



Tails

FROM MINNESOTA



For Friends of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

Spring 2008 Vol. 19 Issue 2

In 1988, Lucky, pictured above, was the first dog HSDM 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.

Holly The Helper

Violet Chambers and Holly

by Julianne Larsen

Like many children with autism, Violet Chambers, 6, of Eden Prairie, Minn., is often at a loss for words. Autism and related disorders affect a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Although Violet has no intellectual impairments, she has limited communication skills. In addition, emotional regulation issues can manifest themselves in emotional outbursts, screaming and tears.

Shannon and Fletcher Chambers were concerned about their daughter's mobility and her ability to handle public situations. "Violet would lag behind, requiring constant attention to keep her moving," Shannon said.

"Violet's unpredictable nature made family outings a roll of the dice," explained Fletcher. "We often planned to take two cars anywhere we went, so that Shannon or I could take Violet home in the event of an outburst."

As Violet grew older, her parents began looking into options for possible help. Shannon heard about Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota and their efforts to launch an Autism Assist Dog program. The family applied and went through the interview process. Several months later,



Violet and Holly

Violet was paired with an Autism Assist Dog.

Enter Holly, a Standard Poodle trained by Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, and a whole new family dynamic began. "The change was dramatic, and almost immediate," observed Fletcher. The first time Violet had an outburst with Holly in the house, Holly sauntered right up to Violet and began licking her face. "Holly made it clear that she wasn't going to let Violet remain upset," added Shannon. With Holly at Violet's side, 45-minute meltdowns have been reduced to about five minutes. "When Violet becomes agitated, Holly is there to diffuse any tension that comes up," noted Shannon. "Tantrums are averted, and Violet's frustrations are turned into smiles in short order."

In public situations, Violet focuses on Holly by holding onto her harness. As a result, she can keep up with her family. The focus works at home, too. Violet

feeds Holly – who waits patiently next to the bowl of food until Violet tells her it's OK to eat. "Having such successful verbal communication really boosts Violet's self-esteem," explained Fletcher.

"Holly is more than a Service Dog to Violet," Shannon noted. "Holly provides Violet with a patient social partner." She said the family has noticed that Violet's communication skills have increased. In fact, Violet frequently reads to Holly, who seems fixated on every word. When asked about Holly, Violet is happy to add her thoughts: "Holly is cute and she helps me sleep at night. I love my Poodle."

An unanticipated benefit for Shannon and Fletcher has been their ability to become advocates for autism and assistance dogs. "I'm struck by the conversations Holly triggers when we're out," said Shannon. "Quite often, people approach us and ask what kind of Service Dog Holly is. When we explain her job and the nature of an Autism Assist Dog, they often tell us about their experiences with autism and their curiosity about the role a dog can play in treatment."

She said the Chambers family is thankful to everyone involved with Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota for helping bring Holly to their family. "I never thought of myself as a Poodle person," concluded Fletcher. "Now I can't imagine our life without Holly." □

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THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Michele Whitney

Veterinary Services
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital

Puppy Raiser
Patty VanLandschoot & family



From the Executive Director *Al Peters & Demonstration Dog Beau*

Volume 19



Issue 2

On the morning of Jan. 29, 2008, our demonstration dog, Beau, passed away after a short battle with systemic cancer. He was almost 11 years old. Beau took over from our original demonstration dog, Lucky, who formally retired in 1999.

During his eight years with Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, Beau traveled internationally, flew on airplanes, stayed in exclusive hotels and dined (or, at least, laid under the table) at some very nice restaurants. He was on TV numerous times, and his picture appeared in newspapers, newsletters, and on the Web. He greeted thousands of people on our behalf, acting as a self-appointed ambassador for the organization. Beau performed countless demonstrations of his abilities as a Special Skills dog. Lions members knew him by name across Minnesota. He was a very good boy. Beau was also a member of my family, living in our home and

It wasn't hard to know when it was time to say goodbye. Beau would not eat his dinner that last night, or his breakfast in the morning; he could not walk anymore, even with assistance. In typical Beau fashion, however, he did finish a bag of treats I brought along to the vet's office—a true Golden to the end. He even wagged his tail for the vet and techs when they came in to do their job. It was a peaceful transition for him, but difficult for us.

A number of memorial contributions arrived in our office as word of his



This beautiful watercolor painting of Beau was done by board member MarySue Krueger, and now hangs in Al's office.



Beau with friends during a Heel and Wheel event

sharing our lives. He loved Penny and Elizabeth. He got along well with all of our animals, welcoming the smaller cats and dogs that cuddled up to him for warmth. He was good-natured, continuously hungry, and always had a smile on his face. He went to work with me every day.

passing spread among those closest to the organization. Rather than place those contributions in the general fund, I designated them to our Emergency Aid Fund—now renamed “Beau’s Legacy.” We set aside these funds to help with unplanned, emergency expenses for our graduate dogs. We haven’t had many contributions to this fund in recent times, and the need is sometimes great, so I felt good about this choice. If you would like to remember Beau in a special way, send a check to help one of his friends. Beau would like that very much. □

Tails From Minnesota

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Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

Editor/Layout/Design

Alan M. Peters Sue Schuster

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or disabled 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.

Hearing Dogs are adopted from local animal shelters, placed with deaf or hard-of-hearing clients and specially trained to alert clients to important sounds in their environment. Service Dogs are trained to help people with physical disabilities by pulling their wheelchairs, picking up or carrying objects, opening doors, flipping light switches and performing other daily tasks. Dogs, training and supplies are provided to each client free of charge.

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The Joy Of Faith

Sheila Faricy and Faith

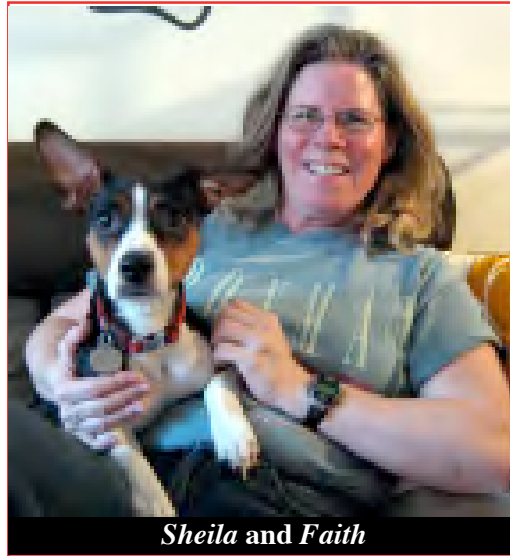
by Julianne Larsen

Sheila Faricy of Minneapolis, Minn., has been aware of and involved with Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota for over a decade. She fondly recalls fostering Lucky, our first demonstration dog, for Al Peters many years ago. More recently, a good friend of Sheila's received a Service Dog from Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota and Sheila decided that the time was right in her life to pursue a Hearing Dog of her own.

Sheila was matched with a small terrier mix that was originally named Trixie. However, because the name Trixie was difficult for Sheila to pronounce, the dog's name was changed to Faith. The two began training together in January of 2008.

Sheila credits field trainer, Joan Lisi-McCoy, and her obedience instructors at Petsmart, for guiding her and encouraging her on this new adventure. "Working with Faith has taught me so much, starting with patience," Sheila says. "It's also been fun to watch Faith grow and mature, both inside and out, through the training process."

Faith not only alerts Sheila to sounds, like the smoke detector or a knock at the door, she also provides unconditional love and acceptance.



Sheila and Faith

Faith's favorite sound is the alarm clock, as she enjoys waking Sheila up in the morning and is always ready to start the day. Sheila loves how Faith becomes completely professional once her cape goes on. She says, "Her attitude changes and she's all business."

Public access training has been a lot of fun for both Sheila and Faith, although the team did run into a slight problem going out to a local fast food restaurant for lunch one day. A police officer at the restaurant told Sheila that she couldn't bring a dog into a restaurant, as it is against the law. Sheila proceeded to explain that Faith is an assistance dog and they were eventually allowed in for

lunch. It was amazing to Sheila that a police officer wasn't aware of assistance dogs, and that he hadn't taken the time to read Faith's cape.

Faith has added a sense of security to Sheila's life. Faith is wonderful at letting Sheila know about sounds happening around her, even those she was never trained for. For example, Sheila no longer misses an elevator door opening behind her or a person approaching them, as Faith is there to pick up on all those things. All Sheila has to do is watch her dog to know what is happening around her.

Sheila would like to thank everyone involved with Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota for bringing Faith into her life. □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Lucky Dog Boarding and Training Center

Veterinary Services

Globe College - Rochester

Foster Home

Mike & Jan Christensen

Field Trainer

Joan Lisi-McCoy

Obedience School

Petsmart Eden Prairie

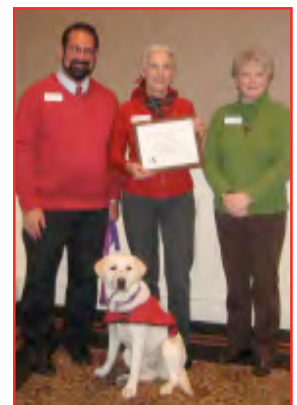
Volunteer Recognition Celebration!

The Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration was held on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Midland Hills Country Club. It was well attended, included a great meal and was enjoyed by all.



Pictured right is the Volunteer of the year, MarySue Krueger with Windy and staff members Alan Peters and Laurie Carlson.

Pictured left is the Dog Foster Home of the year, the Wedul family along with Gibson and staff member Laurie Carlson. Congratulations volunteers! □



A Struggle for Independence

Tyler Hurd and Emmitt

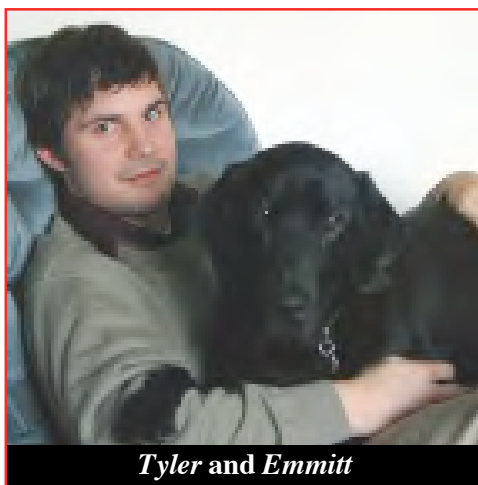
by Laurie Carlson

Tyler Hurd's life changed in a single moment. While playing hockey at age 14, Tyler, of St. Cloud, Minn., was injured and soon after developed a seizure disorder. It was difficult learning how live life dealing with the seizures, but he was determined to stay as independent as possible.

After completing high school, and attending college in Alaska and then enrolling at Saint Cloud State University, Tyler's seizures began to occur more frequently. Wanting to remain independent, Tyler began researching assistance dogs and applied to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota.

In his application, Tyler stated, "I think a dog would be beneficial to me to give me more independence in my life. I have spent the last seven years not having very much independence from my family or friends. I feel that with this dog, people in my life will be able to let me do my own thing and not be so worried about me."

Tyler was paired with Emmitt, a black Labrador Retriever. The team bonded quickly. Emmitt now accompanies Tyler everywhere, including classes



Tyler and Emmitt

every day. The dog is so well behaved that one professor didn't even realize a dog was in the classroom

Emmitt helps Tyler by laying on him when he is having a seizure, bracing, to help Tyler get back up after experiencing a seizure, and fetching an emergency phone in his apartment. He also carries a special backpack and tag with contact information. This is more important than it seems; if Tyler has a seizure and cannot communicate, people seeing Emmitt will realize the special circumstances and be able to properly respond.

Field Trainer Loretta Mueller said, "It was evident from the beginning that these two were meant to be a team and it was great to be a part of that. Emmitt is a natural for this type of work and he formed a bond with Tyler during the first week that they were together. Training a seizure dog has been an amazing experience."

Tyler's goal is to become a special education teacher. This goal is becoming more of a reality thanks to Emmitt and the increased independence and peace of mind he brings.

When asked how it feels to be finished with training, Tyler smiles broadly. "It feels great to be finished. I wanted to become more independent, and Emmitt is now here to help. He's made a real difference." □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Fran Smith, D.V.M.

Veterinary Services

Como Park Animal Hospital

Puppy Raiser

Kim Kriesel

Field Trainer

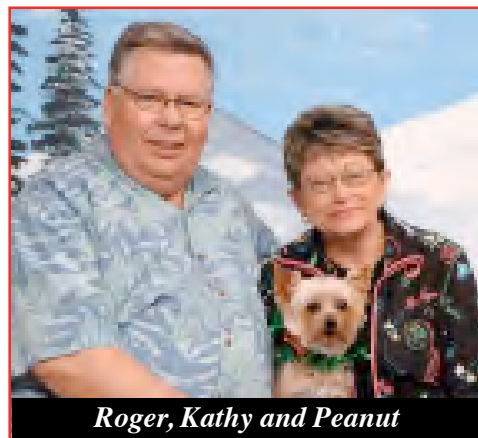
Loretta Mueller

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

by Janet Cobus

The Power of Giving

Kathy and Roger Wright have each had pets since they were children. Roger grew up with the same dog throughout his childhood, and Kathy grew up with rabbits, dogs and even one pig! They married in 1968, moved to Savage, and adopted their first dog, a Yorkshire Terrier. Today, they are on their fifth Terrier, Peanut, who is 12 years old and a wonderful companion. Kathy says, "If I had my wish, I would like to have all my dogs back with me."



Roger, Kathy and Peanut

Kathy was introduced to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota in 1994 when she met Al Peters and Hearing Dog, Lucky, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

When she heard Al explain that some of the dogs Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota trains come from shelters, she says she was hooked. "I added Hearing and Service Dogs of

Minnesota to the list of charities I supported through payroll deduction," she says.

Roger and Kathy became more and more involved as volunteers by helping with mailings in the office, working at community booths, and cooking and serving hot dogs at Heel and Wheel fundraising walks. Kathy says, "It is such a well-run organization, and we feel very welcome and comfortable whenever we volunteer."

In addition to their financial support and their many hours of volunteer time, Kathy and Roger have pledged

(continued on page 5)

Volunteer Spotlight

Len J. Washko

Len J. Washko of Wayzata, Minn., began volunteering at Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota in 2005. "I was interested in volunteering and felt the organization would be a good fit for my interests and talents," he said. He was elected to the board of directors that fall.

Len got busy right away, becoming the event chair and table captain for the 2006 Tails of Independence fundraiser. He repeated those roles again in 2007.

He also volunteered as Development Committee chair. He was instrumental in reforming that committee into two entities: the Special Events Fundraising Committee and the Leadership Giving Circle (which focuses on major gifts).

"My primary focus has been to prepare the organization for a strong future," Len said. He is actively involved in strategic planning to increase and ensure the organization's funding base.



Len with his Dalmation, Dunkin'

As a board member representing Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, Len has attended countless events, such as graduation

celebrations. "I enjoy meeting other volunteers, our graduates and our supporters," he said. He speaks passionately about the organization at every opportunity.

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota appreciates all the hard work Len has done on our behalf and the enthusiasm he shows to all. Thank you, Len! ☐

What about you?

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

- **Puppy raiser** (14-16 months)
- **Short-term dog foster home** (two-four weeks)
- **Heel and Wheel Committee** – help plan our largest fundraiser! You can be involved in many different areas.
- Board member with a background in Human Resources.

If you can help or need more information, contact Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@hsdm.org or at 612-729-5986, extension 113. ☐

Development News

(continued from page 4)

to give back to the organization in another way. **They have included Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota as a beneficiary in their will.** "In 2005, we signed up to be a member of the Legacy Club by putting Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota in our will," Kathy says. "A will is a great thing to do for a charity and for your family. We felt that an organization that helps people and animals is a great combination, and we wanted to make sure they carried on after we are gone."

Kathy and Roger urge people to consider adding Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota to their estate plans. Making a long-term commitment to a charitable

organization is a personal and commendable choice. If you'd like to learn more about the benefits of gift planning, contact Janet Cobus at 612-729-5986, Ext. 153, or [jacobus@hsdm.org](mailto:jcobus@hsdm.org). Or visit our planned giving page on our Web site at http://www.hsdm.org/donate/planned_giving.asp.

Autism Assist Dog Program Receives Grant

To meet our goal of placing four Autism Assist Dogs, we are seeking funding of \$100,000 from many sources. **The first foundation to contribute to the program is Planet Dog Foundation, with a generous award of \$10,000.** Many requests are still pending. If you have any suggestions for funding, please contact Janet Cobus at 612-729-5986 ext. 153 or jacobus@hsdm.org.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is supported by many agencies, companies, and individuals. A very special thanks to you all! The following contributions were received in our office by March 31, 2008. Contributions received by June 30, 2008 will be included in the Summer 2008 issue of Tails From Minnesota.

\$5,000 or more

California Community Foundation
RBC Dain Rauscher
The Delonais Foundation
J Elmer and Esther Hansman Charitable Trust

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Greater Minnesota-Dakotas Combined Federal Campaign
Ramsey Lions
Edward L Anderson Charitable Trust

\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Sharon Steinbrecher
John Stockman
Julie & Alex Stolis
Mary Stoner
Tom Struve
Linda Tedford
Jill Thompson
Allie Thomson
Dawn & Brian Turner
Shannon Tyree
Carlos Villalpando
Len & Nanette Washko
The Wedul family
Rhondi West
Allan & Polly Zabel & Indie

Mark Aarabi Adams Lions Beth Alexander Almelund Lions Andover Lions Jo-Anne & Milton Andrus Anonymous Arlington Lions Arlington Sibley East Lions Austin Morning Lions Cheri & John Beatty Big Lake Lions Blooming Prairie Lions Brandon Lions Elizabeth & Duane Briekrietzi-Miller Richard & Patricia Brown Margaret Brownrigg Brownsville Lions Delores & Richard Buege Buffalo Lions Shannon & David Bugnon David & Darcy Burke Nancy Buttweiler Byron Lions Cambell Lions Cambridge Lions Camden Lions Cannon Falls Lions Carlos Lions Michele & Peter Carroll Mark, Alice & Sandy Carson Carver Lions J.E. & Christine Cass Cass Lake Lions Centerville Lions Chapter AB P.E.O. Sisterhood Chatfield Lions Barb & Coy Chelgren Vicki & Lou Chouinard Columbus Lions	Coon Rapids Lioness Gerald & Lynn Cox Linda Dallman Danube Lions Pamela & Dennis Davis Dawn to Dusk Crookston Lions Dilworth Loco Ladies Lions Dodge Center Lions Patrick & Joan Dowling Charles & Andrea Duddington Eagan Lioness Club Dorothy Eide Eitzen Lions Ellendale Lions Sally Erickson Elaine Estabrooks MJ Evans Patricia Faustgen Kevin Flatau Ford Lions Marcia Fritzscheimer Beth Galde Diana & Richard Gay Bonnie Genin Frances Gladish Gloria J Pozzini Jacqueline Gohdes Naomi Golv Michael Gombold Goodridge Lion Tamers Sharon Goodyear Grand Meadow Lions Greenbush Lions Carrie & Garrett Greer Grove City Lions Ham Lake Lions Warren Hartquist Patricia Harvey	Hector Lions Caroline Hendren Nancy Hendrickson Hills Lions Holdingford Lioness Holdingford Lions Honeywell Houston Lions Mary Hozza Joan Humes Hutchinson Lioness Ann Iijima Jasper Lions Jasper Quarry Lions Robert & Cheryl Jechorek Jeffers Community Lions Robert & Judy Jensen Carrie Johnson David Johnson Ellen & Merle Johnson Richard & Corinne Johnson Janet & Gordon Jones Heather & Thomas Karls Karlstad Lions Byron & Jaki Karrigan Kenyon Lions Kiester Lions Paige & Jason Kite Sandra Koch Beverly Jean Krause Lake City Lions Lake Crystal Lions Fred & Betty Langhauser Jeanne & Gary Larson Daren Lederfine Carol Leinonen Raymond Lemmons Helen Leque Lester Prairie Lions Daniel & Sherri Leverty Dennis Litfin	Livonia Lions Luverne 92 Lions Diane Lynch & Jack Russell Julie Lions Mabel Lions JC Maki Penelope Marsala Marshall Lions John May Cynthia McCann Greg & Susan McCluskey Kathleen & Robert McNamara Maryilyn & Leland Meyer Suzanne & Jeffery Miedema Milan Lions Peggy Miller Carolyn & Stanley Mitchell Deb Molin Montrose Lioness Moonlighters Lioness of Thief River Falls Virginia & Dorian Morrow & Adams Motley Lions Greg Murphy N.E.W Lions Julia Neal Susan Nelson Daniel & Kristi Nelson Newfolds Lions Tina Nordsving North Branch Lioness Olivia Lions Oracle Corporation Osakis Lions John Parzych Al Peters C.J. Peters James & Beverly Phillips Pine River Lions Pipestone Lions	Plainview Lions Stephen Porter Janet Pribnow Prudence H Ahrens Prudential Foundation Suzette & Norbert Prudhomme Racine Lions Randall-Cushing Little Elk Lions Mary Reddell Rochester Lions Roscoe Lions Rushford Lions Victoria Russell Sainty City 56ers Santiago Lions Vicki Sanville Howard & Dora Schroeder Kayleen Schultz Tracey Schuppel-Nelson Kathy & James Segale Shakopee Valley Lions Celia & James Shapland Judy Sharken Simon Singleton Sharon Sherburn Lions Lori Shinnick Sibley East Jr High Leo Club Sibley East Sr High Leo Club Edward Simonet Sharon Singleton Olivia Lions James Speckman Spring Grove United Fund Spring Lake Park Lioness St Francis Lioness St Michael Lions St. Anthony Village Lions St. Charles Lions St. Hilaire Lions	St. Rosa Lions Teresa Stanley J.J. Steenberg Greg Stevens Stephen Lions Shirley Sternquist Stewartville Lions Ann & Neil Strader Todd Taubert The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Becky Thorson Twin Valley Lions Ulen Lions United Health Group Angela & Daniel Vaith Elizabeth & Lloyd Vergin Lucy & Tim Voltz Eleanor Wagner Waite Park 97 Lions Wanamingo Lions Mary Warpeha Waseca Lions Watertown Lions Wendell Lions Wheaton Lions Peter & Michelle Wilhoit Ttee William Mitchell College of Law David & Cathi Williams Joan Willshire Carolyn & Richard Willy Jean Wilson Winona Lions Winona Rivertown Lions Winona Sunset Lions Mary Jo Wolf James & Mi Kyung Youngquist Zumbro Falls Lions
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Puppyraisers

Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus	AJ
Kathryn & Jayson Alexander	Elmo & Hailey
Mary & John Alexander	Paris
Dianne & Doug Astry	Redford
Bill Beddie & Kathy Grant	Arthur
Jennifer Berube	Vern
Autumn Brodhecker	Faye
Meg Brudney	Honey
Rob Carrick	Radar
The Cook family	Reebok
The Davidson family	Vegas
John & Jan Day	Bea
The Ehlert family	Qwest & Brinks
Mike Ferber & Betty Otto	Ernie
Leslie Flowers & Scott McClure	Viggo
The Grabau family	Marley
The Groat family	Fergie
The Heffernan family	Jazz
Hannah Holicky & family	Belle
Mary Holsen	Ripley
Kim Hyde	Phoebe
The Krause family	Radar
Kim Kriesel	Regis
Julianne Larsen	Spencer
Linda Livingston Wiedewitsch	Piper
The McGowan family	Monte
Gene McNamara & family	Victor
Lynn Mercer & family	Mac
The Mullikin family	Guido
Michelle & Shay Nelson	Jester
Mary & Kirk Nesvig	Dugan
Janice Parrow	Jasmine & Vegas
Megan Polley	Duffy
Nicole & Adam Quiney	Herbie
Shirley Russo	Winter
Dora Schroeder	Gander
Darryl & Diane Scott	Mason
Marge & Dave Skeie	Rhett
Cathy & Greg Stevens	Theo
Mary Stoner & family	Vinnie
The Svoboda family	Savi
Luanne Thorsvig	Rosco
Patty VanLandschoot & family	Pepper
Sandy Vance	

If we somehow missed your contribution, be it financial, in-kind or volunteer, please let us know and we will recognize you in our next newsletter. Thank you!



Memorials

Mark Aarabi	In Memory of Sheeppo's Mom
Jennifer Burt	"Beau"
Cats Preferred Veterinary Hospital	"Spiker"
Vicki & Lou Chouinard	"Pepper"
Richard Cress	"Lily"
Janet Day	"Beau"
Kathy Dols	"Velvet" and "Dakota"
Dorothy Eide	Vinny
Sally Erickson	Penny Tarbell, Maxine Bremer Family, John R. Bjoim
MJ Evans	Emmett D Dowdall
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	C. Jon Rosengren & "Fritz"
Marcia Fritzscheimer	Warren Hilburn, "Maggie"
Bonnie Genin	Bill Parks
Laurie Gertsen	Melvina Gross
Gloria J Pozzini	Dr. Robert M. Ahrens Sr
Jacqueline Gohdes	Vinny
Patricia Harvey	"Mustang" & "Oscar"
Nancy Hendrickson	Dr Robert M Ahrens Sr
JC Maki	"Buddy"
Carrie Johnson	Jody
Paige & Jason Kite	"Butch", "Wags", "Phoebe" & "Razor"
Dana Knopic	"Beau"
Mary Sue Krueger	In loving memory of "Beau"
Jeanne & Gary Larson	Evelyn Larson
Diane Lynch & Jack Russell	Dr. Robert M. Ahrens Sr
Nicholas Martinez	"Nutmeg" & "Mac"
Jennifer Mertes	"Maggie"
Peggy Miller	"Sassy"
Marilyn & Malcolm Neal	"King King," "Lady," "Zimba," "Princess"
David Otterness	"Sasha"
Christine Peters	"Beau"
Prudence H Ahrens	Dr. Robert M. Ahrens Sr
Philip Reilly	Beloved Grandmother Signe Colliander
Tracey Schuppel-Nelson	Kenneth F. Dettletson
Judy Sharken Simon	"Buddy"
Philip Taylor	Maggie & Bandit
Mary & Douglas Wendler	"Chico"

Emmett D. Dowdall, Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather and Friend – age 72 of Birchwood, Minn., passed away on February 23, 2008 at his home surrounded by his family and his loyal canine friend, Sadie.

We would like to thank the following contributors for donating to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota in memory of Emmett:

Beth Alexander	Sharon Goodyear	Susan Nelson	Mary Wingfield
Becky Thorson	Mary Hozza	Suzette & Norbert	The Physical Therapy
Michael Callas	Joan Humes	Prudhomme	Education Department
J.E. & Christine Cass	Ann Iijima	Casey & Mary Schoen	at the College of St.
Dione Larson	Robert & Judy Jensen	Kathy & James Segale	Catherine
Patrick & Joan	Raymond Lemmons	Edward Simonet	Dana Knopic
Dowling	Ellen Maas	James Speckman	Jo-Anne & Milton Andrus
MJ Evans	Kathleen & Robert	Todd Taubert	Carlson, Caspers,
Beth Galde	Mcnamara	Lucy & Tim Voltz	Vandenburgh &
Michael Gombold	Maryilyn & Leland Meyer	William Mitchell	Lindquist, P.A.
		College of Law	Carrie & Garrett Greer

Workplace Giving

Karen Blackstone	Caroline Shultz
Lisa Boomgarten	Diane Svoboda
Zenobia Carlton	Michael Sweeney
Vicki Chouinard	Mary Helen Thompson
Jennifer Estes	Sandra Lee Vance
Tami Hawkinson	Billie Jo Wallruff
Theresa Larson	David Welper
Jessica Mork	Anonymous

New Board Member

Lisa Knazan

Lisa Knazan joined the Board of Directors in October 2007. Lisa is an attorney working for the Minnesota Department of Human Services in the Medicaid program and previously worked to provide legal services for low-income people.

Lisa lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Dennis. Her long-time dog, Max, a Shmalamute, (a German shepherd/malamute mix), has recently left her home to live with her adult daughter, but Lisa has many non-custodial dog-parent privileges and responsibilities. Her interests include traveling, biking, grandchildren, and pottery. Welcome Lisa! □



Prison Program — Three Years of Success

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota and the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Faribault are proud to celebrate their three-year partnership this spring!

During 2005, Sheri Cassens, Scott Hurley, and Carole Schneider-Phillips volunteered their time and talent to spearhead a dog-training program at the prison. The program began by placing shelter dogs at the facility and having teams of two teach the dogs skills required to become a Hearing or Service Dog.

Since then, more than 30 dogs have been trained at the facility, making it a win-win situation for both Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota and

the people who work with them. Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota benefits from the amount of time, attention and training the program participants put into working with the dogs. The participants learn new skills and perform a restorative justice project for the community.

Sheri Cassens, who works weekly with the teams, says she finds the experience rewarding. “I’ve seen the teamwork and sense of pride that can happen between the inmates and the dogs,” says Sheri. In addition to teaching the dogs, the prisoners groom and care for them.

The program participants enjoy teaching the dogs new skills—and

they say the dogs have taught them a few things, as well. “What surprised me the most is how much I’ve gotten out of working with the dogs,” said Brent, who’s working with a dog in the program. “When I’m with the dog, I’m more aware of my tone of voice and what I say. The dogs have taught me to work better with people. It’s really helped me a lot.”

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota and the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Faribault will continue their partnership in training and providing dogs for people who have disabilities. “It feels good, knowing that a little bit of difference on our end can make all the difference to someone in need,” says one of the inmates. □

Watch Those Lions Roar!

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is proud to be a statewide project of the Lions of Multiple District 5M. We are also grateful for the chance to meet many Lions during the year.



Pictured left are Lions Al Peters, Duane Finger and Frank Loken standing behind graduates Courtney Roberts, with Hearing Dog, Lucky, and Adam Burrows, with Service Dog, Dillon, just after presenting a seminar on February 2, 2008 to a full house during the District 5M8 Midwinter convention in St. Cloud Minnesota.

Pictured right are the District Governors-elect and their spouses during a March 12 visit to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota’s facility to learn more about our work. This tour was part of their



group training in preparation for taking over as District Governors on July 1, 2008. In the foreground is a considerable pile of dog goodies that the Governors brought with them to make our dogs smile. Thanks Lions!

Watch those Lions ROAR! □

A Sense Of Pride

Finn Golden and Traeh

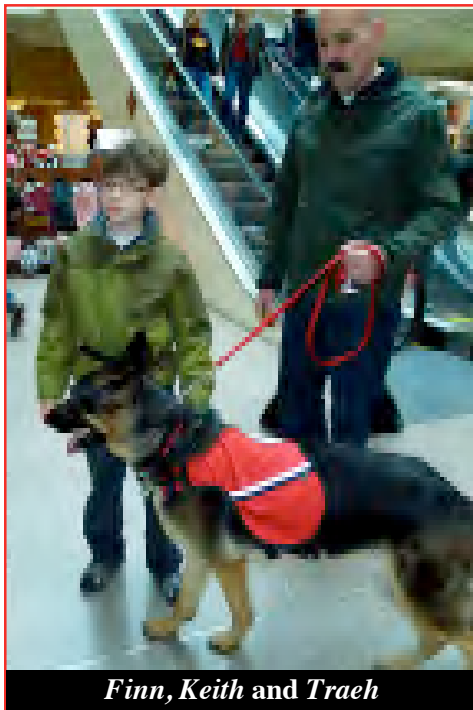
by Julianne Larsen

When Keith and Christine Golden of St. Paul, Minn., learned about Service Dogs for children with autism, they say they immediately felt that one would benefit their son, Finn. After researching the idea, however, they found only out-of-state organizations, which charged up to \$20,000 for a dog and required families to travel for an extended period of training. Because of the expense, the time away from home, and their concerns about finding ongoing support, Keith and Chris said they gave up on the idea of a dog for Finn.

Last summer, however, they heard about Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota through the Autism Society of Minnesota. They contacted Hearing and Service Dogs for more information and began the application process for nine-year-old Finn. His younger sister, Brigid, was excited about the idea of a dog. She wrote a booklet about a dog for Finn, which she gave to trainer Julianne Larsen during the family's home interview.

In February, Finn was matched with Traeh, a 3-year-old German Shepherd, who seemed a good fit for Finn because of Traeh's size and patience. Keith and Chris began training Traeh at the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota facility in Minneapolis. Soon, Traeh moved in with the family and began forming a relationship with Finn.

At first, Chris says, she was concerned that Traeh might bond more closely with Brigid, who interacts with him in a typical manner. "But it quickly appeared that Traeh understood Finn was his special concern," Chris explains. "I suspect that Traeh is aware that Finn doesn't



Finn, Keith and Traeh

act like any other child he has seen, with the pacing and the hand flapping. It has been fun to observe them watching each other and trying to figure each other out." Now, if Finn goes out of sight, Traeh will immediately stop his play and search for him.

Although Traeh has a comfy dog bed in the corner of Finn's bedroom, he usually chooses to sleep on the floor next to Finn's bed. Finn has started to return that interest. He'll move to the edge of his bed and let his toes rest on Traeh. Recently, Finn gently stroked Traeh's ears until they both fell asleep.

Traeh and Finn also work well in public. Finn wears a special belt, which is connected to Traeh's harness. Traeh understands that his job is to keep Finn safe and stop him from running away. As an added

bonus when they are out together, Finn walks with his head up, looking around instead of looking at his hands or feet, as he did before walking with Traeh. "We're excited to see his development," Chris says.

One day, Finn and Traeh came along to pick up Brigid from school. The team created quite a stir on the playground. "Not only was Finn looking around at people, he had an expression on his face that we've seldom seen," Chris recalls. "He was proud of himself!"

Because Finn needs constant supervision, Chris says she was initially concerned that she wouldn't be able to deal with him and a dog at the same time. But Traeh fit into the household routine smoothly. "Chaos can erupt in our house quite suddenly, and Traeh takes it all in stride," she says. "He is mellow and friendly, and I can count on him to obey my verbal commands. That leaves my hands free to deal with Finn." The Golden's say they especially want to thank Traeh's puppy raiser and foster home for the wonderful job they did, ultimately making Traeh's transition an easy one. □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Sharon Todoroff

Veterinary Services
Life Care Animal Hospital

Puppy Raiser
Julie & Darell Carlblom

Foster Home
Mary Bente

Sponsor
Bill McNeely

Honorariums

Donated by In Honor of
Cheri & John Beatty Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Shannon & David Bugnon Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Nancy Buttweiler Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Michele & Peter Carroll Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Fletcher Chambers "Holly"
Barb & Coy Chelgren Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Vicki Chouinard Lisa's new Salon,
..... "Dreadlocks for Dingoes"
Diana & Richard Gay Capri Chelgren's Birthday

Donated by In Honor of
Caroline Hendren Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Lauren Johnson Doug Wendler
Janet & Gordon Jones Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Heather & Thomas Karls Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Beverly Jean Krause "Blaze" cat & "Misty" collie dog
Carolyn & Stanley Mitchell Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Greg Murphy Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Daniel & Kristi Nelson Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Tina Nordsving Capri Chelgren's Birthday

Donated by In Honor of
Stephen Porter Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Mary Reddell Capri Chelgren's Birthday
J.J. Steenberg Jennifer Jasicki's Birthday
Donna Stenberg Donna Floyd
Shirley Sternquist Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Ann & Neil Strader Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Angela & Daniel Vaith Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Peter & Michelle Wilhoit Ttee ... Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Joan Willshire David Sams & "Murphy"

The Sweet Smell of Success

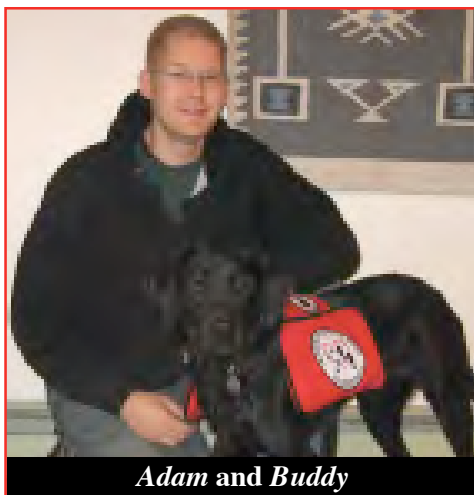
Adam Lovell and Buddy

by Shelley Frederickson

Adam Lovell, a curator at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, has had Type 1 Diabetes for more than 17 years. About two years ago, Adam began having difficulty recognizing when his blood sugar was getting low. Each time his blood-sugar levels dropped, Adam became disoriented, confused or unconscious and needed the assistance of others. Such events began occurring more frequently, resulting in multiple trips to the emergency room.

Adam was searching for answers when one of his friends suggested that he look into getting a Service Dog — one trained to identify and act upon the subtle scent changes that hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) creates in body chemistry. Although he was intrigued, Adam didn't think a Service Dog was an option because he lived in an apartment. Still, Adam says, he decided that he owed it to himself to check into the possibility. After much research and consideration, Adam applied for a Service Dog from Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota. Soon he was paired with Buddy, a 1 1/2-year-old black Labrador retriever.

From the beginning, field trainer Carmen Hurley says, she could tell that Adam and Buddy made a great team. "They bonded immediately, and Adam was consistent in training Buddy, which helped them build a close partnership," she said. Buddy was immediately comfortable wearing a red pack that contained Adam's emergency medication, candy, testing supplies and medical contact information. Buddy quickly caught on to tasks such as retrieving an emergency phone and a bottle of juice, to help Adam when his blood



Adam and Buddy

sugar was getting low. Training Buddy to identify and act upon the smell of Adam's breath required more practice.

"For the first month, Buddy stayed in his kennel at home when I went to work," explains Adam. "Then I realized that the majority of low-blood-sugar events I experienced happened while I was at work. I thought that if Buddy could be with me when they occurred, it would help him make the connection."

Adam remembers the day when Buddy made the connection. It was a hectic morning at work, and Adam started to become confused. He went to his office and Buddy immediately pawed Adam's leg. Adam then checked his blood sugar and found it considerably low. "Because none of my co-workers were close at hand, Buddy's ability to detect my low blood sugar averted a potentially dangerous situation," Adam recalls.

Since then, Adam says he's had no doubts about Buddy's ability to detect a low-blood-sugar episode.

"It's a great comfort having Buddy around," Adam says. "I have more confidence that I can be by myself without needing people to check on me. Buddy is with me all the time. Whether I'm at home, work, shopping, or driving, I know I can count on Buddy to be there to alert me."

Recently, Adam shared his and Buddy's story at a presentation at the Decorah library. He also wrote an article that appeared in the *Decorah News* to raise awareness of the role of Service Dogs.

Adam says he is very grateful to the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota supporters and staff who made it all possible. "It's hard to put into words how much it means to me and what a positive impact Buddy has made on my life," he says. "There wasn't an obvious answer to the problems I was having and I knew something had to be done. Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota came through with Buddy, the best solution of all. It's a wonderful thing to have happen." □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Sharon Bazant

Veterinary Services
Centennial Veterinary Clinic

Puppy Raiser
Michele Davidson & Family

Field Trainer
Carmen Hurley

Obedience School
The Good Dog Center,
Decorah, Iowa

Graduation!

Plan to attend our next graduation event on May 17, 2008 at 1:00 pm at a wonderful new location, the north campus of Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis. The meaningful one-hour ceremony includes live presentations to each graduate team, videos of the teams working together, and heart-

warming moments when each person and their dog are reunited on stage. As well as featuring a new location we will, for the first time, be graduating three Autism Assist teams! Photos, cake and fellowship follow the event. **You don't want to miss this!**

We also invite you to visit our facility for a one-hour *Tails To Tell* tour during which you will meet the staff, a puppy raiser, a graduate and, of course, the dogs! Dates and times are listed on the back cover of this newsletter. □

Big Dog In A Little Package

Nancy Forland and Tex

by Laurie Carlson

Nancy Forland of Princeton, Minn., has lived with dogs all her life and once was a dog breeder. Because she has Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease — a progressive form of neuromuscular disease — she had to give up most of her dogs and move to an apartment. There, she found it difficult to pick up dropped items because her back often hurt. Nancy became interested in getting an assistance dog, and she said she decided that a smaller dog would suit her best in an apartment.

Looking on the Internet, she found Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota and sent in her application. When Nancy was accepted into the program in November 2006, she requested a smaller Service Dog that had the talent to perform the tasks she needed.

Tex, a Yorkshire Terrier, was donated to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota in early 2007 by a breeder in Texas. Because Tex has longer legs than most Yorkies, he drew many comments. His foster Mom would comment that “They grow ‘em big in Texas,” which always drew chuckles. It turns out that those long legs helped him get a job!

Tex has the typical fearless terrier attitude, and he likes to do a variety of things. Originally, because of his size, he was going to be placed as a Hearing Dog. Then the trainers



Nancy and Tex

discovered there was more to him than they had realized! Tex had a very important talent up his little sleeve: retrieving. He loved to pick things up and bring them to his handler — even larger items such as a hand mirror and cordless phone. He had found his true calling! Upon hearing of Tex’s talent, Training Director Kim Hyde exclaimed, “Great! I have just the client for him.”

Nancy was thrilled when she heard there was a small dog that might fit her needs. When Nancy met Tex, she was surprised and pleased that he jumped in her lap right away. Her husband, Steve, liked him, too, and training commenced.

“Tex and Nancy were great to work with,” said Field Trainer Laska Parrow. “Nancy has a great attitude. She’s always happy and willing to do what I asked of her.” The biggest challenge was the weather. During

training in December, there were several snowstorms, which made it difficult for Laska to meet the team.

“The most fun in training has been working in public settings,” said Nancy. “I’m constantly amazed and pleased at how Tex will listen to my commands, especially the ‘leave it’ command when there is something on the ground I don’t want him to touch.” Laska remembers the first time they trained at Northtown Mall. Nancy dropped her keys and Tex went right over to pick them up. Metal is not a pleasant taste for dogs, but it didn’t faze Tex. Nancy and Laska both joked that he’s a retriever in disguise.

“Tex helps me be more independent,” Nancy said. “When I drop items, he helps me, and that is so important when my back hurts.” She said she is forever thankful for her big dog in a little package. □

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source

Rosanne Fett, Rosemark Kennels

Veterinary Services

Life Care Animal Hospital

Puppy Raisers

Jake & Jenny Schneider

Foster Home Staff

Field Trainer Laska Parrow

Local Politics

Pictured is U.S. Representative Keith Ellison with Al Peters and “Austin” during the Representative’s campaign headquarters open house on March 19, 2008. During their visit, Representative Ellison expressed a desire to work closely with members of the disabled community. Al also met recently with State Senator Patricia Torres Ray and State Representative Jim Davnie concerning Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota’s opposition to proposed breed ban legislation in Minnesota. Both legislators support our position. □





Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
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Please Note!

If you are receiving more than one copy of Tails from Minnesota, have moved, or you do not wish to receive our newsletter in the future, please call 612-729-5986, 729-5914 tty, or e-mail info@hsdm.org.

Wish List

- ✓ **Dog treats!!** (Pupperoni, Milkbone, small sizes)
- ✓ **LCD computer monitors, 17" or larger**
- ✓ Palm Treo Smartphone for Verizon
- ✓ **Automotive GPS devices**
- ✓ **More puppy raisers!**
- ✓ Plastic Dog crates: Large and extra large
- ✓ **Dog grooming services**
- ✓ Van with wheelchair lift, good condition
- ✓ 25' extension cords
- ✓ **Home Theater** system for our meeting room
- ✓ **Mac G4 Computers, laptop**
- ✓ **4'-6' wide ceiling mount video screen**
- ✓ Small wagon or hatch-back for delivering dogs
- ✓ Microwave cart with drawer
- ✓ Dog leashes, 6' narrow width
- ✓ Camcorder, Digital
- ✓ **Exercise pens, 36"-48"**
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Gentle Leaders & Haltis, sizes M & L
- ✓ New Smoke Detectors
- ✓ 8-1/2 x 11 copy paper
- ✓ Plastic "Playschool" benches and table
- ✓ Batteries, AA & AAA
- ✓ Carpet cleaner
- ✓ Heartworm Preventative
- ✓ **Kongs, Nylabones (large)**
- ✓ Gift certificates to pet stores, computer stores and home improvement stores
- ✓ Newer wheelchairs, manual Quickie-type
- ✓ 1st-class stamps
- ✓ Purebred puppies
- ✓ Leashes and flexi leads

A special thanks to all of you who previously supplied us with wish list items! You made our wishes come true! ☐

Upcoming Events

- April 25-27** Horse Expo, Minnesota State Fairgrounds
- April 26** I Matter In The Park, Knollwood Mall
- May 4-10** Be Kind To Animals Week
- May 17** Graduation, 1:00pm, New location! Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis North Campus
- June 21** Tails To Tell Tour, 10:00am
- July 19** Tails To Tell, Rochester, Charter House, 10am
- September 14** Heel and Wheel Walk!! See below!

2008 Heel and Wheel Fundraising Walk

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the *Heel and Wheel*, and we want you to be a part of making it the best ever! Just go to www.hsdm.org and click on Heel and Wheel to get started. Our grand prize is a week in a luxury condo at the Blue Tree Resort in Florida!

2007 Heel and Wheel grand prize winner, Hannah Kosmicki, and her friend, Erin Grout, spent a week at the beautiful Blue Tree Resort in sunny Florida, thanks to a generous donation by Greg and Cat Stevens. "I'll be back for the 2008 Heel and Wheel," Hannah says, "and I want to help meet the goal of raising \$60,000 for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota. I hope to see YOU there!" ☐

Heel and Wheel Fundraising Walk
Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.
Phalen Park, St. Paul, MN

