

Tails from Minnesota



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Can Do Canines
ASSISTANCE DOGS

www.can-do-canines.org

Spring 2012



Knowing Drake is there by her side gives Andrea the confidence she was looking for to lead a more independent life.

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Volume 23 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

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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

Good News!

Spring has sprung at Can Do Canines! Along with the grass and budding plants, our facility has bloomed some new features.

Our building is nearing completion as we put finishing touches on our overnight guest room, caretaker's apartment, new office wing, and our second bank of dog kennels, which were sponsored by the Lions Clubs of Minnesota. Soon to be completed is the painting of our exterior walls and some special features like the audio-visual equipment in our large meeting room. I encourage you to come to one of our tours or attend our graduation on May 19, 2012 to look us over. We're proud of our progress!

Also new this year is the upcoming Can Do Woofaroo, a new event that will include our long-running Heel and Wheel walk, but will be expanded to include vendors, entertainment and dog-friendly activities for all. As part of the change to Woofaroo, we are moving the event to our facility site in New Hope, Minn. Plan to attend this fun and dog-friendly event on Sunday, August 5, 2012.

Sad News

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of our long-time volunteer and employee, Lee Perish. Lee passed away suddenly on February 22 at the age of 60. Lee was a volunteer, board member, employee and friend to many of us at Can Do Canines.

I met Lee in the 1980's while I was learning sign language. She helped me understand the needs of the deaf community and how Hearing Assist Dogs might be of assistance here in Minnesota. She went on to serve as a volunteer for many years, in a number of capacities, and then became an employee eleven years ago.

Lee was a lover of dogs, cats, the arts, and was a dedicated advocate for disability rights. She served on many committees and boards of directors, always advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. In 1991 she was selected for the Twin Cities Volunteer Hall of Fame by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine. At that time, Lee said, with a laugh, that her goal was "to be the world's number one pest. Not just for me, but as an advocate for all people with disabilities."

Lee succeeded in her goal on many fronts, including being part of a landmark case, the first of its kind in Minneapolis, which assured hospitals would create a formal policy and hire assigned staff to be sure that an interpreter would be available for any person who is deaf within two hours of entering the hospital. This case served as a model that started a trend, and now all hospitals in the Twin Cities, and many elsewhere in Minnesota, have established similar procedures. If you are interested in more information about this special person go to www.accesspress.org/2012/03/, and scroll to the third article, which covers her life and accomplishments, and the sixth article, which is a reprint of the eulogy I delivered at her funeral.

Here at Can Do Canines, Lee handled a variety of accounting tasks and always did so with a joke or a smile to share with others. She put herself in charge of specially selecting anniversary and birthday cards for each staff member. We at Can Do Canines will miss her and her distinctive, infectious belly laugh that could so often be heard throughout our facility. Rest well, my friend. ♥



Al with "Savannah" and "Echo"

Jett the Wonder Dog

Janet Moyer and Diabetes Assist Dog Jett By Lindsey Trader

Janet Moyer of St. Paul, Minn. and her husband Kevin had been discussing getting a pet dog for months. After a diabetes technician at her doctors' office witnessed her blood sugar drop dramatically during an appointment, a Diabetes Assist Dog was suggested. That is when they realized the dog they wanted could not be just any dog. Janet researched Can Do Canines and was overjoyed when Kevin said the magic words, "Let's get an assistance dog for you!" Janet applied and was accepted into the program.

She was matched with a two-year-old black Labrador Retriever named Jett. Jett was donated to Can Do Canines by Crossroads Animal Shelter and trained by inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault. Nicknamed "Mister Showtime" by his handlers at the prison, it's no surprise that Jett is eager to please. Not only does he have the talent to ride a skateboard but he has a sense of humor too. Janet once asked Jett to bring her some juice, so he grabbed the first one he saw: a 62 ounce bottle of grape juice! Despite the fun and games, Jett is actually quite a hard-worker and is eager to help his new partner.

Janet was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 15. Now she struggles with recognizing low blood sugars as she no longer has the typical symptoms. She and her husband became even more worried after Janet experienced a grand mal seizure from a very low blood sugar. Kevin began calling her from work multiple times during the day to check on her.

Now, Janet and Kevin have more peace of mind with Jett at her side. Every time he walks past, Janet is reassured as she hears Jett sniffing the air to see if he can smell the specific scent indicating her blood sugar is dropping. He gets her juice whenever she asks, and often when she doesn't, just because he can tell she needs it! He will also retrieve a phone for her in an emergency and find Kevin if he is somewhere else in the house.

Janet says she can't thank the volunteers, contributors, shelter and inmates enough for making Jett possible for her. She even approached a passing Lions Club member to thank them for "supporting a great, wonderful place." Janet no longer feels as nervous about her situation now that "Jett the Wonder Dog" is on the job. ❤️



Janet and Jett

Contributions are critical to helping us serve more people with disabilities and giving a good life to homeless dogs. But volunteering is equally important. We can't continue this work without dedicated Puppy Raisers and Foster Families like Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus and our program at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault, who gave Jett his great start.. Visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org to learn about the many ways you can help or call Laurie Carlson about volunteer opportunities at 763-331-3000 ext. 113.

Volunteer Orientation and Ambassador Training!

Join us for our next Volunteer Orientation and Ambassador Training session on Saturday, August 18 from 9:00am – 11:30am at our facility in New Hope. (We'll provide a midmorning snack to keep up the energy!)

Please RSVP to Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or by calling 763-331-3000, ext. 113.



New Teams



Rebecca Brown

& Seizure Assist Dog Bindi

"I feel 100% better because I know she's with me. The security she's giving me is something that I haven't had before."

Thank You

Dog Source – Can Do Canines

Field Trainer – Dan Herald

Puppy Raiser – Inmates at the Federal Penitentiary at Sandstone, The Sorenson Family

Foster Home – Jennifer Burt, the Willms family, and the Lamers family

"Special Thanks" – Pam Smith, Deb Wolden, The Burdeski Family

See their full story at

www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Andrea Miller & Seizure Assist Dog Drake

Knowing Drake is there by her side and that his vest will alert people to Andrea's medical needs gives her the confidence she was looking for to lead a more independent life.

Thank You

Dog Source – The Lenneman Family

Puppy Raiser – The Grabau Family

Foster Home – The Ehlert Family

See their full story on page 6

A Great Sense of Relief

Thomas Doody and Diabetes Assist Dog Barclay

by Bill Johnson

Life is a lot less stressful for White Bear Lake, Minn., resident Tom Doody and his wife, Therese, since they welcomed Diabetes Assist Dog, Barclay, into their household.

Tom, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes 32 years ago, used to worry that his blood sugar was getting too low. "Consequently, I would keep my blood sugar higher than the doctors wanted me to," he says. Therese worried about Tom experiencing hypoglycemia, or low blood glucose, especially when he was at home alone or out by himself. At severely low levels, hypoglycemia can result in a variety of dangerous symptoms, including dizziness, loss of consciousness and seizures.



Thomas and Barclay

At one of Tom's doctor's appointment, a nurse told him about dogs that can assist people with diabetes. Back home, he researched the topic on the internet and found Can Do Canines. He applied and eventually was matched with Barclay, a two-year-old Labrador Retriever. As a Diabetes Assist Dog, Barclay has been trained to monitor smells in the air for a specific scent on the human breath related to rapidly dropping or low blood sugar. When this occurs, he "alerts", usually by placing his paws on Tom or nudging him with his nose. Tom confirms Barclay's alerts by checking his blood sugar, and then he gets a snack to eat or juice to drink. Barclay can also retrieve juice or snack for Tom, when necessary.

Barclay's assistance has made a huge difference for both Tom and Therese. For starters, Tom can continue to work as facilities director at St. Paul College. "Barclay is with me at work the entire day," he says. "I stop at the grocery store every evening after work to pick up ingredients for dinner. Barclay goes in with me and helps me shop. He's wonderful in the store; everybody there comments about him."

Besides giving Tom the freedom to live his life as normally as possible, Barclay has brought peace of mind to the Doody household. "When Barclay came to live with

us, I felt a great sense of relief, because I could leave the house and know Tom had someone with him to give advance warning of low blood sugar," explains Therese. "That's taken a lot of stress off of me."

Therese is quick to point out that she and Tom have been married for 36 years. "I feel that with Barclay here, I will have Tom around a lot longer. Low blood sugar affects all of the organs in a person with diabetes. Catching the lows early on means extending his life. It means he'll be dancing with our grandchildren at their weddings."

For Tom and Therese, it's difficult to adequately thank to all the people who were involved in Barclay's journey into their lives, including the volunteer puppy raisers, his inmate trainer at Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault and Can Do Canines trainer Dora Schroeder. Asks Therese: "How can you thank somebody for giving you time on this earth that you might not otherwise have?" ♥

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

The Fetching Ball

Please join us
Saturday, November 10, 2012
Earle Brown Heritage Center,
Creative Black Tie

Silent Auction, Gourmet Dining Stations and Cash Bar Games
Calendar Dogs Fashion Live Auction followed by Music, Dancing and Desserts

For more details, watch our website www.fetchingball.com or call Shelly at 763-331-3000 ext. 115

A New Leap of Faith

Stephanie Magelky & Hearing Assist Dog Stevie by Laurie Carlson

“Hearing Assist Dogs and Can Do Canines have changed my life for the better!” states Stephanie Magelky of Bloomington, Minn. She should know – Stephanie recently certified with her Hearing Assist Dog, Stevie, in February of this year. A client of Can Do Canines since 1993, Stevie is Stephanie’s third Hearing Assist Dog. Her previous two assistance dogs, first Sadie and then Jeff, were well loved, worked hard and lived good lives with Stephanie before passing on.

Losing a dog is never easy, and when it is an assistance dog it is doubly hard. Each time, it was very difficult for Stephanie to feel ready for another dog in her life. She mourned their loss, and only after the repeated frustrations of missing important sounds did she finally feel ready to apply again and let another dog into her home – and her heart.



Stephanie and Stevie

At age 30 Stephanie experienced Sensorineural Hearing Loss, which is progressive condition. She would miss important sounds like people at her door, the phone ringing, and worried about someone breaking into her home and not being able to hear them. Another big concern was not being able to hear the smoke alarm when it goes off.

Hearing Assist Dog, Stevie, has brought back that peace of mind for Stephanie. Now, she no longer worries about missing important sounds, and Stevie has filled the house with lots of joyful action. He loves to work!

Stevie, a small perky Terrier mix, was donated to Can Do Canines by Secondhand Hounds Rescue as a six month old puppy. Alert, energetic and friendly, he had all the

right attributes to make a good Hearing Assist Dog. As a young dog, he still had to learn to be well behaved in public settings and in the home. Foster Family Chris and Cheryl Gibbons said “he loves to work and would get very excited when you pulled out his vest. He wanted to go **anywhere** you’re going.” Stevie often went to work with Chris, the store manager at Lunds, where he walked the sales floor or sat in Chris’ office. He regularly visited public places like stores, restaurants, ballgames and museums.

When asked what differences she’s noticed with Stevie compared to her other two Hearing Assist Dogs, Stephanie replied, “Stevie is quick to learn, and the pre-training he received really helped him learn faster in my home, to finish training sooner and become a team.” She adds, “Stevie is so energetic, and much faster in alerting to sounds. He really considers it his job. He darts back and forth and persists in making sure I follow him to the sound.” Another difference is in the way Stevie alerts Stephanie. She laughs, “His alert touch! Because he’s so peppy and small he loves to leap onto to me to alert – he just flies through the air!”

Recently, Stephanie’s mother, Dorothy, came to live with Stephanie. The placement with Stevie is the first time she’s observed the process from start to finish. “It was very interesting to watch and be a part of it.” Amazingly, when Stephanie is away, he does not alert Dorothy to sounds. He realizes she can hear them. Of the sounds he’s trained to alert to, the most helpful to Dorothy is the name call. When she is in one room and Stephanie may be upstairs, she can tell Stevie, “Go get Stephanie” and he will run and alert Stephanie and bring her to Dorothy. Some service!

Stephanie says, “I am totally sold on assistance dogs and how they help people. Also, all three of my Hearing Assist Dogs were from rescues and it is so amazing to see their transformation, to see them blossom and come to their full potential.” ♥

Can Do Canines adopts homeless dogs, like Stevie, from animal shelters whenever possible. We give these special dogs a second chance for a full life and a loving 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



Tim Clennon & Mobility Assist Dog Roxy
Roxy gives the family peace of mind by being at Tim’s side, and is helping him gain more confidence and independence in continuing the journey of recovery.

Thank You
Dog Source – Ma’N’ Paw Kennel, Trinita Mestuzzi
Field Trainer- Jake Schneider
Puppy Raiser- Laurie Carlson
Foster Home- The Heffernan family, Dora Schroeder, Leslie Flowers, and Nancy Piotrowski
“Special Thanks”- Janice Parrow – medical foster
 See their full story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Janet Moyer & Diabetes Assist Dog Jett
Janet no longer feels as nervous about her situation (undetected low blood sugars) now that “Jett the Wonder Dog” is on the job.

Thank You
Dog Source – Crossroads Animal Shelter
Foster Home- Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus
“Special Thanks”- Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault
 See their full story on page 3

Puppy Raiser Recipe

How to Become a Great Puppy Raiser by
Puppy Coordinator Nancy Piotrowski

Start with an innocent, baby puppy. It's small, cute and cuddly, complete with sweet puppy breath, tiny toes, little paw prints, and big kisses.



Then gather together little pee spots, the occasional hairball,

random cries in the middle of the night, early mornings, and mix it together with razor sharp teeth.



Next combine love bites, chewed up tissue, stolen socks, missing shoes, puppy sighs, tender moments, and the first successful sit for greeting.



Mix it all together with puppy classes, shopping together, reading newspapers at the coffee shop, quick darts to the potty yard, and wrap it up in a training cape.

Then start a slow roast by attending a bazillion classes and a bunch of outings, teaching obedience and starting skills, and baste it with a few tricks.

Let it cool when the puppy will not do in front of a trainer that which it will do everywhere else, when the public outing burns your patience, and when the puppy figures out it can think for itself and it has become a teenager.



Finally, transfer into adulthood, relax, look at your finished product, be proud, take credit and a lot of pictures, show off your results to friends and family, and be very proud of what you've done. Then carefully turn it over to Can Do Canines.



A Comforting Presence

Andrea Miller and Seizure Assist Dog Drake

by Lindsey Trader

Within a month of beginning their new partnership, Andrea Miller and her Seizure Assist Dog, Drake, were in the clouds, flying on a plane to Florida. Drake's peaceful demeanor fit well on the plane and perfectly in his owner's active lifestyle.

Even with a diagnosis of epilepsy and complex seizure disorder at age one, Andrea Miller of Minnetonka, Minn. has never let her disorder slow her down. Medications and a vagus nerve implant help control her seizures and her family is always at her side to provide the support she needs. She is the Director of the Andrea Miller Foundation, an organization that provides support and services to orphans around the world. She speaks across the nation against bullying and about her faith journey, and is writing her third book. A true fighter, Andrea is also a brain cancer survivor.

Andrea has always had a "Can Do" attitude, but before Drake, she didn't have the independence she wanted. Her seizures had begun to fluctuate with changes in her medications. Andrea began to worry about what she would do if no one was present when she had a seizure. The brain cancer treatment had caused her to lose some mobility and made her unsteady when trying to bend over. She never felt comfortable being home alone but knew that plenty of people with epilepsy were able to take care of themselves. She wanted to be one of those people.

Her doctor suggested getting an assistance dog. Andrea applied to an organization in Pennsylvania, but after two years, she still had not received a match. While printing materials for her foundation, an employee suggested she consider Can Do Canines. Andrea was relieved and excited to find that Seizure Assistance Dogs were available in Minnesota and soon attended a *Tails to Tell Tour* to learn more. In her application she wrote, "It is hard gaining independence when one's mind casts the burden of terrifying seizures on you, not being able to control what happens, what one does. I do not go anywhere by myself without someone by my side." After being accepted, Andrea soon met Drake, a big, beautiful two year old yellow Labrador Retriever.

The first time they met, Andrea was surprised at how calm Drake was. Though training was a little challenging, she was impressed with Drake's loyalty. She says he really understood and seemed to be thinking

"Andrea's the one I gotta help. That's what I'm working for." After getting to know him better, she began to feel really good about his low-key nature and ability to be there for her. He helped her to relax.



Andrea and Drake

When she has a seizure it takes time for her to feel 100% stable again. Drake helps her do that by staying with her, placing his head on her lap to keep her in place, and licking her face to help her recover faster. "I don't think my parents are going to do that!" she jokingly adds about the comfort Drake gives her. He can also get help for Andrea from another person in the house and will retrieve items she has dropped so she does not have to bend over.

Having Drake has not only made Andrea feel safer, but her family has been more comfortable, too. Before Drake, Andrea wouldn't even go walking by herself because she was concerned about what would happen if she had a seizure. Things are different now. She and Drake will go on walks by themselves, and enjoy time to just relax together. Knowing Drake is there by her side, and that his vest will alert people to Andrea's medical needs in case of a seizure, gives her the confidence she was looking for to lead a more independent life. ♥

To make more dogs like Drake available for people on our waiting list, please visit www.can-do-canines.org

Opening New Doors

Mary Zappa and Mobility Assist Dog Lilly by Anne Ingvaldstad

Mary Zappa and Lilly, a three-year-old Standard Poodle, have gotten to know each other very well over the past few months in Northfield, Minn. Mary is an independent woman who can get around with the help of a cane, wheelchair or walker, but needs a little help to retrieve dropped objects and open doors. "Lilly is wonderful. She is very patient when I drop stuff. She just keeps going until she picks it up."

Mary lives with fibromyalgia and spinal degeneration which resulted in compression of her spinal cord, leading to two cervical fusions. These issues, along with arthritis, cause chronic pain and fatigue sometimes resulting in disabling flare ups.

She heard about Can Do Canines from her physical therapist, who participates in our annual fundraising walk. Mary, along with her therapist, felt that an assistance dog would enhance the quality and safety of her life. "With a Mobility Assist Dog, I believe that doors to new opportunities in my life could open up, including work, socialization and a sense of safety."

Lilly is a sweet-tempered dog donated to Can Do Canines as a puppy, and raised by Puppy Raisers Ron and Beth Detloff. They taught her good manners and obedience, at home and in public places.

When Lilly was in training, some of the Can Do Canines staff called her "the Princess." Was that because of her regal bearing and pampered-poodle looks? Perhaps. But Mary has found that if Lilly wants to go for a walk, even if Mary says, "No, go lay down," Lilly will bring Mary's shoes to her in a not-so-subtle hint. Says Mary, "She can be the Princess, as long as she remembers that I'm the Queen!"

Lilly has picked up quickly on her new job of assisting Mary. She is helping Mary regain her freedom and independence by tugging open the apartment door for her, activating push plate doors, and retrieving items Mary drops. Before long, Mary modified the standard commands to things

along the lines of, "Give it to Mama," or "Open the door for Mama." Mary has also gained a sense of security knowing that in an emergency, Lilly will pull the life line cord (outfitted with a yellow rubber ducky to match the bathroom décor) to summon help for her.

The bond between Mary and Lilly is deep. Recently, when Mary had to stay in the hospital for four days, separated from Lilly, one of the things she couldn't wait to get back to was her faithful dog. And it was apparent from Lilly's excited greeting that the feeling was mutual. That dedication really touches Mary's heart. She says that,



Mary and Lilly

with Lilly, last year was the best Christmas she's had in 20 years.

When asked what she would like the Can Do Canine donors and volunteers to know, Mary says the support they are giving is going to a worthy cause. "Lilly has touched the lives of so many people, not just me. She puts a smile on the face of everyone in the facility where I live. She is a dog with a really big heart." ♥

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

New Teams



**Frank Kuhar
& Mobility Assist Dog Diva**

Frank highly recommends those considering applying for an assistance dog to do so and says, "It's one of the best things I've ever done."

Thank You

Dog Source – Amy Ross

Oak Knoll Collies

Puppy Raiser – the Ramona Elder family

Foster Home – Laura Shirley & Bill Kempton

See their full story at

www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



**Tom Doody &
Diabetes Assist Dog Barclay**

"How can you thank somebody for giving you time on this earth that you might not otherwise have?" asks Tom's wife Therese.

Thank You

Dog Source – Julie Mach

High Voltage Retrievers

Puppy Raiser- Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus

Foster Home- Sloan & Colleen Hamilton

"Special Thanks"- Inmates at the Minnesota

Correctional Facility at Faribault

See their full story on page 4

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)
- ✓ **Giant Nylabones and lg. Kongs**
- ✓ L or XL Vari-Kennels, new or gently used
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Easy Walk or Freedom Harnesses
- ✓ Wire Dog Kennels
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ **Laptops & Computers, Windows 7 or newer**
- ✓ Windows Business Server 2011
- ✓ Wall mountable server rack 19U
- ✓ LCD TVs
- ✓ Home Theater system for meeting room

Automotive

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

Equipment

- ✓ Queen bed and night stands
- ✓ **6 and 8 ft. plastic folding tables**
- ✓ Office chairs
- ✓ **Office cubicles**
- ✓ Commercial Elliptical exercise machine

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Gift cards to
 - grocery stores
 - office supply stores
 - Michael's craft store
 - Party City
- ✓ Office supplies (paper, markers, stamps)
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner, HE laundry detergent
- ✓ Framed dog-related art
- ✓ Nature's Miracle Cleaner

Building Materials

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

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! ♥

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)

Workplace Giving

Did you know that you may be able to support the work of Can Do Canines through your employer's matching gift or giving campaign? Find out now if your company has such a program because every dollar helps Can Do Canines provide vital lifesaving services and resources to people with disabilities—every day, 365 days a year.

Dollars for Doers

According to the latest report produced by the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP), Giving in Numbers: 2011 Edition, "Dollars for Doers has been the most frequently offered employee-volunteer program" for the past few years. More companies offer Dollars for Doers than any other employee volunteering incentive including employee recognition awards, flexible time for volunteering or even a day of service.

Dollars for Doers programs enable employers to recognize the volunteer efforts of their employees with cash. When an employee volunteers with an eligible nonprofit, the company matches their volunteer hours with financial donation to that nonprofit. Contact your Personnel/Human Resources department for details.

Matching Dollars

Your gift could be matched dollar for dollar! Many companies offer matching gift programs that will double, even triple a donation's value. To find out if your company will match your contribution to Can Do Canines, check with your organization or visit the Can Do Canines' online directory of employers that match employee gifts on our website. If you have questions about your company's program, please contact your Personnel/Human Resources Department.

Employee Campaigns

Encourage your company to designate Can Do Canines as a nonprofit agency approved to receive donations from your employee giving campaign. Contact your Personnel/Human Resources Department for details.



Phone-A-Thon Callers Needed

Our annual Phon-A-Thon has a goal to raise \$25,000 to help us train and place 35 assistance dogs this year. Won't you help? Email Laurie Carlson, lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or call her at 763-331-3000 Ext. 113 to volunteer for any of the shifts from May 20 to May 24.

Shift Hours:

Sunday: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Monday-Thursday: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm



Hear Ye, Hear Ye

The Minnesota Renaissance Festival is Coming...

August 18 through September 30, 2012!

We need 100 volunteers to work the Pet Gate this year. Sign up now to get your spot. Workers receive \$6.00 in food tickets and a ticket to enjoy the festival another day. These volunteer positions fill up fast. Contact the project coordinator, Patty Wirz at pattywirz@yahoo.com for more information.



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

Volunteers and Puppy Raisers

Thanks to all of our volunteers and puppy raisers who gave of their time and talent from January 1 to March 15, 2012—we couldn't do it without you!
Puppy Raisers are noted by a 🐾 beside their names

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 🐾 The Accola family | Gary Cobus | Steve & Becky Hallan | Stephanie Magelky & "Stevie" | 🐾 The Ruppe family |
| 🐾 Diana Adamson | Bob Copus | Mel & Brian Hanson | Megan Majsterski Lazere | Sharon Russell |
| 🐾 Jayson & Kathryn Alexander | Emily Cox & "Mason" | Ashley Hartley | Carrie Maloney | 🐾 Poornima Sathyanarayanan |
| Jennifer Alexander | Nacia Dahl | 🐾 The Heffernan family | Mary Manders | Jerry Schendel |
| 🐾 Mary & Jon Alexander | Jan & John Day & "Louie" | 🐾 The Herberg family | Christina & Nick Martinez | Allison Schildknecht |
| Linda Altergott | Kandy Dorlack | 🐾 The Herr family | Dick & Bonnie McGinnis | 🐾 Dora & Howard Schroeder |
| Dave Anderson | 🐾 The Doyon family | Angie Hildreth | Michele & Shawn McLane | 🐾 The Schroeder family |
| Jackie Anderson | Sarah Durant | 🐾 Laura & Matt Hofkens | Kevin Medzis | Holly & Ken Schultz |
| Natasha Anik | Elizabeth Eagle | The Holickey family | Sue Melrose | John & Judy Schwab |
| Tom Antikainen | Alex Egan | 🐾 The Hollerud family | Dr Lindsay Merkel | 🐾 Seth & Stephanie Scott |
| 🐾 Dianne & Doug Astry | Laurie & Ron Ehlert | Galyin Holmgren | 🐾 The Merkel family | 🐾 The Sears family |
| 🐾 The Barnes family | Megan Ehlert | Anne Ingvaldstad | Charlie Metz | Sarah Sellnow |
| Nancy Bauman & "Nigel" | 🐾 Sara Ehlert | 🐾 Annette & Mark Johnson | Ingrid Miller | Kathy Sherwood |
| Alicia Blank & "Tanner" | 🐾 Lia Enger | Bill Johnson | Rita Mohinani | 🐾 Dave & Marge Skeie |
| Darlene Blomberg | Galen Eingham | Beth Kantor | Mike Molzahn | Melissa Stam & "Kramer" |
| 🐾 The Bloomquist family | Jill & Jerry Englund | Karen Keeney | Mike Moore | Sharon Steinbrecher |
| Jan Boe | & "Hailey" | Mary Kelley & "Brinks" | Peter Morlock & "Guido" | Ken & Judy Stenzel & "Calvin" |
| Bonnie Bolton | Marky Engler | Lora Kennedy | Niece Nardini | Greg Stevens |
| Mike Branch | Chad Engstrom & "Hazel" | Sue Klein | Kelly Neal | John Sturgess |
| Janet & Steve Bratkovich | Jean Euteneuer & "Lexie" | Pete Kleingartner | Michelle & Shay Nelson | Brian Toews |
| Sara Braziller | Mark Falstad | Katherine Knauer & "Summer" | Joanne Nichols | Lindsey Trader |
| Darlene & Vern Breamer | 🐾 Mike Ferber | Don Knutson | 🐾 The Niederloh family | The Tuengen family |
| Sarah Breidenbach & "Moxie" | Tom Fiecke | Ken Kolding | 🐾 Paul Oberhaus | 🐾 The Turner family |
| Kathy & Kyle Broten | Duane Finger | Terri Krake & "Brody" | Alison Olausen | 🐾 Patty Van Landschoot |
| Pat Browne & "Solstice" | Maggie Flanagan | MarySue Krueger | Betty Otto | 🐾 Madhu Viswanathan |
| Julia Buege Freeman | Kevin Florence | Ali Kuschel | Dee Otto | Sue Wagner |
| Jennifer Burt | 🐾 Holly Friday | Julianne Larsen | Marisa Papsin | Ashley Wancowicz |
| Charlyn Cadwell | The Furlough families of Waseca | 🐾 Karen & Ray Larsen | Jenny Parker | Len Washko |
| Manny Camillon | Kathy Galiger | The Larson family | Janice Parrow | 🐾 Laura & Adam Waudby |
| Julie Carlblom | Bonnie Gerin | Heather Leide | Alan Peters | 🐾 Bobbi & Chris Wenger |
| 🐾 Ben & Pia Carlsen | Cheryl & Christopher Gibbons | Steve Linder | Jon & Sandy Pidde | Heidi Westerlund |
| 🐾 Laurie Carlson | Marcia Gilman | Paul Loken | The Piotrowski family | Joan Wingert |
| 🐾 The Chang family | Diana & Michelle Gillman | Liz Lucast | Maureen Pranghofer & "Bentley" | Patty Wirz |
| Beth Cherryholmes | Mark Given | Jan Lund | Kirsten Purvis | The Young family |
| Apprio Volunteers - Kim Arden, Wes Barkwill, Patrick Bowen, Jill Brabender, Anthony Campea, Swapna Dharmagan, Courtney Dial, Andres Gluecksmann, Jeff Grosse, Nick Hamm, Mark Koeing, Matthew Lamb, Ben Lorenz, Jakub Novak, Martha Madrueno, Helen Mondesire, Nathan Shilling, Diane Shotton, Svatka Simpson, Brad Stark | Diane Golden | Jean Lundquist & "Juno" | M.K. Racine | Loni Ziemba |
| | Katy Goodwin | 🐾 The MacKay family | Mary Rhatigan | Jill Zasadny |
| | Savannah Gruber | Kathy Madison | | |
| | Susan Hager & "Mattie" | Bryce & Kelly Madsen & "Dallas" | | |

New Teams



Steph Magelky & Hearing Assist Dog Stevie
"Stevie is so energetic, and much faster in alerting to sounds. He really considers it his job. He darts back and forth and persists in making sure I follow him to the sound."

Thank You
Dog Source – Secondhand Hounds
Foster Home- Christopher & Cheryl Gibbons and Bob & Mary Cameron

See their full story on page 5

Gifts In Memory Of

Donated By In Memory Of

- Animal Wellness Center "Bear" Walden, "Brandon" Roig, "Cat Stevens" Borden, "Cyra" Brandt, "Fred" Reynolds, "Kate" Luke, "Luna" Chambers, "Cloe" Vitko, "Maggie" Scarlotta, "Picasso" Camlin, "Riley" Bushman, "Scrappy" Pickerill, "Shelby" Peek, "Alex" Sager, "Brindy" Earley, "Mickey" Reynolds, "Nick" Haulton, "Ranger" Fredrickson, "Ruger" Strandmo, "Trinc" Rosenthal, "Yogi" Riddle, "Buddy" Borchardt, "Casey" Carpenter, "Chelsea" Beggs, "Cherry" Bakman, "Dakota" Monteon, "Ginger" McClintic, "Hunter" Freier, "Payton" Sharp, "Samson" Kasbohm, "Sterling" Clausen, "Neala" Strootman, "Casey" McCormack, "Gabby" Blake, "Gypsy" Keating, "Momma Cat" Trousse, "Princess" Morton, "Rainy" Lynch, "Tigger" Bares, "Zoe" Fern, "Angel" Krook, "Angle" Rosenthal, "Buddy" Selby-Hele, "Chester" Newman, "Fluffy" Philaphon, "Lily" Koshiol, "Murphy" Johnson, "Murray" Notch, "Pippen" McCluskey, "Sammy" Feiten, "Thor" Mohr, "CoCo" Lilleberg, "Cookie" Jacobson, "Jack" Mohlencamp, "Kaylee" Israelson, "Kereska" Wheatley, "Little" Martin, "M" Weinzierl, "Mickey" Anderson, "Mika" Schultz, "Sienna" Silvernail, "Trace" Behm Nancy Bauman and Alice Peter Elizabeth Bauman Bonnie Genin Nettie Carow Bonnie Genin Calvin Steeke Cheri Hanson "Daisy" Rebecca Josephs "Abby" Sylvia Knazan Merwin Beckelman Lisa Knazan Julie Paige Cheryl Lindberg Donald Miller Rita Marr Michael Reiling Gwen McMahon Karen Boyer Robert Pederson Mike Watters Perham Lakes Lions Club Stephen Doll Kathy Potter Madge Potter Carol Taylor "Icey"

In Memory of Richard Meuwissen

Regina Davis, Bill Dingle, Peggy Halvorson, Mary Jo Hanson, Pam McCabe, David Noma, Jacqueline Schuch, Howard Sussman

In Memory of Lee Perish

Carolyn Brown, Nancy Emery, Donald Knutson, MarySue Krueger, Ruben Latz, Mary Rhatigan, Rachel Seuer, Judy Sharken Simon, Len Washko, Pamela Wellumson, Deaf Professionals Association

Gifts In Honor Of

Gifts given in honor of and in memory of have been received between January 1 and March 31, 2012

Donated By In Honor Of

- Sheri Radoux Zachary, Ethan and Emma Cora Quinn and Susan Russell Roland & Alvera Franceschi's birthdays Carlton Lions Club District Governor Peggy Michels Michael Wheelock Al Peters' expertise June Holden "Moxie" Terry Zabel "Echo" Cindy Thoreson-Arnold "Blue" Mike Ferber Greg Lublin Gwen McMahon "Aspen"



Mary Jo Zappa and Mobility Assist Dog Lilly
"Lilly has touched the lives of so many people, not just me. She puts a smile on the face of everyone in the facility where I live. She is a dog with a really big heart."

Thank You
Dog Source – Joy Hahn
Puppy Raiser- Ron & Beth Detloff
Foster Home - Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault
See their full story on page 7

Volunteer Spotlight – Dr. Lindsay Merkel

Growing up in Santa Rosa, Calif., Dr. Lindsay Merkel was exposed to assistance dogs at a young age. A guide dog organization was located nearby, and many of Lindsay’s friends’ families raised puppies for them. She begged her mother to be allowed to join in but was refused. Lindsay vowed that when she was older, she would become involved in this worthy endeavor.

Years later, Lindsay, her husband Jerry and four children now live in Plymouth, Minn. and she figured the time might be right. A specialist in internal medicine at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Hospital, she spoke with a co-worker who was raising a puppy for Can Do Canines. She was especially interested in becoming a host family for a puppy who could potentially become part of Can Do Canines breeding program.

In November of 2009 they received Reena, a black lab, and the whole family, including

children Payson, Carlin, Aidan and Sullivan, pitched in to help socialize the puppy to life in a busy household. Along the way, they have fostered dogs for short periods and Lindsay has taken ‘in season’ females from the breeding program into her home. Lindsay and her family were Puppy Raisers to Tally; now a Hearing Assist Dog, and currently have a puppy in training, Faith, as well as Reena. In March, her daughter, Aidan, and several classmates made fleece mats for puppies in training as a school service project.

Lindsay has put her veterinary expertise to good use, too, working with the training staff. When they have questions regarding medical care, she acts as a consultant. She volunteers her time vaccinating puppies in training, and travels with our Director of Training to vaccinate puppies in our prision programs. She often is consulted on our breeding program and any possible medical issues that may arise.



Dr. Lindsay with Reena (lab) and Whimsy (Yorkie)

Lindsay is also an Ambassador for Can Do Canines speaking in January at the Women of Today convention held in St Louis Park and will serve as a Table Host at the Tails of Independence Luncheon in May.

Can Do Canines sincerely appreciates all the time and talent Dr. Lindsay and her family have given to us. She has become an integral part of the organization, and is a true volunteer in every sense of the word.

Thank you Lindsay! ♥

What about you?

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

- Lawn maintenance and landscaping
- Assistant for event planning
- Puppy Raisers (14-16 months)
- Foster families (2-4 weeks)
- Receptionist
- Marketing Assistant

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

We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

More than 100 guests attended the Can Do Canines Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, held March 10, 2012 at our facility. 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.



Group picture at left:

Back left: 2011 Puppy Raiser of the Year - Jerry Schendel, “Golden Gloves” handyperson volunteers - Ron Ehler, Bob Copus, Steve Linder & Al Hiemer

Foster Home Provider of the Year - Terri Willms

Front left: Volunteer of the Year - MarySue Krueger

Kneeling: Volunteer Coordinator - Laurie Carlson

Not Pictured: Volunteer Spotlight Recipients - Dee Hollerud & Sharon Steinbrecher

Volunteering Produces Health Benefits



Volunteers help themselves to better health while helping others, according to a study released by the Corporation for National and Community Service that reviews a compelling collection of recent scientific research.

The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research has found a significant connection between volunteering and good health. The report shows that volunteers have greater longevity, higher functional ability, lower rates of depression and less incidence of heart disease.

Name-a-Puppy

Name	Breed	Named By:
Doug	Yellow Labrador Retriever	Donna Gora
Kona	Yellow Labrador Retriever	Anne Woolsey

Seagate – Spring Auction to name their 5th puppy!

Minnesota Women of Today



We have puppies coming soon—won't you join the organizations above to help name a puppy by raising a minimum of \$1,500 for school groups or \$2,500 for a service club or business? We can help you get started today! Each group receives an educational presentation with a live demonstration by one of our wonderful assistance dogs. Contact Janet Cobus at jcobus@can-do-canines.org for more information!

Name A Puppies graduating May 19th:



Barclay



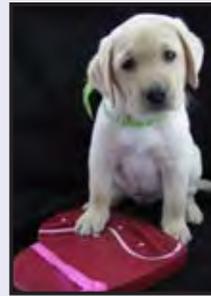
Cooper



Hoover



Wiggs



Doug



Kona

Guidestar Exchange

Can Do Canines has received the GuideStar Exchange Seal, a leading symbol of transparency and accountability provided by GuideStar USA, Inc., the premier source of nonprofit information. The Exchange Seal demonstrates to Can Do Canines' vast support-base our deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability.

We hope you will check us out and tell us what you think: <http://tinyurl.com/candocanines2012>



Sponsorships Opportunities 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 serve as a way of advertising your business, be a unique gift to honor another person, or simply be one more way you can support our efforts.

There are a variety of opportunities and benefit levels available through these events:

Tails of Independence Fundraising Luncheon \$250 to \$10,000

Graduation Sponsorship \$250 to \$2,500

Puppy Raiser Picnic Sponsorship \$500

Can Do Woofaroo Festival and Fundraising Walk \$250 to \$10,000

Fetching Ball Gala Sponsorship \$500 to \$30,000

Please contact Janet Cobus at jcobus@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 Ext. 153 for more details.

Memories of Lee Perish

It was with great sadness we announced the passing of longtime volunteer and staff member Lee Perish in February. For further details, see the Executive Directors' column on page 2.





9440 Science Center Drive
New Hope, MN 55428

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



Join Us For Our Favorite Time Of The Year - Graduation!

Saturday May 19, 2012 1:00 p.m.
at Can Do Canines

Join us as we celebrate the
achievements of our newest
certified assistance dog teams.

Open to the public, free of charge.



Upcoming Events

- May 19 Graduation 1:00 p.m.
- May 20-24 Phon-A-Thon
- June 14 Tails To Tell Tour, 7:00 p.m.
- July 21 Tails To Tell Tour, 10:00 a.m.
- August 5-11 International Assistance Dog Week
- August 5 Can Do Woofaroo 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- August 18 Volunteer and Ambassador Training, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

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

Save the Date! Sunday, August 5, 2012

Help us kick off
International Assistance Dog Week!
(August 5 to 11)

*Join us for this light-hearted event that will
bring together supporters of our assistance dog
organization, pet lovers and the community for
a fun and educational day!*

Where?

at Can Do Canines
9440 Science Center Drive
New Hope, MN 5428

Watch our website for
more details!
can-do-canines.org



- Learn what assistance dogs Can Do!
- Tour the Can Do Canines facility
- Visit our exhibitor booths
- See how to teach your dog special tricks
 - Watch demonstrations of dog talents
 - Enjoy family and doggie games

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibitor Area Open
Entertainment ongoing
1:00 p.m. Woofaroo Walk

- Help us be a Can Do-Nation by collecting pledges and participating in our one mile walk!

Formerly known as the Heel and Wheel