After a debilitating accident Mark struggles with dropping crucial items.

Because of you, he lives a more independent life!
Mark Hawkins’ life changed when he was rear ended at a stop-light a few years ago. Mark was sandwiched between two vehicles resulting in severe damage to his neck vertebrae, nerves, tendons and ligaments. He’s tried rehabilitation, physical therapy, shots and surgery with no change to the physical range of motion of his head and neck; his head is tilted slightly backwards and he cannot swivel his head in any direction.

Mark struggles with not having the ability to see straight down in front of him as well as dealing with migraines and severe vertigo. Mark also has challenges with bending over to pick up and retrieve dropped items like car keys or taking laundry out of the dryer, because it almost always brings on nausea and his severe vertigo.

After feeling discouraged while researching assistance dog organizations and finding out how expensive they can be, Mark decided to stop looking for a while until he drove past Can Do Canines. That’s when he decided to give it another shot.

Enter the handsome two-year-old Black Labrador Retriever - Uno, now affectionately referred to as “Uno James.” One of Uno James’ biggest jobs is to retrieve Mark’s phone if it’s misplaced or dropped on the ground, so that he can contact the nurse or help line if he’s fallen. Mark says, “Having Uno James be able to pick up and retrieve things is just part of his daily tasks and this is hugely beneficial to me.”

After receiving Uno James, Mark quickly realized how much of a help he would be. Mark notes that his vertigo episodes have decreased because Uno James is there picking up objects from off the ground. He is also great with verbal commands and is especially wonderful at waiting to go up or down the stairs until Mark is ready. He exclaims, “That’s huge for someone who can’t see below their shoulders!”

Mark says, “He’s comfort during my vertigo episodes. He just comes and lays down by me. That’s nice that I can feel him. I can feel his heavy breath and he’ll put his muzzle next to me.”

The “James” in Uno James was bestowed upon this sweet assistance dog before Mark’s brother Barry James went into hospice care. Uno James provided comfort to Barry before he passed by sitting with him when he visited with Mark.

Mark says, “Uno is a sensitive dog. When my brother was sick and after he died – I think he sensed I

“ “The vertigo can be short term or it can be a half hour or more where the world is spinning inside my head even if I’m perfectly still. The world is really moving fast.”

You provided Uno James; he helps Mark live a more independent life
needed the comfort. He was always nudging me. He’s a great comfort.” He continues, “I didn’t realize I needed it that much living alone, but it’s great to have him here because he’s a wonderful companion.” Mark says that Barry was truly proud and happy to know that Uno was gifted his middle name.

While reflecting on how Uno James has impacted his life, Mark says that there is no way he could have afforded an assistance dog with all of the necessary training if it weren’t for generous donors. He says, “It’s huge to people like me. You see where dogs like Uno James help literally every single day. Not just at certain times but all day. They also help with emotional well-being and maybe even their spiritual well-being. Uno James is awesome and he’s a good buddy. Thank you!”

On September 17, approximately 300 guests fetched more than $52,000 at our annual 2016 Can Do Woofaroo & Dog Video Festival. All proceeds from the event went directly to helping Can Do Canines train more assistance dogs for people with disabilities.

A big thank you to all walkers, pledgers, sponsors and volunteers who helped make the Woofaroo & Dog Video Festival a success!
Ask Lisa Peterson to share how it feels to graduate with her first Seizure Response Dog, and she'll quickly defer to the dog: “It’s all Morrie. He deserves all the credit.”

Seizure Response Dogs like Morrie are trained to stay with the person and lick their face during their seizure and to also provide comfort while they recover. They’re also trained to get help from another person or to bring an emergency phone to the nearest person.

Lisa and Morrie began their journey together less than three months ago. But in a short time, the exuberant yellow Labrador Retriever has become a lifesaver to Lisa. “Morrie is such a blessing. He gave me my life back,” said Lisa.

That wasn’t always the case. Lisa has struggled with a seizure disorder (PNES) for more than 10 years. The situation became even more concerning two years ago, when Lisa lost the “aura” that had previously helped alert her to an impending episode. That meant that seizures would now come without warning – sometimes in precarious places, like in the shower or on the stairs – and render her confused afterwards.

“How it’s totally different. Morrie alerts me 30-60 seconds before a seizure, so I can get into a safe position with him at my side,” Lisa explains. “So the seizures are less intense, less disorienting, less exhausting - and my recovery time is shorter.” It is an incredible feat that Morrie has learned how to alert Lisa pre-seizure!

Lisa’s husband Jim and their kids were hesitant about welcoming a new assistance dog into their home. But when they saw what Morrie could do – how he bonded with Lisa, how he helped Lisa avert emergencies, how he gave them all peace of mind – they fell in love. Now Morrie is a bona fide family member, always ready to work – just as ready to play.

Morrie has amazed others as well. At a recent salon appointment, Morrie was resting next to Lisa’s chair. Suddenly he jumped up from a deep sleep and began nudging and pawing at Lisa. The stylist quickly helped them to a quiet area, and Morrie lay down next to Lisa where he remained for the duration of the seizure (about 3-4 minutes). When it was over, Lisa heard cheering and clapping. It was only then that she – and Morrie – realized that they were in view of salon staff and patrons.

“The other customers told me they had never seen an assistance dog in action, so focused,” Lisa remarked. “Of course, they wanted to praise and pet Morrie, but he wouldn’t budge from my side - he was still at work!”

Lisa acknowledged how Morrie’s work ethic was the result of many caring people who made a difference in his life and hers. “Thanks to those who raised Morrie, trained him and donated supplies for him,” she said. “Thanks to the entire Can Do Canines family who welcomed us, and supported us, and made sure that Morrie and I were a good fit.”

“What a gift,” she added tearfully.

At the first sign of tears, Morrie popped up from his spot on the carpet and ran to Lisa – always ready to give more.

Morrie – You’re a loving Labrador Retriever and an extraordinary worry reliever!
“A PENNY IS A PENNY!”

Legacy gifts will continue to change lives thanks to a kind and generous woman

“A Penny is a penny” was an adage that was often heard from thrifty retired librarian Norma Hovden, according to her life-long friend, Nancy Hawkinson. Norma was a spunky, independent person who traveled the world whenever she could, but loved her home, family, friends and her pet Boston Bulldog, Ginger. However, being thrifty did not mean she wasn’t a generous person! Norma was dedicated to her church, gave freely to her friends and contributed to a wide range of charities during her life. In fact, she regularly made small contributions to Can Do Canines over more than ten years.

Norma passed away in 2013 at the age of 91. We recently learned that Can Do Canines is among 24 charities that is lucky to receive a specified portion of her seven-figure estate. This thrifty librarian saved carefully over the years and thoughtfully selected charities to receive her estate. Her gifts have significant impact on many lives across Minnesota.

Unfortunately, we never had the chance to meet Norma when she was alive. She was not part of our Legacy Club because we didn’t know about her estate plans.

However, we hope her story will inspire you and others to consider making estate gifts to your favorite charities. If Can Do Canines is among those charities, please tell us now so we can include you in the Legacy Club! Members who share their future intentions inspire others to do the same and that in itself is an important contribution.

Thank you Norma. We at Can Do Canines sincerely appreciate your generosity, both during your lifetime and with this bequest. Your gift will forever change lives for people living with disabilities!

You can change lives, too! Contact Janet Cobus at jcobus@can-do-canines.org or call her at 763.331.3000 ext. 153 to learn more about estate planning or to add your name to the Legacy Club. You will find a list of all Legacy Club members on our website at can-do-canines.org/donate/legacy-club.

MINNESOTANS GIVE BACK IN RECORD NUMBERS

According to Time Magazine, Americans gave a record $373.25 billion to charity in 2015-more than $1 billion a day! More notably, in 2015, 62.6 million Americans volunteered at least once during the year. Even better, Minneapolis-St. Paul ranked second for total amount of volunteers. We think that’s something to be incredibly proud of!

At Can Do Canines, we always need volunteers like you to help raise our puppies, provide a short-term foster home or even assist with one of our fundraising events.

To get involved, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Laurie Carlson at 763.331.3000 x113 or lcarlson@can-do-canines.org.
YOU MADE THESE PARTNERSHIPS POSSIBLE

Will Shuselnycky & Hearing Assist Dog Sage
Jack Peña & Autism Assist Dog Stitch
Kali McKellips & Mobility Assist Dog Buddy
Lisa Peterson & Seizure Response Dog Morrie
Gabriel O’Donnel & Autism Assist Dog Ramsey
Stephanie Oxley & Mobility Assist Dog Trek

Braxton Wiebusch & Mobility Assist Dog Blue
Harry Hutchins & Mobility/Hearing Assist Dog Hayes
Vonna DeLong & Hearing Assist Dog Bonnie
Amy Kainz & Mobility Assist Dog Rebel
Mark Hawkins & Mobility Assist Dog Uno James
Karen Staats & Hearing Assist Dog Nash

SAVE THESE GREAT DATES!

Join Us for Fall Graduation

At Can Do Canines
Saturday, October 22, 2016
at 1 p.m.

The Fetching Ball
November 12, 2016

You’re invited to an evening filled with inspiring stories, unique auction items, games, festivities and more!

www.fetchingball.com

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

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

OUR MISSION

The Fetching Ball
October 27, 11 a.m.
November 19, 10 a.m.
December 15, 11 a.m.

Learn more at can-do-canines.org/events

JOIN US FOR FALL GRADUATION

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