

Tails from Minnesota

Winter 2013

Volume 24 Issue 1

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ZADE AND EDEN

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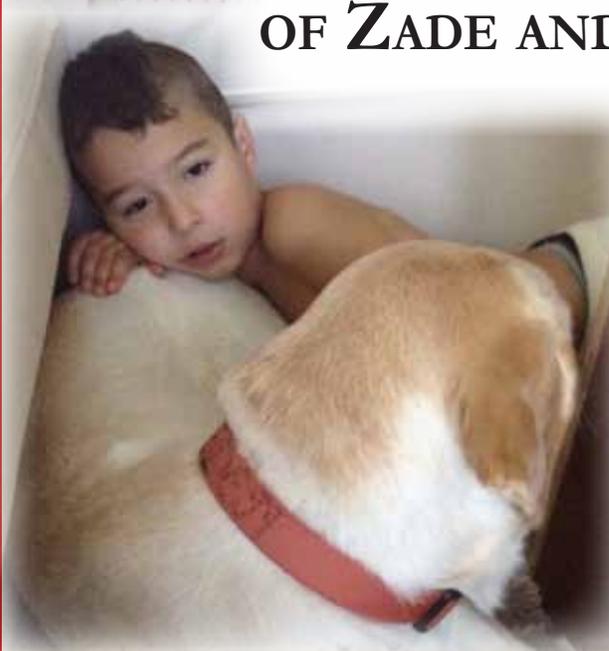
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www.can-do-canines.org



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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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

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the board and staff of Can Do Canines, I want to wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. We are proud of our accomplishments during 2012 and are excited to take on new challenges in 2013. As our partner in this work, I hope you will share in this pride and excitement as well.

Christmas Came Early This Year

I'm proud to announce that Phase II of our Capital Campaign has been successful! As a result of some generous commitments by dedicated contributors, we have secured the final funding and are now confident that we will complete payments on the mortgage of our New Hope facility by January 1, 2016, earlier than originally planned. Can Do Canines will be free of loans and no longer obligated to pay interest. All the money that's contributed from that point forward can be channeled into training more dogs for people who need them. Isn't that great?

The Campaign for Independence

During Phase I of our capital campaign we acquired our New Hope property, added kennel space and customized part of the property to our needs. During Phase II, we completed the construction project and secured funding to pay for the entire project. It was a big task, but a very worthwhile endeavor that secures the future of the organization.

We now enter Phase III of the campaign, turning our focus to putting this great new facility to work to provide even more assistance dogs for the people on our waiting list. Phase III will be the final phase of our campaign and we plan to complete it this year. During 2013, you'll hear more from me about the particulars of Phase III. I will outline for you the changes we need to make in staffing, breeding, and other related systems that will allow us to launch ourselves into the next level of assistance dog partnerships. And I will be asking you to help.

Meeting the special needs of people with disabilities and finding forever homes for the dogs in our care has been my personal mission since I first began this journey in the 1980s. Eliminating our growing waiting list for assistance dogs is the task at hand. I know we can do this together.

Puppies!

Whether you saw the TV spots on various news stations or read about it on our puppy blog or Facebook page, you may be aware that we were expecting three litters of lab



puppies to be born this Fall, all within two days of one another. Well, it happened as expected and I am proud to announce that the births totaled 17 puppies, all of whom are happy and healthy and living in our kennel as I write this. The puppies are temporarily with us to go through "Super Puppy" training. Our staff is working to evaluate and prepare them for the next step in their journey, during which they will move into training in a puppy raiser home. Volunteers are here every day to work with this group of puppies to better prepare them for their future as assistance dogs. This is such a cute bunch. I wish you could all be here to see them. We couldn't get them all in place for a photo, but here is a box of puppies, bringing you good wishes for the new year! ♥



A New Way to Live

Chad Wilson and Mobility Assist Dog Porter

Recent college graduate Chad Wilson stays busy with hockey and an active social life. He's also preparing to enter law school soon. He shares his Chanhassen home with his mom, Sandy, and enjoys playing video games and watching sports with friends. He has had a lot of experience with being flexible and working hard—and working with assistance dogs.

Chad was born with muscular dystrophy, a condition which causes continuing weakness and degeneration of the skeletal muscles that control movement. As his condition progresses, he loses more of his ability to walk and bend over to pick things up. He also risks falling. Chad has worked throughout his life to remain as independent as possible. He previously had an assistance dog, but when that dog was no longer able to help him, he turned to Can Do Canines for a successor dog.

Can Do Canines knew that Chad needed a dog ready for his active lifestyle but patient enough to endure classrooms, wheelchair hockey practice and an active social life. Client Service Coordinators matched Chad with Porter, a handsome two-year-old black Labrador Retriever that had stolen the hearts of his Puppy Raisers and his inmate handlers at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault alike.

Chad says it was amazing how quickly Porter learned to listen and react to what he needed. Porter's abilities improved



Learning to be a service dog is really tiring!

with every practice session in those first few weeks. Today Porter will retrieve an emergency phone, act as a brace for Chad when he falls, and—most importantly—retrieve items Chad has dropped. These days the two can be seen together almost



Chad and Porter

nonstop. Porter recently appeared with Chad at a wedding and was quite a hit, especially when he chimed in to howl at the reception's loud music. At wheelchair hockey practice, he lies quietly on the sidelines and watches Chad and his team play. The two can be seen together on walks and shopping in the neighborhood. Chad says, "The other day I got the best compliment when a server at the restaurant didn't even know Porter was under the table until we went to leave." Chad has recommended assistance dogs to several of his friends on the hockey league.

Chad wants the Puppy Raisers, volunteers, donors and everyone in the prison program to know how grateful he is. "It is an amazing thing they do," he says. "It is quite a sacrifice to raise that dog and then give it away. It means the world to whoever gets that dog. The dog gives that extra independence so somebody can do things on their own. They don't have to worry, 'Oh what if I fall?,' because they can use their dog to help. It gives somebody a new way to live." ♥

Can Do Canines uses a variety of mixed breed and purebred dogs in our training. We have had great success with Labrador Retrievers, like Porter. To learn more about donating a dog or puppy, visit our website at www.can-do-canines.org.

New Teams



Linda Lake & Mobility Assist Dog Rupa

"It's awesome to watch Rupa work and to know how much she loves to help me. Her tail wags like crazy because she's so happy!"

Thank You

Dog Source – Pet dog

See their full story at

www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Zade Carlson & Autism Assist Dog Eden

"It has been the greatest gift we have ever received. She is so much more than a dog – she has become the air we both breathe."

Thank You

Dog Source – Can Do Canines

Puppy Raiser – The inmate handlers at the Federal Correctional Institute at Waseca

Field Trainer – Cathryn Lessard

Vet Services – Animal Wellness Center

Special Thanks To – The Furlough

Families of Waseca, Kim Kriesel and Julie Mach

See their full story on page 6

Speaking the Same Language

Lin Magnusson and Mobility Assist Dog Darwin

It feels a little overwhelming to be done," Lin Magnusson of Minneapolis says about the assistance dog certification process, "but I never thought of the training as hard—just a lot of thinking."

Lin contracted polio at the age of three. While she survived a disease that killed many, the virus left her with permanent mobility impairments. Today she uses a wheelchair, has no movement in her legs, and has difficulty moving her arms. She tires easily and finds it impossible to reach things she has dropped. "Grabbers" used to reach items are helpful but require hand strength and balance, making it hard for her to retrieve things she needs.

Lin knew about assistance dogs because her friend has one from Can Do Canines. Her own 20-pound Rat Terrier pet dog was trained to do some things to help her, and Lin says she found the company wonderful. "When my dog passed

away last year, I felt very isolated," she says. "I eventually felt it was time to apply to Can Do Canines."

What Can Do Canines trainers had in mind was a very special dog who loved to help: Darwin, a two-year-old black Labrador Retriever named after Lion Darwin Mathwig. Weighing in at sixty pounds, Lin says he was a bit more than she had hoped for but just what she needed.



Lin and Darwin

"Darwin was so well-trained and eager to please that my initial fears were quickly vanquished," she says. Lin was accustomed to using the words her pet dog had responded to and Darwin didn't always understand what she wanted. "Once we started to speak the same language, we began to understand each other and we just clicked," she says. That is when the true teamwork began.

Today, if Lin drops an item on the floor, Darwin quickly retrieves it and places it on her lap or the counter. If she is uncomfortable, he helps maneuver Lin's legs to a more comfortable position. Darwin helps her with coats and clothing and will retrieve the phone for Lin in an emergency. Together they are now going out to stores, the doctor's office, on walks and even on play dates with other dogs. Lin has arranged for a dog walker to come when she cannot take Darwin out so he gets enough exercise.

Lin says, "I had become a hermit. Darwin has made me more open again. He has really drawn me out. Thank you to the Puppy Raisers, the trainers, staff, and all the volunteers who did so much just to help me get a dog, to help me out in times of need." ♥

Visit can-do-canines.org to learn how you can help make more dogs like Darwin possible.

Lions Corner



The year 2010 was exciting for the Minnesota Lions District Governors (DG). There was a deep bond among us. When we heard one

of our own, DG Lion Governor Darwin Mathwig, was ill, we were all surprised. Within a week, Darwin was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He passed away just four days after his term as District Governor ended. What a blow it was for all of us.

Can Do Canines had long been one of his favorite charities and he always made sure we brought dog biscuits and other needed items every time we visited. Knowing how important this great organization was to Darwin, we decided to raise money to name a Can Do Canines puppy in honor of him. Thanks to generous donations from Lions across the area, in the fall of 2010 we were

able to have a beautiful black lab puppy named Darwin after our dear friend. We always looked forward to the updates on Darwin and shared them with the other Past DG's, Lions clubs, and the many friends of Darwin Mathwig.

More than thirty Lions, "Darwin's Fan Club", were in attendance at the October 28, 2012 graduation ceremony. What really made the graduation hit home was when Mobility Assist Dog Darwin was walked up onto the stage by his Puppy Raisers and his leash was handed to his new partner, Lin Magnusson. Darwin leaned over and gave Lin a huge lick on the cheek. DG Darwin always had a hug or a kiss on the cheek for everyone when we met. When I look at "puppy" Darwin, I can see DG Darwin's eyes. Lin and Darwin will make



Lin, Darwin and Darwin's "Fan Club" an excellent team and we are proud that we could help with our donation in memory of a wonderful friend. ♥

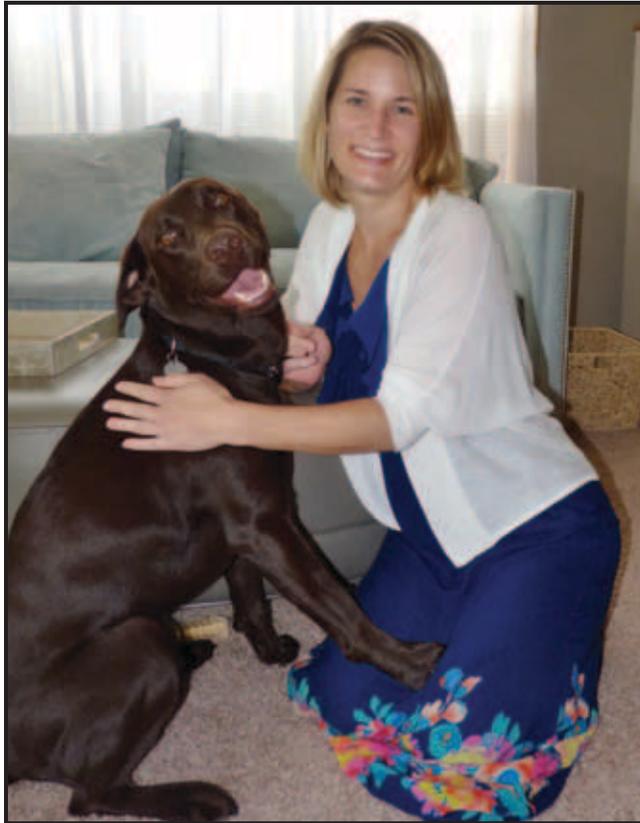
Proudly,
Lion Cheri Appel

For more information about the Name a Puppy program contact Janet Cobus. 763-331-300 ext. 153 or [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org)

To Live Another Day

Gretchen O'Brien and Diabetes Assist Dog Callie

While growing up in a house where she, her father and her sister all had diabetes, Gretchen O'Brien knew the vigilance and determination it takes to keep the disease under control. Monitoring blood sugars, tracking eating plans and watching out for one another were part of the routine. That changed when Gretchen moved out and became a single mom to her now eight-year-old daughter, Madeline. She tried to keep a close eye on her diabetes, but had difficulty because she lost the ability to know when her blood sugars were dropping to dangerous levels. "It can be very scary to have a low blood sugar (insulin reaction)," Gretchen recalls. "And watching for signs of an insulin reaction is way too much responsibility for an 8-year-old."



Gretchen and Callie

Peace of mind came in the form of something Gretchen didn't have much experience with: a dog. "I knew that dogs were being taught to detect low blood sugars," she says, "but I didn't know they were being trained locally until my friend, Jill, saw the Can Do Canines sign." Gretchen researched the organization on the Internet and soon put in an application.

Diabetes Assist Dogs are trained to detect the scent of low blood sugars on their partners' breath and then alert them. This early warning allows the person with diabetes to counteract the low, thus preventing unconsciousness or even death. Can Do Canines found the strong nose Gretchen needed attached to a two-year-old chocolate Labrador Retriever named Callie.

"Training with Callie was a new adventure," Gretchen says. "The hardest skill was finding a food Callie would retrieve when my blood sugar was low that she didn't want to share! But Callie loves having a job and is willing to do whatever I asked." These days she not only continually checks for the scent of low blood sugar, but she also retrieves that essential food and gets an emergency phone for Gretchen. When Gretchen is with her dad or sister, Callie continually smells the air and will let them know to check their own blood sugars.

Gretchen, Callie and Madeline often play in the yard, take walks, and shop in their Shakopee, Minn. neighborhood. People frequently ask questions when they are out together. "For the most part, people are just interested in Callie," Gretchen says. "They think she's in training because my diabetes is invisible. But if explaining what Callie does can help someone else, then it is well worth the time it takes to talk to them."

When asked what she would say to someone else who wanted to apply for an assistance dog, Gretchen says, "You have to want the dog first. It's a responsibility, like having another child, but you also get another family member, one you can rely on to tell you when you need help."

Gretchen says she loves the comfort of having Callie at her side. She says, "I sleep better at night knowing Callie is there for us. Even during the day, it is comforting to know she is there. Can Do Canines is a great organization that provides a lifesaving way to live another day if something happens. ♥

To make more dogs like Callie available for people on our waiting list, please visit www.can-do-canines.org or send in your generous contribution. Thank you!

New Teams



Pat Donley & Mobility Assist Dog Willow

"Those things we might take for granted, Willow now does. She can turn lights off and on, retrieve dropped items, and open doors – doors to more than his house – doors to get back into the world."

Thank You

Dog Source – Mary Buffie
Puppy Raiser – The Sears Family
Special Thanks To – The inmate handlers at the Federal Correctional Institute at Waseca

See their full story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Chad Wilson & Mobility Assist Dog Porter

"The dog gives that extra independence so somebody can do things on their own. They don't have to worry 'oh what if I fall' because they can use their dog to help, it gives somebody a new way to live."

Thank You

Dog Source – Sommit Labs,
Susan Sommer and Linda Waco
Puppy Raiser – The Chang Family
Vet Services – Jean De Jong

Special Thanks To – The inmate handlers at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

See their full story on page 3

When Giving Back Changes a Life

Zade Carlson and Autism Assist Dog Eden

By: Shelly Hiemer

Lauren Carlson learned about the work of Can Do Canines through the Jaycees, an organization that promotes leadership development through community involvement. The Minnesota Jaycees adopted Can Do Canines as a priority project in 2010, and Lauren participated in some Jaycees fundraising projects. Little did she know how her efforts would change her own life. When she sent in the application for an Autism Assist Dog for her son, Zade, she says she really didn't know what she was in for. "I was hoping a dog would give Zade more structure in his life and keep him safe if he tried to bolt away," she explains. "What I didn't bargain for was how much that dog could change my life, too."

Six-year-old Zade was diagnosed with autism at the age of two. Although he had some verbal skills, Lauren says, he communicated mostly by pointing and was easily frustrated. That led to meltdowns — frequently in stores and other public places. "We were landlocked in our home," Lauren recalls. "I worried about how people would judge us if Zade had a meltdown in public. Every week, we would leave a store after a meltdown and I would be crying."

Lauren grew up with dogs but had never owned one of her own. Her small Fergus Falls, Minn. home and Zade's needs worried this single mother. When she and Zade met Eden, a two-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, Lauren says she was concerned about the dog's size—nearly 60 pounds. But the immediate connection between Zade and gentle Eden quickly vanquished her concerns. Training went smoothly, something Lauren credits to regular meetings with Can Do Canines Client

Services Coordinator Dora Schroeder. "She guided Zade and me every step of the way," Lauren says. "From the first day, Zade took up the handle on Eden's vest and the two walked as if they had been together a lifetime. They just seemed to understand each other."

Lauren says she read every Can Do Canines newsletter and Internet story. "The parents would talk about the changes and I would think, yeah, maybe someday that will be us, after a few years with a dog," she recalls. "I never thought I would see those changes almost overnight! The first week we had Eden, Zade walked up to a little boy on the playground, shook his hand, and said 'Hi, my name is Zade and this is my dog. Do you want to play with me?' I was frozen, looking around for someone to celebrate with me. Zade had made eye contact, and now he's using more verbal communication at school and with other adults."

She calls the bond between Zade and Eden "unbelievable." Zade calls Eden his best friend, but Lauren says she thinks they are more like siblings. Eden has slept with Zade since her first night at their home. "Her presence makes Zade feel comfortable, free to be himself and not be judged," Lauren explains. "Having a comforting presence helps Zade communicate better

and follow instructions more." His meltdowns are less frequent and only last one-fourth as long as they used to.

Lauren highly recommends applying for an Autism Assist Dog. "Don't hesitate," she advises. "It has been the greatest gift we have ever received. She is so much more than a dog—she has become the air we both breathe. And how can you not just love her?"

To the people who made it possible for Zach to receive Eden, Lauren says, "We don't deserve such a gift. Thank you is not a strong enough word to say to these people who raised this dog or donated money to



Zade and Eden

change a child's life. My son and I were able to go to Target today without a meltdown, and I am able to not cry every day. Thank you." ♥

For information on helping to make other autism placements possible for children who are waiting, please contact Janet Cobus at 763-331-3000 ext, 153 or visit www.can-do-canines.org.

Thank You Volunteers and Puppy Raisers

Can Do Canines sincerely appreciates all of our wonderful volunteers and wants to acknowledge everyone who helps each quarter. We also want to maximize the limited space we have in each issue of Tails From Minnesota.

To that end, beginning January 1, 2013 we will list all volunteers and puppy raisers on our website each quarter. Check out the awesome volunteers who have donated their time to us between Sept. 11 and December 31, 2012 on our website.

Thank you all so much. You are the best gift we could have!



A Family Affair

Juliet Heinen and Mobility Assist Dog Rufus

“My sisters are there for me in good times and bad,” says thirteen-year-old Juliet Heinen. “Mostly I just kept making them put the phone back on the dock when Rufus and I were practicing – over and over and over!” Not a typical request from a sibling, but then the Heinen family understands that getting an assistance dog is truly a family affair.

Juliet, a junior high school student with an exceptional vibrance and easy laugh, lives in Maple Grove, Minn. with her parents, Mary and Mark, and two sisters, Avery and Camryn. Juliet was born with arthrogyrosis, a condition that causes stiff joints and under-developed muscles. The condition leaves her unable to move most of her joints, making routine things like walking, bending over, and caring for herself difficult.

Juliet had a great experience with her first service dog, Tank, until he passed away. When Juliet’s mom mentioned Can Do Canines, the family decided to attend a Tails to Tell Tour. Impressed by what they learned, she applied for a Mobility Assist Dog. Soon Juliet’s new best friend arrived in the form of a curly black Labradoodle named Rufus.

Training for the team went smoothly. Juliet’s experience and Rufus’ willingness to work made practicing fun. It might have been difficult for Juliet’s sisters and dad to leave Rufus alone during the initial training period, but the benefit shows in his dedication to Juliet. Now he is one of the family—“the little brother I didn’t have,” she says. He follows her around the house, sleeps near her and patiently waits for her when she leaves his sight.

Rufus’ dedication extends to how he helps Juliet, too. Opening and closing doors or drawers and getting an emergency phone give Juliet and her family peace of mind. Juliet says she especially appreciates Rufus retrieving items she has dropped and placing them on the table for her. He has also become an icebreaker for Juliet in public. A trip to camp brought lots of questions and conversations with new friends the two met.

To each person who helped make Rufus’ training possible for her, Juliet says, “Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. It means the most in the world to me! This changes so many people’s lives. We can actually start to do things we want to do now that we have one of these dogs—because you are giving your time, money, and resources. Thank you so much – you are a great human being!” ♥

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



Juliet and Rufus

Puppy Raisers visit TwinsFest

On Sunday, January 27th eight puppy raisers and their dogs attended TwinsFest 2013. Thank you Minnesota Twins and K-TWIN for letting us be a part of the action.



Photos courtesy of Mike Ferber

New Teams



Brittney Steptoe & Mobility Assist Dog Ember

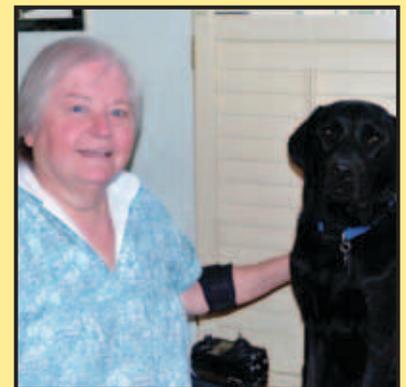
“The benefits of such a partnership are amazing. We are so thankful we had Can Do Canines to help.”

Thank You

Dog Source – Pet Dog

See their full story at

www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Lin Magnusson & Mobility Assist Dog Darwin

“I had become a hermit. Darwin has made me more open again, he has really drawn me out.”

Thank You

Dog Source – Kathy Marr

Puppy Raiser – Deb Hanson and Sarah Durant

Vet Services – Maryland Ave. Vet Clinic

Special Thanks To – The inmate handlers at the Federal Correctional Institute at Waseca

Name A Puppy Participants – District 5M02 Lions

See their full story on page 4

Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Animated toys that sing and dance
- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ **I.Click Training Clickers**
- ✓ **Car Seat Belt Harnesses – All sizes**
- ✓ **Halti Head Collars sizes 2&3**
- ✓ Martingale collars
- ✓ Soft Treats (Biljac, Zukes)
- ✓ **Giant Nylabones and large Kongs**
- ✓ L or XL Vari-Kennels, new or gently used
- ✓ Wire Dog Kennels
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Easy Walk, Freedom or Halti Harnesses
- ✓ Stuffing free toys, Chuck-It toys
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies
- ✓ Large stainless steel dishes

Electronics

- ✓ **Laptops & Computers, Windows 7 and/or Mac 10.5 or newer**
- ✓ Wall mountable server rack 19U
- ✓ LCD TV, 19" or larger
- ✓ Home Theater system for meeting room

Automotive

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

Equipment

- ✓ Night stands and small dresser
- ✓ **Sheets, blanket, pillows for queen bed**
- ✓ **Queen bed frame**
- ✓ **Commercial Elliptical exercise machine**

Miscellaneous

- ✓ **Coffee Makers – 36 and 100 cup**
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Nature's Miracle Cleaner

Building Materials

- ✓ Bathroom storage cabinet, small
- ✓ Gift certificates home improvement stores
- ✓ **Pipe and drape, black (6 - 8' x 10' 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)

Save the Date - Tails of Independence

Eighth Annual Fundraising Luncheon – “A New Beginning”

Golden Valley Country Club
Tuesday, May 7, 2013
11:30 am – 12:30 am

Would you consider serving as a “Table Host” for this year’s luncheon? All you have to do is be passionate about our mission. Then invite six or more friends, family or other people who have attended a tour, graduation or other Can Do Canines events and share your passion. This one-hour inspirational lunch will be an incredible opportunity to learn how they can support our program.

Our goal is to have 50 Table Hosts helping us fill the room on May 7th. With everyone’s help our goal is to raise \$100,000 which would enable us to train and place 37 assistance dog teams in 2013.

One of the first things you can do is contact us to sign up as a Table Captain. Then invite your friends to one of our 2013 monthly tours to get started! We look forward to having you become part of the excitement!

Corporate Partnership Opportunities for 2013

Can Do Canines has many opportunities for area businesses and individuals to participate as a partner with us to underwrite the costs of our special events and gain recognition for your efforts in the community. Not only do we need cash underwriters, but we can always use in-kind support of services and products for our live and silent auctions and prizes for our top walkers in the Woofaroo. We have partnership levels from \$250 to \$10,000 for the following events:

2013 Partner Opportunities:

Spring and Fall - Can Do Canines Graduation Events
Spring - Volunteer Luncheon
May 7, 2013 - Tails of Independence Fundraising Luncheon
Summer - Puppy Raiser Picnic
Fall 2013 - Can Do Woofaroo fundraising walk and canine festival
November 9, 2013 - Fetching Ball Gala and Live and Silent Auction



Qualified Charitable Distributions Can Save you Tax Dollars!

Save on your 2012 taxes by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 that was recently passed preserves the ability for certain taxpayers to make charitable deductions directly from their IRA accounts.

Known as a QCD or Qualified Charitable Distribution, individuals over the age of 70 ½ may give gifts up to \$100,000 to qualified public charities directly from their IRA accounts

without taxes. The advantage of the QCD is that the distribution from the IRA is not added to your gross income. This can be especially helpful to those who do not itemize their tax deductions, or those who may qualify for other tax breaks.

Certain restrictions apply. Check with your tax advisor for more information and to determine if a Qualified Charitable Distribution is appropriate for your situation.

Gifts In Memory Of

Gifts given in memory of have been received between September 11 - December 31, 2012

Donated By In Memory Of
 Joseph Amendt.....Neal Tusler
 Jill Anderson....."Apollo"
 Animal Wellness Center....."Angel" Friesse,
 "Angel" Weddig, "Antigone" Carlson, "Aries" Elias,
 "Atla" Dahl, "Bacchus" Mityng, "Bailey" Welo,
 "Barney" Ruesink, "Benny" Kent, "Bob" James,
 "Buster" Cross, "Cali" Mityng, "Callie" Robin,
 "Charlie" Deane, "Charlie" Owens, "Charmin" Craidon,
 "Cinder" Patrick, "Comet" Winslow, "Cozette" Eldred,
 "Crosby" Sandmann, "Daisy" Cross, "Daisy" Kulander,
 "Dustbunny" Johnson, "Eddie" Nelson, "Emily" Huber,
 "Figaro" Smith, "Fred" Gelschus, "Ginger" Paulsen,
 "Hannibal" Murdeshwar, "Harley" Zondlo, "Heidi"
 Nelson, "Holly" Meyer, "Indy" Anderson, "Jax" Denzen,
 "Jet" Mottinger, "Jeter" Lomker, "Jill" Nordskog, "Kaja"
 Barnhart, "Kirby" Cross, "Kitty" Carlson, "Kristen"
 Waterman, "Lily" Haarstad, "Lincoln" Hickey, "Little
 Dog" Peterson, "Lucky" Loffler, "Lucy" Amundson,
 "Lucy" Potter, "Luke" Flores, "Mac" McMahan, "Macey"
 Carlson, "Maddie" Sevfert, "Madeline" Kisch, "Maggie
 Lou" Swanson, "Marlee" Paulsen, "Maxwell" Carpentier,
 "Maxwell" Cooper, "Missy" Carlson, "Misty" Mehle,
 "Mittens" Barth, "Mollie" Rieschl, "Moses" Eckerman,
 "Mya" Wime, "Oscar" Schumacher, "Oz" Flint, "Peanut"
 Komp, "Phooey" Williamson, "Ranger" Ribbins,
 "Rascal" Schlick, "Remington" Mascaro, "Resipsa"
 Flores, "Riley" Gibson, "Rocky Road" Johnson, "Roz"
 Meier, "Sadie" Edberg, "Sasha" Holthe, "Scout" Vetter,
 "Simon" Wheatley, "Smokey" Erlandson, "Snickers"
 Stein, "Sophie" Mazzuca, "Southforks Sadie Jane"
 Mlekoday, "Spice" Dimmick, "Starbuck" Voigt, "Sunny"
 Kartak, "Sweetie" Rocheleau, "Sydney" Skagerberg,
 "Tanner" Olmscheid, "Tasha" House, "Tigger"
 Huemoeller, "Tribble" Knight, "Tucker" Doran-Martin,
 "Winnie" McFerran, and "Winny" Weiss
 Stacy Avery....."Couch"
 Jane Ballard.....Marge Svedberg
 Debbie Bancroft.....Bonnie
 Carol Barnes....."Oreo"
 Carol Beaton.....Eve Clark
 Colleen Byrne.....Neal Tusler
 Beth Cherryholmes.....Dr. Keith Cherryholmes
 Lynne Dablow.....Wyatt and "Jack" in the Avon Hills
 Lioness Club - Eden Prairie.....Roger Sandven
 Lynda Friedman.....In loving memory of "Chance"
 Marcia Fritzmeier....."Tina", "Mitzi", "Scout",
 and Will Canan
 Janet Galvin....."Belle" and "Cricket"
 Judith Gelderman....."Roxy"
 Bonnie Genin.....Mabel Johnson
 Bonnie Genin.....Tom Schmitt
 Brad Glorvigen.....Hans Anthony Zimmerman
 Anne Gold.....Martha Ann Kriesel

Donated By In Memory Of
 Sarah Granger....."Merlin"
 Darlene Hafner.....Lucille Hafner
 Barbara Harris.....Julie Marie Rustad
 Barbara Jean Hones.....Dorothy Burns
 Patricia Hughes.....Ninja the Cat Hughes
 Alice Jungkunz.....Sparky Jane
 Pete Kleingartner.....Alice Mae Kramersmeier
 and Gladys Peterson
 Dennis Litfin....."Chubby" and "Betsy"
 Lockwood and Darlene Carlson Fund.....Lee Perish
 Gerry Lowe.....Charlene Walters
 Lions Club - Lucan.....Pete Landherr
 Eunice McBroom.....Greg Erickson
 Judith Montgomery.....Robin Ongaro
 Lions Club - Morgan.....Richard Quast
 Ann Mortimore....."Dusty" and "Babe" with love
 Sandra Nestande.....Nick Wersal
 Marlys Ogle.....Dick Ogle
 Carol Peterson.....Eleanor Mady
 Carol Petersen.....Helen Carlson
 Thomas Quanbeck.....Neal Tusler
 Cheryl Richardson....."Logan"
 Barry Riven.....Alex and "Mitch"
 Sandy Robin....."Lucy" and "Callie"
 Vicki Roe.....Shelly Feulner
 Liz Roemer.....Coach Kennedy Harper
 Judy Sharken Simon.....Bailey and Vanya
 Jackie Strobel....."Faith"
 Sharon Thaler.....David Thaler
 Cynthia Thoreson-Arnold....."Tina"
 Bruce Thorson....."L.A."
 Cardinal Kampers Sams.....Neal Tusler
 Janelle Tusler.....Neal Tusler
 Marian Veasen.Lion James Huber and Greg Ziemkowski
 Barb Verhage.....Jeanne O'Hara and Mary Hartig
 Stu Wicklund.....Janie Snyder
 David Wilhelm....."Schnapps"
 Sylvia Wilhelmi.....Kathryn

In Memory Of Paul Knorr

Becky Anderson, Marcia Beachem, Lioness Club -
 Coon Rapids, Christina Freitas, Jeremy Griffnow,
 Kimberly Hudyma, Dorothy Jundr, Lorraine Knorr,
 Jeannie Peter, Jennifer Schirmers, Barbara Schuerman,
 Luke Stelpflug, Susan Wagner

In Memory Of Bill McNeely

Steven Coleman, Suzanne Kaplan, Vicki Leddy,
 Janelle LeVasseur, H.G. McNeely, Jr., Eugenia
 Nakamoto, Mary Stevens



Gifts In Honor Of

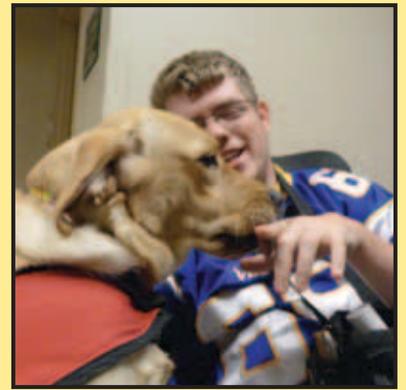
Gifts given in honor of have been received between September 11 - December 31, 2012

Donated By In Honor Of
 Laura Amis.....Jane Wipf
 Joan Arnold.....Alicia and "Tanner" Blank
 Sandra Bauer.....Marian Veasen
 Diane Bryers.....soul mate, Denny
 Steve Carnes.....Jim and Marty Carnes
 Carol Cook.....Alex Egan and Katy Goodwin's wedding
 Pamela Jo Costain.....Lisa Knazan
 Kathy Dolan.....Barbara Koch
 Kathy Daugherty.....Ruediger Dougherty
 Erica Freeman.....Alison and Jack Cruise
 Barbara Gettel.....Katie Galloway
 Cheryl Gibbons.....our dog lover, Sarah Victoria
 Leah Golberstein.....Alvera and Roland Franceschi -
 Jean Guenther.....Terri and "Brody"
 Edwin Haswell.....Dakota
 Richard Hechter.....my wonderful wife, Judy
 and our dog son, Maxwell
 Tom Heenan.....Brad Glorvigen
 Mark Hiemenz.....Mike Ferber
 Mary Holmes.....Richard Nygaard's 70th birthday
 Mike Jackson.....Kelly Jackson, volunteer
 Sharon Karas.....Jim and Susan Gulstrand
 Carol Kleinhenz.....Alex Egan and Katy Goodwin

Donated By In Honor Of
 Lisa Knazan.....Sylvia Knazan
 Jeanne LaBelle.....Al Peters
 Bailey Larson.....Lesla Larson
 David Laube.....Paul Laube and "Dawson"
 Nancy & Paul Laufer.....Our beautiful daughter Anna and
 her amazing autism assist dog Capri
 Sharon Levitsky.....Betty Otto and Mike Ferber
 Wilma Loken.....Beth Cherryholmes and
 Paul Loken at Christmas
 Kathryn Lyford.....Will and Sam Newland's birthdays
 Christine Maloney.....Cassidy - the best girl there ever was
 Nancy Manther.....John Roth
 Kristin Matejcek.....Nacia Dahl for all she does for this
 incredible organization
 Shannon Mayer.....Papa John
 Janet McKean.....my beloved Mandy
 Susan McKendry...Bill and Jan Dubats - Merry Christmas
 Jennifer McNertney.....Dee Dee Heffernan
 Jessica Mork.....Sinjin Mork
 Fiona Nicol.....Koivu Becker-Finn's birthday
 Marjorie and Bret Okerstrom .."Truman", whose birthday
 was November 8
 Valerie Olinik-Damstra.....Alex Egan and Katy Goodwin

Donated By In Honor Of
 Susan Osiol.....Mitchell Osiol - a dog lover
 Steven Peach.....Carrie Enea
 Christine Peters.....Al Peters
 Nancy Piotrowski....."Oscar"
 Matt Porter.....Michael Ferber
 Bob Powers.....Leslie Nystrom
 Laura Powers.....The Bartkowski/Kisting Family
 Laura Powers.....The Lynch Family
 Laura Powers.....Zigmund Bartkowski
 Cora Quinn.....Roland and Alvera Franceschi -
 Happy Holidays!
 Constance Ross.....Mike and Kim Ross - Happy Holidays!
 Jeanne Rouch.....Peter
 Berit Schiess.....Sue Schiess
 Mary Beth Schleif.....Kevin and Lisa Schlieff
 Cheryl Sokoloski.....Michelle and Darrin Maxwell
 Carmaline Spurrier.....Heather & Jake Carmony and
 Lance & Carson Lewis
 Lauri Svedberg.....Jane Ballard with admiration for her
 strength in struggle
 Tysley Taylor.....In honor of my puppy to be. Can't wait!
 Deanna Varner.....Judith Schwab
 Sara Willis.....All dogs

New Teams



Chris Dehncke & Mobility Assist Dog Esmeralda

"Esme has given me much more self-confidence and is a great companion."

Thank You

**Dog Source – Can Do Canines
 Puppy Raiser – The inmate handlers
 at the Federal Correctional
 Institute at Waseca
 Vet Services- Animal Wellness Center
 Special Thanks To – The Furlough
 Families of Waseca,
 Kim Kriesel and Julie Mach
 See their full story at
www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter**



Can Do Canines is pleased to have NutriSource Super Premium Pet Foods as our dog food sponsor

Volunteer Spotlight – Kevin Florence

In 2009, Kevin Florence of Golden Valley, Minn. learned about Can Do Canines through an introduction by his neighbor, Maureen Pranghofer. Maureen received her assistance dog Ally from our organization. Kevin was impressed with our ability to ‘think outside the box’ to accommodate what Maureen needed. He decided to volunteer. “Seeing the life transforming power of the right dog with the right training matched with the right client provided the inspiration for me to want to get involved.” Kevin says. “After becoming more familiar with Can Do Canines, I met many clients and their dogs that had similar compelling stories that inspired me further.”

And get involved he did! Kevin became a board member in December 2009 and assisted with our Capital Campaign and big move in January 2010 to our new (current) facility. He is a founding member of the Benevolence Committee and helped develop our Ambassador program. Kevin is an enthusiastic speaker at Tails to Tell Tours, leads the Ambassador training sessions and helps in any way he can with events.

He does an exceptional job in securing donations for the organization, and was a Table Host at our 2011 and 2012 Tails of Independence luncheons.

As a new board member in 2010, he said “I look forward to being part of the next chapter in the amazing story of this great organization.” Can Do Canines sincerely thanks Kevin Florence for sharing his passion and talents with us. His enthusiasm and wonderful attitude inspires staff and volunteers alike to do their best. ♥

What about you?

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

- Assistant for event planning
- Puppy Raisers (14-16 months)
- Foster families (2-4 weeks)
- Receptionist
- Marketing Assistant

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



Kevin Florence, Wife Vanette and dogs Romeo and Desiree

Minnesota Volunteer Statistics

38.0% of Minnesota residents volunteer, ranking them fourth among the 50 states.

41.5 volunteer hours per resident.

71.3% do favors for their neighbors.

1.58 million volunteers.

171.8 million hours of service.

\$3.7 billion of service contributed.

The Fetching Ball – A Night of Enchanted Tails

Glitz and glamour were on display at this year’s Fetching Ball. Guests enjoyed games and merriment while they wandered through the magical auction items.

Tails of Can Do Canines, and the amazing things they fetch for their partners, were told. Master of Ceremonies, Jason DeRusha, began our Enchanted Runway as King Arthur with puppy in training, Doug, as Merlin.

Through the generosity of our sponsors, our guests and the hard work of the gala co-chairs, volunteer committee, we were able to raise more than \$72,000 to help us place more assistance dogs with people who need them.

The Fetching Ball Co-Chairs

Nacia Dahl

Beth Kantor

The Fetching Ball Committee

Sharon Bloomquist
Lauren Carbonneau
Becky Groseth
Ashley Hartley
MarySue Krueger
Sue Melrose
Marisa Papsin
Ashley Wancowicz

Michelle Briggs
Jessica Chamberlin
Savannah Gruber
Dee Hollerud
Kathy Madison
Shawnette Miller
Sandy Pidde
Jenny Zechmeister



Hansel and Gretel



Aladdin and his “Magic Carpet”



Jason DeRusha as King Arthur with puppy in training, Doug, as Merlin



Little Red Riding Hood with puppy in training, Fred, the big bad wolf



Some of our awesome volunteers

The Fetching Ball Sponsors

The Zimmerman Group

graphic Resources

InterActive CIRCLE

Welcome New Staff

Chris Asher has joined Can Do Canines as our Kennel Manager/Facility Caretaker. In this new position Chris lives in the apartment at our facility which allows our dogs the security of someone always being around to respond to emergencies.

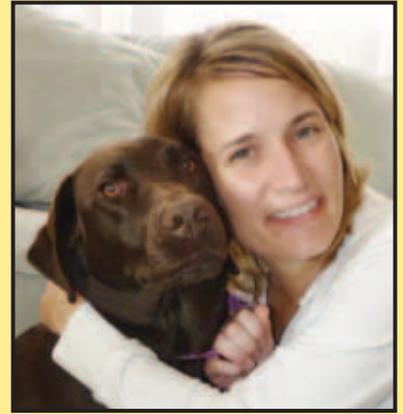
Chris brings with her not only her passion for working with animals but also over ten years of experience working with dogs in various capacities including as an Animal Shelter/Rescue Volunteer and Veterinary Assistant.

For more than 10 years, Chris has fostered homeless dogs, transported them and handled adoptions for a number of rescue organizations. She recently placed her 200th dog into a permanent home for Secondhand Hounds!

When not volunteering or working at Can Do Canines, Chris teaches CPR and First Aid for Humans and Pets for the Red Cross. A good person to have around! ♥



New Teams



Gretchen O'Brien & Diabetes Assist Dog Callie

"I sleep better at night knowing Callie is there for us. Even during the day it is comforting to know she is there."

Thank You

Dog Source – Can Do Canines
Puppy Raiser – Shirley Russo
Vet Services – Animal Wellness Center

Special Thanks To – The inmate handlers at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault,
Kim Kriesel and Julie Mach
 See their full story on page 5



Stacy Sheldon-Wilkinson joined our staff in April 2012 as a kennel attendant. She lives in Robbinsdale with her husband of fourteen years, their son, and two dogs (a German Shepherd and a Beagle). Stacy has worked with dogs for over twenty years and has found it both rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in studio arts from the University of Minnesota. She enjoys doing artwork of animals & has been fortunate to have had several pieces of her work published in magazines including two covers for the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. She also loves photographing dogs and trying to capture their unique personality and beauty. Stacy is thrilled to be a part of the Can Do Canines organization and having the opportunity to work with such amazing dogs and people! ♥



Give to the Max Day a resounding success!



A total of 272 donors opened their hearts to contribute an amazing \$23,838 toward the Can Do Canines' mission. With matching funds a total of \$38,838 was raised.

We want to thank The Harmon Foundation and The Portman Amis Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation for supporting our matching gift program with donations of \$10,000 and \$5,000!

Overall, more than 53,000 people donated \$16.3 million to more than 4,300 Minnesota nonprofits and schools.

Thank you so much for supporting this year's Give to the Max Day--and for everything that you do.



Juliet Heinen & Mobility Assist Dog Rufus

"Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. It means the most in the world to me!"

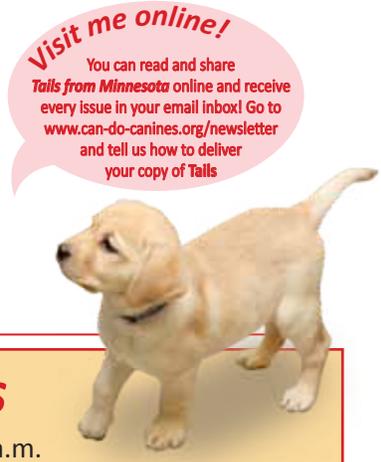
Thank You

Dog Source – Ma "N" Paw Kennels,
Trinita Mestuzzi
Puppy Raiser – The Heffernan Family
 See their full story on page 7



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Are You Signed Up?



Subscribe to our monthly eNews, The Howler, to read real Can Do Canines stories about our graduates, volunteers and latest events. You'll get all the latest Can Do Canines news delivered straight to your inbox!

Sign up at can-do-canines.org

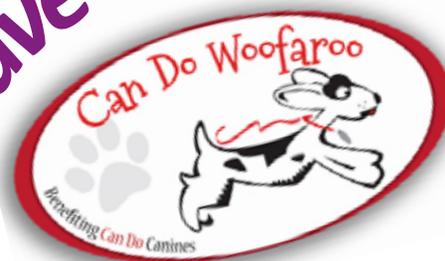
Upcoming Events

- February 23 Tails To Tell Tour, 10:00 a.m.
- March 9 Ambassador Training 10:00 a.m.
For information and to RSVP, contact Laurie at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or ext. 113
- March 21 Tails To Tell Tour, 7:00 p.m.
- April 9 Tails To Tell Tour, 10:00 a.m.
- April 20 Graduation, 1:00 p.m.
- May 16 Tails To Tell Tour, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Save the Date!



The all-new 2013 Can Do Canines Woofaroo will be held Saturday, September 7. Is it on your calendar yet?



Saturday September 7th

Stay Connected With Us

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

find us on | facebook

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

follow us | twitter

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

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

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