



Tails from Minnesota

Assistance Dogs for: Hearing Loss • Mobility Challenges • Seizure Disorders • Type 1 Diabetes • Childhood Autism

"A Priceless Gift"
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Fall 2013
Volume 24 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

Alan M. Peters Mary Decheine-Rhatigan

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

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

Assistance dogs provide the gifts of freedom, independence, and peace of mind to our clients and their families. Our fully trained dogs, often adopted from local animal shelters, are provided to our clients who live with disabilities that involve mobility challenges, hearing loss or deafness, seizure disorders, autism, or diabetes complicated by hypoglycemia unawareness.

Dogs, training and equipment are provided to each client free of charge.

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From the Executive Director

100 More Teams

If Can Do Canines continues to do the same wonderful work we do today, at the same pace and without any changes, I would expect that we would graduate **144 assistance dogs during the next four years**—about 36 per year. Certainly a proud accomplishment!

But what if I told you we could train 100 more assistance dog teams during the next four years—that is, **100 EXTRA teams, beyond the 144** we currently expect to graduate—just by making a few small adjustments to our programs?

Would you be interested in knowing how? Would you want to help make it happen? Think what it would mean to the community—and especially to those individuals on our waiting list right now.

Well it's true. **I believe we can graduate 244 teams instead of 144** by adding very specific breeding, training, fundraising and equipment additions to our resources as the final stage of our \$4.4 million capital campaign, the *Campaign for Independence*. The plans are made and detailed information about the campaign's goals and history can be found on our website, can-do-canines.org, under the Capital Campaign tab.

Our capital campaign will end on December 31, 2013. So far we have raised \$4,000,000! Our building renovation is complete and will be fully paid for by 2017. Wow, are we thankful and proud!

We only have the final \$400,000 to go. But this \$400,000 is critical to making those specific changes possible so we can increase the number of graduates.

Many donors have already given generously to the campaign—individuals and foundations alike—and we thank you! But while \$400,000 is less than 10% of the overall goal, this could be the most difficult part of the campaign because it will take many additional, and possibly smaller gifts, to achieve.

Many of our supporters have not been asked to help yet and we need everyone to help now. Please consider supporting this special, limited time goal with an extra gift this year. Thank you!

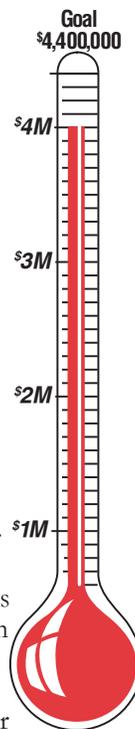
Celebrate!

Join us this fall for two of our best events of the year: our **Fall Graduation** on October 12, 2013 will celebrate 18 more graduate teams and the **Fetching Ball** gala on November 9, 2013 will celebrate our successes of the year while putting the 'fun' in fundraising! More information on these important events can be found elsewhere in this issue of *Tails From Minnesota* and on our website. We hope you will join us at these events!

25 years

During 2014, Can Do Canines will celebrate 25 years of training and placing assistance dogs in our community. Twenty-five years!

We will celebrate this milestone in a number of ways during the coming year, including a formal dedication of our facility and the installation of a permanent donor wall in our building to honor all those who contributed to the *Commemorative Wall of Honor*. It will be a fun and productive year as we take time to look back a bit, but concentrate on looking forward to the work still to be done. Please join us in the celebration! ❤️



A Longer, Hairier Version of my Students

John Ewing & Diabetes Assist Dog Floyd by Rosalind Elmquist

John Ewing of River Falls, Wisc. and wife, Linda, began their long life together as high school sweethearts and have been married for 52 years. John has had Type I Diabetes for more than 40 of those years. During this time Linda was John's primary caretaker, watching over John's blood sugar spikes and lows.

Linda vividly remembers a diabetic shock John suffered years ago when his blood sugar level sank to 11 and he had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. John had a blank stare in his eyes and did not recognize her. She said, "That event changed him for the rest of his life." She also remembers lying awake many nights fearful of not being alerted to one of John's low blood sugar episodes.

John's friends have been concerned about his diabetes and have asked how he actually feels when his blood sugar drops to 60 or 70. He explains that it is similar to losing 20 to 30 points from your IQ. Low sugar levels impede a logical thought process and a person with diabetes begins to make flawed decisions. When this happens, John cannot even mobilize himself to go to the refrigerator or cupboard to obtain proper nutrition to bring the blood sugar levels back to normal.

John and Linda's daughter, Shannon, had heard that the assistance dogs from Can Do Canines literally change people's lives. She reached out to the organization and convinced John that a Diabetes Assist Dog would be a good fit for him.

After John was matched with Floyd, a two-year-old black Labrador Retriever, they started the placement process. John, a former teacher, said of Floyd, "It's like a longer, hairier version of my students! You get such positive feedback with Floyd. The training process has been fun. It's ongoing and I realize that."

Since Floyd arrived on the scene, Linda no longer lies awake at night fearing she

will miss a low. Floyd sleeps on his cot near John's side of the bed and can smell when John's blood sugar starts dropping to dangerously low levels. Although Floyd appears to be sleeping, he is on 24-hour alert for John's condition and can immediately spring into action to bring juice and medications for John. If John does not wake up, Floyd knows to get Linda for assistance.

John is 73 years old, but feels like a 40-year-old. He is happy to have young Floyd accompany him on adventures around his property where Floyd has an opportunity to become familiar with new sights and smells.

John would like to honor Floyd by writing a book about their adventures called "Super Papa and Super Floyd." John cannot say enough good things about Can Do Canines, Floyd's puppy raisers and the trainers from the prison program who took the time to train him for all types of tasks. John says, "There is no better organization than Can Do Canines because the assistance dogs are so well trained. Floyd even picks up his toys in the evening before going to bed." John is also enthusiastic about Can Do Canines because the donations made to the organization go to the training of assistance dogs. John states, "No one who works for Can Do Canines gets rich. The people who really need the assistance dogs are the individuals who profit from the organization." ♥

Thank You

**Dog Source – Can Do Canines
Puppy Raiser – Matt and**

Laura Hofkens

**Special Thanks – Inmates at the
Minnesota Correctional Facility
at Faribault**

Diabetes Assist Dogs are a valuable tool in a diabetic's toolkit. You can help make more of these life-saving dogs available by making a tax-deductible donation. Contact Janet Cobus at [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) for more information.



John and Floyd



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and
Floyd
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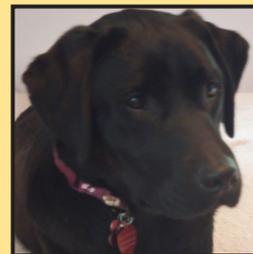
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Keeping Marco Moving Forward Marco Bianconi and Autism Assist Dog Jaycee

by Allison Cavis

There was a time when Marco Bianconi's parents, Rachel and Brad, had to carry him kicking and screaming into the dentist's office. A time when he couldn't sit through dinner at a restaurant, when he would wander away in the store, when he would suddenly drop to the floor as he walked down the hallway at school. He had not slept one full night in his own room, and had a minimal vocabulary which created frustration when he couldn't express his needs.

Marco, age nine and the oldest of three siblings, was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when he was just two years old. When Marco and his family moved from Atlanta, GA to Lino Lakes, MN, Rachel learned about Can Do Canines from ARC Greater Twin Cities. They suggested Rachel and Brad check out the possibility of getting an Autism Assist Dog for Marco. They filled out the preliminary application and waited. After two years, they finally moved forward in the application process and were accepted. Rachel says, "It was hard to wait that long, but once we were approved, things moved quickly and smoothly."

In 2013, Marco and his family finally got to meet his new friend, Jaycee, a two-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, who was puppy raised by very active and seasoned volunteers, the Ehlert family. So when it was time for him to come in for final training, Jaycee had all his basic training down and was ready to focus on learning the skills necessary to be an Autism Assist Dog. Rachel was understandably nervous about this big new step for their family, but Jaycee's impact on Marco soon soothed her worries.

"The first night Jaycee came to stay, they slept all night together in Marco's room," Rachel reports. This was a HUGE and wonderful improvement! Besides sleeping

better, Marco has become more verbal and likes to talk to Jaycee. He can now sit through an entire 45-minute meal at a restaurant, and Marco and Jaycee walk side by side through Target and the grocery store. "It's kind of fun now," Rachel reports with a smile.

At Marco's last visit to the dentist, he walked in under his own power with Jaycee by his side and said 'Hi' to the staff. "Jaycee has increased his confidence. Marco was so proud," Rachel said. "I started crying because I never thought that would happen."

Marco has been going to summer school with Jaycee, riding the bus together in the morning. "I hear nothing but positive feedback from the school," Rachel smiles. "It's good training for the school year, when Marco and Jaycee start fourth grade."

Jaycee fits right in with the whole Bianconi family. Fond of singing in the car, the kids erupt into laughter when Jaycee chimes in with energetic howls.

Rachel encourages donations to help support the organization. "I'm always telling



Marco and Jaycee

friends and family to donate to Can Do Canines. There's no greater gift we could have gotten, for Marco and our family. Jaycee is a blessing." ♥

Thank You

Dog Source – Charlene and Jerome Moser
Puppy Raiser – Sara Ehlert and Family
Name-A-Puppy – Minnesota Jaycees
Special Thanks – Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

To help make more dogs like Jaycee available for children on our waiting list, or to learn more about the Name-A-Puppy program, contact Janet Cobus at 763-330-3000, ext. 153 or [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org).

Gifts in Memory Of

Gifts given in memory and honor of have been received between June 1, 2013 to August 31, 2013

Animal Wellness Center	"Dallas" Albrecht, "George" Albrecht, "Tia" Amundson, "Chloe" Anderson, "Clark" Baker, "Smokey" Becchetti, "Ernie" Behm, "Shadow" Bellos, "Guinness" Borsch, "Muffin" Bunes, "Levi" Chan, "Darby" Clement, "Angel" Cochran, "Maddie" Cullen, "Tuffy" Dahl, "Missy" Davis, "Snickers" Dombrowski, "Jadee" Durant, "Daphne" Eggen, "Abby" Ericson, "Lola" Fahey, "Sophie" Freeman, "Tilly" Frisch, "Pooh" Goodin, "Bandit" Gustafson, "Leeloo" Haugen, "Buddy" Heising, "Max" Heying, "Maddie" Hobson, "Arya" Hruska, "Carmel" Johnson, "Shaka" Johnson, "Jumper" King, "Batman" Knoop, "Neeenah" Kuhnley, "Sadie" Lashomb, "Chapman" Lavery, "Falon" Lombardi, "Shortstop" Lawrie, "Tabby" Lund, "Jake" Lundin, "Max" Martin, "Sophie" May, "Ringo" McFerran, "Stout" McIlhargie, "Hannah" McKay, "Lily" Meyer, "Linus" Migely, "Sandy" Mityling, "Annabelle Rose" Moore, "Angel" Nelson, "Barney" Nelson, "Odie" Newkirk, "Foxy" Paul, "Dublin" Pettyes, "Lakotah" Rice, "Liam" Russek, "Spunky" Scharlemann, "Blue" Schmidt,	"Ole" Shimmin, "Buck" Shipley, "Archie" Simonette, "Maggie" Sjoblom, "J.D." Smith, "Missie" Sollenberger, "Rocky" Spooner, "Buster" Steffes, "Molly" Stoffel, "Max" Swatosch, "Oreo" Thorstad, "Emmitt" Tigner, "Haley" Weidinger, "Dusty" Wenham, and "Lucas" Xavier
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Briana Bindert.....	Roz	
Sharon Bloomquist	"Cher"	
Marilyn Booth.....	"Cooper" Astry	
Laura Brandt	Evelyn Casey	
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Rita Eckert.....	"Sadie"	
Marcia Fritzmeier	Adam Heiring	
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Thinking Outside the Box

Tyler Pinor and Mobility Assist Dog Geena

by Laurie Carlson

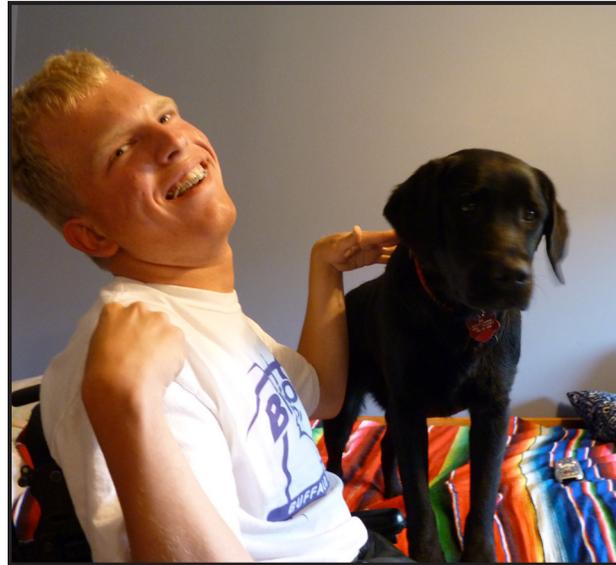
Tyler Pinor, of Hanover, Minn. will frequently tell people, “Think outside the box.” He’s fond of the statement and lives by it as well.

A high school senior, he is a very outgoing and personable young man. He’s described by others as cheerful, responsible and popular. Like most teens, he likes computers, watching sports, being outside, and going ‘up north’ with his parents and his sister, Abigail.

Tyler also lives with the challenges of cerebral palsy. Those challenges over the years include seizures and limitations in motor functions, which have an impact on activities of daily living. He uses a manual wheelchair to get around at home and a power wheelchair at other times. If an item is dropped, someone had to pick it up for him. He coped with this by trying to be very careful never to drop items. His parents worried that Tyler couldn’t get the phone if he needed help, so they rarely left him home alone. It is very frustrating for a teenager to not have privacy! He craved more independence.

Tyler says, “I heard about assistance dogs quite a bit. I looked into it, saw a couple of schools in different states and started checking out different organizations. I have a friend who is a Lion, and he suggested I check out Can Do Canines. I went to the website, found out how to apply and got started!”

Enter Geena, a sweet two-year-old black Labrador Retriever. She was trained by her puppy raisers to enjoy being out in public, have excellent skills and good house



Tyler and Geena

manners. A quick study, Geena was the first in her litter to start with a client and certify as a working team.

Tyler says, “The best part of training together was not focusing on the work part – just having fun!” However, the two had a lot of work ahead of them to learn to be a team. The hardest part for Tyler was to become less careful about not dropping things. He had been so careful before, that when practicing the retrieve with Geena he had to remind himself to drop things more

to keep her in practice! She also helps with opening doors and getting an emergency phone, which Tyler reports she does very well.

Regarding being left alone now, Tyler says, “I don’t have to worry about it. I think my parents feel better about it too.”

Now finished with training, he and Geena are quite the team, and Tyler continues to be innovative. Again, thinking outside the box, he is assisting in organizing a fishing tournament for those with disabilities along with Fishers of Men Bass Circuit.

When asked what he’d like to say to those who helped by donating money or their time in volunteering, he said, “I’d like to thank them and the Lions. Without them doing what they do, I wouldn’t have Geena. She is doing what she can to help me be independent. I hope you can continue to help keep it going for others.” ♥

Thank You

**Dog Source – Can Do Canines
Puppy Raiser – The Herr Family
Special Thanks – Inmate Handlers at
the Federal Correctional
Facility at Waseca**

Mobility Assist Dogs like Geena give people like Tyler freedom, independence and peace of mind. Contact Jessi Hiemer at jhiemer@can-do-canines.org for more information on how to apply for an assistance dog.

Joyce Jacobson.....John L. Beson
Mary Keller“Cher”, Collin Shaughnessy’s dog
Denise Kesselring.....Shel Wahl
Merrilee Kinney.....Lisa Knazan’s birthday
Ken KoldingArdyce Messerschmidt
Sharon LevineWrigley Rubin
Mark Luther.....Dr. Joel Locketz
H.G. McNeely, Jr.....William John McNeely
Peter Morlock“Luna” - a puppy whose spark was dimmed too early
Marie Nagel.....“Kippy”
Karol Nielsen.....“Chelsea Lea Nielsen” (cocker spaniel)
Vicki RoeBo Ruta
Kay RuzickaMarv Dzieweczynski
Elizabeth SalviskiMarv Dzieweczynski
Susan Sanger.....Joel Locketz
Cedric SchranklerSue Hengelfelt
Nancy Schroeder.....Peggy Stribling
Judy Sharken Simon.....Mia Thomas Snyder
Linda Thorsvik.....Carol and “Cher” Shaughnessy
Thursday Nite Lions Club.....Ardyce Messerschmidt
Terry WoldPeggy Stribling

In Memory Of Carol Shaughnessy

Lori Anderson, Terrence Bjorklund, Karol Bowman, L. Cory, Patrick Enzler, Judith Erhardt, Bonnie Heslin, Andrea Hill, Susan Johnson, Margaret Lexau, Colleen O’Brien-Berglund, Judith Ramgren, John Ries, John Ruhland, Mary Shaughnessy, Marlys Sjoblom, Patrick Skelly, Marian Sloat, Arliss Velander, Lori Voscipka, Rita Waite, Ann Walerius, Sharlene Walerius, Susan Weiland, Dale Wikre, Yvette Woell, Sandra Youngdahl

No man can be condemned for owning a dog. As long as he has a dog, he has a friend; and the poorer he gets, the better friend he has.

Will Rogers

Gifts In Honor Of

Animal Wellness Center.....Michelle Szweda,
Erin Schmidt, and Russell Lang
Sharon BloomquistMaureen and “Bentley”
Dottie Brewer.....Elizabeth Nelson
Karen Cegelske.....Ellen Joseph and Dennis Ready
Jennifer Czerniak.....Jeff and Doreen West
Vonna DeLong.....“Lady”
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Constance Maloney.....Carrie Maloney
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Dennis Soule.....Jill and Jerry England
Cherie Stofer.....Oliver Pohlrad-Phillips wedding
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A Priceless Gift

Cordelia Grom and Autism Assist Dog Woodrow

by Kelly Jackson

For parents Shane and Eden Grom, who are both deaf, it was natural to suspect their young daughter was also deaf when she never responded to her name. Cordelia's hearing was fine, but by the age of two she was diagnosed with autism. As she got older, her family's biggest challenge and daily struggle was finding a way to communicate with her. Cordelia would respond with only one or two words. Shane and Eden rely on American Sign Language and lip reading, but they couldn't always understand what she was saying. The frustration was felt by everyone, especially Cordelia, causing her to melt down or try to hurt herself.

Today, Cordelia is a smart, imaginative, and kind nine-year-old. She lives in St. Cloud, Minn, with her parents and older sister. The family first learned about assistance dogs from Volunteers of America. After some Internet research, they found Can Do Canines and applied for an Autism Assist Dog. Cordelia had

always been afraid of dogs, but the two-year wait helped mentally prepare her for her dog's arrival. She got used to the idea and started asking for a dog every day—for a year! And when upset, she would sign “dog” to help relieve her tensions.

Enter Woodrow, a sweet two and a half-year-old Golden Retriever who was donated to Can Do Canines by a breeder. He was puppy raised by a veterinarian and spent a few months in Waseca's prison program for final training.



Cordelia and Woodrow

It did not take long for Woodrow and Cordelia to bond. On one occasion early on in the placement, Cordelia was upset, went to her bedroom and would not come when her parents called her. Sensing he was needed, Woodrow walked upstairs to Cordelia's room and, shortly after, the two came downstairs together.

Since working with this special dog, the family has noticed an amazing transformation in a short period of time. With Woodrow by her side, keeping her calm, Cordelia doesn't get as overstimulated and no longer flees into traffic. Her ability to command her assistance dog has given her something to concentrate on, as well as a newfound sense of responsibility. Notably more expressive, Cordelia has started to give hugs and cry when saying good-bye to her grandparents. She's become more verbal by asking for things like sleeping overnight at her grandparents' house or having them visit.

The biggest change in Cordelia has been a dramatic increase in self-confidence. Within a few weeks of Woodrow's arrival she was initiating things on her own and starting conversations. She was even enjoying activities she previously disliked, such as riding her bike, doing somersaults and floating on her back in the pool. Shane said his family is “Looking forward to more peace of mind daily and seeing what new things will come out of Cordelia because of Woodrow.”

He adds, “We want to express our heartfelt thanks to the puppy raisers, those who trained Woodrow, and Can Do Canines staff for giving our daughter a priceless gift that changed her personality.” ♥

Thank You

Dog Source – Valerie Muggli

Puppy Raiser – Deborah MacKay, DVM and family

Foster Home – The Turner Family and Sarah Durant

Field Trainer – Joan Lisi-McCoy

Special Thanks – Inmate Handlers at the Federal Correctional Facility at Waseca

The generosity of dog breeders, volunteers, and contributors help make teams like Cordelia and Woodrow possible. To help us make more teams possible, please consider donating by contacting Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext. 153.



What is an Autism Assist Dog?

Autism Assist Dogs are trained to act as a gentle, steady anchor for a young child with autism. Some children with autism will bolt into dangerous situations when they are overwhelmed. The child is tethered to the dog's harness to keep them from wandering or bolting away. The dog is handled by a parent who holds the leash while the child is encouraged to hold a special handle on the dog's harness. While we place the assistance dog primarily for a safety concern, many families report wonderful emotional and behavioral changes as their child bonds with their dog. Currently, our waiting list has 78 families who will wait three years or more to complete the application process.

“Born to be of Service”

Jessica Hagenah & Mobility Assist Dog Georgia

by Kelly Jackson

Finding herself without an assistance dog for the first time in 17 years, 39-year-old Jessica Hagenah could no longer perform simple everyday tasks that most people take for granted. She suddenly had to re-train herself to anticipate and plan for all the ways she might need assistance in a given day. One of her co-workers shared, “Since her second service dog, Pearl, passed away, Jessica is not able to maintain the independence she has become accustomed to. Little things such as picking items up off the floor, turning on lights, and opening doors are much more difficult.”



Jessica and Georgia

Jessica was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type II which causes her to have limited arm strength and to generally be very weak. She is not able to stand, walk, or get around without a wheelchair and she requires daily personal care attendant services. The way Jessica puts it, “Anything that requires strength is a challenge.”

Jessica lives with her parents and fiancé in Plymouth, Minn. and works full-time from home as a Corporate Travel Agent for American Express. Described by friends as upbeat, confident, responsible, and fun,

Jessica is also very social and loves being around others. In her free time she can be found entertaining, traveling, watching movies, or reading.

Having had two previous assistance dogs from another organization, Jessica knew what kinds of skills to expect from her new partner, Georgia. However, she has noticed that Georgia shows more of a sense of responsibility to her than either of her first two dogs. She follows closely when Jessica is being carried, sits with her when she’s in the shower, and stays very close when she is not in her wheelchair. It’s as though Georgia is anticipating how she might be needed next. Jessica calls her, “A natural born assistance dog. She loves to work. It’s like she knows she was born to do this.”

Georgia is a very smart two-year-old black Labrador Retriever who was part of the “G” litter of puppies born to Can Do Canines’ breeding program. She was raised by a Puppy Raiser family and received her final training from staff trainers. Jessica

found Can Do Canines’ training process to be more individualized than with her previous two experiences. She felt that she and Georgia were expertly matched and that the one-on-one training they received helped solidify their working relationship.

Jessica considers the most important skills Georgia performs to be opening doors, picking things up and retrieving the phone. Georgia is also trained to assist her by turning on lights, retrieving her wallet from her wheelchair and getting help when needed. Jessica is grateful to Georgia’s Puppy Raisers, saying, “They did an excellent job! Her skills are very sharp, she’s well-socialized, and she’s fearless in any situation she encounters.”

Having first heard about Can Do Canines through fundraising events, Jessica wants to thank the people who donate money to the organization. “Without them, there would be no Georgia. The money is going to good use!” ♥

Thank You

Dog Source – Can Do Canines
Puppy Raiser – The Bloomquist Family
Special Thanks – Inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

Thanks to the hard work of volunteer puppy raisers, we are able to place dogs like Georgia. Are you interested in changing a life by training a puppy? Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Laurie Carlson, 763- 331-3000 ext. 113 or lcarlson@can-do-canines.org.

The Fetching Ball

Join us at the beautiful Crowne Plaza St. Paul-Riverfront Hotel on Saturday, November 9th, for a night on the town.

The Great River Ballroom will be filled with excitement, auctions, games, food, comedy by Josh Blue and great company.

An exciting new factor to this year’s gala is a digital auction tool! Bid on silent auction items by simply using your smart phone. You will be able to see current bids, be notified if someone outbid you, and place new bids all without having to leave your seat. For those without a smart phone, we will have volunteers to help you throughout the venue.

Extend your evening by purchasing a VIP after-party ticket to the 22nd floor ballroom, Windows on the River. Enjoy the awe-inspiring panoramic views of the scenic city while you spend the night mingling with Last Comic Standing’s Josh Blue, the founder of Can Do Canines, Alan Peters, and others who have the same love of contributing to Can Do Canines.

Do you know others looking for a great cause to support, are interested in what Can Do Canines does, or are just looking for a fun night out in the city with tax-deductible benefits? Encourage them to attend the Fetching Ball. Visit www.fetchingball.com or call Kathy Broten at 763-331-3000 ext. 152.

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A Steady Pace

Michael Avery and Autism Assist Dog Marvin by Cindy Madsen

Ask Bill and Raluca Avery of Edina, Minn, how many children they have and they will say three: 10-year-old Isabel and eight-year-old twins James and Michael (“Mikey”). Speak with them further and you will discover a fourth “child”; a furry, four-legged, two-and-a-half-year-old Golden Retriever “kid” named Marvin. Marvin is an Autism Assist Dog from Can Do Canines who joined the family in February of 2013 to assist Mikey. Their son, James, has autism as well.

When they applied, they were asked which of their sons they felt would benefit most from Marvin and the Avery’s believed Mikey would benefit optimally from an Autism Assist Dog. Bill explained, “Mikey is more isolated than James, in his own little world of video games. He’s also more of a wanderer and tends to break free in large crowds. The immense safety benefit was a big factor.”

Of course, Marvin has an influence on James as well. Both boys share a bedroom, where Marvin also sleeps. This has a positive effect on both children as Marvin guides them to interact with others. When Marvin leaves the room, both boys follow, encouraging them to engage with other family members.

The bonding experiences Mikey has with his dog also establishes in him a sense of responsibility. His job is to feed Marvin both morning and evening. He also takes Marvin to the dog park and on walks with his family, which also enhances Mikey’s natural love of the outdoors.

“Before Marvin,” Raluca states, “Mikey would walk and stop. Run and stop. Marvin maintains a steady pace when they walk together, helping Mikey focus and enabling him to keep up with the group.” She also feels companionship is an important benefit Marvin provides, pulling Mikey from his inner world and away from his iPad.

Bill has witnessed other changes in the months since receiving Marvin. Mikey is sleeping better and there have also been a few changes in the noises he makes. “Although Mikey is non-verbal, it seems he may be trying a few words. For example, the other day we noticed it appeared he was attempting to tell Marvin to ‘sit’.”

Marvin loves children and is very friendly and playful...and helpful! If his leash is accidentally dropped while on a walk, Marvin will pick it up and return it. This genial disposition is a plus, along with the



Michael and Marvin

growing sense of confidence he provides the family, who no longer has to worry about Mikey darting away from them.

When asked to give advice to others looking for an Autism Assist Dog, Bill replied, “Patience and consistency are important. Training is a work-in-progress. We overcame the tendency to try to be perfect; we tried to let things happen naturally. We were grateful that a majority of the work was already done for us and were very impressed with Marvin’s dedication.”

To the family who raised Marvin and the people of the Faribault Prison program, where he received his final training, Raluca conveys, “Thank you! We are so grateful for the possibilities Marvin provides in helping Mikey enjoy more experiences.” Bill adds, “The money is well-spent. Thank you to all the volunteers of Can Do Canines.” ♥

Thank You

Dog Source – Karin and Tom Toston
Puppy Raiser – The Doyon Family
Special Thanks – Inmates at the
Minnesota Correctional
Facility at Faribault

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

Help us Soar!

Can Do Canines plans to bring a number of staff members to the Assistance Dogs International conference in Denver, Colorado during September 2014.

Do you have airline miles that could make it possible for staff to attend?

Do you fly Sun Country Airlines? Through Sun Country’s “Fare & Share” program you can donate your Sun Country airline miles to Can Do Canines.

Please call Alan Peters for details at 763-331-3000 x 116. ♥



What Are Volunteers?

- Volunteers are like Fords; they have better ideas.
- Volunteers are like Coke; they are the real thing.
- Volunteers are like Pan Am; they make the going great.
- Volunteers are like Pepsi; they’ve got a lot to give.
- Volunteers are like Hallmark Cards; they care enough to give the very best.
- Volunteers are like V05 Hairspray; their goodness holds in all kinds of weather.
- Volunteers are like Standard Oil; you expect more and get it.
- But most of all, Volunteers are like Frosted Flakes; They’re GRREAT!!!

Can Do Canines loves our volunteers! Visit our website to see a complete list of people who have volunteered during 2013. can-do-canines.org



2013 was a Howling Success

September 7th was a very warm day, but that didn't deter nearly 200 walkers, 100 volunteers and 76 well-behaved dogs who came out to celebrate the work of assistance dogs! It is through the support of our wonderful partners and these great people we were able to raise more than \$51,000, surpassing our goal of \$50,000! With that we will be able to fully fund two more assistance dog teams this year!

One of the highlights this year was the participation of a more than life-sized puppet from In The Heart Of The Beast Puppet and Mask Theater. A demonstration by "Mesa", an explosive detection dog, captivated the crowd. Live music was provided by 6:4 devotion, The Seldom Herd Band and Schubert and Dahl. Face painting and balloon-making clowns kept the crowd entertained. Holding the walk at our facility meant we were able to introduce many new participants to our facility, our puppies and our graduates in a way we couldn't do at another site .

Thank you to everyone who walked, pledged and volunteered in this wonderful event! We hope to see you again next year! ❤️



Top 5 Teams:

- Team Georgia Peach \$5,294.96
- The Legacy League \$4,507.10
- Team Emma and Ole \$2,560
- Dogs R Us \$1,399
- Dontcha Know Doggy \$1,125

Our Partners help us do amazing things

We would like to thank the following clubs:

- Spring Lake Park Lions
- Plymouth Lions
- Osseo Lions
- Rogers Lions



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

We would like to thank the following chapters:

- Northern Dakota County
- Northwest Minneapolis County
- South Ramsey County
- Carver-Hennepin County
- Dakota-Washington County
- North Ramsey County
- Southern Dakota County

graphic Resources



- Wagner's Drive In
- Delta Airlines
- Jet's Pizza
- Lunds - Plymouth

Top 5 Fundraisers:

- Emma Carrol \$2,560
- Chrissy Martinez \$1,745
- Sharon Bloomquist \$1,510
- Terri Krake \$1,310
- Susan Youngberg \$1,300



Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ I.Click Training Clickers
- ✓ **Car Seat Belt Harnesses – All sizes**
- ✓ **Halti Head Collars sizes 2 & 3**
- ✓ 6' Puppy Leashes
- ✓ Martingale collars
- ✓ Medium Gentle Leaders
- ✓ Soft Treats (BillJac, Zukes)
- ✓ **Giant Nylabones and Large Kongs**
- ✓ **L or XL Vari-Kennels, new or gently used**
- ✓ 42" Wire Dog Kennels
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Nature's Miracle Cleaner
- ✓ Easy Walk, Freedom or Halti Harnesses
- ✓ **Stuffing free, Chuck-It or JW dog toys**
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ **Laptops & Computers, Windows 7 and/or Mac 10.7 or newer**
- ✓ **Adobe InDesign CS4 or newer**
- ✓ Speakerphone

Automotive

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

Equipment

- ✓ Commercial elliptical exercise machine

Miscellaneous

- ✓ **Coffee Maker 100 cup**
- ✓ 4-Cup Drip Coffee Maker
- ✓ No-Iron Black Tablecloth/Draping for 6' tables
- ✓ Silverware set and sharp kitchen knives
- ✓ General hand tools
- ✓ Gift cards to
 - Grocery stores
 - Office supply stores
 - Michael's craft store
 - Party City
- ✓ Office supplies (paper, markers, stamps)
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner
- ✓ HE laundry detergent
- ✓ Framed dog-related art

Building Materials

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

Items in bold are our most pressing needs! For more wish list items, please go to www.can-do-canines.org.

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

Development News

To learn more about any Development News items, please contact Development Director, Janet Cobus, at 763-331-3000 ext. 153 or email [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org)

Workplace Giving Campaigns A great way to support Can Do Canines

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.

Community Shares of Minnesota: If you work for a company that participates in Community Shares of Minnesota, we are a member and you can designate Can Do Canines in the Healthcare (HC) category to receive your workplace donation.

United Way: If your company participates in United Way, you can select the "donor choice" option and write in Can Do Canines in the "other" category.



Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):

If you work for a government agency, please use our CFC code, 67285, to designate contributions to Can Do Canines.

Mark your Calendar for this year's "Give to the Max Day":

In 2012, Can Do Canines raised over \$38,800! Lets top that record this year.

Each year generous supporters like you join us for the exciting 24 hour annual Give to the Max Day. Your generous support makes a meaningful difference to Can Do Canines work in providing assistance dogs at no charge to people with disabilities.

On November 14, Minnesota's Give to the Max Day, your gift of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more may help us win an extra \$1,000 for our work in the community.

Every gift made on November 14 helps our chances of winning a \$1,000 Golden Ticket! By partnering with GiveMN, an online giving website for Minnesota nonprofits, Can Do Canines will have 25 chances to maximize your gift on Give to the Max Day!

Here's the really exciting part: At the end of Give to the Max Day, one donation from across Minnesota will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 Super-sized Golden Ticket!



The more gifts we receive online on November 14, the more our chances increase to receive that magical Golden Ticket!

Make your gift on November 14 by visiting givemn.razoo.com/story/can-do-canines.

With your help, we will reach our goal of raising \$50,000 on Give to the Max Day – enough to fully train and place two Can Do Canines assistance dogs. We will report on those team placements in our December eNews to thank everyone that helped us reach our goal!

P.S. Remember: At the end of Give to the Max Day, one donation from across Minnesota will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 Super-sized Golden Ticket! Your gift helps increase our odds on November 14!

Volunteer Spotlight – Terri Krake

When client Terri Krake received Brody, her Seizure Response Dog from Can Do Canines in the spring of 2010, she realized what a gift he was to her. Brody enabled her to regain her independence, sense of freedom and peace of mind. And she wanted to give something back.

She decided the first step would be to become involved as an Ambassador for our organization and attended training in short order. We discovered that Terri has a wonderful way of telling a story. Her stories piqued people’s interest in learning about the challenges she works through every day and how Brody has helped her. She attended Speakers Bureau training and thus began a wonderful relationship between Terri and Can Do Canines.

Terri has spoken to numerous service clubs as well as at several Lions midwinter conventions as an honored guest speaker. She tells her story at our Tails to Tell tours, Community Shares and Combined Federal Campaign workplace giving engagements. Terri loves to speak to people individually as well. She calls it “Ambasting forward!”

Terri has become very involved in fund raising at Can Do Canines as well. She was a Table Host at our Tails of Independence Luncheon in 2010 and 2013, and has recruited others to host a table too. She joined the Ambassadors Committee to

plan the luncheon, help raise awareness and get new people involved with Can Do Canines. She also agreed to co-chair the Woofaroo fundraiser committee this year.

Terri is always willing to lend a hand and to support the organization, her fellow graduates and other volunteers as well. Her commitment and passion for Can Do Canines is truly appreciated by our staff and we are very fortunate indeed that she is on our team. Thank you Terri! ♥

What about you?

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

- Event Planning
- Puppy Raisers (14-16 months)
- Foster families (1-2 weeks)
- Receptionist
- Marketing

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



Terri Krake and “Brody”

Name-A-Puppy Program Participants:

If your group would like to raise funds and have the honor of naming a puppy entering our “Puppy Pre-School”—contact Janet Cobus for information or download a brochure off our website at: can-do-canines.org/name-a-puppy-program

World’s Finest Chocolate – the perfect holiday gift!



Consider selling or buying a variety box with Chocolate Almond, Dark Chocolate Almond, Caramel, Milk Chocolate and Krispy—YUM! There are 60 bars in a box and each bar sells for \$1.00 to benefit Can Do Canines. Contact Kathy Broten to request a box. kbroten@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000, ext 152.

Our Apologies

Two logos were inadvertently left off the sponsor list for the Spring Tails of Independence Luncheon. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Voyager Bank for your support. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



Can Do Canines Presents... Sweet Dreams GIVEAWAY

Help us spread the word about Can Do Canines and be entered into our “Sweet Dreams Giveaway” for a chance to win one of two great prizes that speak to the dog-loving traveler in you.

Use our unique QR code to enter or go to <http://can-do-canines.org/sweet-dreams-giveaway> to enter. Once you register, we will send you a “Sweet Dreams Giveaway” eMessage that you can send to your friends and spread the word about Can Do Canines. Increase your chances of winning – each message you send gets you another chance to win! Thank you and Good Luck!

Contest ends October 13th!



To increase your chances of winning (and for contest rules), go online to: <http://can-do-canines.org/sweet-dreams-giveaway>



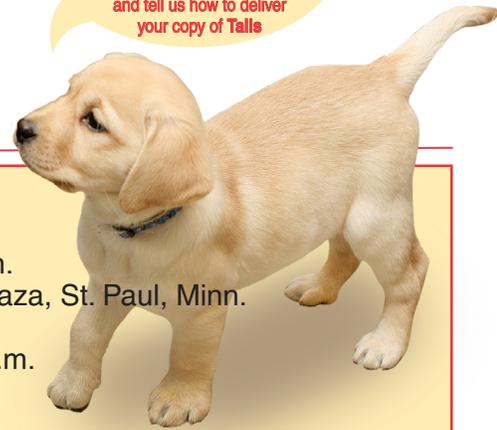


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Stay Connected With Us

Here are a few ways you can stay connected with us on a daily, weekly or monthly basis



Join us on Facebook by searching "Can Do Canines" and select under Places



Follow us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/CanDoCanines>



Sign up at can-do-canines.org to receive The Howler and Tails from Minnesota



Donate online 24/7 at can-do-canines.org and click on the Donate button

Upcoming Events

October 12 Fall Graduation, 1:00 p.m.
November 9 Fetching Ball, Crowne Plaza, St. Paul, Minn.
November 14 Give to the Max Day
December 7 Tails to Tell Tour, 10:00 a.m.

*** All Tails to Tell tours take place at our facility, located at 9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428**

Please call our office at 763-331-3000 or email tours@can-do-canines.org to reserve your spot!



Learn more about Can Do Canines by scanning the QR code with your smart phone



Can Do Canines is pleased to announce a special partnership with *SidewalkDog.com*, the #1 resource for Twin Cities dog lovers, to spread awareness about the important work we do. You can help, too, by sharing their upcoming blog series about Can Do Canines with your networks. ❤️

Fall Graduation 2013



Join us on Saturday, October 12 at 1:00 pm at the Can Do Canines training center to celebrate the graduation of 18 new teams. After the ceremony, stay for light refreshments and congratulate the graduates. ❤️