



Thank you
for this blessing in my life.

*read the story of Stephanie
& Fred on page 7*



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 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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To reach a staff member via phone, dial 763-331-3000. When you hear the greeting, press the extension number you need or press 2 for an employee directory.

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From the Executive Director

Your Support Created Life Changing Experiences in Prison

Thanks to your generous support of our work, Can Do Canines has been able to expand our prison programs during 2014! This year we added two additional prisons for a total of four.

• **The Minnesota State Correctional Facility at Faribault** is a men's prison and was our very first program, starting in 2005. We currently have three puppies and seven adult dogs in training there.



• **The Federal Correctional Facility at Waseca** is a women's prison. We placed our first dogs there in 2011 and currently have 10 puppies and four adult dogs in training.

• **The Federal Prison Camp at Duluth** is a men's prison that we added early in 2014. We currently have 11 dogs in training there. However, they are also completing the whelping of two litters over the holidays as well, adding 19 puppies to their responsibilities until mid January!

• **The Federal Correctional Facility at Sandstone** is the newest addition. Eight puppies moved there on December 12.

Thanks to you, these 62 dogs and puppies have excellent care, good training and a loving home.

Equally as important, 124 inmate-trainers (two per dog) are experiencing a life-changing opportunity.



Occasionally we hear from the inmates themselves. Let me share a letter from Inmate D. Johnson:

"Our puppies learn to be good citizens, just as we need to learn how to be good citizens. We inmates learn through this instructional process that we can find strength through patience, respect, empathy and consistency. It's important to me to show my son that you can do good no matter where you are and that his Dad does what he preaches. It's positive proof of life, value and passion."

Your support of our programs not only gives these puppies a good start, and some impressive training, but also gives these inmates a chance to "pay back" the community in this specific way. Creating something positive from a negative experience, like incarceration, gives meaning to daily life that would otherwise be absent.

Last Chance for Matching Funds!

Generous contributors have created a \$25,000 matching fund for contributions received in our office by December 31, 2014. If you have not contributed yet, please consider doing so. Your contribution will be matched up to dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000.

Many thanks, and happy holidays!



Homeless Yogi Makes Jeremy Feel Safe

Jeremy Neiderer and Hearing Assist Dog Yogi by Bill Johnson

At the tender age of 18 months, an ear infection severely damaged Jeremy Neiderer's hearing. This resulted in his ability to hear only minimally with his left ear and to be completely deaf in his right. To communicate, he uses lip reading and American Sign Language.

However, Jeremy's hearing loss hasn't prevented him from leading a full, active life. The resident of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., works part time at UPS, attends school and enjoys a variety of activities.

At times, he has felt less safe at home, not being able to hear. "I was concerned that the apartment I was living in had no system for deaf and hard of hearing needs in case of a fire or other emergency," Jeremy says. The landlord offered to install flashing lights and webcams, which Jeremy would have to pay for, but could not take with him when his lease ended. He and husband Daniel decided to look into other options to stay safe. Jeremy liked what he read about Can Do Canines and applied for a Hearing Assist Dog.

Three-year-old Yogi, a Beagle mix, began her journey when the Animal Humane Society donated her to Can Do Canines. Yogi spent several months living with Puppy Raisers, Linda and Rich Stefonek, where she learned good house manners and how to be well behaved in public places. She finished training at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, Faribault where Yogi learned the specific skills she'd need for Hearing Assist Dog work.

Now placed with Jeremy, Yogi's duties include alerting Jeremy to sounds that are essential to everyday life, such as the timer on a microwave, door knocks and the entry buzzer for visitors.



Jeremy Neiderer and Hearing Assist Dog Yogi

More importantly, she alerts him to the smoke alarm—a lifesaving sound.

"Yogi can alert someone to come find me if something is wrong," Jeremy says. "I feel much more safe and comfortable having Yogi in my home. Also, I'm so glad I don't have to depend so much on Daniel all the time."

Jeremy now takes Yogi to school with him, as well as to public places such as stores and restaurants. He says he's become an advocate for assistance dog users and on a daily basis explains to people how Yogi helps him.

Besides the important role she plays as a Hearing Assist Dog, Yogi brings a splash of sunshine to Jeremy's life. "My parents had dogs. But Yogi is so different, so special to me. I get a lot of positive influence from her. I'm thankful to everyone who was involved in bringing her to me." ♥

Curious to hear more about how a Hearing Assist Dog helps? Visit can-do-canines.org to find out.

We Thank Those Who Made This Placement Possible:

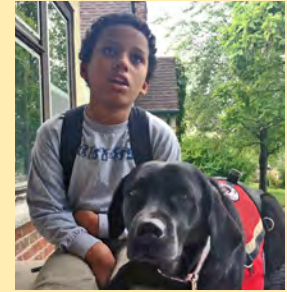
- 🐾 Puppy Raisers – Linda and Rich Stefonek
- 🐾 Dog Donated by – Animal Humane Society
- 🐾 Long-term Foster Home – The Inmate Handlers at the Minnesota Department of Corrections at Faribault
- 🐾 Vet Services – Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital

NEW TEAMS

Web Exclusive

Your contributions made these teams possible. Thank you!

To read all about the following new Can Do Canines teams, please visit can-do-canines.org.



Jarrin Ndiritu & Autism Assist Dog Jazz

"Jazz leaves an imprint on a person's heart."



Kristine Cinealis & Hearing Assist Dog Jasper

"Jasper makes me feel safer and allows me to sleep better at night. It has been life-changing."



Alicia Blank & Mobility Assist Dog Albert

"He always wants to work, work, work!"

Subaru Shares the Love with Can Do Canines

Our new 2015 Subaru Outback has arrived and the vehicle has already made several important "assistance dog hauling" trips around the state of Minnesota visiting clients and prison training programs.



Subaru donated the one-year lease of the vehicle to Can Do Canines, free of charge. We've decked it out with puppy photos and decals, so if you see us driving by, give us a honk or a howl! Thanks Subaru!



A Few Days Left to Buy a Subaru & "Share the Love" November 20, 2014 - January 2, 2015



Bloomington Subaru wants to "Share the Love" with you too!

You can now choose to support our organization when you buy or lease a new Subaru. For each new car purchased or leased, Bloomington Subaru will donate \$250 to the charity of your choice. And we hope you choose Can Do Canines!

The Share the Love campaign runs from **November 20, 2014 through January 2, 2015.**

So, if you are in the market for a Subaru and want to help train more assistance dogs for those in need, visit Bloomington Subaru before **January 2, 2015** and Share the Love!



Five finalists have fun playing the "Heads & Tails" game at the 2014 Fetching Ball.



At left, Quest models a sailor outfit to encourage bidding on a live auction sailing trip, and at right Scott Helmer brings down the house with his Americana rock.

You Helped Retrieve \$125,000 at The Fetching Ball!

On Saturday, November 15, **325 guests helped fetch more than \$125,000 to train Can Do Canines** for people with disabilities. Thank you to all in attendance who helped support our important work! The funds were raised at our 2014 Fetching Ball held at the Marriott City Center in downtown Minneapolis and will go directly to training more life-changing assistance dogs.



At the event, we celebrated 25 years of service to the community with stories of our organization's founding and videos from our graduates themselves. The evening was also filled with silent and live auctions, fundraising games and a house-shaking performance by musician Scott Helmer, who donated his guitar-fueled tunes as part of his Support Your Cause Tour.

Thank you to all the attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and auction donors, that made the 2014 Fetching Ball a huge success.

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Thank You for Putting Joy In My Life

Kristi Eisenbraun and Mobility Assist Dog Huxley

“Before Huxley, I was unable to get in and out of the house, pick things up or do laundry. Once Huxley came into my life all of that changed,” says 22 year-old Kristi Eisenbraun of Webster, South Dakota.

Kristi has had cerebral palsy and scoliosis since birth. Despite needing a wheelchair and Personal Care Attendants, she’s been determined to live an independent life, including attending college at Southwest Minnesota State University. But, as Kristi found herself in the fast-paced collegiate world, she realized she could use some help from a furry companion.

“Before Huxley, when I would drop my phone I’d have to stay still so I would not run it over,” Kristi says. “I wouldn’t be able to call someone for help and pretty much would have to hope that nothing serious would happen,” says Kristi.

Enter Huxley. As Kristi describes all the things Huxley can do for her, it becomes apparent that he’s capable of completing as many tasks as there are jobs in the day. Pick up the phone? Easy. Open and close the door? Of course! When Kristi has to do laundry, Huxley is able to put the clothes in the washer and dryer and take them out.



Kristi Eisenbraun and Mobility Assist Dog Huxley

And as if that’s not enough, he also helps Kristi get her coat off. But it doesn’t end there—Huxley is also a musician.

“When Huxley is given a ball that squeaks, he goes around carrying it in his mouth, trying to get the ball to make different pitches and sounds. His funny quirks make me smile,” says Kristi.

Kristi says Huxley is someone she can always rely on. He comforts her during storms and makes her feel safe when she’s out or home alone. He also helps stabilize her moods.

“Whenever I’m upset Huxley comes running to cheer me up. He starts wagging his tail to get me to smile and if that doesn’t work he’ll jump right on my lap and start licking my face,” Kristi says.

Kristi would like to say a big THANK YOU to Huxley’s Puppy Raisers, the inmates, the donors and staff for all the hard work and dedication they put into Huxley’s training.

“Without the time and energy of these amazing people, Huxley would not be where he is today,” she says. “I also cannot thank the people and service clubs enough that donate to Can Do Canines. Without those donations, I would not have been able to receive an assistance dog, and without Huxley I would not be as independent. Thank you for bringing such joy into my life.” ♥

Would you like to help create more partnerships like Kristi and Huxley’s? Visit can-do-canines.org/donate and make a contribution today.

We Thank Those Who Made This Placement Possible:

- 🐾 Puppy Raisers – The Tuenge Family
- 🐾 Long-term Foster Home – The Inmate Handlers at the Federal Correctional Facility at Waseca
- 🐾 Dog Donated by – Charlene & Jerome Moser
- 🐾 Name-A-Puppy Donor – Floyd Sandford
- 🐾 Vet Services – Animal Wellness Center

Gifts in Memory Of

Gifts given in memory of and received between September 1, 2014 and November 30, 2014

Donated by..... In Memory of
 Animal Wellness Center.....
 “Sasha” Bakke, “Louie” Barth, “Magoo” Beupre,
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 Gaspard, “Rocky” George, “Madison” Gerasch, “Phoebe”
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 Pamela Davis.....“Levi”
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 Sharon Johnson.....“Jezebel”
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 Ron LaCount.....“Simon” beloved pet of Andy
 and Michelle O’Kelley
 Jennifer McCann.....Emily Osiol
 Lenore Miller.....“Beau” Segal
 Anita Nerhus.....Bonnie Meyer
 Paula Neuman-Scott.....Lorraine Anderson
 Beverly Norlin.....PDG Ted Delzer
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 Maribeth Rao.....Jane Theresa Heider
 Dee Ritter.....Joanne Kenyon
 Millie Segal.....“Beau” and Hillard Kahan
 John Simmons.....Emily Osiol
 Carmaline Spurrier.....Edward Schneider
 Janice Sutherlin.....Emily Osiol
 Marian Veasen.....“Lucky”
 Robert York.....Donna Saros

Thank You For This Blessing In My Life

Stephanie Fortman & Hearing Assist Dog Fred

Life at age twelve is full of changes; leaving childhood behind and becoming a teenager is a real turning point in a young girl's life. Stephanie Fortman encountered more challenges at that age than anyone would expect.

She recounts, "I lost my hearing from meningitis. It was a scary time in my life as I went from being normal and hearing to profoundly deaf in a matter of days. Shortly after I lost my hearing, I received a cochlear implant. The implant is truly a little miracle, and with it I hear quite well. However I do have trouble with environmental sounds, and often can't tell what a sound is or where it's coming from. When I'm not wearing my cochlear implant, I am completely deaf."

Stephanie fully realized just how vulnerable she was in 2007 when she went to study abroad for college.

"I lived alone in a single-room dorm. The school fitted the room with a special flashing fire alarm and even attached it to a vibrating disc under the mattress to alert me if the alarm went off. One night at dinner with friends, the conversation turned to the fire alarm that apparently went off every night at 2 a.m. I asked them ... 'what alarm?'"

"It turned out that the flashing light was not enough to wake me. The disc under the mattress slid around and was like sleeping on a huge rock so I rarely used it. They were false alarms, but I realized

I would have been in great danger had there been a real emergency."

Years later and back in Minnesota, her parents told Stephanie about Hearing Assist Dogs after learning about them as members of the Champlin Lions. She was very excited about the prospect of having a dog alert her to sounds she'd otherwise miss. In her application to Can Do Canines Stephanie explained, "I often have a difficult time recognizing household sounds such as a door knock, microwave timer, and phone chime on my cell phone. I can manage if the house is perfectly quiet, but if there is conflicting noise, I am likely to miss it."

When Stephanie was matched with Fred, a two-year-old Standard Poodle, she had to reassure fiancé AJ, that he wasn't a 'frou-frou' Poodle. This became apparent when AJ let Fred outside to play and the big, fluffy dog immediately started chasing squirrels and bunnies around the yard.

At her workplace, she had to instruct co-workers not to pet him without asking her first, so that he would keep his concentration on her. The business is a house-like setting and she sits closest to the door. Fred alerts her to people knocking on the door, delivery men and anyone calling her name.



Stephanie Fortman & Hearing Assist Dog Fred

About the match, Stephanie says, "I feel more secure. Fred makes sure he gets my attention when a noise happens. He has completely changed how I feel about living in my own home."

Stephanie would like to thank the individual donors and service clubs like the Lions who contribute funds to help pay for the training. "A huge thank you! Being a young couple with a new home, I never could have afforded to pay for an assistance dog. Fred is a blessing in my life. I can't imagine life without him." ♥

Do you know someone who might benefit from an assistance dog? Contact our office at 763-331-3000 x151 for more information or to apply.

What is a Hearing Assist Dog?

Hearing Assist Dogs are trained to alert a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing by making physical contact and then leading the person to the source of the sound.

Some of the sounds a Hearing Assist Dog may be trained for include alerting the individual to a door knock or doorbell, an oven timer, a smoke detector, an alarm clock, the individual's name being called, a phone ringing, the sound of an intruder, or a baby crying.

Many of our Hearing Assist Dogs are donated from shelters or rescues and given a rewarding new life with their partner.

We Thank Those Who Made This Placement Possible:

- 🐾 Puppy Raisers – Mike Ferber & Betty Otto
- 🐾 Long-term Foster Home – The Inmate Handlers at the Minnesota Department of Corrections at Faribault
- 🐾 Dog Donated by – Kathryn Molan
- 🐾 Name-A-Puppy Donor – Dick & Bonnie McGinnis
- 🐾 Vet Services – Veterinary Surgical Consultants

Big Paws to Fill

Joe Mester and Mobility Assist Dog Jupiter

Joe Mester of Centerville, Minn. is no stranger to assistance dogs. Partnered with Mobility Assist Dog Teddy for the last eight years, he knows all too well the freedom, independence and of course, incredible companionship, assistance dogs provide. It was this service that helped him live the life he loved, including: going to concerts, hockey games, riding ATVs and even camping.

Joe has multiple disabilities, including arthrogryposis (a stiffness of the joints), scoliosis, and restrictive lungs. These issues make balance and walking even short distances difficult. He is unable to get around without a wheelchair.

“I drop things a lot because my arms and hands can’t turn very well. I have trouble picking them back up because my hips are dislocated,” Joe says.

When Teddy passed away in January 2014, Joe knew he needed help once again from a furry friend. But not right away.

“I didn’t know if I was going to get another assistance dog because it was so hard to lose Teddy. But after a while I started missing all the things a dog could do for me. I have two dachshunds, but they’re not able to do what Teddy could!” Joe says, laughing.

When Joe was ready, Can Do Canines teamed him with Jupiter, a two-year-old black Labrador retriever. Jupiter’s Puppy Raisers describe him as “a very affectionate dog who loves to give kisses.” This successor dog is able to carry on Teddy’s legacy in many of the same ways, from pulling open doors to pulling off a sock or coat to retrieving dropped items.

“If there’s something I can’t reach down below, I can point at it with my foot or knock it off the shelf with my foot and he’ll go get it for me. It’s great,” Joe says.

There are a few personality differences, however.



Joe Mester and Mobility Assist Dog Jupiter

“Teddy, he was glued to my hip,” Joe says. “But Jupiter is more like, ‘I’m just going to go in my kennel and chill for a while.’”

But don’t think for an instant that Jupiter isn’t always ready to lend a helping paw. As soon as he hears the wheelchair in motion, no matter where Joe is in the house, Jupiter bounds out of his kennel and checks to see if he can help with anything. Jupiter also helps Joe get out in public more.

“He gives me a reason to go outside and he’s great for meeting people in public,” Joe says. “People approach you when you have a dog. I don’t have to rely on my family as much and I’m much more comfortable going places now.”

When we asked Joe, ‘is there anything you’d like to share with the Puppy Raisers?’ Joe exclaims before we can even finish the question ...

“Thank you! I fell in love with Jupiter within the first five minutes of meeting him. I could never do their job and then turn a dog in. What they do is amazing.” ♥

To hear first-hand how your contributions transform people’s lives, come to a Tails to Tell Tour at our facility. Find upcoming tour dates on the back cover of this newsletter.

We Thank Those Who Made This Placement Possible:

- 🐾 Puppy Raisers – Stephen & Becky Hallan, The Inmate Handlers at the Minnesota Department of Corrections at Faribault
- 🐾 Long-term Foster Home – Kathryn & Jayson Alexander, Sue Forsberg & Doug Anderson, The Inmate Handlers at the Federal Correctional Facility at Waseca
- 🐾 Name-A-Puppy Donor – Libby Rothberg
- 🐾 Vet Services – Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital



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



Can Do Canines' Legacy Club

— you can change a life

The Legacy Club honors two groups of generous individuals; those who, while living, inform Can Do Canines of their intentions to include us in their will or planned giving device, and those who have passed on and already made bequests to further our work. We are grateful for their faith in Can Do Canines.

Legacy Club Members: Bonnie & Gary Anderson

Before her untimely death at age 67, Bonnie Anderson endured eight and a half years of serious health problems, starting with a major heart attack, followed by a bout with cancer. Yet, despite these tribulations in her own life, she possessed enormous compassion and a deep desire to help others.

“She loved dogs. We always had at least one dog, and sometimes as many as three, in the house,” says her husband Gary Anderson, who lives in New Hope, Minn.

But it was the people-dog connection, Gary feels, that motivated her to become a member of the Legacy Club and include Can Do Canines in the couple’s estate plans.

In fact, if Bonnie were still alive and in good health today, Gary believes she’d be volunteering for Can Do Canines in some capacity, such as being a Puppy Raiser.

“Bonnie loved dogs to the point where she felt they could be trained to do almost anything. And once she heard

about Can Do Canines, she was pretty set on helping the organization.”

Shopping at the grocery store one day, Gary encountered Gilbert, a black Labrador retriever, and his Can Do Canines Puppy Raiser, Jerry Schendel. “While Jerry and I were talking, Gilbert fell asleep in the aisle,” he recalls. “For a six-month-old puppy, that’s quite unusual!”

A month or two later, Gary and Bonnie were driving on Victory Memorial Drive in North Minneapolis where they spotted Jerry and Gilbert taking a walk. “We stopped and got out to see them. Later on, we found out that Gilbert became a Diabetes Assist Dog in the Rochester area.”

Before she knew about Can Do Canines, Bonnie was going to make a nationally-based assistance dog organization the beneficiary of her planned giving, according to Gary. “But after finding out about Can Do Canines and hearing the testimonials of people who’ve been



Legacy Club Member Bonnie Anderson



The Anderson’s dog, Casey, a four-year-old “Fox Red” British Labrador.

helped, she decided to keep it local. We’re able to help Can Do Canines because of God’s blessings to us and hope it helps as many people as possible.”

Would you like to know more about the Legacy Club or planned giving?

Contact Development Director, Janet Cobus at [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) or call 763-331-3000 x153.

Gifts In Honor Of

Gifts given in honor of and received between September 1, 2014 and November 30, 2014

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 Mike Branch..... Laura and Sarah Branch
 Jamie Becker-Finn..... “Denver”
 Paula Brito..... Nicholas Conley
 Patrick Brown..... “Marvin” currently helping the Bill Avery family
 Nicholas Carlblom..... Darell Carlblom’s commitment to Can Do Canines
 Nancy Carlson..... “Miko” & “Misha”
 Janet Cobus..... “Kita”
 Jill Cushing..... Cathy Stevens’ birthday
 Jill Cyann..... “Bear”
 Joanne Day..... my darling husband from his long time best friend “Ecco”
 Robin Day..... “Ebony”
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Kathy Dunlap..... “Stella” the adorable service dog to Stephanie Ruotsinoja
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 Julia Hanson..... my loving family
 Alice Jungkunz..... “Sparky Jane”
 Roy Kraft..... Joshua Andrew Kraft Jr.
 Jeanne LaBelle..... Al Peters and 25 years of following his dream
 Tiff Mayne..... Holly Thompson
 Shannon Mayer..... John and “Floyd” Ewing, a great team.
 Cathy McCoy..... Mike Ferber
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 Jeanne Smith..... Austin Wisdorf
 Tysley Taylor..... My puppies “Kimba” and “Quickly”
 Jamie TenEyck..... “Muppet”
 Linda Thompson..... “Mali,” “Honey” and the rest
 Julie Thorpe..... Thomas Schultz
 Emily Woster..... my mom Christy and her wonderful helper “Rusty”
 Peter Wuebker..... Austin Wisdorf

Thank You For a More Normal Life

Jonah Herold & Autism Assist Dog Rennie

Ten years ago, Angi and husband Philip adopted a sweet, seven-month-old baby boy from South Korea named Jonah. A little baby brother, Rudy, followed a year later. Their lives were filled with excitement and promise. Now the two young boys have grown, Jonah, 9 and Rudy, 8 and the family's lives are just as busy and exciting as ever; however there is one challenge. Jonah has autism.

"Jonah is an extremely energetic boy. Most of the time it's joyful energy, but sometimes it's high anxiety. It gets in the way of everything he doesn't want to do and it gets in the way of everything he does want to do," Angi says.

When highly anxious, Jonah may bolt and run. He has also never slept through the night, always waking up and searching for his parents. As both parents work full time, Jonah has personal care attendants to help, whom he calls "his ladies." Angi tells all his caregivers, "You must be able to draw a stick figure, you must be able to listen, as Jonah talks ALL the time, and you must be able to run, to catch him if he bolts."

To help aid the situation, Jonah's musical therapist suggested an Autism Assist Dog, as Jonah liked dogs. They hoped an assistance dog would keep him physically safe, enhance his social skills by interacting with others through a dog, and lessen his anxiety. Rudy, Jonah's brother, also has allergies, so they needed a dog that didn't shed. The family eagerly awaited their match.

Meanwhile, Rennie, a two-year-old standard poodle, was being raised by his Puppy Raisers and learning the basic obedience skills and good manners essential for an assistance dog. His Puppy Raisers praised Rennie's patience with their grandchildren and even though he loved to play, he knew that when his cape was on, it was time to work. While finishing training in the Federal Correctional Facility at Waseca the trainers observed that he was very "in tune" with his handler. If his handler



Jonah Herold & Autism Assist Dog Rennie

was upset, he would try to comfort, but also understood when someone needed time alone.

When Rennie arrived at the Herold household, one of the first things Angi and Philip worked on was having him sleep with Jonah. "It was a transition, but we worked on it," Angi says. "I explained to Jonah that he needs to take care of Rennie and Rennie would take care of him. I told him if he woke up in the night he should reach over and touch Rennie to know that he is there for you." It took a little while, but Jonah gradually understood that Rennie was there especially for him. Now Jonah sleeps through the night.

Before Rennie, there were places Angi would never consider taking Jonah—namely the grocery store. As he grew older, he became too strong and she feared she may not be able to control him. But with Rennie, they now go to Cub Foods, Target, coffee shops and the library (which Jonah loves). When Jonah starts to meltdown, Angi just tells him, "Pet Rennie," or "take Rennie's leash," and by giving him something to do, Jonah's attention is diverted long enough to calm down.

A high point lately was the family walking to the school carnival three blocks away. Jonah, who never talks to his classmates, introduced Rennie

to them and his caretakers. "It was a special occasion and a huge success," says Angi.

When asked what she'd like to say to Rennie's Puppy Raisers, Can Do Canines' donors, staff and inmates who helped train Rennie, Angi replies, "I think of them a lot. It's similar to when I think of all the people who made it possible for Jonah to be in our lives. I think of all those who brought Rennie to us, too. It makes it extra special that there are people who care for and want to help kids like Jonah." ♥

Autism Assist Dogs are the most sought after assistance dog on Can Do Canines 180 person waiting list. You can shorten that wait and help us train more dogs. Visit can-do-canines.org/donate and make a contribution today. You can make a difference for a person with a disability!

We Thank Those Who Made This Placement Possible:

- 🐾 Puppy Raisers – Karen & Ray Larsen
- 🐾 Long-term Foster Home – The Inmate Handlers at the Federal Correctional Facility at Waseca
- 🐾 Dog Donated by – Kathryn Molan
- 🐾 Vet Services – Maryland Ave Pet Hospital

Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ I.Click Training Clickers
- ✓ **Car Seat Belt Harnesses – M & L**
- ✓ **Halti Head Collars sizes 2 & 3**
- ✓ 4' or 6' Leashes
- ✓ 18" Martingale collars
- ✓ Medium Gentle Leaders
- ✓ Soft Treats (Biljac, Zukes)
- ✓ Small and medium biscuit style treats
- ✓ 18" raised feeders
- ✓ **"Slow feed" bowls**
- ✓ **Giant Nylabones and Large Kongs**
- ✓ **L or XL Vari-Kennels**
- ✓ 36" and 42" Wire Dog Kennels (new or gently used)
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Nature's Miracle Cleaner
- ✓ Easy Walk, Freedom or Halti Harnesses
- ✓ Motion and Noise Toys
- ✓ **Rubber Chuck-It Balls (XL)**
- ✓ Large Kick-It Balls (by Chuck-It)
- ✓ **Stuffing free, Chuck-It or JW dog toys**
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ **Laptops & Computers, Windows 7 or Mac (OS 10.6 or higher)**
- ✓ **Adobe Creative Cloud Subscription**
- ✓ **DSLR Camera**
- ✓ **Lighting Photography Equipment**
- ✓ Conference Room Speakerphone
- ✓ **Flat screen TV (30" or larger)**

Automotive

- ✓ Any used auto, motorcycle or boat
- ✓ Gasoline cards
- ✓ Auto repair/maintenance

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Weed Trimmer (gas powered)
- ✓ No-Iron Black Tablecloth/Draping for 6' tables
- ✓ Silverware set
- ✓ General hand tools
- ✓ Gift cards to:
 - Grocery stores
 - Office supply stores
 - Michael's craft store
 - Party City
 - Home improvement stores
- ✓ Office desks (good condition)
- ✓ Office supplies (copy paper, markers, stamps)
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner
- ✓ HE laundry detergent

Items in bold are our most pressing needs! A special thanks to all of you who previously supplied us with wish list items! You made our wishes come true! ♥

Development News

Name-a-Puppy: Change a life.

2015 was a banner year for the Name A Puppy program! Although schools are the most likely youth groups to raise \$1,500 to name a puppy, the program is getting more popular with individuals and adult groups who are happy to raise \$3,000 for the honor of naming a puppy.

Name a puppy—Change a Life. Call Julia Hanson for more information: jhanson@can-do-canines.org, 763-331-3000 x162.



Won't you help name me so I can change a life someday?



Your Company Here

Corporate Partnership Opportunities for 2015

There are a few ways Can Do Canines can partner with area businesses and individuals to ensure that 100% of the income received from 2015 events goes into our programs.

Corporate partnerships provide funding to underwrite the costs of the event in return for branding opportunities for the partner. If you are interested in learning more, contact Janet Cobus at [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) for a Partnership Package.

Your generosity made Give to the Max Day 2014 a resounding success!

TO THE MAX
give DAY 

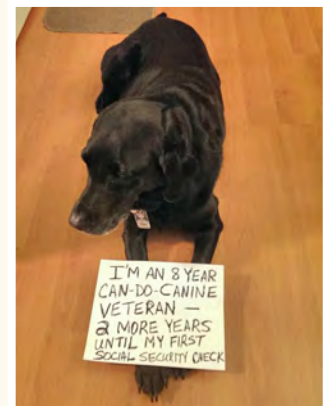
NOV 13, 2014

A total of 380 donors just like you opened their hearts to contribute an amazing \$40,633 toward Can Do Canines' mission.

TOTAL RAISED WITH THE MATCHING FUNDS ... \$65,633!

Thank you so much for supporting this year's Give to the Max Day—and for everything that you do to change a life through your support of Can Do Canines.

And thank you to The Harmon Foundation, The Thaler Family Foundation and three anonymous donors for supporting our matching gift program with donations totaling \$25,000!



A BIG thank you to people like Terry Hansmeier who shared photos like this one in support of the campaign!

Volunteer Spotlight – Holly & Ken Schultz

Holly and Ken Schultz have always loved and had dogs in their lives. First hearing about Can Do Canines 10 years ago through the Fridley Lions they wanted to be involved, but felt they first needed to have less pet dogs in their lives to really commit.

In 2011, they stopped at a Lion's pancake breakfast and saw a Can Do Canines information table with details on puppy raising. After chatting with Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson, they decided perhaps the time had come to get involved. They've been gung-ho ever since!

Holly and Ken have short term fostered and puppy raised several dogs over the years. Now with their current dog Jetta, they've even stepped into the role of Breeder Host family, helping breed and whelp future assistance dogs.

The couple also helps with staffing our booth at events and lends a hand whenever needed (including assembling the largest group of Puppy Raiser walkers for the 2014 Woofaroo!).

Holly's passion and energy for the organization shows in everything she does. She mentors other Puppy Raiser volunteers, is a member of our Canine Committee, and speaks at our Tails to Tell Tours and to other small groups. Recently Holly was part of a group of staff and volunteers who put together the first Volunteer Social event in November. It was a success and we plan to have more in the future!

The staff, board and dogs at Can Do Canines sincerely appreciate all the hard work and commitment Holly and Ken have done, and continue to do, on our behalf. Well done! ♥



Volunteers Holly & Ken Schultz with their dogs Kira, Jetta and the "Queen of the House," Maddie

What about you?

Would you like to share your talents? We are currently seeking help in the following areas:

Graphic Artists/Marketing help (experience required), Prison foster homes (Waseca & Duluth areas), and Puppy Raisers (Twin Cities metro area) — puppies are coming in January 2015!

For more information or other volunteer opportunities, contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 x113

2015 Event Planning Committees Forming ... we would love to see you there!

Are you looking for a way to use your organizational and creative talents at Can Do Canines? Would you consider helping us create events that will excite, impress, and motivate people to become involved in the work we do?



We will be holding an informational meeting on January 8 at 6:30 p.m. to recruit volunteers to help plan the exciting Fetching Ball and Woofaroo pledge walk events for Can Do Canines in 2015.

If you would like to attend, please contact Shelly Hiemer at shiemer@can-do-canines.org or call 763-331-3000 x115 to be put on the invitation list for the first meeting.

Can Do Canines Ambassador Training

Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.

Can Do Canines has more than 150 trained Ambassador Club members and we would love to add you to the club. As a small nonprofit, it is vital that we have ambassadors in our communities, spreading the word about our programs.

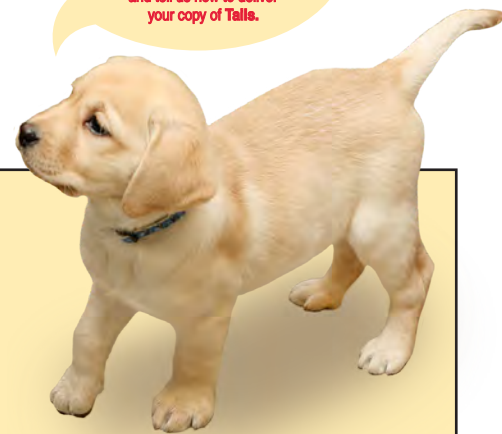


The next Ambassador Training session will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 10 a.m. at Can Do Canines facility in New Hope, Minn.

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson at lcarlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 x113 if you'd be interested in attending.

Visit me online!

You can read and share *Tails from Minnesota* online and receive every issue in your email inbox! Go to www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter and tell us how to deliver your copy of *Tails*.



Upcoming Events

January 15	Tails to Tell Tour, 11 a.m.
February 21	Tails to Tell Tour, 10 a.m.
March 7	Tails to Tell Tour, 10 a.m.
March 14	Ambassador Training, 10 a.m.
April 25	Spring Graduation, 1 p.m.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Spring Graduation Ceremony Saturday, April 25, 2015

Get out your calendars and save the date. Our next graduates will be celebrating their new partnerships in spring of the new year!

*All Tails to Tell tours take place at our facility, located at 9440 Science 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!

Stay Connected With Us

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



Visit facebook.com/candocanines and like our page for updates.



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



Sign up at can-do-canines.org to receive *Tails from Minnesota* via email



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



Learn more about Canines Do Canines by scanning the QR code with your smart phone



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

Raise a puppy.
Help someone
in need.

*I want to grow
up to help
someone!*

Won't you help me
to learn how?



As a Puppy Raiser for Can Do Canines, you transform our mission from words on paper into an everyday reality for people with disabilities. Your selfless gifts of time and caring provide the gifts of independence, freedom and peace of mind for people with disabilities and their families.

To learn more about becoming a Puppy Raiser visit can-do-canines.org/puppy-raiser or call Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson at 763-331-3000 x113.