Our 700th Team!
See how Abbot brings perfect balance to Aidan.
Yet these aren’t the only qualities that Tooth (CMT), and the even rarer CMT4 is a neurological disorder. Hearing 12-year-old Aidan speak, That means doing simple things you’d never guess he is only in the sixth grade. He is thoughtful, navigating a crowded school hallway— nerves—tracts of nerve cells that kid unique. He also happens to muscle strength as the rest of us to be make this North Branch, Minnesota articulate and unusually self- dangerous for Aidan. When Aidan’s frequent falls started to became a problem A PERFECT BALANCE Aidan’s mother, Adrienne. “Things Abbot’s skills are amazing and far surpassed my expectations. He is so smart.” I knew a dog would be able to get his shoes.” Abbot, are the 700th team brought by AIDAN is excited to have Abbot join him at school. “But I was pretty nervous when I started training because I thought I was going to fail a lot. I thought he would like me on the other day, Remy, that he would jump on me or trip me when we’re walking.” Of course, Abbot does neither of those things. He does, however, like to play with him a lot. Remy, when he’s not assisting. Like all Can Do Canines dogs, he helps with his school work. AIDAN and Abbot have only been living together for a few months, but they’re already best friends. And now that the pair have bonded, Aidan knows that he never needs to have Abbot join him at school:

“Kids can be wild,” Aidan says. “The best part of having Abbot at school is that he’s going to keep me from getting knocked over! It’s been good having him in my life. I love him. He fits in with the family.

The depth and breadth of Abbot’s skills are amazing

Aidan and his Mobility Assist Dog, Abbot comes in. Living with Abbot, Adrienne said, has helped Aidan tremulously— especially when it comes to his balance. “Abbot is able to steady him when he wobbles, and he helps him open doors and drawers,” she says. “It really helps us when we’re getting him ready in the morning. Abbot can help him get his shoes.” I have a dog that would be able to help Aidan, she says. “I want to make sure everything would be able to do, though. The depth and breadth of Abbot’s skills are amazing and far surpassed my expectations. He is so smart.” And what does Aidan think of Abbot? “My first thought was that he was very attractive,” he admits.

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Greg and Cat Stevens have a long history with Can Do Canines. Greg and Cat both attended St. Mary’s University with founder Alan Peters. They started work with Can Do Canines as Puppy Raisers over 10 years ago, intending to raise and train a puppy who would grow to be a hero to someone living with disabilities. As it turned out, that dog was better suited to life as a pet and was career changed into home life with Greg and Cat permanently. “It was a great experience, every step of the way.”

Since then, they’ve continued to be involved with Can Do Canines as Puppy Program volunteers, board members, event attendees, and as generous donors, naming three puppies with the Name-a-Puppy program.

Because of their involvement with Can Do Canines, they’ve seen first-hand the impact their commitment has. Through a winning auction bid at one of the Fetching Ball Galas, they were able to visit one of the prisons. “We met with inmates, had lunch with them and saw how emotionally involved they are in this project and in their responsibility to train that dog and then give it to someone that they don’t know. It has a huge impact on their lives.” Greg recalls from their visit.

If you ask why they are so committed to Can Do Canines, Greg says, “What we appreciate is that it’s a well-run organization. The people who work there really care about the mission and what they do and it shows.” He continues that “You can see the direct impact of your work. There’s no doubt about it that Can Do Canines can change the life of the person who gets the dog and all the people around them.”

Their commitment doesn’t end at volunteering, “We believe that, from those people that have received much, much is expected. We’ve been blessed and we want to ensure that Can Do Canines continues for generations to come.”

Greg and Cat have made it part of their life story to give generously and support our mission to enhance the quality of life for people living with disabilities by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with specially trained dogs. They’ve taken the extra step to ensure that their legacy, their commitment to Can Do Canines, lives on for generations by choosing to join our Legacy Club and by making a bequest through their will.

Can Do Canines is very thankful for all the support people like Greg and Cat Stevens have offered over the years! There are many ways individuals can express their wishes and plan their estates to continue to make an incredible impact on the organizations that have touched their lives. Dedicating a bequest in your will is just one of the many ways to leave a lasting legacy.
## 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.

9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428
763-331-3000 | info@can-do-canines.org | can-do-canines.org

## Upcoming Events
- **The Fetching Ball Gala** | February 8 at 6 p.m.
  Where: DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel
  Get your tickets at fetchingball.com

- **Winter Graduation Ceremony** | February 29 at 1 p.m.
  Where: 9440 Science Center Dr., New Hope, MN 55428

- **Tails to Tell Presentation**
  Where: 9440 Science Center Dr., New Hope, MN 55428
  February 22 at 11 a.m.
  March 19 at 7 p.m.

Please reserve your spot at one of our upcoming Tails to Tell presentations at tailstotell.can-do-canines.org

Read full-length versions of these stories and more at can-do-canines.org/blog

## You Helped
make the following possible in 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New teams that have started working together in 2019</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs that are in for final training at the Can Do Canines facility</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>54 volunteers took walks with future service dogs.</td>
<td>6,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Puppy Program Volunteers</td>
<td>3,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active working teams who receive continuous follow-up and support from Can Do Canines</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs that are in for final training at the Can Do Canines facility</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 3,794 individuals donated to support our programs
- 134 New Puppy Program Volunteers
- 333 Active working teams who receive continuous follow-up and support from Can Do Canines