Do Canines breeding program since its inception three years ago.

Dora has a degree in Veterinary Technology, with a specialty certification in Emergency and Critical Care medicine. She and has spent more than 20 years in the Veterinary field, first at a specialty cat clinic and the Animal Emergency Clinic, then at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center.

When she's not working Dora hangs out with her husband, 4 cats and 2 dogs, or her 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild! ♥





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



Graduation!



Join us for our favorite time of the year-
Graduation! Eighteen certified teams will
accept their certificates and nylabone
diplomas **at 1:00 p.m. on May 21, 2011 at
Can Do Canines.**

Come join in the festivities!

Upcoming Events

- May 12 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 7:00 p.m.
- May 21 Graduation, 1:00 p.m.
- June 11 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 10:00 a.m.
- June 25 Puppy Shower, 2-4 p.m at Can Do Canines
- June 26 Saint Paul Saints Game Fundraiser - 1:00 p.m.
- August 13 Graduation, 1:00 p.m.
- August 27 18th Annual Heel and Wheel Walk,
10:30 a.m., Cheshire Park at Carlson Towers
- November 5 *Fetching Ball*, Earle Brown Heritage Center,
Brooklyn Park, MN

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!

SAVE THE DATE!



Come, Sit, Play!

Saturday, November 5, 2011
Earle Brown Heritage Center
Brooklyn Center, MN

Lots of fun and surprises:
Human and Canine
Fashion Show
Silent and Live Auction
DogTini Bar
and lots more...

Stay tuned for
event updates at
www.can-do-canines.org



Master of Ceremonies
Natalie Kane
WCCO-TV
Morning Show Reporter



Heel and Wheel - Save The Date!

Rev up your wheels and put on your
walking shoes! **The 18th Annual
Heel and Wheel Walk** will take place
on Saturday, August 27 at Cheshire
Park and Carlson Towers in Minnetonka.

Check out our website to
download your pledge sheet
and get more ideas on how
to help raise funds to make
this our biggest fundraiser
of the year!

