



Tails for You

a publication of Can Do Canines®

Announcing
Team 600!

Thanks to your support,
David and Jewel became
our 600th team!

Fall 2017
V. 28 | Issue 4

A DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

How you helped match our 600th team!

David Finwall of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota and Jewel are a pretty unique team. The first reason is that Jewel is trained in two different assistance dog skills. But this team is unique in a second way—on Thursday, September 14, David and Jewel became the 600th team that Can Do Canines certified!

Because of his disability, David needs both mobility and seizure assistance. So in July of 2017 he was matched with Jewel, a black Labrador Retriever that does both mobility and seizure work.

David was diagnosed with HIV and because of this, he has neurocognitive issues and peripheral neuropathy. This means he struggles with balance, especially on certain terrain, and can fall, while his neuropathy causes him to drop things. He also has a seizure disorder where seizures are triggered through new environments or people, crowds, and also from emotional triggers.



Jewel brings David his cane

When Jewel is showing off her mobility assist skills, she's retrieving items David has dropped or helping him from falling. When David needs her for seizure assistance, she puts her head in his lap and licks his hands, helping him feel more present.

Because of his cognitive difficulties, David doesn't have a sense of direction. He gives an example of approaching construction and explaining to Jewel how they would get around it. "Before Jewel ... I would do it in my head ... but then I would get confused about what I was thinking about." By verbalizing his thoughts,



David and Jewel

David's mental mapping becomes more clear.

When asked what Jewel has changed for David, he laughs and says, "She has changed in me a willingness to actually go back out into the world ... in the past, I could spend all day getting ready to go out and then never go out." He then lists all the places he goes and things he now does

before saying, "Long story short, I feel more confident to go out and do things."

"She has changed in me a willingness to actually go back out into the world."

David is incredibly grateful for Jewel and the people who helped raise her. "I have an ocean of gratitude for what they've put together ... [Jewel has allowed] me the opportunity to feel more whole and more human." If he met those involved in raising her, he would "thank them for helping me take back ownership [and] responsibility of me ... for giving me back to myself."



All photos by Greg Bissen www.firstlightpictures.tv

Thank you for making this partnership possible:

Puppy Raiser: Karin and Elroy Balgaard
Special Thanks: U of M FETCH Program
Name-A-Puppy Donor: Holly and Ken Schultz
You: Thank you for your donations!

PUPPIES, PUPPIES, PUPPIES!

From the whelping box:

Recently, we have welcomed **five** litters of puppies!

Ulana gave birth on June 30 to her 'W' litter: six adorable puppies. She was hosted by whelping home volunteers Jan and Tim McQuillan.

Krackle welcomed her troop of nine puppies in her 'X' litter on July 9. Dana and Pete Kittok and family kindly whelped Krackle and pups.

Quickly proudly presented her 'Y' litter of seven puppies on July 20. She stayed with whelping home volunteers Gail Kittock and family.

Sugar had four puppies in her 'Z' litter. On July 28, the Jarrard family and Sugar welcomed the four sweet puppies.

Finally, Wednesday gave birth to her 'A' litter of seven on August 3. She and puppies stayed with whelping home volunteers the Wahl family.

How you can help:

We are looking for Puppy Program Volunteers for short and long-term opportunities! Several puppies need loving volunteers to raise and train them to be the awesome assistance dogs we know they have the potential to be. Won't you consider opening your heart and home? It's the most profound way to truly make a difference in another person's life.

Contact volunteer coordinator, Robyn Rodrigue, at rrodrigue@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 x119.



Two puppies from Wednesday and Slammer's 'A' Litter



*Boomer, Winnie, Wriggle, Buck, Sweet Pea, and Winston from Ulana's 'W' Litter
Photography by Laurie J. Erickson www.photographybylauriejerickson.zenfolio.com/*

YOU HELPED

and made the following possible in the fall of 2017.

Your contributions helped maintain 61 dogs in five different prisons.



Volunteers attended 10 different training outings with dogs in training from June to August.



Thanks to you, there were 33 puppies born since our last newsletter!



You helped us certify 18 teams for our Fall Graduation.



THE JEDI MASTER OF MOBILITY

How your support helped Dianne live life more independently.

In this story, Yoda didn't become one with the force—he became one with his client, Dianne Ward. In a galaxy not so far away—Shoreview, Minnesota—the two are adjusting to life as a team.

In 2006, Dianne developed Guillain-Barre syndrome which left her with residual balance problems and weakness, increasing her risk of falling. Everyday activities that most people don't think twice about (carrying books up the stairs or turning around to place a cup of coffee on the table) become a potential danger for someone who struggles with balance. Dianne fell and broke her leg in the fall; before that she



All photos by Greg Bissen www.firstlightpictures.tv

“I was really afraid of being alone and losing my independence.”

had never broken a bone or had any serious injuries. “After [breaking my leg] I was really afraid of being alone and losing my independence,” she says.

While attending physical therapy, her therapists urged her to look into an assistance dog and recommended Can Do Canines. “I was really not sure if it ... would



Yoda helps Dianne by carrying her cane down the stairs

be ... something I could use,” Dianne remembers, “or if I had enough need.” Fast forward to October 2016 when Dianne began her journey with Can Do Canines. She applied for a Mobility Assistance Dog and was soon matched with Yoda, a black Labrador Retriever.

With Yoda in her life, Dianne is able to live more independently.

They go everywhere together: the grocery store, coffee shops, restaurants, and the library. Just because Dianne and Yoda graduated from Can Do Canines doesn't mean they're done learning. Yoda will continue to learn to work in new places, and Dianne will learn to combine multiple skills into new tasks.

Yoda has literally and figuratively opened doors for Dianne. As a Mobility Assistance Dog he helps Dianne with all sorts of things that help her live with less fear of getting hurt. When it's laundry day, Yoda is there to tug the basket where it needs to go and grab items inside to hand to Dianne. At the end of the day when she wants to kick off her shoes and socks—Yoda is there to tug them off. And if Dianne does happen to fall, Yoda knows to alert the nearest person and bring them back to her.

“[The Can Do Canines] training and consistency and affection just show in the finished animal.”

“We've just had a lot of good laughs,” Dianne says of her time with Yoda. “[The Can Do Canines] training and consistency and affection just shows in the finished animal. He just couldn't have gotten this way without all that,” she says. “Thank you.”

Thank you for making this partnership possible:

Great Start Home: The Hendrickson family
Puppy Raiser: The inmate handlers at Federal Correctional Institution Sandstone
Special Thanks: The Merkel family and the Goodman family
You: Thank you for your donations!

A VERY SPECIAL GIFT

Giving Can Do Canines a long-lasting future.

“I’m an animal lover,” says Esther Graney. Take a look in her backyard and you’ll know she isn’t bluffing; metal sculptures of pigs and dogs sit among her flowerbeds. But it’s not just her decor, Esther is highly involved with numerous animal organizations. Whether she’s working as a volunteer, donating needed items or money, or supporting the organization as a guest at an event, you can find Esther getting involved. Lucky for us, Can Do Canines is one of the organizations she supports.

“Dogs are wonderful,” she says as her rescue Beagle, Ellie Mae (the sweet, southern belle from Missouri) trots around the house. “They help people in ways that humans can’t. The dogs that [Can Do Canines] trains are a huge support for people with disabilities.”

“Dogs are wonderful. They help people in ways that humans can’t.”

Her interest was piqued when she saw an assistance dog wearing a vest. She became curious and wanted to learn more about them, thus beginning her journey with Can Do Canines. When asked how long she’s been involved with the organization, “It’s probably been fifteen years but don’t quote me on that,” she says.

Esther’s dedication doesn’t go unnoticed. When she injured herself in a freak accident last year, founder Al



Esther with her rescue Beagle, Ellie Mae

Peters took demonstration dog, Sam to visit her in the hospital. “That was the best thing,” Esther says.

Her involvement goes past volunteering and contributions as she has made the selfless decision to leave a portion of her estate to Can Do Canines. “Everything is going to helping people and animals,” she declares. The passion seems to run in the family; Esther’s daughter, Lisa has also included Can Do Canines in her will.

“Everything is going to helping people and animals.”

Providing a legacy gift is a way to continue supporting organizations you believe in even after you’ve passed—but it isn’t just for the wealthy. Many of our legacy club members earn modest incomes. These gifts come in many different sizes and they all make a difference in changing lives.

You can change lives too!

Are you interested in learning more? Contact Janet Cobus to learn more about estate planning or to add your name to the Legacy Club. And don’t forget to see the list of Legacy Club members on our website at can-do-canines.org/donate/legacy-club.

jcobus@can-do-canines.org | 763-331-3000 ext. 153



Esther and her daughter, Lisa with founder Al Peters and demonstration dog, Sam at the 2017 Can Do Woofaroo

SAVE THESE DATES

Give to the Max Day November 16, 2017 | Online

Do you want to support Can Do Canines AND double your gift? Give to the Max Day 2017 is Thursday, November 16th, but you can give early and schedule your gift beginning Wednesday, November 1st. Support Can Do Canines for this annual day of giving and your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar! Visit our GiveMN website (<https://givemn.org/organization/Can-Do-Canines>) for information and to double the impact of your gift between November 1st and November 16th. Thank you!



give TO THE MAX
NOV. 16, 2017

Graduation

October 28, 2017 | 1-2 p.m. | Can Do Canines

We have 18 assistance dog teams graduating this fall. Come celebrate their many months of hardwork and training at our ceremony.

The Fetching Ball

January 27, 2018 | DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington

Join us for a glamorous evening at the DoubleTree Bloomington filled with inspiring stories, silent and live auctions, and delectable dining.

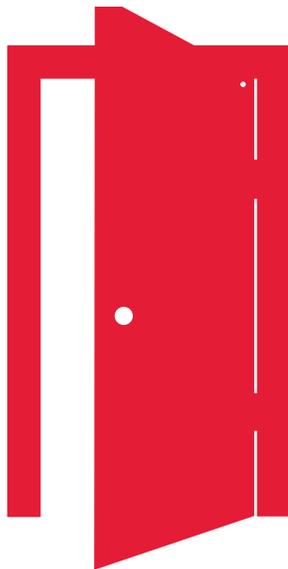


The Fetching Ball

Did you know?

If you have any of the items on our wish list which you no longer need or want, contributing them makes sense in many ways. You'll help us open doors, spare the environment and turn your unwanted goods into a possible tax deduction! See the list at the link below or contact Al Peters at 763-331-3000 ext.116.

can-do-canines.org/donate/wishlist/



Our Mission

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



@candocanines



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