Tails

FROM MINNESOTA

For Friends of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

Spring 2009 Vol. 20 Issue 2

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.

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New Staff Member

Shelly Hiemer is a well-known face around Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota. She and her husband, Alan, have volunteered for more than three years on numerous projects and Shelly's Special Skills Dog, "Grace", was one of the first Diabetes Assist Dogs placed by the organization.

We are now pleased to announce that Shelly joined the Hearing and Service Dogs staff in November as the Marketing and Communications Specialist. Her duties include media coverage of events, advertising for Tails to Tell tours and the Heel and Wheel, among many other jobs.

She brings a vast history of volunteer project management, walk-a-thon leadership, and public speaking with her.

Shelly and her husband live in Monticello. They have three grown children and are looking forward to two college graduations, a wedding, and one child moving back to Minnesota, all this spring. In addition, husband Alan is now puppy-raising a chocolate lab named "Joy" for Hearing and Service Dogs.

Please welcome Shelly to the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota team. ♥

Shelly* and *Grace

From the Executive Director
Al Peters & Rosie

Responsibility

It is my goal to make sure that every dollar contributed to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is responsibly spent and directed toward our mission of creating mutually beneficial relationships between people with disabilities and our trained dogs. We work hard to make sure that your contribution is an investment in our mission.

One of the ways we do this is by holding the highest standards of financial and fiscal responsibility. If you look on the lower right-hand corner of this page, you'll see the Charities Review Council logo. Permission to display the logo demonstrates our commitment to responsibly investing your contributions.

Our organization is proud to be a fully accredited member of Assistance Dogs International, our trade association, whose logo is also displayed below. Membership demonstrates that we produce the highest quality assistance dog and meet or exceed all industry-accepted standards. It is assurance for you that your contribution is not only carefully spent, but that it produces an outcome of the highest quality.

You may have heard from us recently with a fundraising mailing or you will hear from us shortly during our phone-a-thon event. You can be confident that any contribution will be carefully and thoughtfully spent on providing assistance dogs to people who need them. Please also consider supporting our work by using the envelope enclosed in the center of this publication or by contributing online at www.hsdm.org.

Celebrating 20 Years!

I'm proud to announce that Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota will hold our first ever fall gala, The Fetching Ball, on November 7, 2009, at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka.

The Fetching Ball
Celebrating 20 Years

This will be a wonderful event! The evening will premier a very special video about our organization and will include a presentation by Karin Winegar, Minnesota native and one of Amazon's top 20 authors of *SAVED: Rescued Animals and the Lives they Transform*. The Fetching Ball will include good food, exciting auction items, some wonderful entertainment and, of course, as many assistance dogs as we can fit in the ballroom! Please mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for this very special evening.

Graduation!

If you haven't been to one of our graduations, you're missing the best event in town! Please join me at our next graduation, which will take place

A previous graduating class

on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at 1 p.m. at Anne Sullivan School in South Minneapolis. At this free event, 13 assistance dogs and their human partners will graduate. When you attend this heartwarming event, bring your camera, your friends and family, and possibly a Kleenex to help with an occasional tear or two. ♥

Al Peters

Volume 20 Issue 2

Tails From Minnesota
Published quarterly for friends and supporters of
Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

Editor/Layout/Design
Alan M. Peters Sue Schuster

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or disabled by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with specially trained dogs.

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

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

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Evan's Furry Angel

Evan Konschak and Dugan

by Julianne Larsen

Evan Konschak of Andover, Minn., is an active 9-year-old boy with autism. Evan's parents, Elliot and Jennifer, say they began noticing a difference between Evan and his peers early on, when Evan was around 18 months old. An initial screening, when Evan was 2, failed to identify any autistic tendencies. "But it seemed that Evan had stopped any intellectual or verbal development," his mother recalls. "He seemed frozen in time as his peers continued to advance."

Elliot and Jen say they continued to pursue other screenings, and eventually Evan was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum. "The final diagnosis was a relief, but it was also devastating," Jen says.

With a special diet and therapy, she says, Evan has progressed but is still behind his peers. "One of our continuing concerns is that Evan does not possess an awareness of danger," she explains. "He'll walk out into the street or wander away from us in a store. Going out in public can be difficult, because we have to gauge his mood." Evan's emotional outbursts can be intense. Crowds and situational changes can overwhelm him.

Elliot and Jen first learned of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota's Autism Assistance Dog program on the Internet. "We felt it would be a great thing for Evan," Jen says. "He has always been drawn to dogs, and commonly refers to family members' dogs as his cousins."

Evan* and *Dugan

Evan was matched with Dugan, a 2-year-old Goldendoodle, in January 2009. Elliot comments, "There truly is something special about the bond between a dog and a boy." Evan was immediately excited to begin taking Dugan out in public and even asked their pastor to pray for Dugan to "earn his cape" so they could go places together.

Not only has Evan taken on the added responsibilities of feeding and brushing his dog, he now has a playmate as well. One of their favorite games is playing ball in the yard — a game that consists of Evan keeping the ball away from Dugan during several trips up and down his ladder and slide.

His parents say Evan seems to take things a bit more in stride since Dugan's arrival and that he is very proud of his dog, even asking people if they want to meet him. "Dugan has also provided peace of mind for us," Elliot says. "We can go to restaurants and stores without worrying about Evan running off. And, because he knows it's his job to hang on to Dugan's harness, Evan enjoys the experience as well." He adds that Dugan's presence motivates Evan to try new events. For example, Evan looks forward to attending karate class because he knows that Dugan can go with him.

The family calls Dugan their furry angel. "We're so happy with the impact that his presence has had already," Jen says. "We look forward to the future with our newest family member." ♥

For information on making other Autism Assist Dog placements possible for those who are waiting, please contact Janet Cobus at 612-729-5986 ext. 153.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Veterinary Services
Life Care Animal Hospital

Puppy Raisers
Mary & Kirk Nesvig

Dog Source
Lorna Behms

Foster Home
Dawn & Brian Turner
Inmates at Faribault Correctional Facility

A Fetching Good Time!

For 20 years, Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota has been fetching freedom, independence, and peace of mind for people with disabilities. And now it is time for us to celebrate 20 years with you, our clients, volunteers and economic partners. Join us for

The Fetching Ball
Celebrating 20 Years

Saturday November 7, 2009
Marriot Hotel Southwest
5801 Opus Parkway
Minnetonka, Minnesota

We are tossing you the ball and hope you will fetch your family, friends, neighbors, and companies to join us for an evening of entertainment, friends, food, fun and lots of dogs!

Our Keynote Speaker will be Minnesota native and author, Karin Winegar. Her poignant book SAVED: *Rescued Animals and the Lives They Transform* is currently in Amazon's Top Twenty Best Sellers in its category. It is a collection of 28 true stories from coast to coast about people healing the damage done to animals and how animals heal suffering humans.

Karin says, "Ours is a reciprocal relationship, we need creatures and the qualities they show us and elicit in us. The human and animal bond keeps us alive in places within ourselves that can wither without love, without humor, without complete and constant acceptance."

Tickets will be on sale soon. Contact Jessica at jnadeau@hsdm.org or 612-729-5986 ext. 152.

Corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities are currently available. Contact Janet Cobus for more information at jcobus@hsdm.org or 612-729-5986 ext. 153.

Winter To The Rescue

Pauline Iverson and Winter

by Amy Sperry

Pauline Iverson and her husband, Mike, live in Austin, Minn. Since 1981, Pauline has been dealing with the complications of type 1 diabetes that, coupled with other health issues, has been very hard to regulate.

Type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin (the hormone that converts glucose in the bloodstream to energy). Pauline deals with symptoms of low blood sugar as well as those of high blood sugar. With no warning, she sometimes experiences symptoms that include being lethargic, confused, shaky and weak. Once she became disoriented while driving. Luckily, a local sheriff saw her and brought her to the hospital. "It can be scary," Pauline admits. "The big problem is there is no warning when I get too low."

Last year she saw a TV program about a dog that could detect the onset of diabetic reactions in people. She was intrigued and started some online research. A friend told her that Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota trains dogs to help people with disabilities, including hypoglycemia issues.

Pauline called for information and a packet arrived the following day. "It was like dominoes – it went really quickly," Pauline said. She interviewed and was paired with Winter, a 2-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever. Pauline says she was amazed at the speed of the whole process.

Winter detects oncoming episodes of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) by smelling Pauline's breath. Winter will assertively nudge and rub her, alerting Pauline that her blood sugar is low. That has enabled Pauline to take action that helps keep her blood sugar from experiencing major swings.

Pauline and *Winter*

Pauline recalled that once, while she was at work and talking with her boss, Winter enthusiastically tried getting her attention. Because Pauline's blood sugar was dropping, at first she didn't notice what Winter was trying to tell her. Winter persisted, and Pauline checked her blood-sugar level. After eating some sugar, her levels began to return to normal. It wasn't until then that Winter finally relaxed, lying quietly at her feet.

At home, if Pauline knows she needs sugar, she tells Winter to fetch a bottle of Mountain Dew. If Pauline is having trouble and needs help, she tells Winter, "Go get Mike." Winter will then prompt Mike to come to Pauline's assistance.

Pauline says she loves her job at Cardinal Minnesota, which she's had for 13 years. She works with four women who have disabilities, cooking for them, passing out their medicine and transporting them to activities. Pauline says her clients love that Winter comes to work with her. Winter helps Pauline so that she can help others!
Mike says, "It's a relief to know that Winter is with Pauline. I am no longer on edge wondering if Pauline is OK. Winter's presence and skills give both Pauline and me peace of mind."

If you think you could benefit from a Service Dog, Pauline says, "Go for it! Check out Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota and see what a dog can do for you. Find out how a Service Dog can change your life. I can't thank Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota enough for Winter. She has made such a positive impact on my life." ♥

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota enjoys a long and rewarding relationship with many area animal shelters and humane societies. By selecting special dogs from shelters we are giving them and their partners a new lease on life. Please join us by supporting the vital work of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota with your generous donation of time, talent or treasure. Visit our website at www.hsdm.org to see how you can help.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Animal Humane Society - Woodbury

Veterinary Services
South Hyland Veterinary Hospital

Puppy Raisers
Shirley & Santo Russo

Field Trainer
Tekla Viker

Foster Home
Inmates at Faribault Correctional Facility

Special Service
Lions District 5M1 for providing a fenced yard for Winter

New Staff Member

Dylan Evans recently joined Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota as an Administrative Assistant. He graduated from St. Olaf College in May. He now assists the training staff and provides technical support.

Dylan grew up in Oregon and currently resides in the Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis. He enjoys cooking, singing, working on computers, mathematical puzzles, chemistry, and arguing about philosophy. Welcome, Dylan! ♥

www.hsdm.org

Thank You!—**Thank You!**—*Thank You!*—**Thank you!**—*Thank You!*—**Thank You!**—Thank You!

Many thanks to the wonderful veterinary clinics across Minnesota that donate services to help us train more dogs for those who need them. Special thanks go to the following clinics, veterinarians and organizations that each made special contributions in veterinary services.

❤ ***Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital*** ❤

❤ ***Veterinary Surgical Specialists*** ❤

❤ Arden Shoreview Animal Hospital ❤

❤ Life Care Animal Hospital ❤

❤ Maryland Ave. Pet Hospital ❤ Valley View Pet Hospital ❤

❤ VCA Cedar Pet Clinic ❤ Dr. Dennis Olivero ❤ Dr. Dan Feeney ❤

Please support these businesses with your patronage.

Thank you!—THANK YOU!—**THANK YOU!**—*Thank You!*—**Thank you!**—***Thank You!***—*Thank You!*

Watch Those Lions ROAR!

On March 18, 2009, the Lions District Governors elect from Lions Multiple District 5M visited Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota for a series of presentations, a facilities tour and a delicious lunch. Lions provide about 15% of our annual income, allowing us to continue to train and place assistance dogs with those waiting for service. Pictured are the Governors and their spouses surrounding graduate Ken Stenzel and Service Assist Dog, Calvin, after their demonstration.❤

A New Home

We are pleased to announce that Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota has signed a purchase agreement on a four-acre property in New Hope, Minnesota that includes a twenty-one thousand square foot industrial building. If all goes well, we will own the property prior to July 1, 2009.

The new property will provide greatly increased office space and training space, an isolation kennel to allow us to continue adopting shelter dogs and new indoor-outdoor kennel runs to house up to forty dogs-in-training. In addition, a large outdoor exercise area will be available for the dogs in training.

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota will be raising money in a separate capital campaign to pay for the property and to make the improvements needed to make it our home. Watch for more details! ❤

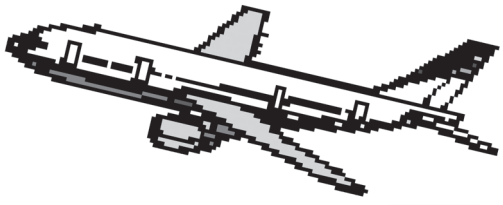
Pictured left—Our new home!

Help Us Soar!

We would like to attend the Assistance Dogs International trainers conference in Colorado in October 2009 and the Assistance Dogs International convention in Toronto in May 2010. Educating and enlightening our staff to the developments in our industry is critical to producing more and better assistance dogs for those who need them.

Generous individuals have provided tickets to help get us there on many occasions in the past. Can you help this time? Donations can be in the form of airline tickets, frequent flyer coupons or monetary contributions to help with hotel and conference fees.

Call Al Peters at 612-729-5986, ext 116, or 612-729-5914 tty. Thanks! ❤



Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is supported by many agencies, companies, and individuals. A very special thanks to you all! The following contributions were received in our office by March 31, 2009. Contributions received by June 30, 2009 will be included in the Summer 2009 issue of Tails From Minnesota.

$5,000 or more

American Enterprise Investment Services
Bill Balaban - B&J Association of California
Bruce and Deb Thomas Foundation
Wright Hennepin Elec. Trust Operation Round-Up

$2,500 to $4,999

Greater Twin Cities United Way
Hamel Lions
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$1,000 to $2,499

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$100 to $499

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Askov Area Lions
Babbitt Lions
Barnesville Thursday Night Lions
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Becker Lions
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Bemidji Lions
Bird Island Lions
Blackduck Lions
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Brooklyn Center Lions
Brooklyn Park Lady Lions
Brooklyn Park Lions
Joan Brown
Buffalo Lake Lions
Buffalo Lions
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Delano Lions
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Sabin Lioness
Sabin Lions
Sandstone Quarry Lions
Sartell Lions
Sauk Centre Lions
Sauk Rapids Lions
Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions
Dorene Scriven
George Shabatura
Sobieski Lions
South Shore Lions
Tonya Spanier
Spicer Sunrise Lions
Spring Lake Park Lions
St Anthony Village Lions
St Augusta Lions
St Augusta Post No 621
St Hilaire Lions
St Joseph Y2K Lions
St Louis Park Lions
St Martin Lions
St Stephen Lions
Stacy Lions
Staples '93 Lions
Swanville Lions
The Caridad Corporation
The Professional Petsitters of MN
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Twin Valley Lions
Two Harbors Lions
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Patty Wirz

Honorariums

Donated by	In Honor Of
Tina Beumer	Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Marilyn Booth	Dianne Astry's Birthday
Rodney Carter	Sue Carter's Birthday
Fletcher Chambers	Holly
Barbara & Coy Chelgren	Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Bonnie Genin	"Dog-E-Dog's" 1st Birthday!
Steven & Jill Gottlieb	Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Nancy Jahnke	Alicia Blank
Katie Johnson	Carter Schaal
Margaret & John Johnson	Superior Great "Laker"
Sharon Kurtz	"Jack"
Georgie McCormick	Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Catherine & Michael McGowan	Mr. Monte
Daniel & Kristi Nelson	Capri Chelgren's Birthday
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Sharon & Jerry Rutter	Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Tonya Spanier	"Phalen"
Amy & Timothy Stensrud	Capri Chelgren's Birthday
Hunter von Tersch	Hunter von Tersch's Birthday Party
David Wilson	Hunter von Tersch Pohrer

In Kind

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Martha Anderson
Sherry Bradley
Broadway Veterinary Hospital
Laurie Bromwich - Just for Paws
Mary Budge
Burnsville Animal Clinic
Nancy & Dick Carlson
Cascade Animal Center
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital
Monica & Kelly Cronk
Eagan Pet Clinic
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Kevin McDonald
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Mary Rhatigan - Kaleidoscope Graphics
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Sheri Schoenberger
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St Augusta Lions
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Tom & Karin Toston - Cross Creek Kennel
VCA Cedar Animal Hospital
Tracy Vener
Veterinary Surgical Specialists
Welna Ace Hardware
Tracy Wheatcraft
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Jay M. Bozicevich
Elizabeth Brietkrietz-Miller
Laura Campbell
Kathleen Carlson
Zenobia Carlton
Vicki Chouinard
Charles Crone
Nora Hartman
James Hovanetz Jr
Lynne Hvidsten
Marta Jacobsen
Roselyn Kabes
Nancy Karth
Tracy Landowski Ulland
James Langner
Becky Lyon
Lisa Marie Pasquale
Judith Messner
Elizabeth Otto
Carol Pawlicki
Tam Strand
Dawn Strubel
Missy Susag
Michael Swanson
Steve Szurek
Karon Wendt
Anonymous

up to $100

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Adams Lions
Mary Alexander
Almelund Lions
Holly Anderson
Mary Anderson
Anoka County 5 Star Lions
Dianne Astry
Austin Evening Lions
Austin Morning Lions
Balaton Lions
Jamie Becker-Finn
Susan Beumer
Big Lake Lions
Jo Ann & Barry Birkholz
Daniel Boe
Nan & Gary Fischler Booth
Marilyn Booth
Brandon Lions
Brownsville Lions
Hannah Brudney
Quin Brudney
Julia Buege Freeman
Tim Burke
Buy The Change
Byron Lions
Caledonia Lions
Cambridge Lions
Camden Lions
Cannon Falls Lions
Kay Carlson
Susan & Rodney Carter
Richard Cash
Cedar-East Bethel Lions
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Chatfield Lions
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Clarissa Lions
Columbus Lioness
Community Shares of MN - Thomson West
Coon Rapids Lioness
Coon Rapids Lions
Coon Rapids Northstar Lions
Karen A. Cox
C. Lynn & Gerald Cox
Julie & Thomas Dablow
Linda & Lyle Dallman
Harold Danley
Danube Lions
Dawn to Dusk Lions
Dilworth Loco Ladies Lions
Denise Dobrzenski
Dodge Center Lions
Kathleen & Steven Dougherty
Duelm Area Lions
Marie Ehrenberg
Ellie Mae & Michael Estabrooks
Patricia Faustgen
Grace Fenne
Britt Finstad Hogan
Laura Fischer
Debra Fisher
Forada Lions
Marcia Fritzmeier
Sandra Fuller
Janet Galvin
Bonnie Genin
Glyndon Lions
Steven & Jill Gottlieb
Grand Meadow Lions
Becky Groseth
Ham Lake Lions
Cheri Hanson
Happy Tails Pet Sitting Service, Inc.
Harmony Lions
Hawley Lions
Lori Hawthorne
Hayfield Lions
Hector Lioness
Shelly Hiemer
Gary & Harriet Hodne
Virginia Hoffman
Honeywell Hometown Solutions
Amy & Larry Hotchkiss
Houston Lions
ING
Phyllis Jacobs
Nancy Jahnke
Jasper Lions
Jasper Quarry Lions
Jeffers Community Lions
Roger Jensen
Margaret & John Johnson
Marge & Jack Johnson
Katie Johnson
Brenda Johnson
David Johnson
Paula & Gene Johnson
Donna Johnson
Rhonda Jones Schaefer
Don & Barb Juliar
Debra Kaliszewski
Karlstad Lions
Kasson Mantroville Lions
Dynette Kendall
Kensington Lions
Kenyon Lions
Lisa Knazan
Sandra Koch
Virginia Kukkola
Lake City Lions
Lake Minnetonka Pet Sitters
Karen Lampi
Doris Lemanski
Brook Lemm-Tabor
Helen Leqve
Lewiston Lions
Dennis Litfin
Mary Longley
Ruben & Geraldine Lopez
Lucan Lions
Liz Lucast
Luverne 92 Lions
Mabel Lions
Marshall Lions
Rachel & Chloe Mathre
Georgie McCormick
Steve Melberg
Jennifer Mertes
Milan Lions
Milroy Lions
Tamie Minami
Stacey Modahl
Moonlight Lions
Moorhead Midday
Central Lions
Virginia Morrow
Daniel & Kristi Nelson
William Nelson
Kathryn & Christopher Nelson
Newfolden Lions
Barbara Nichols
Tina Nordsving
North Branch Lioness
Keri Sue O'Brien
Nancy Olsen
Osakis Lions
Osseo Maple Grove Knights of Columbus
Pelican Rapids Lions
Jilene Perreten
Pet Buddy Plus
Pine River Lions
Pipestone Lions
Plainview Lions
Preston Lions
Prudential Foundation
Janice & Ronald Purcell
Sara Ramaker
Elizabeth Reiser
Susan Rhenigans
Richville Lions
Rochester Host Lions
Sharon & Jerry Rutter
Santiago Lions
Kateri Schafer
Janell Schneider
Alice Schriefels
Amy Score
Collin Shaughnessy
Jane Schamber
Sherburn Lions
Sandra Simonson
Robert & Jacqueline Singer
Melissa Smith
Melissa Sonnenberg
Clare Sorman
Dee Spilleth
Spring Grove United Fund, Inc
Spring Lake Park Lioness
St Charles Lions
St Francis Lioness
St Michael Lions
St Paul East Side Lions
St Rosa Lions
Starbuck Lions
Joseph & Helen Stark
Sharon Steinbrecher
Amy & Timothy Stensrud
Stephen Lions
Stewartville Lioness
Stewartville Lions
Stewartville Morning Lions
Lucille Sukalo
The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts
Tracy Lions
Dawn Turner
Tyler Lions
Ulen Lions
UnitedWay
Vesta Lions
David & Amy Vietzke
James & Janet Vroman
Wachovia Foundation Matching Gifts
Eleanor Wagner
James Walters
Wanamingo Lions
Len Washko
Elizabeth Weiser
Wendell Lions
Rhondi & Steve West
Wheaton Lions
David & Cathi - Bear Track Outfitting Company Williams
David Wilson
Winona Lions
Patricia Wirz
James Youngquist
Allan, Polly & "Indy" Zabel
Zumbro Falls Lions

Puppyraisers

The Abrahamson family	Capri
Diana Adamson & Paul Oberhaus	Baker
The Alexander family	Eli
Jayson & Kathryn Alexander	Quincy
Dianne & Doug Astry	Portia
Bill Beddie & Kathy Grant	Midas
Mary Bente	Yogi
Meg Brudney	Gabby
Julie & Darell Carlblom	Kashi
Laurie Carlson	Skip
Caylin Crawford	Brewster
Sue Crone	Winnie
Jan & John Day	Louie
Beth & Donald Detloff	Seymour
The Ehlert family	Brinks & Dinah
Mike Ferber & Betty Otto	Teddy
Leslie Flowers & Scott McClure	Remy & Viggo
Christina Giese & Erica Miller	Lily
The Grabou family	Drake
The Grout family	Summer
Stephen & Becky Hallan	Hazel
Jenniefer Halverson	Gemini
The Heffernan family	Griffon & Tagg
Stephanie Helgerson	Amos
The Herberg family	Keetah
Al & Shelly Hiemer	Joy
The Holicky family	Dixie
The Irwin family	Izzy
Kim Kriesel	Daisy & Violet
The McCloskey Henry family	Ebony
Michele & Shawn McLane	Reese
The Merkel family	Reena
The Morlock family	Winston
Janie & Shauna Mullikin	Fisher
Mary Nelson	Waylon
Michelle & Shay Nelson	Weaver
Mary & Kirk Nesvig	Waldo
Cathy & Jim Newville	Lucy
Laska Parrow	Rodney
Anna & Ramsey Peterson	Brody
Shirley & Santo Russo	Juno
Dora & Howard Schroeder	Gander & Hamel
The Schwartz family	Rose
The Scott family	Yukon
Stephanie & Seth Scott	Delta
The Sears family	Elmer
Dave & Marge Skeie	Wanda
Melissa Sorenson	Jasper
The Thielke family	Memphis
Allie Thomson	Will
Sandy & Kevin Vance	Nigel
The Williams Higgins family	Casper
Monica Worts Cronk	McPhee
Patty Van Landschoot	Sammie & Hildie
The Willms family	Zoe
The Young family	Lars
The Zwack family	Wilma

Memorials

Donated by	In Memory Of
Linda & Andrew Becher	"Goldie"
Richard & Josephine Beitzel	In loving memory of Jack Galvin
Tim Burke	Molly George
Richard Cash	"Sully" and "Cody"
Vicki & Lou Chouinard	"Nellie"
Dr. James & Roberta Craig	Winnie Craig
Terry Donovan	"China"
Marcia Fritzmeier	Joannie Foley
Janet Galvin	In loving memory of Jack Galvin
Bonnie Genin	Darla's Mother In Law
Bonnie Genin	George Sharon
Bonnie Genin	Harold Van De Streek
Bonnie Genin	Steve's Dad
Nancy Hackett	Eleanor O. Cook
Cheri Hanson	"Jazzy"
John & Jennifer Howe	"Max" and "Lady"
Donna Johnson	"Edgar"
Marge & Jack Johnson	David Griffith
Dynette Kendall	Eleanor O Cook
Dennis Litfin	"Chubby" the king Chow Chow
Liz Lucast	David Russell Ege
Kay & Gordon Meier	Greg Meier
Jennifer Mertes	"Maggie"
Deb Molin	"Dakota" Clepper, "Annie" Johnson, "Snickers" Wold
Deb Molin	"Nikki" Tetzloff, "Toby" Finch, "Brandi" Novosel
Barbara Nichols	Eleanor O. Cook
Alice Schriefels	Wayne Schriefels
Dorene Scriven	"Sadie"
Melissa Sonnenberg	Chloe Walczak
Dee Spilleth	"Arthur"
Lucille Sukalo	John Sukalo and "Honey"
Allan, Polly & "Indy" Zabel	Eleanor Cook

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

Would you like to know the joy of changing a person's life for the better? You can do it!

We are looking for dedicated individuals to raise puppies and prepare them for final training. These dogs become the arms, legs or ears for a person with disabilities. No experience necessary! You will know the joy of changing a person's life for the better — and the experience will change your life, too. Also needed are permanent homes for "career change" dogs and puppies that can't become assistance dogs. For more information contact Laurie Carlson at 612-729-5986 ext. 113. ❤

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

by Janet Cobus

Take Me Out to the Ball Game for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

Saint Paul Saints Baseball Game
Tuesday, June 9 -7:05 pm game vs. Shreveport Bossier Captains
$15 per ticket includes: General Admission, Hot Dog and Soda, Saints Baseball Cap. $5.00 of each ticket benefits our programs. Order tickets online at www.saintsgroups.com and use password 'hsdm' or order tickets by phone at 651-644-6659.

Phone-A-Thon Callers Needed

Our annual Phon-A-Thon has a goal to raise more than $25,000 this year.

That is enough to pay for the cost to train and place one assistance dog. Won't you help? Call or email Laurie Carlson (lcarlson@hsdm.org or 612-729-5986 Ext, 113) to volunteer for the following dates:
May 17-20 or May 31-June 3
Shift Hours:
Sunday – 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Do It Yourself Fundraising -

Try these projects on your own with our "How To Kits" to raise money in your neighborhood for our programs: "It's For The Dogs" – Fundraising Kits; Applebee's Fundraising Breakfast; "Bow Wow Pancake Breakfast"; Neighborhood Garage Sale Kit. Visit our website (www.hsdm.org) to download the "How To Kits" for each of these projects or contact Janet Cobus to receive a kit by mail.

Benefit Birthday Parties

Two wonderful children sacrificed their birthday gifts by asking instead for donations of cash or items for our dogs at their birthday parties. Hunter Von Tersch raised $181 and Capri Chelgren raised $200 for her second time! If you would like to do the same, contact Janet for ideas! It is a great way to teach your children about giving back!

Dunn Brothers Roast Masters Rewards

Now you can help us just by drinking coffee! Simply contact Jessica Nadeau (jnadeau@hsdm.org or 612-729-5986, Ext 152) to receive a Community Giving Roastmaster Rewards card. Use it at any Dunn Bros Coffee shop and we will receive 10% back on your purchases. Easy!

Name-A-Puppy

Pepper

In 2007 "Pepper" was named by Chipotle restaurants and he will be graduating on May 16th! Hamel Lions Club raised $3,000 and named their puppy, what else…"Hamel"! And Spring Lake Park High School recently raised $1,000, name to be announced. Join in the fun by signing up to Name-A-Puppy entering our training program. Puppies are waiting!

Minnesota Renaissance Festival Is Coming…

We need your help to recruit more than 100 volunteers to work the Pet Gate at RenFest this year. If you can volunteer and are a detail person, please consider joining Patty Wirz to get this important project under way.

Contact Janet Cobus for more information at jcobus@hsdm.org or 612-729-5986 ext. 153 or check our web site for additional information at www.hsdm.org. ♥

Leave A Legacy

Three Things to Consider Before Including a Charity in Your Will

by Mike Branch, CFP®

Making a planned gift through your will can be a generous and effective way to give back to the community. However, there are a few things to keep in mind.

First, wills require probate and are a matter of public record. Probate can be expensive and time-consuming and result in a lack of privacy. In Minnesota, probate takes a minimum of four months. It can take up to 18 months — or more, if the will is contested.

Second, beneficiary designations carry more legal weight than your will. For example, if you want part of your estate to go to charity upon your death, but your IRA lists your children as 100-percent beneficiaries of your IRA, then 100 percent of those assets will go to the listed beneficiaries, not to your favorite organization — even if your will states otherwise.

Third, rather than making a planned gift via your will, it may be easier, less expensive and more tax-efficient to include your favorite charity as a beneficiary on your IRA or retirement plan. That way, 100 percent of your gift passes to the charity, free of income tax and without probate. If the donation is made via your will, it may create a taxable event — resulting in your favorite organization splitting your gift with the IRS.

Making a planned gift can have significant tax and other consequences. Consult a financial advisor, attorney or other qualified professional before making this important decision. Knowing your options and using them effectively will allow you to make the most of your charitable gifts in the future. For more information, contact Janet Cobus, Development Director, at 612-729-5986, Extension 153. ♥

Mike Branch is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ with Focus Financial. He can be contacted at mpbranch@focusfinancial.com 651-379-3935

A Changed Life

Janice Howe and Pepper

by Laurie Carlson

Janice Howe of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., is an active, self-sufficient person. Yet the challenges of living with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (a progressive neurological disorder) make everyday tasks difficult. The disease deteriorates nerve endings so that muscles do not work as they should, affecting balance and strength. "It makes me clumsy and I drop things often," Janice explains.

When Janice's husband of 47 years passed away in 2007, she says, it was very hard for her to adjust to living alone. "I'm active at church and with family and friends," she says, "but it was difficult coming home to an empty house."

Janice says she thought about getting a dog for companionship and had narrowed her choices to four small breeds. However, she was concerned that a small dog might trip her while underfoot. In fall 2008, Janice and her daughter attended the Ability Expo in Minneapolis, where they discovered the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota booth. There sat an adorable Labradoodle puppy. "What impressed me most was that the puppy was so well-behaved for its age and already knew obedience commands," Janice says.

She went home and looked up Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota's web site. Janice then attended a Tails to Tell tour of the facility. "I was very impressed by the stories of graduate teams and the dogs that were there in training," she says. "I was excited at the prospect of having a Service Dog of my own." After Janice applied, it didn't take long to pair her with Pepper, a 16-month-old Standard Poodle.

Janice and *Pepper*

From the beginning of training, Janice says she was impressed with what Pepper already knew. "I come from a long line of unruly pet dogs, so to have Pepper work for me right from the start was impressive," she says. "It only took a few days to feel like Pepper truly belonged." Pepper worked with every type of equipment Janice uses — two arm crutches, a walker and a scooter — to become familiar with how to help her in each situation.

An unexpected bonus came during the training process. Instead of needing two arm crutches, Janice found that she needed to use only one arm crutch — with Pepper on the other side, he would tug just enough for her to keep her balance.

Pepper is also trained to retrieve items, pick up things she drops, and tug open doors. Most importantly, he enthusiastically retrieves an emergency phone and brings it to her on command.

Janice says she feels the emotional impact of having Pepper. "I feel better about myself and my life in general," she explains. "It helps me with daily challenges and staying active."

When asked if she would like to say something to supporters, Janice smiled and exclaimed, "Send money!" She then added, "This service is needed so much. There are many people who could really use these dogs. Pepper has changed my life and made it better. Thank you." ♥

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota has a unique partnership with the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault. Since 2005, volunteers have been working hard to teach offenders how to give dogs the skills needed to become successful Service Dogs. The offenders provide the dogs with more attention than they could get elsewhere while the offenders learn new skills and perform a restorative justice project for the community. To learn more, visit our website at www.hsdm.org.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Joy Hahn

Puppy Raisers
Sandy & Kevin Vance

Foster Home
Inmates at Faribault Correctional Facility

Award Ceremony

Pictured left to right is Marty Barnum, Al Franken and Al Peters with Service Dog trainee, A.J., on March 4, 2009 at the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda during an award ceremony held by the Commission for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. Marty Barnum received the Lifetime Achievement and Leadership Award and Al Franken received the Award for Most Accessible Campaign of 2008. ♥

A Reason to be Proud!

Volunteering In America recently reported that Minneapolis–St. Paul is *again* ranked No. 1 in the nation; it has the **highest volunteer rate in the country: 39.3 percent!** Doesn't it make you feel proud?

We are fortunate to live in a great part of the country with many wonderful and generous people. We are particularly grateful for more than 200 dedicated volunteers who regularly join in our work. Thank you all! ♥

More Condfidence

Geri Gair-Lopez and Ike

by Laurie Carlson

Geri Gair-Lopez of Minneapolis, Minn., has lived with severe hearing loss since she contracted measles at age 4. She says that, although she managed it in the past, there are many frustrations in missing sounds around the house — especially important sounds, such as a smoke alarm.

A friendly, outgoing person who enjoys company, Geri says that when people came to her door to visit, she often could not hear their knock. They would give up and leave — a wasted trip. Geri also manages the apartment building where she lives, so it is important for her to be available for tenants.

She and her husband, Ruben, have been long-time supporters of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, and she finally decided that perhaps a Hearing Dog could help her, too. When she applied for a Hearing Dog, she stated, "Not only will a dog help me with sounds, but it will be a partner and a very good friend."

Geri and *Ike*

Ike, a friendly 2-year-old Welsh Pembroke Corgi, was donated to the program and placed with Geri in late summer of 2008. Training began immediately, and Ike caught on quickly to the training process. Geri says Ike's favorite sound to practice was the name call. Ruben would say, "Find Geri," and Ike would charge off to bring Geri to him. During filming for his certification, he alerted not only Geri, but also the person filming. A herding dog, Ike wanted to round everybody up!

Geri had never had a dog before. "It's like having a child," she says. "It's very therapeutic and helps me a lot. When I come home, I can take my hearing aids out and not worry about missing any important sounds."

Remember the problem she had missing people who knocked at the door? Now Ike alerts her each and every time. "Now that he's here I feel more confident that I won't miss anything," Geri says.

The couple also has two cats, Jack and Starla. Ike and Jack have become best friends who play frequently. Starla, however, prefers to watch from a distance, and Ike respects her wishes. Ike also has dog buddies at the local dog park.

Geri advises others thinking of applying for a dog: "Don't mind the wait, if there is any. They will find the best dog for you. The bond is most important. Having Ike has made me feel more relaxed and confident. I am speechless at all that Ike has given back to me." ♥

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, Contact Laurie Carlson at 612-729-5986 ext. 113.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Sherri Ullrich

Veterinary Services
Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital

Foster Home
Laurie Carlson

Field Trainer
Joan Lisi McCoy

Obedience
K9 Campus, Brooklyn Park

Volunteer Spotlight

by Laurie Carlson

Anne and Dale Mackereth began volunteering for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota in November 1993, after they saw an ad for volunteers in the Minneapolis paper.

Their first assignment was helping to staff a booth at the Minneapolis Kennel Club, and they have been busy helping ever since! Not only do they help to staff our booth at different shows, they've stuffed envelopes at fundraising mailings and worked the Heel and Wheel dog walk every year.

In addition, each volunteers separately for the organization. Anne has made numerous phone calls during our annual phone-a-thon fundraiser and has been involved in other special projects. Dale took on the task of designing, making and installing the wood picture railings in our meeting room. Once they were finished, we could proudly display all of our graduate team photos for visitors to see.

Volunteers Dale & Anne Mackereth have two dogs of their own: Tinker (with Dale) and Rufus (with Anne).

We are truly grateful to Anne and Dale for sharing their time and talents with Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota. Thank you! ♥

What about you?

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

- Puppy raisers (14 to 16 month commitment)
- Short-term dog foster home (2 to 4 weeks)
- Breeder host family – dog lives with you while having puppies for the organization; you get to keep the dog after she is retired (approximately two to three years).
- Heel and Wheel committee – join us in planning this popular event. Lots of different areas to volunteer your time and talents.
- Special events fundraising committee – help think up new ideas for raising funds!
- Twenty year anniversary committee – help plan our big gala this fall.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Laurie Carlson, for more details in volunteer opportunities at lcarlson@hsdm.org or 612-729-5986 ext. 113.

Such A Blessing

Ron Wolff and Freckles

by Rowena Hartman

Ron Wolff, who lives in Forest Lake, Minn., with his wife, Barbara, has been living with profound hearing loss for 12 years. In planning for a time when Ron would no longer be able to hear at all, the couple began studying American Sign Language to communicate. "That didn't help when Barbara was out of town on business and unavailable to alert me to callers, visitors, or emergency situations," Ron says. Ron was also concerned about oversleeping, and Barbara was concerned about his general well-being during her absences.

A board member of Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, Sara Braziller, worked with Barbara. Sara encouraged the couple to look into applying for a Hearing Dog. Ron needed a little convincing that a Hearing Dog was the solution to their problems. The program's executive director, Al Peters, laid out the advantages. After an exchange of letters, a completed application and a home interview, Ron and Barb welcomed Freckles, a 2-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix, into their home.

A medium-sized dog, Freckles joins the Wolffs on their frequent travels in motels, a boat, or their RV. Her good nature makes her equally well-suited to the couple's eight grandchildren. At a family gathering, a toddler used Freckles to pull herself to her feet, then hung on to the dog as Freckles checked out the backyard wildlife.

Ron has high praise for field trainer, Joanne Nichols, and the feeling is mutual. Joanne says that Ron always did his homework and that training the team was lots of fun. The easiest task for Freckles was waking Ron in response to the alarm clock. The most challenging part for Freckles was alerting Ron to the presence of an intruder by running to him, because her natural instinct was to stay put and keep an eye on the interloper.

Ron* and *Freckles

Since Freckles' arrival, Ron, who was always an early riser, gets up at 4:15 a.m. and takes Freckles for a 2-mile walk before breakfast. He then takes her to work, where she has become the company mascot. They also have a nighttime routine: because Ron precedes Barb to bed, Freckles curl ups on the bed with him until Barb arrives; then she retires to her bedside crate until morning.

Ron, always an active outdoorsman, has become even more active since Freckles' arrival. "We're both sleeping a lot better these days, knowing that Freckles is on duty," he says. "We can't say enough good things about her."

Ron has also become an unofficial ambassador for Hearing and Service Dogs. In addition to speaking to grade-school children about the use of assistance dogs, he has been approached in public by people who wonder if they might benefit from a dog. His advice? "Give it a shot," he says. "You don't know what you're missing! It's been such a blessing." ♥

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota uses a variety of mixed breed and purebred dogs in our training. We have had great success with donated dogs, like Freckles, and are thankful for breeders, trainers, and foster families who support our work. To learn more about donating a dog or puppy, visit our website at www.hsdm.org.

THOSE WHO MADE THIS PLACEMENT POSSIBLE

Dog Source
Lucky Dog Boarding & Training Center

Foster Home
Tracy Schuppel Nelson & Family

Field Trainer
Joanne Nichols

Odedience
Total Recall School for Dogs

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
2537 25th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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

Our 20th Anniversary!

GO GREEN!

In an effort to be good citizens, and better meet the needs of our readers, we will now offer you a choice: Receive ***Tails From Minnesota*** in the current paper format, OR receive an email with a link to ***Tails From Minnesota*** that you can quickly download.

Send an email to Tom at trehbein@hsdm.org with a request and you will hear from us electronically next time instead.

Wish List

Dog Supplies
- ✓ Chuck-its (for clients to toss tennis balls)
- ✓ Medium new metal dog bowls
- ✓ **Dog treats!!** (Pupperoni, small Milkbone)
- ✓ **Frontline** Plus
- ✓ Plastic "Playschool" benches and table
- ✓ **Kongs, Nylabones (large & puppy-size), tennis balls**
- ✓ Dog leashes, 6' narrow width cotton
- ✓ Donated veterinary or grooming services
- ✓ Gentle Leaders & Haltis, sizes M & L
- ✓ Purebred puppies
- ✓ New dog grooming supplies
- ✓ Kitty Litter
- ✓ 5/8" adjustable 10"-16" collars
- ✓ Plastic dog crates (large and extra large)

Electronics
- ✓ **LCD computer monitors, 17" or larger**
- ✓ Palm Treo Smartphone for Verizon
- ✓ **Home Theater** system for meeting room
- ✓ **Mac G4 Computers, laptop**
- ✓ LCD projector
- ✓ **7'+ wide portable video screen**
- ✓ Camcorder, Digital
- ✓ Adobe InDesign CS2, Illustrator, Photoshop, for Mac

Automotive
- ✓ Small wagon/hatch-back for delivering dogs
- ✓ Full size utility van or mini Van
- ✓ Automotive GPS devices
- ✓ Auto repair/maintenance

Miscellaneous
- ✓ 8-1/2 x 11 copy paper
- ✓ Newer wheelchairs, manual Quickie-type
- ✓ 1st-class stamps
- ✓ Bleach, Formula 409 cleaner
- ✓ Gift cards for gasoline, pet supply stores, home improvement stores, office supply stores,

Building Materials
- ✓ Sheet rock
- ✓ Roof-top HVAC units
- ✓ Fiberglass exterior doors and metal industrial doors
- ✓ Commercial plumbing fixtures
- ✓ Skylights or commercial thermo pane windows
- ✓ Commercial tile floor covering
- ✓ Commercial dog kennels
- ✓ Chain link fencing- 4' and 8'

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

Upcoming Events

May 16	**Graduation, Anne Sullivan School, 1:00 p.m.**
June 20	***Tails To Tell* tour, 10:00 a.m.**
July 6-10	**Lions International Convention, Minneapolis**
September 26	**Heel & Wheel Walk, Lake Phalen, St. Paul**
November 7	***The Fetching Ball,* 20th Anniversary Gala, Minneapolis Marriot SW (Minnetonka)**
November 14	**Graduation. Location TBA**

*** All *Tails to Tell* tours take place at our facility, located at 2537 25th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.**
Please call our office at 612-729-5986 or 612-729-5914 (tty) to reserve a spot.

Volunteer Recognition Celebration!

The Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration was held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Midland Hills Country Club. It was well attended, included a great meal and was enjoyed by all. A BIG thank you to all of our volunteers who shared their time and talent with us in 2009.

Special Recognition Award recipient, Sandy Pidde with staff member Janet Cobus.

Puppy Raisers of the Year, Pat, DeeDee and Sam Heffernan. (not pictured, Katherine Heffernan)

Volunteer of the Year, Leslie Flowers & "Viggo" with staff member Laurie Carlson.

(pictures courtesy of Lou Michaels)