



Tails for You

a publication of Can Do Canines®

Tabor loves to help
so much that he works
two jobs to assist Tom.



NOT JUST A LIFE-CHANGER, A LIFE-SAVER

*How your support trained an
assistance dog to do two jobs*

It's tough enough to have one disability, but having two disabilities seems unthinkable. However, in spite of Cerebral Palsy and Type 1 diabetes, Tom Untiedt of New Hope, Minn. stays positive.

Tom was born with cerebral palsy, and has always had bad eyesight, a condition that his work as an accountant only made worse. Then, in 1991, he was diagnosed as a Type 1 brittle diabetic. That means there is no telling what will cause his blood sugar to surge, drop, or remain steady.

As if that wasn't enough, Tom lost his lower left leg to an infection (unrelated to diabetes) and broke his hip twice, which led to a hip replacement. He now uses a wheelchair to get around.

Here is the part of the story where something good happens for Tom. In December of 2015, Tom was paired with Tabor, a two-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever.

HOW TABOR GOT HIS NAME *(hint: from a donor like you)*

When Jennifer Martin's friend Diana passed away, she wanted to do something in remembrance. Diana had a love for both animals and serving the community, so Jennifer decided to name a future assistance dog in her honor. Diana owned a cabin on Lake Tabor—it was one of her favorite places to spend her time—so Jennifer decided on the name "Tabor."

"To know that a dog is named in Diana's honor feels like a real tribute to her legacy," Jennifer says. "It all just fits in with her love of animals and her love of service."

To learn how you can Name-A-Puppy, contact Winona Kraft at wkraft@can-do-canines.org, 763-331-3000, Ext. 162 or visit can-do-canines.org/donate/name-a-puppy.



Photos by Nichole Laase

Tom initially encountered a Can Do Canines booth at a farmer's market and asked if the organization could further train his pet dog, Bandit. Bandit was naturally sensitive to Tom's blood sugar changes and would alert Tom when there was a cause for concern. Unfortunately, in 2014, Bandit passed away.

"Bandit was very good at alerting when my blood sugar crashed," says Tom. "When Bandit passed away, that's when I realized I needed additional help."

"He loves to work and he will do whatever he can to make my life easier."

Tom and Tabor's first meetings were a little awkward. It took a some time for the two to get to know and trust each other. However, in their third week of training, Tom was waiting for Tabor to arrive at the grocery store for a public training session. Once Tabor came into the store and saw Tom again, the awkwardness disappeared. Since then the two have become an inseparable team.

"Tabor is such a workaholic. He has two obsessions—his workaholic side and his ball-a-holic side," Tom laughs, Tabor playing with a squeak toy nearby. "He loves to work and he will do whatever he can to make my life easier."

(continued from previous page)

Tabor loves to work so much that he pulls double duty; he serves as both a Diabetes Assist Dog and a Mobility Assist Dog. Not only does Tabor alert Tom when his blood sugar drops, but he also retrieves things that Tom needs to manage his symptoms. If Tom can't make it to the refrigerator to get a soda—the only thing that seems to bring his blood sugar to normal levels without overcompensating—Tabor will get it for him. And the Lab's list of skills doesn't end there.

"He will retrieve my landline phone and will get my cell phone if I drop it, which I have been known to do," says Tom. "And, on his own, when he sees that my stocking hat or my glove has fallen out of my coat when we're headed outside, he will automatically pick it up like, 'You're going to need this.'"

Tom is keenly aware of all the volunteers and supporters that have helped Can Do Canines train Tabor for him.

"While I knew an assistance dog helping me was a possibility, it was more of a fantasy than a dream," Tom says. "Now I've actually seen it take place and have been just blown away. Tabor has been trained so well; he's not just a life-changer, he's a life-saver."



In addition to alerting Tom to his low blood sugar levels, Diabetes and Mobility Assist Dog Tabor picks up items that Tom drops and pulls open the refrigerator.



TRAINING ASSISTANCE DOGS TO DETECT LOW BLOOD SUGAR

When a person with diabetes has a low blood sugar event, a unique scent is created. Diabetes Assist Dogs monitor for this scent and, when it occurs, alert their partner that it's time to test their blood sugar levels.

Before the training begins, Can Do Canines selects a highly motivated dog that likes to use its nose. Through a series of games, the dog learns that this scent is special and learns how to touch their human partner in a special way that indicates the scent is present.

The training nears completion when the dog alerts the trainer to the scent without command and regardless of body position or distractions. When that has occurred consistently, the dog is paired with a client with diabetes and they begin to train together as a team to ensure the dog is alerting regularly and correctly.

YOU HELPED

make the following possible
in the Spring of 2016.



Train 8 new
assistance dog
teams

Can Do Canines trained and placed 8 specially-trained dogs this quarter. All dogs were provided free of charge thanks to your support.

See the back cover for the list of our recent graduates and join us in congratulating them at our Graduation Ceremony on June 18!

Teach 12
puppies to fly



In April, our assistance dogs in training took a "Flight to Nowhere" at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

The faux flight is part of our training program

to acclimate future assistance dogs to new surroundings and experience situations they may encounter when placed with clients with disabilities.

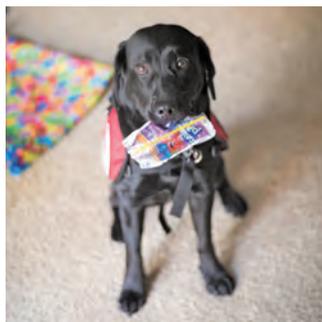
THE CONFIDENCE TO PURSUE HER DREAMS

Your support helped a young woman with diabetes live a life without boundaries

Observing Elikia Johnson through the course of a day, you probably wouldn't realize she has type 1 brittle diabetes. The St. Louis Park, Minn. resident leads a full, active life, working as a server at a restaurant while attending college full-time to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. That part alone is admirable. But considering that Elikia grew up in a third world African country while her parents performed non-profit relief work, it is even more impressive.

Elikia's type 1 diabetes is a particularly severe form characterized by large and sudden swings in blood glucose levels—swings that can harm vital organs and even lead to hospitalization. At age 17, she moved to the United States to get a better handle on her disease and to further her education. As she found herself living on her own, she realized that in order to pursue her dreams and live the life she wanted she would need help. Or, more specifically—some assistance.

"Having an assistance dog that can help me with my blood sugars would encourage me to take better care of myself," Elikia says. "More importantly I will have the reassurance that there's someone standing by me and watching out for me."



One of the skills Onyx enjoys most is retrieving juice from the refrigerator when Elikia has low blood sugar.

Elikia found the perfect partner in Onyx, a black Labrador retriever and Can Do Canines Diabetes Assist Dog. The lively Lab uses her acute sense of smell to detect a low blood sugar level; she then provides an immediate alert by jumping up and pawing at Elikia, or using "nose nudges" when Elikia is sleeping or sitting down.

"After Onyx alerts me, I'll check my blood sugar. If it's low, I'll have her go to the fridge and bring me a juice box," Elikia says.

Onyx has alerted Elikia at home and in a variety of other places, including at Target, on an airplane and



at a Minnesota Vikings game. And she's persistent! One morning, while Elikia was drying her hair, Onyx approached with her nose directed toward the blow dryer.

"She came up and pawed at me; I thought she must really want to see the blow dryer. But, when I showed it to her, she ran away," Elikia says. "Then she came back and started pawing at me again. I said, 'Okay, if you want me to check my blood sugar, I will.' I did, and it was low."

It was through the intensive training by Can Do Canines staff and the support of donors and volunteers that Onyx learned these skills. It's definitely been well worth the effort.

"Onyx doesn't just help me with my blood sugars. She's a great companion."

"Onyx doesn't just help me with my blood sugars, she's a great companion. She's always there for me and loves me unconditionally. I can't imagine a day without her," Elikia says.

BECOME A MONTHLY HERO!

By choosing to donate to Can Do Canines monthly, you'll join our group of amazing "Monthly Heroes." This generous group sustains our work by ensuring we can continually train life-changing assistance dogs free of charge for people like Elikia.

Becoming a Monthly Hero is simple and increases your impact. Just choose to give "monthly" on the enclosed envelope or at can-do-canines.org

SINGLE-HANDEDLY IMPROVING SOMEONE'S LIFE

How two special contributors covered all the costs of one assistance dog

When talking with Jan Edwards, her passion for music is clear. The Plymouth, Minn. resident has recorded albums in Nashville, hosted songwriting workshops and even had an addition put on her house to host concerts. But Jan and her sister, Danae Kasbi, have another passion simmering beneath all that music—dogs.

Jan has four dogs and Danae has raised several throughout her life. The sisters grew up with a standard poodle and Jan has carried on the tradition, currently living with one poodle and three Chinese crested. Jan admires her poodle's intelligence and gentle nature. To offset the poodle's calm demeanor, her Chinese crested never disappoint by cracking her up with their comical behavior.

Last November, Jan's friend—and Master of Ceremonies for the Can Do Canines Fetching Ball—Rebecca Kolls invited her to the event. Given Jan's love for dogs, she immediately agreed. When they arrived, Jan and her partner, Randy Koch, found themselves sitting right next to Executive Director Al Peters. While they knew nothing about Can Do Canines prior to the event, they sure knew a thing or two by the time they left!

"I was really impressed with the event and the involvement of the supporters," Jan says. "I've been to a lot of fundraising events before and this one just felt different."

"Assistance dogs are heroes for giving someone the ability to do things they couldn't normally do."

After the Fetching Ball, Jan found herself becoming more intrigued by the idea of training dogs to assist people in need of help. She always admired the bond between humans and dogs and loved the idea that dogs could be of assistance for more than just companionship.

"Assistance dogs are heroes for giving someone the ability to do things they couldn't normally do," Jan explains.



Jan Edwards (left) and her sister Danae Kasbi (right) take a tour of Can Do Canines facility with Demonstration Dog Sam as their guide.

So she brought up the idea of covering all the costs of an assistance dog to her sister Danae. Four years ago, when their parents passed away, the two sisters were named as administrators of the family foundation—The Art and Gail Edwards Donor Advised Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation. They thought being a team sponsor at \$25,000 “would do some good for people who really need assistance.”

“We have a foundation and can utilize so much of that funding for what we wish,” Danae says. “You can do a little bit here and a little bit there, but why not pick a few great organizations and give them your full support? That’s what we thought about Can Do Canines.”

The sisters sponsored the team of Tom Untiedt and Tabor, shown on the opposite page. “What intrigued me about Tom is that he had multiple issues,” Jan says. “It’s kind of an awesome thing that dogs can be trained to do so many different things to help people.”

The two sisters are very selective about where to designate their funds. But after hearing how Al started the organization out of his spare bedroom and learning about Tom’s challenges, they feel they made the right choice.

“We like to feel a connection to who we choose to designate our funds,” Jan says. “There’s a great story with Al building the organization and, of course, it’s local.”

“Can Do Canines makes a difference in people’s lives,” Danae adds. “And that’s what it’s all about.”

YOU MADE THESE PARTNERSHIPS POSSIBLE

Read these stories at can-do-canines.org.



Jeannine Friedrich & Hearing Assist Dog Clyde



Linda LaReau & Mobility Assist Dog Piper



Judy Lundy & Hearing Assist Dog Pepper



Elikia Johnson & Diabetes Assist Dog Onyx



Christopher Reichel & Mobility Assist Dog Alice



Megan Schmidt & Hearing Assist Dog Lila



Thomas Untiedt & Diabetes and Mobility Assist Dog Tabor



Gary Wenisch & Mobility Assist Dog Zazu

SAVE THESE GREAT DATES!



Can Do Woofaroo September 17, 2016

Collect pledges and bring your dog for a stroll at our one-mile fundraising walk and festival!

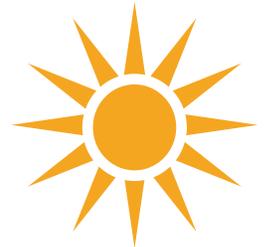
The Fetching Ball November 12, 2016

It's a gala ... with dogs! Inspiring stories, unique auction items, games and festivities—it's an evening you won't soon forget.



JOIN US FOR SUMMER GRADUATION

Saturday June 18
1 p.m. at Can Do Canines



Can Do Canines has been graduating so many teams (thanks to your support) that we had to add an extra ceremony!

Join us this summer in celebrating and congratulating our new assistance dog graduates.



OUR MISSION

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



CONNECT WITH US



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