



Tails for You

a publication of Can Do Canines®



Tuesday works two jobs for Nicole.

Because of you and Tuesday, Nicole lives a safer and more independent life!

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ON TRACK WITH TUESDAY

How your support trained an assistance dog to do two jobs

Nicole Greenlund from Otsego, Minn. is a young mom of three active children, ages nine, seven, and four. Her life is full and busy. Her life is also busy managing multiple health issues, including Type 1 Diabetes, and Nicole was struggling with frequently “bottoming out” from low blood sugar levels. A big reality check happened when Nicole found herself giving her children instructions on how to call emergency responders if they would happen to find mommy unconscious; that was not a responsibility she wanted to give them and knew something needed to change.

Enter Diabetes Assist Dog Tuesday, a two-and-a-half year old Goldador (Golden Retriever/Labrador cross). Tuesday is trained to alert Nicole to low blood sugar; she alerts Nicole by nudging her with her nose. After Tuesday alerts Nicole to her low blood sugar she can bring Nicole her glucose meter, juice, emergency phone, or even another person to help. Tuesday is also a big help with Nicole’s mobility issues due to Myositis. Myositis is a collection of diseases that share the common elements of muscle weakness and/or pain along with an autoimmune component. Nicole says, “It’s a very real struggle everyday with pain, weakness, and debilitating fatigue, so having Tuesday to help me manage my diabetes has been a godsend! She helps keep me on track.” Tuesday helps Nicole with everyday chores around the house, such as laundry and picking up toys. “She loves to help and be useful to me,” says Nicole.



Photos by Vera Mariner

When not working, Tuesday adores relaxing on the recliner with Nicole.

Nicole says that the biggest adjustment for the family was in understanding that Tuesday is a service dog, there to help her, not a family pet. But she says, “Having Tuesday around has given us all peace of mind that is so calming and welcoming. The kids have learned so much. They are very protective of the two of us if someone tries to pet Tuesday when we are in public.”

Tuesday goes everywhere with Nicole – getting groceries, doctors appointments at Mayo clinic, her son’s football games, the girls’ gymnastics, etc. Tuesday is so quiet and well-behaved that people don’t even realize she’s there – she’s very vigilant and doesn’t get distracted.

“Tuesday helps me stand up when my muscles are too weak.”

Nicole’s advice to others thinking about applying for an assistance dog? Without a doubt, she encourages people to pursue the opportunity. “She has improved my life greatly. Having Tuesday’s help is worth every ounce of energy that has gone into training with her. I can’t imagine her not with me!”

Donors and supporters like you have helped make Nicole and Tuesday a wonderful team. Nicole says, “I feel so blessed for everything Can Do Canines has done for us. Tuesday has changed my life! I know that as a volunteer, you do this from the bottom of your heart. I appreciate everything you’ve done for Tuesday and for me!”



In addition to alerting Nicole to her low blood sugar levels, Diabetes and Mobility Assist Dog Tuesday picks up items that Nicole drops and, among other things tugs open doors and hits push plates.



AQUATENNIAL

CANDID CANINES FILM FEST

We're pleased to announce that the Candid Canines Film Fest is a 2017 Minneapolis Aquatennial Associated Event!

The Candid Canines Film Fest is a free, family-friendly celebration of dogs! Join us for a film showcasing dogs being super sweet, silly, smart and oh so talented.

Video clips submitted by dog lovers, as well as popular online dog videos will be featured in a 40-minute film produced right here in Minnesota!

Bring your chairs or blankets to sit on at Target Field Station, and of course your dogs are welcome!

All submitted videos will be reviewed by a panel of judges and the best entries will be selected for screening at the Candid Canines Film Fest.

Submit your video by: Thursday, June 15, 2017

Event date: Thursday, July 20, 2017

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (multiple showings)

Location: Target Field Station, Minneapolis

Submit your videos to:

www.candidcaninesfilmfest.com



CandidCaninesFilmFest



CandidCaninesFF

YOU HELPED

make the following possible
in the Winter of 2017.



Can Do Canines trained and placed 16 specially-trained dogs this quarter. All dogs were provided free of charge thanks to your support.

16 people live independent lives

See the back cover for the list of our recent graduates and join us in congratulating them at our Graduation Ceremony on June 10!

Can Do Canines is reaccredited for 5 more years!

Can Do Canines achieved the full five-year reaccreditation from our trade association, Assistance Dogs International (ADI) again! This means that our



facility and operation of our assistance dog program meet ADI's standard of excellence! We are extremely proud to continue to be an accredited ADI program.

Teach 12 puppies to fly

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

The faux flight is part of our training program



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



In February, Can Do Canines graduated 17 new assistance dog teams! Our teams included:

Celebrate 17 teams at our Winter Graduation

2 Autism Assist
2 Hearing Assist
4 Diabetes Assist
9 Mobility Assist

BEST FRIENDS

How you created a safe and comforting connection for a child with autism

When Jackson (Jack) Wallrath was two years old he suddenly started reacting differently towards things that weren't usually a big deal to him. His language development also plateaued. Shortly after that, Jack was diagnosed with autism. Luckily, Jack's family lives just down the road from St. David's Children's Center in Minnetonka where he attended for over a year.

While at the Children's Center, Jack's mother, Sarah, noticed that he wasn't doing well with change or chaotic situations. He was also less verbal than his classmates, and had a hard time making friends in school. Sarah started chatting with the other moms there, one of which had just gotten on the Can Do Canines wait list. Jack's family started the application process to Can Do Canines for an Autism Assist Dog when Jack was three.

Three and a half years later, the Wallraths got a call that changed it all! Can Do Canines matched Valor, a sweet, cuddly, gentle, kid-loving black Goldador (Golden/Labrador cross), with Jack. Valor is specially-trained to do many things for Jack such as provide safety for Jack by being tethered together while out in public so that Jack doesn't bolt away from his family, offers comfort for him during stressful and overly stimulating situations and Valor acts as a social buffer between Jack and his peers so that they can interact together. Jack would seek out contact when he was feeling overwhelmed, as specifically-trained skills allow Valor to provide the contact needed to suppress Jack's anxiety.

Sarah knew their first meeting might be shaky. She arranged for them to meet outside of their home so that those stressful feelings weren't connected to Valor being home with them. After the first, somewhat nervous meeting, Jack was excited to have Valor with him all of the time. Sarah explains, "While in the house, unless Jack wants something, like someone to read to him or push him on the swing, he finds things to do on his own and doesn't

usually ask me to join him, but he asks Valor to join him. It'll occur to



Jackson and Valor spend time cuddling on the couch and reading.



Photo by Sarah Carlson-Wallrath

him – 'I'm doing this thing, where's Valor?' It's fun to see him remember, 'Oh, I have a friend in this house. Where is he? How can I bring him closer to what I'm doing?'"

Sarah talks about how wonderful it was, after just two weeks, to see Jack recognize that Valor was his source of comfort in stressful, chaotic times. She says, "About four or five times a year, our church has a special needs night out where you drop your child off and then [parents] leave. It's a really chaotic environment – 25 kids with special needs in a gym – so that's not a place for Valor to be. I left Valor home, and took Jack to the night out. He loves going to that, but it's very hard for the first five minutes. Valor had only been at our home for two weeks at that point, but when I dropped Jack off, he looked right at me and said, 'I want Valor.'"

Jack, Sarah, and the rest of their family is excited for their future together. As Sarah tells us, "Jack is a very routine kid. We don't go to many places, even locally. Having Valor there during difficult situations makes it easier for Jack, which opens up a lot of doors for us as a family. A lot of people hear what autism is, but they don't really know. They see this happy, somewhat easygoing kid, but that doesn't mean it's easy for him. He works really hard and tries really hard. Having this fun-loving dog help him is so awesome, so he doesn't have to work so hard."

Thanks to you, our wonderful supporters, Jack and Valor are a hardworking team. We can't wait to see how they grow together, and learn from each other!

A PROUD LION

District 5M9 Lions Club Co-Chair Bonnie Genin brings passion to Perham

Lions Clubs across Minnesota have been wonderful supporters of Can Do Canines since the early 1990s. Each Lions Club District has a dedicated Can Do Canines Chairperson who works to sustain and cultivate the relationships between the clubs in their district and Can Do Canines' activities and mission. Bonnie Genin is the Can Do Canines Co-Chair of District 5M9 in northwest Minnesota. She has been a tremendous advocate for our organization. We are so grateful for her support! We spoke to her a bit about her service:

How did you learn of Can Do Canines?

I attended my first Lions convention in 1993 as a new member and I attended a presentation about the program. I was immediately turned on to their mission, as I had just adopted my first rescue dog. Rescue dogs are sometimes used as Hearing Assist Dogs.

When did you get more involved with Can Do Canines?

I was asked to be a Co-Chair by the District Governor in 2010. I have been a co-chair ever since, and loving every minute of it!

Why did you get involved?

I love dogs, I love people, and to know that these wonderful animals were able to better a person's life was so exciting for me.

Why do you continue to stay involved?

My goal has been to have more Can Do Canines graduates in the northwestern part of Minnesota. I not only talk to the Lions Clubs in my district, but I have been to our Rotary, church groups, the local hospital, and senior groups in the area. I have been on our local radio and TV stations, and submitted articles in the local newspaper with information about Can Do Canines.

How has Can Do Canines impacted your life?

I have become friends with some wonderful clients of Can Do Canines, and feel I no longer look at a person with disabilities as disabled, but as someone who has a companion who has been able to better their lifestyle and make them more independent.



Lion Bonnie Genin with Can Do Canines co-chair, Lion Art Schmidt.

Plus, they have the benefit of the unconditional love of their partner.

Do you have any stories that you would like to share about Can Do Canines/or a favorite moment?

I love the graduation events! The first graduation I attended was when a veteran received his Mobility Assist Dog and Terri Krake, a client dealing with seizures, received her Seizure Assist Dog, Brody. What a powerful moment! I have since been lucky enough to be friends with Terri and Brody.

The other was October of 2015 when Jeannine Friedrich and Clyde, a Hearing Assist Dog, graduated. She is the first person in my Perham community to have a Can Do Canines assistance dog, so my first goal as a representative for Can Do Canines was achieved. My next goal is to have more dogs placed in District 5M9!

Other thoughts?

I think the representation of Can Do Canines at our conventions opens minds, just like it did with me. I also think the presence of Can Do Canines in the community opens the minds and hearts of others. For someone like me, I hope I can do this forever. I am such a fan of Can Do Canines and I am proud to wear my Can Do Canines shirt whenever I can!

Bonnie is one of 13 dedicated Lions who represent Can Do Canines to the thousands of Minnesota Lions who form more than 625 Lions clubs across the state. Lions raised \$151,000 in support of Can Do Canines during 2016! Lions Roar!

YOU MADE THESE PARTNERSHIPS POSSIBLE

Pictured from left to right



Betty Brietkrietz-Miller & Hearing Assist Dog Hazel
 Vonna De Long & Hearing Assist Dog Bonnie
 John Eliason & Mobility Assist Dog Gracie
 Nicole Hintz & Mobility Assist Dog Mac



Kimberly Hodges & Mobility Assist Dog Shirley
 Mary Jo Stockman & Mobility Assist Dog Folly
 Robert Keck & Mobility Assist Dog Leo
 Gerald Knutson & Mobility Assist Dog Jade



Bill Kostur & Mobility Assist Dog Phoenix
 Thomas Powers & Mobility Assist Dog Dryden
 Madison Stangl & Diabetes Assist Dog Willy
 Greg Waibel & Mobility Assist Dog Victor



Jackson Wallrath & Autism Assist Dog Valor
 Sally Williams & Mobility Assist Dog Wilbur
 Dennis Wold & Mobility Assist Dog Warner

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

SAVE THESE GREAT DATES!



**Candid Canines
 Film Fest
 July 20, 2017**

Join us at Target Field Station for a celebration of dogs! We'll be showcasing a 40-minute film produced right here in Minnesota.

**Can Do Woofaroo
 September 16, 2017**

Collect pledges and bring your dog for a stroll at our one-mile FUNdraising walk.



OUR MISSION

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



JOIN US FOR SUMMER GRADUATION



Saturday, June 10,
 1 p.m. at Can Do
 Canines

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



CONNECT WITH US



@candocanines

Can Do Canines
 9440 Science Center Drive New Hope, MN 55428
 763.331.3000 | info@can-do-canines.org
can-do-canines.org