



Tails for You

a publication of Can Do Canines®

This Phoenix descends
from royalty!

Thanks to you and
Phoenix, Bill's life has
changed for the better!

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V. 28 | Issue 3

ALL RISE FOR QUEEN PHOENIX

How your help changed a life for the better.

According to Greek mythology, a phoenix rises. But William (Bill) Kostur, a 68-year-old retiree from St. Paul, Minn. believes that his Mobility Assist Dog, Phoenix, actually descends – from royalty.

“She’s a queen,” he says, describing the three-year-old white Standard Poodle that has changed his life for the better. “What I cherish most is how she helps me rise each day – from the bed or a chair, using a tug rope.”

Bill has Parkinson’s Disease (PD), a progressive neurological condition where dopamine – the neurotransmitter that connects brain and body – is disrupted, causing loss of fine motor control. For Bill, that means persistent challenges, such as falling or dropping important items, like a cane, walker or cell phone.

He first learned about Can Do Canines at a Parkinson’s event, back when his symptoms were relatively minor. He recalls being amazed by what a Mobility Assist Dog could do. As the disease progressed, Bill and his wife Nancy sought out Can Do Canines.

Enter Phoenix, a stately companion with a desire to serve.

In their time together, Phoenix has learned to get



Bill up and organized in the morning, to stay at his side and assist him throughout the day, and to remove his socks, shirt and trousers at bedtime. She is now working on learning to move the foot rests on his wheel chair.



“She is always looking for new ways to help me.”

Phoenix gives Nancy peace of mind as well. “I’m more comfortable leaving the house, knowing Phoenix can help keep Bill safe, or bring him a phone to alert me if he falls,” Nancy says.

Bill is honored to be served by Phoenix – and equally



Phoenix delivering Bill’s shoes



Phoenix moving the wheel-chair foot rests

humbled by his role in meeting her needs. “I understand my responsibility as the beneficiary of her services,” he explains. “Phoenix is a full partner in keeping me safe, and that requires me to nurture her need to assist.”

But Phoenix does more than retrieve items; she also brings Bill something else – much laughter. “You should see the looks she gives me when I use the wrong command,” Bill chuckles. “She figured out that if she brings Bill his boots in multiple trips – first, the liner, then the boot – there are more treats,” Nancy adds with a smile.

Bill and Nancy lead an active life, so Phoenix has learned to take her skills on the road – to therapy sessions, support groups, classes – even Bill’s class reunion. She has traveled by plane and train and as far as the Rocky Mountains. “Wherever we go, Phoenix walks in like a queen and instantly commands respect,” Bill says.

Bill and Nancy are grateful to the many Can Do Canines staff and supporters that made this special relationship possible. “Everything she does for me is because of the two years of training she received before me,” Bill says. “Thanks to all of you, she has changed my life.”

“Phoenix is a constant source of hope and independence for me.”

No doubt, a crowning achievement for a queen, ever-devoted to her loyal subject.

Thank you to all those who made this partnership possible:



Phoenix delivering Bill’s phone@

PUPPIES, PUPPIES, PUPPIES!

From the whelping box:

Recently, we have welcomed three litters of puppies!

Yukon gave birth on June 1st to four adorable puppies, the 'T' litter. She is a first time mommy and is being hosted by whelping home volunteers Mary & Jon Alexander.

Kizzie gifted us with the 'U' litter of three sweet puppies on June 15th. This is her third litter. Lindsay Merkel and family is kindly whelping this dog mom and puppies.

Issy proudly presented the 'V' litter of six puppies on June 19th. This is her second litter and is staying with whelping home volunteers Karin & Elroy Balgaard.

We are looking for Puppy Raisers! 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.

Also, please pass the word on to those you may know in your community of this volunteer need. You can post flyers on community boards in coffee shops, churches, city offices, vet offices, etc.



Kizzie with her three puppies



Issy with her six puppies.
All yellow!

Contact Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 x113 for flyers, a pdf to download... anything to help us recruit more Puppy Raisers.

Thank you!

IT'S TIME TO WOOFAROO!



September 16, 2017

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Costume Contest

Entertainment

Walk

Food

Prizes

Fundraising Walk Check-In: 10 a.m.

Walk Begins: 11 a.m.

Entertainment provided by the Robbinsdale Cooper High School Marching Band along with the Seldom Herd Bluegrass Band. There will be assistance dog demonstrations. See the amazing things our dogs do. Other fun dog demonstrations! Use the brochure included in the newsletter and start collecting pledges today.

YOU HELPED

and made the following possible
in the Summer of 2017.

Your contributions helped
maintain **INSERT # OF DOGS**
dogs in five different prisons.



Celebrate 14 teams at
our Spring Graduation



You supported our in-house breeding
program.. We'll have 28 puppies
by the end of August. If you've ever
wanted to become a puppy raiser,
now's the perfect time!

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



HAPPINESS WITH DAISY

How your support provides essential help in the form of a talented dog.

As a Hearing Assist Dog, Daisy is trained to help Nancy Lauderman of Minneapolis, Minn. with a variety of essential tasks. Due to nerve damage in childhood, Nancy has limited hearing and lacks a sense of smell. She was also diagnosed about ten years ago with depression and fibromyalgia and she lives with PTSD. With her daughters at home, Nancy's symptoms were manageable. But after they grew up and moved out, Nancy gradually stopped cooking, fearing that she would burn food or miss the oven timer. She also had trouble hearing her phone or knocks on the door. She stopped spending as much time in social situations in which it might be difficult to lip read. Nancy reports that, "Sometimes people get quite annoyed with me when I'm out. I found myself doing the necessary things that I had to do and the rest of the time I would just stay in my apartment. I would cope when I took the grandkids out. But I preferred to be by myself."



Nancy and her grandchildren enjoying time together.

In addition to day-to-day limitations, Nancy was also forced to struggle with some of the more dramatic consequences of a hearing deficit. Unable to hear her phone ring, she almost missed the birth of her youngest grandchild! Hearing aids don't compensate for Nancy's nerve damage, so she

feared that she was out of luck. Then a neighbor told her that Can Do Canines trains dogs to assist those with limited hearing.

Things have changed for the better since two-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever Daisy entered Nancy's life. Daisy is trained to alert Nancy to timers, door knocks, cell phones, and the smoke alarm. She also picks up dropped items. With her there to provide alerts, Nancy has started cooking again, even making her daughters' favorite foods, much to their excitement.

Equally important, Daisy provides emotional support and companionship. Nancy says, "She's a very happy dog and she makes me quite happy. I sit and laugh at

her a lot of the time." Daisy's helpfulness and affection have played a wonderful role in Nancy's life. Not only does Daisy help Nancy babysit, but outings are once again a feasible and enjoyable option. According to Nancy, since Daisy came into her life, "I go to the coffee shop, which I wouldn't do before. I'm just comfortable being out. If I can't hear what other people are saying, I have my Daisy."

"She's a very happy dog and she makes me quite happy."

Vickie Braml (Daisy's Puppy Raiser) offered these thoughts on why she became a puppy raiser. "I love dogs and wanted to be around them. I also recently retired from teaching and wanted to do something of value with my time. Being a puppy raiser filled both desires. The fun of playing and working with the dog and seeing them learn and be successful reminded me of the young students I had taught. The sense of accomplishment when graduation rolled around and the joy of seeing your dog be successful and change someone's life is such a great reward. It gives back so much more than you'd expect."

Nancy praises the Can Do Canines donors, volunteers and trainers who made her life with Daisy possible. Nancy says, "She has changed my life so much. Thank you for taking care of Daisy so that I'm able to have her." Nancy notes, and her daughters agree, that thanks to Daisy and Can Do Canines, "I'm the happiest I've ever been in my life."

THROUGH THE EYES OF A VOLUNTEER

A PRISON PUPPY PROGRAM REFLECTION

By Holly Schultz

As part of the ongoing documentary project with Sugar, a Can Do Canines Breeding Program dog that lives in our home, I had the incredible privilege of recently visiting two prisons where Can Do Canines operates puppy training programs. I was able to see first-hand, as a volunteer, what the prison programs are like and how they operate, including everything from where the dogs sleep, how they spend their days, and what the training sessions are like. I was able to talk to the inmate handlers, ask them questions, and hear what the handlers hope to experience. I went in with my predetermined opinions, what I thought I was going to see, hear and feel—and those expectations couldn't have been further from the reality of what I saw.

The prisons have worked hard to follow Can Do Canines requirements and make sure that the dogs have what they need to succeed—grooming space, books for the inmates to read about dog training, and a fenced play area, complete with plenty of toys, to make sure they are happy, healthy and exercised. Weekend volunteers get the dogs into homes and other environments to keep them socialized while in prison. I had heard about all of this as a volunteer, but witnessing it has opened my eyes in ways that I will never be able to forget.

What did I see? I watched the faces of grown men at Jackson Correctional Institution light up with excitement that the puppies would arrive soon. I saw their anxiety that they might “ruin” the dog. I saw



Holly Schultz speaking to the inmates

concern for themselves disappear and that space filled with a newfound concern for the puppies that were now in their care. I saw them let down their guard just enough to enjoy the puppies and the moment.

And, all of a sudden, I realized I saw something else. I realized that their fears, hopes, and expectations were no different than the ones I had experienced when I started my personal journey with Can Do Canines more than five years ago. Although they were training the puppies in a different environment, they were volunteer puppy raisers, just like myself.

I realized that where the puppies are trained doesn't matter; what matters is the desire and willingness to learn and grow along the way, learning from their mistakes and celebrating their victories, so that a client can someday experience the freedom and independence that the inmates can only imagine. Hopefully, these puppies will be the link for the inmates to discover that they do have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of others and they can be the force of good through this incredible experience!



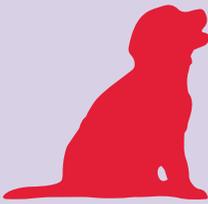
Photos by Mark Falstad

Holly with the Inmate Puppy Raisers and Can Do Canines Puppies Liam and Lyric

You can help!

We need people to be weekend foster homes for dogs in our prison programs. Weekend fosters take a dog twice a month and socialize them by taking them to stores, restaurants and other public outings. If you live near Stanley, Wisc. or Black River Falls and are interested in being a part of this life-changing program, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Laurie Carlson 763-331-3000 ext. 113 or lcarlson@can-do-canines.org

Summer Graduation - June 10, 2017



SAVE THE DATE

The Fetching Ball

New Date - Same Fun! 1/27/18

Doubletree by Hilton, Bloomington

Live Auction, Silent Auction,

Games, Food

SAVE THESE GREAT DATES!

Can Do Woofaroo

September 16, 2017

Collect pledges and bring your dog for a stroll at our one-mile FUNdraising walk.



Take a Tour—Meet Our Dogs

One of the best ways to see your support firsthand is to come to a **Tails To Tell Tour**. You'll have a chance to meet a volunteer Puppy Raiser, one of our graduate teams and see the facility where our dogs learn their life-saving skills.

All tours take place at our facility located at the address below. Please call our office at 763-331-3000 or email tour@can-do-canines.org to reserve your spot!

- Saturday, August 19, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, September 28, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, October 12, 11 a.m.

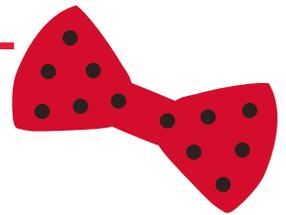
OUR MISSION

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



JOIN US FOR FALL GRADUATION

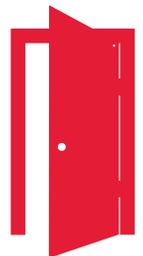
Saturday, October 28, 1 p.m. at Can Do Canines



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!

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



CONNECT WITH US



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