



Tails

FROM MINNESOTA
for the friends of Can Do Canines



Fall 2010 Vol. 21 Issue 4

Fighting for a Soldier's Freedom

Corey Briest and Baker

by Laurie Carlson

Corey Briest of Yankton, South Dakota is a true American hero. While serving with the Army National Guard in Iraq in 2005, he was severely injured by a roadside bomb. First Sergeant George Arends, one of his friends and fellow soldiers, says, "Serving together in a combat zone definitely gives you ample opportunity to know someone very well, and I trust Corey with my life. Sergeant Briest displays all the values and characteristics of a true hero. He demonstrated this the very day of his injury by moving forward into the kill zone to assist fellow members of his squad."

It took Corey two years of recovery in a stateside hospital before he could return home. Being separated from his wife Jenny and their two children, Kylie and Conner was very difficult for him. The traumatic brain injuries he sustained left him legally blind and affected his speech, balance and short-term memory.

Life definitely became more challenging for this family, with the demands of young children, numerous therapy appointments and adjusting to a new way of life for Corey. Corey's biggest desire was to become more independent



Corey and Baker

and confident, and to not rely so heavily on Jenny for his daily needs. While researching options, they came across assistance dogs and thought it may be a good fit for Corey's needs. After reviewing several organizations, they decided to apply with Can Do Canines. Jenny says, "We liked Can Do Canines because we would not have to travel elsewhere for training and the trainers would work with us in our home. Corey has had enough time away from his family."

While waiting for his dog, Corey continued to work on his speech, short-term memory and physical therapy in preparation for being matched with an assistance dog.

This summer, Corey and his family traveled to the Can Do Canines facility in New Hope, Minnesota to meet with trainers and some Can Do Canines in training. Can Do Canines client services coordinator Leslie Flowers saw that Corey and Baker, a two-year-old black

Labrador Retriever, would be a perfect match. Then the hard work began. Leslie continued the training and evaluation of the team in Yankton on a regular basis over the next few months. In between, a local Can Do Canines field trainer, Bill Sohl, worked with Corey and Baker at their home, teaching them how to work together. Bill was surprised how quickly the two bonded. "We placed Baker with Corey, and in just the space of a few days they became attached to each other."

The first challenge was building Corey's trust and confidence in Baker. With practice, they learned to work as a team. Baker wears a harness that Corey holds onto, which helps his balance while walking. When at home, Baker helps balance and lead Corey to the bathroom, then back to his favorite chair in the living room. Back at the chair, Baker rests his chin on the seat so Corey can feel from Baker's head onto the chair and seat himself. Baker retrieves dropped items, gets an emergency phone and also alerts another person if Corey calls for help. Jenny says, "The most important thing Baker has brought to our lives is a feeling of security for Corey. That gives me more freedom." Corey adds, "He's a good buddy."

When asked what the best thing is about Baker, Jenny says, "The way he and Corey instantly bonded. It's the best thing ever. Wherever Corey is in the house, Baker is with him. Corey's frustration level is lower now, too, especially while in physical therapy. Even Baker feels it." Corey's goal is to be able to be alone in the house with Baker, with no one else around. Everyone in the family feels this is attainable, and with continued training, it shouldn't be too long before Corey regains a feeling of freedom and can be more independent.

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From the Executive Director Al Peters

Our New Home and How We Can Grow!

As many of you know, we have settled into our new building and after only 9 months are already seeing the benefits for our clients, dogs and staff. But what you may not know is that we have completed only the first phase of a long term plan that will allow us to train more dogs, increase our client graduation numbers and expand our mission.

The next phase of construction will include a second wing of kennels, an accessible parking lot located closer to the main door, a caretaker apartment, an overnight guest room for out-of-town clients, and additional office space for a volunteer center and future staff.

“*Campaign for Independence*” is the name we have chosen for our capital campaign that was launched in 2009 to cover the cost of the new building. To date we have raised 67% in cash and pledges of the \$4.4 million goal we set to pay for both phases of construction. We are so grateful to our leadership, staff and major gift donors who have helped us reach our goal for the first phase of the campaign.

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENCE



Gifts to the capital campaign are similar to gifts made to your church when a new building needs to be constructed or a new boiler needs to be installed. These gifts are above and beyond the regular, annual support. Capital gifts are sometimes a single gift, but can be many smaller gifts spread over a specific term, from one to three years for example.

Our team of “Campaign for Independence” volunteers is in the process of developing information related to our fundraising efforts. I hope you will welcome the opportunity to contribute to our next phase of construction when they call on you. Track our success on our website and in future newsletters. Every dollar counts. Your support counts. And there are many ways to give at every level. Thank you for your continued generosity because you make a difference!



Fall 2009 graduates

Graduation!

Graduation only happens twice a year and it is my favorite event! We plan to graduate 17 new graduates at this fall’s event. The one hour ceremony brings together volunteers, puppy raisers and graduates as we focus on celebrating the newest graduate teams.

The event will take place at 1:00 PM on November 6, 2010 at our New Hope facility. There is no cost and all are welcome. Please join me for this special event! ♥

Volume 21

Issue 4



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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Allison Schildknecht

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

We envision a future in which every person who needs and wants an assistance dog can have one.

Executive Director: Alan M. Peters
Director of Operations: Michelle Calvert

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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.

To reach a staff member via phone, dial 763-331-3000. When you hear the greeting, press the extension number you need or press 3 for an employee directory.



A Life Changing Cuddle

Terri Krake and Brody

by Anne Ingvoldstad

Terri Krake of Minneapolis, Minn. felt that her world had become smaller after the untimely loss of her first service dog to cancer. Terri suffers from seizures due to a brain stem injury, and without her dog, found that the only time she left the house was to take the Metro Mobility bus to doctor's appointments. Due to the frequency and severity of her seizures, Terri's doctor recommended a vagus nerve stimulator (VNS). The VNS is a small implanted device that, when triggered by a special magnet, sends regular small pulses of electrical energy to the brain via the vagus nerve in the neck to shorten or stop the seizure. After the procedure, though, she often had trouble getting to the magnet in time to activate the VNS before losing consciousness. Her partner Lora feared that Terri had given up on life.

After 2 years of encouragement from Lora and her doctor, Terri finally contacted Can Do Canines. After a short wait, she started training with Brody, a 2-year-old black Labrador Retriever. Now she doesn't know what she would do without him. "He's made it fun to go out and socialize, and do things I haven't done in years. He's not just special, he's amazing."

Like all Can Do Canines Seizure Assist Dogs, Brody has been trained to summon help, to bring a phone to Terri in case of emergency, and to stay with her until she recovers from a seizure.



Terri and Brody

But Brody is the first dog trained at the facility to interact with Terri's implant. Can Do Canines believes this one of the first times an assistance dog has been trained to activate a VNS device. He wears the VNS magnet on his collar to activate the implant in Terri's chest. The command "settle" brings Brody to lay across Terri's chest with his nose nestled in her neck. Contact with his collar sets off the implant and shortens or stops the seizure, and Brody's body weight helps calm Terri's system and bring her back to consciousness.

Brody is very intuitive about Terri's stress level and has found his own ways to make her more aware of oncoming seizures by nudging her, barking and getting help. One night, Terri was walking from her couch to another room when Brody repeatedly blocked her path. Terri turned back to the couch, but did not quite make it there when she blacked out. Brody "settled" across Terri's chest and set off the VNS with the magnet before he went to get help. He would not stop barking until Lora

awoke and came to Terri's aid. When Lora rushed downstairs, she found the phone gripped in Terri's hand. Brody had done everything he could think of to help Terri. The bond between the two is inspiring to see.

With Brody around, Terri has also experienced a decrease in the number of seizures that she has. She thinks that less stress and increased activity may be contributing factors. She is getting outside more often, and, of course, has to feed and care for Brody. He gives her a reason to get out of bed.

While in training, Terri noticed that Brody was initially startled by the loud alert sound and voice that responded when he activated the Lifeline call button on the floor. While training at the Can Do Canines facility, the dogs typically use a plastic disk, which doesn't make any noise, to train the "touch" command. Terri spoke with a Lifeline representative and has arranged for a demonstration kit to be donated to Can Do Canines so that other dogs can become accustomed to the call button's response before being exposed to the real thing in their client's home.

Lora says that training these dogs is really a labor of love. "It helps people who may not think they can have a life, to get back hope, dignity and self respect, and things that they never thought they would have because of a disability. These dogs give that and don't ask for anything. It's unconditional love."

Terri offers her heartfelt thanks to Brody's trainers and contributors who make Can Do Canines assistance dogs possible. And finally, "thank God for Brody." ♥

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

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source Sievers Kennels
Special Thanks Lora Kennedy

Veterinary Services
Life Care Animal Hospital

Puppy Raisers
Anna and Ramsey Peterson

Corey Briest and Baker (continued from page 1)



Sgt. Corey Briest gives a thumbs up

During a video interview at his certification test, Corey was asked what he would tell others who are thinking about getting an assistance dog. He smiles and said. "Go for it. It's hard work but totally worth it." Leslie mentioned the generosity of financial contributors, such as the Sherwood family, who made it possible for Corey to receive Baker at no charge. In response, Corey smiled directly at the camera and gave a BIG thumbs up – which says it all. ♥

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source Sievers Kennels
Foster Home Mary Alexander
Field Trainer Bill Sohl

Veterinary Services
Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital

Puppy Raisers
Dianne Adamson and Paul Oberhaus

Sponsor
The Sherwood family in memory of Terry L. Sherwood

A Significant Snuggle

by Anne Ingvoldstad



Aiden and Lexi

Aiden Villas is an energetic four-year-old who lives with his mom Nicole, dad Andrew, and his two brothers Owen and Alex in Eden Prairie, Minn. Aiden has autism complicated by Dravet Syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy diagnosed in only ten children in Minnesota. Developmental delays and bone development problems make it difficult for Aiden to walk. He suffers from seizures, large and small, triggered by things like sunlight and movement. Nicole said even going from the car to a store or into their house is a struggle. She has to put Aiden in a stroller, carry him, or hold his hand as he pulls and sometimes falls. Aiden is not happy with any of those choices and, as he grows, all of them are becoming more difficult.

Aiden's mom noticed that the family's Golden Retriever, Lexie, seemed to be attentive and interested in Aiden. She heard about Autism Assist Dogs being trained at Can Do Canines from a news article on the web and applied to see if Lexie would qualify.

After Aiden was accepted in the program and Lexie passed her temperament tests, health checks and obedience skills, Can Do Canines field trainer Dora Schroeder began working with the family on the special skills needed to make Aiden and Lexie a successful team.

Now, wearing a special vest, Lexie helps Aiden walk steadily at home and in public.

(continued on page 5)

Big Help in a Small Package

by Allison Schildknecht

John Fraedrich of Anoka, Minn. has had Type 1 Diabetes for 30 years. In the last three years, rapid swings in his blood sugar and hypoglycemia unawareness (the inability to feel oncoming low blood sugars) have been keeping him home more and more. He characterizes himself as an outdoorsman, but says he's become apprehensive at home and uncomfortable about driving. His doctor considers his condition life-threatening.

At the 2009 American Diabetes Association Expo, John and his wife Tracy saw poodles wearing assistance dog capes. They investigated Diabetes Assist Dogs on the internet and learned Can Do Canines provided this type of



John and Griffin

assistance dog. In his application, John wrote, "A Diabetes Assist Dog would give me back my freedom."

John says he didn't know what to expect and wasn't sure if he would like a small dog, but he says he fell in love right away with Griffin, a compact black Australian Labradoodle. "We bonded so quickly." John says. "It was almost like it was destined."

"Training was fast and fun." John says. Griffin learned to get an emergency phone, bring a bottle of glucose tablets, to get help from others, and, most importantly, to check for and find a toy with the low blood sugar scent hidden in John's clothes.

(continued on page 5)

On Recovery Road with a Furry Passenger

by Natalie Boike

After JodiAnn Wisheart of Wyoming, Minn. suffered a stroke at age 45, she worked hard to recover. Initially, she was completely paralyzed and unable to swallow or speak. Now, six years later, she is able to walk with the assistance of a cane and her speech shows no sign of the critical stroke she endured. Her doctor went so far as to call the results of her hard work "miraculous".

JodiAnn still battles balance problems. "I was falling a lot trying to do things on my own," JodiAnn says. Now she has a partner on her path to recovery: a two-year old black Labrador Retriever named Wilma.

Now that Wilma is living with her, JodiAnn says she can't remember the last time she fell. She is not afraid to venture outside her home alone anymore. Being out and dropping her cane was the hardest part, she recalls. "If I dropped my cane I was stuck; I had to wait until someone came along and picked it up for me. With Wilma, I feel like I can go anywhere."

Wilma does more than retrieve JodiAnn's cane. She jubilantly picks up any dropped objects, helps move laundry and has even had a calming effect on JodiAnn's seven-year-old grandson Cole, who is diagnosed with ADHD.

(continued on page 5)



JodiAnn and Wilma

Aiden Villas and Lexi

(continued from page 4)

She carries his emergency medication in her vest. Lexie also fetches a bag with Aiden’s medicine on command and can go get help in an emergency. Lexie is beginning to notice and alert Nicole when Aiden is having a seizure. Lexie now “snuggles” and stays close to him to calm him in response to seizures.

One of the challenges of training was teaching Lexie a signal that was consistent and clear to Nicole. Lexie would sometimes pace or paw at Nicole, but these signals could be hard to interpret. Now Nicole wears a 10” length of rope clipped to her belt loop, and Lexie has been trained to come and tug it when she senses that Aiden needs

help. This unique signal is something that Nicole shared with other assistance dog “parents” at a recent conference on Dravet Syndrome.

Lexie continues to hone her skills as a Autism Assist Dog, and Nicole feels that she is really becoming proficient at sensing Aiden’s oncoming seizures. On a recent vacation to the beach, the lifeguard had politely asked the family to keep Lexie out of the water. Thirty minutes later, Lexie began trying to get into the water with Aiden, who was starting to have a seizure. Andrew pulled Aiden onto the beach, and Lexie snuggled up to him as she had been trained to do, bringing Aiden’s medications in her vest. The lifeguard came over and was

able to see Lexie at work. Nicole says, “The snuggle response was universally comforting, both to Aiden and to onlookers. The lifeguard and everyone else could finally understand what Lexie was there for!” ♥

Did you know Can Do Canines is one of only a few organizations that will train a person’s pet dog? To learn more about assistance dogs and how you can help, call Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153 or visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source Pet	Field Trainer Dora Schroeder
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John Fraedrich and Griffin

(continued from page 4)

One day during training, Can Do Canines trainer Ramona Elder arrived for their appointment to find John on the phone with Tracy and in the midst of an insulin reaction. Griffin was at his feet. Scattered around John were the emergency phone, the bottle of glucose tablets, and the television’s remote control. “I know I didn’t tell him to get any of those things.” John says. “He knew something was wrong and he was trying to help.”

It seems Griffin is always waiting for a chance to help John. “Griffin and I were sitting on the couch and my son, Christian, was sitting right in front of the television. Griffin suddenly jumped off the couch and brought me the bottle

of glucose tablets. It took us a while to realize that ‘Christian, you’re sitting too close’ sounds like ‘glucose’.

“We’ve only had the paramedics out once or twice since we’ve had Griffin. It used to be something like two or three times a week.” says John. Tracy laughs, “There used to be a lot of attractive men showing up in our bedroom—paramedics, policemen, firefighters...”

Griffin has detected almost every low John has had since joining the family, and he’s been having fewer severe lows with Griffin alerting him while he is still able to get his own treatment. Tracy says she sleeps better and worries less when John is home alone or away from the house.

Asked what advice he would give to people who are thinking about applying, John says, “If you receive an assistance dog, you’ll have not only a tremendous aid and companion, but a new member of the family.” ♥

To make more dogs like Griffin available for people on our waiting list, please visit www.can-do-canines.org or call Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source Log Cabin Labradoodles
Puppy Raiser The Heffernan Family
Foster Home Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Faribault

JodiAnn Wisheart and Wilma

(continued from page 4)

JodiAnn’s only regret is not getting Wilma earlier. She didn’t apply for a Mobility Assist Dog until six years after her stroke. “I had troubles with depression, with a lot of things, and it was getting worse and worse. I felt totally isolated after the stroke. I felt I couldn’t have my old life back,” she says. “Ever since I got Wilma, I’m not lonely. It’s given me my independence back; I can say she means everything to me.” ♥

To help someone regain their freedom and independence, visit www.can-do-canines.org and make your contribution by clicking the “Donate Today” button.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source Georgine Abramson and Rosalee Rogers
Veterinary Services Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital
Puppy Raisers Bridget Zwack and family

Secondhand HOUNDS

Recently, Can Do Canines began a partnership with Secondhand Hounds. This dedicated rescue group adopts dogs from shelters across the nation and finds them loving, forever homes. Now, they’re also working with Director of Training Julianne Larsen to help us locate suitable dogs to pair with our clients. These dogs will live in our special kennel area until they are placed with foster homes, where they will begin their assistance dog training. Five dogs—“Gordy”, “Jewel”, “Rocky”, “Reyna”, and “Stevie”—have already been placed with their foster families. ♥

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to all of our generous contributors.

Without your support we would not be able to make our mission and vision a reality.

In consideration of the best use of all you give to us, beginning January 1, 2010 all financial, service and merchandise contributions will be recognized in our annual report published once each year. Volunteers and memorials will continue to be listed in the Tails From Minnesota.

This will allow us additional pages to tell our tale without additional cost! Thank you for your understanding.

VOLUNTEERS

Puppy Raisers are noted by 🐾 a beside their names - Thank You!

Sue Abrahamson	Sandy Essen & family	Steve Levens	🐾 Dora & Howard
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VOLUNTEERS MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!

Coin Clean Up!



On June 4, three volunteers from Allianz generously gave us several hours to clean coins donated from the wishing pond at the Mall of America. As there were 3 large buckets - over 150 pounds - this was no small task! However Maria Lucia, Elaine Theis and Agnes Chu finished very quickly. Thanks to them, we were able to get the money deposited at the bank with no problems. ♥

Clean Up Day!



On July 15, volunteers from Northwestern College came in to help us spruce up the facility. They cleaned chairs, replaced ceiling tiles, and organized storerooms. They jumped right in with great enthusiasm and got all the jobs done in 3 hours. This is the second year the Northwestern College volunteers have come to Can Do Canines to help with projects and we sincerely appreciate their help. **Thank you!** ♥

The Great Patch Exchange!



In August, we held a patch and cape exchange for graduate teams. Graduates exchanged their old capes for ones with our new Can Do Canines patches. Eighteen wonderful volunteers gave up their Saturday to remove old patches and sew on 228 new ones. A good time was had by all! A big Thank You to lead volunteer Janice Parrow, and all of our great volunteers who helped make the day go so smoothly! ♥

Volunteer Spotlight - Ron Ehlert

The entire Ehlert family of Maple Grove, Minn. have truly been outstanding volunteers for Can Do Canines since they first became Puppy Raisers in 2002. Not only have they raised numerous puppies, and fostered countless other dogs in training, but Ron, Laurie, Sara and Megan have helped staff our booth at events, been on planning committees, spoken to groups on our behalf and just plain jumped in when needed at the last moment.

However, Can Do Canines would like to single out Ron Ehlert as Volunteer of the Quarter. Ron has truly been indispensable to us in so many ways. He was always ready with a sledgehammer and strong back during deconstruction at our new building in the summer of 2009, wielded a paintbrush on countless walls, and helped with the physical move in January 2010. Since we acquired our new building in June 2009, Ron has hauled his riding and push mowers over to the building every Friday and kept our grass



Ron with his wife Laurie

cut for two years straight! When we needed help with drainage issues, he recruited a friend with the right equipment and, along with other wonderful volunteers, helped correct the problem.

Ron is always ready to help out and solve a problem. He has filled huge needs for us on short notice as we get settled into our new facility. We are truly fortunate to have Ron, Laurie and their family as volunteers and sincerely appreciate all their hard work and dedication. Thank you! ♥

What about you?

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

- Puppy raiser (14 to 16 months)
- Short-term dog foster home (2 to 4 weeks)
- Special Events Fundraising Committee – help think up new ideas for raising funds!
- Daytime office help
- Parking lot snow removal
- Board member (CPA/ accounting or marketing experience)
- Assistant for event planning

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

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

by Janet Cobus

The Fetching Ball Gala set for November 2011

Due to moving to our new facility this year, the Fetching Ball Committee deferred the second gala event to 2011. If you are interested in joining the committee to help secure sponsors and begin to plan the logistics of the event, please contact Janet at [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org).



United Way And CFC Campaign - Payroll Deduction

It's not too late to designate a gift to Can Do Canines through payroll deduction. If your company offers matching funds, we can receive a gift from your employer as well. If you work for a company that participates in the United Way, you can select the "donor choice" option and write in Can Do Canines in the "other" category. If you work for a government agency, please use our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) code, 67285, to designate contributions to Can Do Canines. Thank you.

World's Finest Chocolate Still Available

Variety Boxes Are Here!
Chocolate Bars are selling fast. Nearly 100 boxes were checked out at the Heel and Wheel this year.

If you haven't gotten your boxes yet, hurry—they are going fast! Consider selling the variety box this year with Chocolate Almond, Dark Chocolate Almond, Caramel and Milk Chocolate Krispy bars—YUM! There are 50 bars in a box and each



bar sells for \$1.00 to benefit Can Do Canines. Contact Jessica to request a box. jnadeau@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000, ext 152.

June Phon-a-Thon

Thank you to Elizabeth Eagle for managing this year's phon-a-thon fundraising campaign. More than 60 volunteers gave 4 hours of their valuable time to raise more than \$22,000 from generous contributors. Great job everyone!

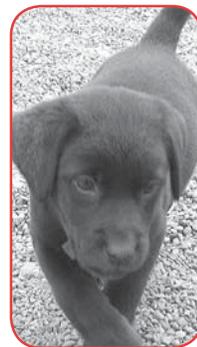
Name-A-Puppy Participants:

The *Seagate Gyabytes* employee group raised \$3,405 to raise funds for their 3rd year in the Name A Puppy Program. This year, they named a beautiful Labrador Retriever puppy "Cooper"! Thank you Seagate!

Cottage Grove Middle School civics classes raised \$1,588 to name a Chocolate



Labrador Retriever "Chloe". They had such a good time learning about assistance dogs that they plan to do the project again in 2011. If your group would like to raise funds and have the honor of naming a puppy entering our "Puppy Pre-School"—contact us for a brochure to sign up—jacobus@can-do-canines.org or download information from our website



at www.can-do-canines.org/donate/nameapuppy/

Renfest Pet Gate and

Charity Auction

Can Do Canines had more than 128



wonderful volunteers work the Pet Gate at this year's Renaissance Festival and earned more than \$6,820 for our programs. Thank you to the following groups for providing volunteers: Ameriprise, Minnesota Women of Today, and Minnesota Lions Clubs. Three area Kohls stores (Chaska, Apple Valley and Rogers) also participated. Kohl's stores donate \$500 every time their A-Team employee groups volunteer.

We were also chosen to receive the proceeds from the festival's Charity Auction this year that raised \$2,400 for our programs.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our volunteer project chairperson, Patti Wirz, who recruited and trained volunteers and managed the entire seven weeks of the festival. This was her third year to manage this important project! Great Job, Patti! ♥



Can Do Canines is pleased to welcome **NutriSource Super Premium Pet Foods** as a new sponsor. NutriSource will be providing all food for our dogs in final training. Welcome NutriSource and thank you for your generous contribution!

Sweet Success
Sue Hager and Mattie

by Jessi Hiemer

Sue Hager, of Frederic, Wisc. knows the value of a relationship between a dog and a person. She has spent her life around dogs- as an obedience instructor, a therapy dog handler, and member of Crisis Aid Response Dogs ~ bringing therapy dogs to fill emergency response needs. When she moved to Wisconsin, she became a Canine Good Citizenship evaluator and director of The Cookie Brigade, sending cookies and biscuits to their canine companions.

Three years ago, Sue began to realize she needed help from the very animals she was training. Side effects from the polio she contracted as a young child were now causing balance issues and fatigue. "I never know when I'll trip myself, and getting up and down steps is difficult. I wanted a dog who could help me regain that feeling of safety and independence."

She found a breeder willing to look for the special characteristics needed in an assistance dog. Mattie, a black Labrador Retriever, was hand-selected for Sue. As soon as the two were home together, they were working on socialization and basic obedience. At a year old, Mattie became a certified therapy dog through Therapy Dogs, Inc. While the two were becoming quite a team, Sue knew something was missing. "Although it isn't a law to have your assistance dog certified, I thought it was important to do so.



Sue and Mattie

I want to make sure people understood Mattie was more than my pet, she was a vital part of my daily life, and my first responder if something goes wrong."

When a friend mentioned they supported Can Do Canines, Sue got online to check us out. She was impressed with the variety of work being done by our amazing dogs, and excited to see the owner-trained program - something few other organizations have. Over the next year and a half, she and Mattie worked with the training staff to fine-tune assistance dog skills. Today, three-year-old Mattie can retrieve items from the floor, open doors, act as a steady

brace, especially going up and down stairs, and get help by retrieving a phone in emergencies. Mattie is the proud bearer of our Can do Canines red cape with a brace handle, so Sue has something to hold on to during her unsteady moments.

Sue and Mattie are quite the team around town, visiting residents at local nursing homes and spending time at Frederic Elementary as reading partners or in one-on-one counseling sessions with students. Sue knows it is because of the amazing donors and volunteers who support Can Do Canines that she and Mattie are such a success. To our supporters, she says, "Thank you! Without your financial support, or the time you spend as puppy raisers and volunteers, this organization wouldn't be running. Every dollar and every minute you give helps more people get the dogs they need." ♥

Our trainers travel to meet the needs of our clients. Can you help by contributing to defray the cost and make more assistance teams possible? Contact Can Do Canines at 763-331-3000 or info@can-do-canines.org

JOIN US *for an* EVENT WHERE
GIVING WON'T JUST FEEL GOOD,
IT WILL TASTE GOOD, TOO!



We're having a fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen! Visit us at www.can-do-canines.org and download a flyer to bring to a participating location on December 7th. Present it to your server when ordering and 20% of your check will be donated to our organization!

Tuesday, December 7, 2010
California Pizza Kitchen
Southdale Center
952.924.3000
Shoppes at Arbor Lakes
763.424.4890
Rosedale Center
651.633.0083



17TH ANNUAL HEEL AND WHEEL!

The 17th Annual Heel and Wheel on September 19, 2010 was a great success. The committee ordered beautiful weather that was enjoyed by all! 302 walkers and 126 well-behaved dogs joined in to raise over \$46,000. Thanks to everyone who participated in the walk, volunteered, and pledged! A special thank you to the hard work of the Heel and Wheel Committee led by Elizabeth Eagle.

Twenty-four teams participated this year. Top team honors went to two teams: Top overall team was the Can Do Canines Puppy Raisers who raised \$5756 and top Lions fundraising team was District 5M8 with \$1100. Congratulations! ♥

SPONSORS

Independence Sponsor

graphic Resources

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Peace of Mind Sponsor

Spring Lake Park Lions
Petco Foundation
Collision Center

Training Sponsor

Pampered Pooch Playground



TOP FIVE PLEDGE EARNERS:
Sandy Vance
David Lee
Adam Burrows
Joe Mester
Mary Rhatigan

Thank you to our generous food and prize donors!

IN-KIND DONORS

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adele's | Cheesecake Factory | Frankie's Chicago | LA Fitness | Park Square Theatre | Steppingstone Theatre |
| Aldi's | Coke Distributor | Style Pizza | Lili Salon | Park Tavern | Stevie Ray's Improv Co. |
| Applebees | Comedy Sportz | Frito Lay | MagiQuest | Pearson's | Stunt Puppy |
| Benda Photography | Culligan | Greg and Kathy Stevens | Mancini's | Rainbow Foods | Super Target |
| Bits of Love Pet Massage | D Michael B's Resort Bar | Hennepin Theatre Trust | Mann's Theaters | Red Lobster | SuperAmerica |
| Brave New Workshop | D'amico & Sons | History Theatre | Noodles & Co | Schwans | Thriftway Supermarket |
| Brueggers Bagels | Driskill's Foods | Holiday Gas Stations | Old Spaghetti Factory | Science Museum of Minnesota | Toro |
| Buffalo Wild Wings | Erberts & Gerberts Subs | Illusion Theatre | Olive Garden | Scoreboard Restaurant | Trader Joes |
| Byerly's | Anna Schneider | Jan and John Day | Ollu Dog Wash | Scott Pilates | WalMart |
| Caribou Coffee | Famous Dave's | Kemps | Ordway | Sebastian Joe's | Xcel Energy Center |
| Cedarville Lanes | Festival Foods | Key's Café | Pampered Pooch Playground | Shout House | Yoga Studio |
| | | | Panera | Sofitel Inn | |



Good Deeds Get Rewarded Jan Day and Louie

by Laurie Carlson

Familiar faces at the Can Do Canines office, Jan and John Day of Golden Valley, Minn. have been what Jan calls "seasoned" Puppy Raisers and volunteers for more than eight years. During that time, they raised nine dogs for the organization; provided short-term foster care for 20 other dogs, and donated countless hours of their time. They have spoken to groups, worked at information booths, and volunteered in various ways at events and projects too numerous to count. During the past few years, Jan took on the role of mentor to new puppy raisers, working with them, coaching them and helping puppy coordinator Rob Carrick with training classes.



Jan and Louie

During the last year or so, Jan says wryly, "I started to fall apart." She had struggled with chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia for many years, but the addition of back problems, knee problems, and degenerative joint disease made it more and more difficult to stay mobile and enjoy the active lifestyle she valued.

The Can Do Canine at their house during this time was Louie, a two-year-old Standard Poodle, who was just finishing up his training. Jan and John had begun preparing for Louie to return to the facility for final training before being placed with a client.

(continued on page 11)

Teaching An Old Dog New Tricks

Holly Schaefer and Peter John

by Laurie Carlson

Holly Schaefer is an outgoing, upbeat single mom who lives in Saint Anthony Village, Minn. with her daughter, True, and a sassy, bright little American Eskimo Dog named Peter John. She has also been living with a challenge – one that could prove to be life threatening, as she found out last year.

Holly has been living with an impairment of auditory processing due to a stroke. What she hears is not interpreted correctly by her brain. This is more than a frustration or inconvenience. For instance, she would lose her keys, so she bought a beeper to help find them. However, it didn't help when she couldn't determine the location of the beeper. One night in 2009, her smoke alarm went off. Her brain did not recognize the sound and she was only aware of the alarm when her daughter finally woke her. They realized then that when True leaves for college in the next year or so, Holly could be in real danger.

While Peter John had taken obedience classes, he was enjoying the life of an indulged pet dog. However, after the scare with the smoke alarm, Holly spoke with her obedience trainer, Laura Waudby. Laura suggested that she apply for help through Can Do Canines. Holly



Holly and Peter John

and Peter John went through the owner trained application process and were both accepted into the program! Peter John would be trained as her Hearing Assist Dog.

To Holly's delight, she found out that Laura had been hired as a field trainer by Can Do Canines and had been assigned to her. Then the real work began. Laura says, "The most challenging part was changing Holly and Peter John's

relationship from pet to working dog. I'm very pleased. Holly worked really, really hard. She took everything I taught her and applied it in working with Peter John."

Now that they have finished training and have officially certified, Holly laughs delightedly, "I'm so excited!" She even 'treated' her trainer, Laura, with a big bag of chocolates for a job well done.

When asked what she would say to those who contribute to Can Do Canines she says, "This experience is the most amazing thing. I know everyone probably says that, but I feel safer. My daughter now has the peace of mind to go forward with her life, knowing I'll be okay. I'm speechless, and I'm NEVER speechless!" ♥

Would you like to help by contributing or volunteering for Can Do Canines? Call Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153 to learn how.

Jan Day and Louie (continued from page 10)

In March, the training staff discussed finishing Louie as a Mobility Assist Dog for Jan. It was not a decision made lightly, as it had never been done before. Jan says, "All along I thought we were training him to help someone else. When I was accepted as a client, it was certainly different than being a Puppy Raiser!"

Staff trainer Leslie Flowers worked with Jan to refine Louie's skills. Louie already knew things like retrieving dropped items and getting her cane. New skills they learned together were getting John if Jan needed help and bringing an emergency phone to her. One skill he had already figured out on his own was to help steady her balance when needed.

Now that they have finished training and are certified as an assistance dog team, Jan is relieved that the 'official training' is over. Jan and Louie go

everywhere together. Louie is already a well-traveled dog, venturing on cross country trips, attending professional athletic games and Oktoberfest, traveling on trains and cable cars - you name it, Louie's done it, with perfect professionalism. Now he and Jan can look forward to many more adventures together and to the special partnership they now share. ♥

Could you open your heart to help someone in need? For more information about volunteer and Puppy Raiser opportunities, contact Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or call 763-331-3000 ext. 113.



Driving for Dogs

On occasion we need urgent transportation of dogs from breeders or shelters to Can Do Canines, often on short notice. Trips can be from 100 to 1000 miles, usually out of state. Would you be able to help? Must have valid drivers license and auto insurance. Contact Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 ext.113. ♥

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source Jo Ann Waser	Puppy Raisers John and Jan Day
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Can Do Canines

home of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
9440 Science Center Drive
New Hope, MN 55428

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit NO. 4744

GO GREEN!

Would you rather receive Tails from Minnesota by e-mail? If so, contact Tom at trehbein@can-do-canines.org with a request and you will hear from us electronically next time instead.

Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ Giant Nylabones and lg. & med. Kongs
- ✓ L or XL Vari-Kennels, new or gently used
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ **Mac computers (Minis, Macbooks, iMacs)**
- ✓ Mac OS X 10.5 licenses
- ✓ LCD TV, 37" or larger
- ✓ Copier with network scanner
- ✓ **LCD computer monitors**
- ✓ Home Theater system for meeting room

Automotive

- ✓ Gasoline cards
- ✓ Minivan
- ✓ Auto repair/maintenance

Equipment

- ✓ Gas-powered power washer
- ✓ **Platform Truck**
- ✓ **Warehouse pallet jack, 5,000-lb capacity**
- ✓ Wet/dry ShopVac
- ✓ **6 and 8 ft. plastic folding tables**
- ✓ Office chairs

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Gift cards to grocery and office supply stores
- ✓ Office supplies (paper, markers, stamps)
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner, laundry detergent

Building Materials

- ✓ Kitchen cabinets and countertop
- ✓ Bathroom storage cabinet, small
- ✓ Gift certificates home improvement stores

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! ♥

Upcoming Events

- November 6 Can Do Canines Fall Graduation
- November 18 *Tails To Tell* Tour 7:00 p.m.
- December 11 *Tails To Tell* Tour 10:00 a.m.
- January 20 *Tails To Tell* Tour 7:00 p.m.

* All *Tails to Tell* tours take place at our facility, located at 9440 Sevice Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428
Please call our office at 763-331-3000 ext. 151 to reserve a spot.

Can Do Canines Greeting Card – Give the Gift of Love

Give a gift that is just the right size to your family and friends for the next special occasion. Make a contribution of \$25 or more to Can Do Canines, and a personalized greeting card will be sent to a person you designate. What a wonderful way to remember special occasions such as holidays, birthdays, to honor or memorialize a person or pet, or just to say thank you. This special way of honoring loved ones also provides life-changing assistance dogs to people with disabilities.

Order cards online at www.can-do-canines.org Click on the "Donate Today" button and follow instructions to select from one of four pre-designed cards and add your personal greeting, or order by phone at 763-331-3000, Ext. 153. There is no limit to what you can give for a Gift of Love! ♥

COVER

INSIDE
Your Message Here

Happy Holidays

You select one of four custom greetings for this space listing you as donor and recognizing the special occasion:

Honorarium, Memorial, Thank You, Holiday Greeting

See our website for samples!