



Paw Prints

Spring 2010

Assistance Dog Program Off to a Strong Start in 2010

by Bill Dahlkamp

Success is validation for a job well done. This mantra can certainly be applied to our most recent group of five canines placed with their new human partners in January and in March.

Ben Spangenberg and Michelob

As a passenger in an automobile accident, Ben was told he would never walk or talk again. With his immeasurable determination, he has beaten the odds and is both walking and talking. Ben realized he needed some assistance, so Michelob will help him with mobility and retrieval as Ben continues to improve upon his daily situation.



Allison Reinhart and Dallas

Allison is like many new college students: ambitious and ready to meet the challenges of the world. Due to her Spinal Muscular Atrophy, she needed the extra assistance to be able to do just that. Dallas will accompany Allison to Mizzou and help her with her daily routines both in the classroom and at home.



Alice Lee and Austin

This is the second service dog for Alice but her first with Support Dogs. She sought our services after she had to retire her first service dog. Alice is a retired teacher and, because of her disability, needs assistance with daily activities. Austin is a perfect fit and doing wonderfully. Alice is partial to Golden retrievers, so this is a match made in heaven.



Ronald Hilmer and Dayton

Ronald, a retired chaplain with Parkinson's, requires assistance to get around and prevent falls. Previous to the onset of his illness, Ron was very active and would be gone most of the week. Dayton will act as a brace, standing along and walking with Ron, allowing him again to enjoy an active lifestyle.

Timmy Gunn and Judy

This match is Support Dog's first hearing dog placement for the year. Timmy is a 13-year-old boy who attends school and is your typical teenager. Timmy's mom sought a hearing dog to give her son more confidence and environmental awareness. This new team is sure to shine...together.



We would like to congratulate the new teams and are excited for their future lives together. Congratulations to everyone involved!

As we look forward to 2010, the organization is gearing up for the April Team Training, which should have an anticipated three or four new teams. Everyone at Support Dogs is proud of the strong start to the year and hopes to continue that strength for the entirety of 2010.

Whether it is in Service, Hearing, Animal Assisted Therapy, or now Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Support Dogs is dedicated to improving the lives of those we serve through the use of our quality assistance dogs. We witness with every placement that each team is a success that validates the efforts made by our breeders, volunteers, and staff. Thanks to everyone for their efforts - together we make a difference!

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SDI Mission: Support Dogs, Inc. is a national not-for-profit organization that offers dignity, hope and independence by providing highly skilled service dogs to individuals with disabilities, and uniquely trained therapy teams to serve the community.



What's New in TOUCH

by Bill Dahlkamp

Lots of learning and listening takes place at our new Spring TOUCH class at Support Dogs. We have 34 potential teams preparing to pass the training so they can join a world that brings joy with every visit. This unique class enlists the help of two Girl Scout troops that serve as "mock patients" on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This interaction truly helps expose and socialize the dogs plus their handlers to different people and situations. A huge thank you to the scouts for their help!

This TOUCH class is the first to attend an infectious disease seminar presented by Dr. Brian Dieckgraefe and Gigi Strauss-Dieckgraefe. The seminar includes information about how infectious diseases are spread and, more specifically, how TOUCH handlers can reduce that transmission during on-site visits. Support Dogs hopes to offer this seminar to previously certified TOUCH participants as part of our quest to stay informed, stay educated...and stay on top!

Paws for Reading Continues Success

by Bill Dahlkamp

Spring signals the end of the school year, but we would like to give a high five (we really mean "paw") to our



successful Paws For Reading program at both the elementary schools and the St. Louis Public Library. Our program saw a dramatic increase in participants, locations and volunteer teams. We have reached more than 5,000 children in 15 elementary locations

and 13 St. Louis Public Library branches this school year. What an accomplishment!

Due to the program's popularity, Support Dogs is already in the planning stages for the 2010-2011 school year to add more schools and once again partner with the Library. We look forward to sharing the details with you in future newsletters.

Service Dog Department Updates

by Cindi Blanke

A service dog team involves many checks and balances. Each team must recertify every year with Support Dogs to ensure the dog is effectively working for the client. Recertification allows the client to communicate changes regarding their disability. It's the perfect time to add additional skills that the dog may need to perform to make life easier for its human partner.

At this time, Support Dogs evaluates the dog to determine if retirement is necessary. Dogs are just like people in that they also earn the right to a more relaxed life once their working days are over. In most cases, the dog stays in the home it has grown to know and love. The client also can chose to give the dog to a family member or friend for his retirement years.

We recently reviewed two teams from the first 2010 training group, and they both passed their 45 day recertification. The group's other clients will recertify by video since they are located outside the area.

Recertification allows Support Dogs to keep tabs on the team, even after placement.

Support Dogs, Inc. cordially invites you to attend

TACKY
2010 **ball**

CANINE CARNIVAL



SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

**Palladium Saint Louis
1400 Park Place
St. Louis MO, 63104**

MAJOR SPONSOR

Nestlé Purina PetCare

SPECIAL GUEST EMCEE

Peter Vaccaro

FOR YOUR DANCING PLEASURE

The Fabulous Motown Revue

**Underwritten in Honor of
The fabulous ASSISTANCE,
TOUCH and PAWS dogs, their
great handlers, trainers, clients,
breeders, & Volunteer Puppy Raisers**

**6:00 p.m. Tango toward
registration where
the fun begins**

**7:15 p.m. Sumptuous elegant
dinner by
Butler's Pantry**

**8:00 p.m. "Copacabana"
Live Auction**

**8:45-11:30 p.m. The Fabulous
Motown Revue**

GO BANANAS! SAMBA, TANGO, RUMBA!

**Enjoy a Banana Merlot Sangria
sponsored by Applebee's St. Peters (while supplies last)**

Stroll along the "Ipanema Beach" Silent Auction

The crowning of the King and Queen of Tacky

**Tacky-formal attire desired, but
normal formal is also admired.**

**To make a reservation or for additional information call (314) 997-2325
Special General Admission offer ends March 11, 2010, see reservation form for details!
All reservations accepted through March 19, 2010 except special rate.**

TRIBUTES Support Dogs Tribute Phone provides a means of expressing your feelings of gratitude and recognition for a loved one, either human or canid, who will always hold a place in your heart. Below are Tributes received from Nov. 2009 - Feb. 2010. Every effort has been made for accuracy, errors do occur. If your donation for the periods listed has been omitted or misattributed, or if your name is misspelled, please notify us. We gratefully acknowledge the donations received.

In Memory Of

Mr. Byron Davis
Ms. Anita Davis

Mr. Rich Davis
Ms. Linda Straubinger

Mr. Mathew G. Eilerts, Jr.
ANNONYArts-Artists & Board of Directors
Sebasitan Bellomo, Beckah Voigt &
Tom Brady
STLPC Buddies: J.Y. Miller, Aaron Clark,
Joe Kilpatrick, Jerry Bushve and
Jaime Mendez
Bikram Yoga St. Louis
Mr. Paul Kosco
Don, Jan & Anna Sielaff
Southern Illinois Miners
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Trott

Ms. Mary Fisher
Charlotte Rosenblum

Ms. Pam Fluri
Ms. Nina Coulter Ware

Mrs. Susan Gardner
Mr. Joseph Flegel

Ms. Wanda C. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry P. Schloss

Ms. Linda Levine
Mr. Joseph Flegel

Mr. Charles L. McQuay, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Burt Thompson

Mr. Charles L. McQuay, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Burt Thompson

Margaret Mowry
Ms. Linda Straubinger

Mr. Bernard (Pete) Pasternak
Ms. Nancy Sachar

Mr. Burnell H. E. Rapp
Mr. & Mrs. John Bantle
Mr. Victor Doder
Mr. & Mrs. William Franke
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Gross
Mr. & Mrs. Gloria Havermann
The Reinhold Family
Ms. Mary E. (Beth) Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Vogelsang

Mr. Morton Rogo
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Zimmerman

Mr. Bill Saguto & Zeus
Ms. Patricia Hamilton

Mr. Irv Scheiner
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Travis

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Ms. Victoria McAmis

Mr. Pete Springer
Ms. Elizabeth Springer

Mrs. Sue Stotler
Mr. Dwight Stotler

Mr. Phillip Straubinger
Mrs. Linda Straubinger

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Ms. Julie Rosenfeld

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Ms. Bridget Murphy

Sara Wald-Dickler
Mr. & Mrs. Mort Bloch
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Wald
Dr. Andrew Dickler

Ms. Peggy Webber
Mr. & Mrs. James Woodward

Mrs. Millie Wolff
Ms. Pam Toder

Mr. Tom Woodward & Hutch
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lewis

In Honor of

Mr. Jonathan Anderson & Crocket
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Anderson

Ms. Joann Bane & Houston
Mr. David Mundy

Lauren Vaughn Brandstetter's Birthday
Holly Nylander

Troy Brandstetter and Lauren Vaughn's wedding
Holly Nylander

Ms. Rosaline Brasch's Birthday
Mrs. Nancy Reis

Mrs. Janice Brennan
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Morey

Mr. Barry Buchek's Birthday
Ms. Margaret O'Brien

Maureen Buck
Ms. Carol Holmes

The Conlon Family
Ms. Christel Maassen

Nancy Craig
Ms. Carol Holmes

Mr. Bill Dahlkamp
Mrs. Linda Straubinger

Mr. Bill Dahlkamp's Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Weinerth

Jacob Donjon & Indy
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Stuppy

Mr. Gary Dreher
Conner Ash P.C

Mr. Jack Emry at Christmas Time
Ms. Leisel Emry

Peggy Eckstrom Gay
Ms. Carol Holmes

Mr. Joe Flegel & Lillie
Ms. Shirley Cohen

Mr. Jim Glickert
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Woodruff

Ms. Sara J. Glickert
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Woodruff

Mr. Willie Glickert
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Woodruff

Ms. Delores Grollman's Birthday
Ms. Nancy Sachar

Ms. Joanne Hauge at Christmas Time
Ms. Brenda Haalboom

Carol Holmes' Birthday
Ms. Maureen Buck
Mr. & Mrs. David Craig
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Lamza
Maria Sakellariou & Scott Thompson

Julie Jennings and Dennis Harvey's wedding
Kay Moore
Ms. Jenifer Wyss

Jody's speedy recovery,
daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wolf
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Zimmerman

Lana Lake & Roger
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lake, Jr.

Julie Lanningham
Ms. Colleen Watermon

Ms. Mary Catherine Lapham
Mrs. Lisa Heusted

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Loebner – Happy Holidays
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Shapiro

Mrs. Vicky McAmis for Valentine's Day
Mr. Michael McAmis

Mr. & Mrs. John McCormack at Christmas Time
Ms. Ann McCormack

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Minner – Happy Holidays
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Shapiro

Dr. & Mrs. David L. Mobley
Ms. Carol Holmes

Mr. Lynn Mobley
Ms. Carol Holmes

Mark & Karen Mobley
Ms. Carol Holmes

Maggie & Jack Noe for Valentine's Day
Nana & Papa

Bob & Barb Orrick
Ms. Carol Holmes

Julie Otto
Ms. Carol Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Patt Ms. Margaret Sneed	Eden Ms. Margaret Tucker	Yoda P. J. Burtle-McCredie
Katie Patterson & Allie Miriam School Rooms 6 & 7	Feebie Ms. Julie Rosenfeld	Zoe Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Shell
Jackie & Pete Peterson Ms. Carol Holmes	Field Mr. & Mrs. Bob Noe	<u>In Honor Of (Pet)</u> Andy Ms. Dianne Rains
Jan Potthoff Ms. Carol Holmes	Jade Mrs. Gayln Bratcher Mrs. Janice Brennan Mr. & Mrs. Mark Catalano Mr. & Mrs. James Chickering Ms. Katie Conklin Ms. Carol Holmes Mr. & Mrs. Mark James Mrs. Claudia Noe Mrs. Jo Reily Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Robinson Mrs. Terry Stocker Mrs. Ann Weinerth	Bear Winkler Mr. Gerald L. Winkler
Rick Pourchot & Olivia Miriam School Rooms 5a & 4	Karen Kalish's beloved canine friend The Glantz Family	Charlie Mrs. Teresa Wilkin-Shell
Mr. Jim Reeves Mr. W. Thomas Reeves	Laddie Mr. & Mrs. Barry Beracha	Fenway Mr. Michael Brunetto
Anne Richardson Barbara R. Cole	Louie Ms. Kathy Waldemer	Haley & Hillary Alicia Flamm
Mr. Roger Richie Mr. Joe Suda, Jr.	Luna Jean Sloofman (Payak)	Jeep Mr. Mitchell Weltman
Dr. Lisa Ring Ms. Claire R. Grossman	Maxwell Ellen & Zalman	Katy, Lotti, & Tin Ms. Bette Sill
Ms. Julie Rosenfeld Mr. & Mrs. Les Reiter	McGuire Goldstein Nelly Toder	Kirby Mrs. Ann Krone
Patty Sanders & Linda Wahe at Christmas Time Ken, Sharon & Sadie Johnson	Michelob Mr. William Glickert	Lady Mr. & Mrs. Allen A. Flamm
Linda Schilligo Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Pannier	Micky Mick Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dodge	Lucy, the Welshie Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wilhelm
Mrs. Bette Sill Dr. Dorothy Ricketts	Moko Mr. & Mrs. Bob Noe	Mabel Bella Chauvin as a Christmas Gift
Donastas Sakellariou-Thompson Ms. Carol Holmes	Muffin Ms. Patricia Robidoux	Mable Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sears
Scott Thompson & Maria Sakellariou Ms. Carol Holmes	Murphy, Tug & Griffin Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kersting	Mimi Mr. & Mrs. John Donnelly
Mrs. JoAnne Travis Ms. Claire R. Grossman	Murphy Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gallagher	Mona & Boba's Birthday Troy Brandsetter & Lauren Vaughn Mr. & Mrs. William Crabbin Susan Harrison Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Otto Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Phipps Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Snodgrass
Lisa Tucker Ms. Carol Holmes	Oakie Carol Holmes Mr. & Mrs. Mark James	Sadie Liz Higginbotham
Veterans Home Care LLC – 7 th Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Howard Laiderman	Sam Mr. & Mrs. James Murphy	Snuffy Mr. Ken Javor & Pamela Renshaw
Nadine Wenig Ms. Carol Holmes	Shadow Mrs. Ann Weinerth	Storie Bella Chauvin
Ms. Marci Zimmerman & Bentley Mr. & Mrs. Steve Goldsmith	Tippy Mrs. Teresa Wilkin-Shell	Storm's Birthday Mr. & Mrs. Bill Balmer
<u>In Memory Of (Pet)</u> Amanda Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Goerke	Toby Mrs. Marjorie Dozier	Tony (Jenny's dog) Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schnitzler
Bacall & McKenzie Mr. Ken Javor & Pamela Renshaw	Walker Mr. & Mrs. James Fitzpatrick Ms. Patricia Manhart & Jim Reeves	Whoopi, my Support Dog trainee 1996 Ms. Lisa Dixon
Bear & Ben Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hoven	Woody Mr. & Mrs. Todd Howard	Will Dardenne Presbyterian Women Presbyterian Women, Jackson, MO Mr. & Mrs. Barry Spielman
Bliss & Jolly Mary & Kelly Curran		Marci Zimmerman & Bentley Mr. & Mrs. Stan Zimmerman
Brahms Ms. Carol Holmes		
Camry & Dover Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Stark		

A Great Way To Give

by Ann Weinerth

Sometimes it is difficult to find just the right gift to honor someone on his birthday, anniversary, Mother's or Father's Day. Even more so if that remembrance is to send a note of condolence to someone who has just lost a loved one or a beloved pet.

Giving from the heart is our motto at Support Dogs...and what better way than to make a contribution as a tribute to friends, family or loved ones. Tribute gifts are easy and fit any budget. It's the perfect way to give to those who have everything.

Each individual tribute includes a note card personally hand-written to honor or memorialize that special someone or pet. Tribute gifts start at \$5 and can be in any amount you desire. Your tribute gift is tax deductible, and you will receive an acknowledgement of the gift. For more information, call us today at (314) 997-2325.

P.S. Wedding or baby shower in the future? It's always a challenge to find that perfect party favor. Why not acknowledge your guests by making a tribute to Support Dogs in their honor.

What's Happening

by Ann Weinerth

Support Dogs manned the charity gift wrap station at South County Mall during the 2009 holiday season. We would like to thank the 248 cumulative volunteers and staff members who not only helped raise over \$6,000 for SDI, but also raised awareness by handing out brochures and hosting two separate service dog demonstrations.

January 23 was a night for rockin' and a rollin', splishin' and a splashin'! Baby it was cold outside...but inside the Kirkwood Community Center was a totally different story. Nearly 200 guests danced the night away to the warm sounds of Sh-Boom. If you have seen them perform, you know that it's more than just dancing. Everyone had a great time, and the event raised \$1,400 for Support Dogs. By the end of the evening, everyone's blue suede shoes were ready to retire...although many guests hinted that they would like to make this an annual gig.

For the fourth consecutive year, Support Dogs hosted a Puppy Love evening for its Volunteer Puppy Raisers and their guests. This year's theme, though love-based for our volunteers, was all about the stars of the show: the more than 30 individuals and families who have helped raise a puppy over the last year.

All staff attended the event along with the more than 40 Volunteer Puppy Raisers and their guests. Each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation presented to them by Advanced Training staffers Nadine Wenig and Katie Ruiz. Interim Executive Director Bill Dahlkamp began the evening by welcoming and thanking all of the volunteers present...from Board members to Kennel Enrichment to Volunteer Puppy Raisers and their guests. Bill said "It's a very important way to thank our treasured volunteers who put so much into lovingly raising a puppy for a deserving physically disabled individual."

Where's Trivia?

by Ann Weinerth

That's a trivia night question, isn't it? This year we have moved the evening's location to accommodate our quickly growing event. Reservations are required, and the cost is \$25 per person or \$200 per table of eight guests. Last year's event was a sell-out, so call us now at (314) 997-2325 to make a reservation.

Trivia Night includes raffles, mulligans and door prizes, plus a silent auction heaven! Soft drinks and beer provided (while supplies last – must be 21 years old with a valid state ID). Limited seating availability, so reserve a table today

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, August 7, 2010. Doors open at 6 p.m. Trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m.

The answer to the headline: Trivia will be at the Moolah Temple, 12545 Fee Fee Rd. in Maryland Heights. See you in August.

"Dogs in the Ruff"

Golf Tournament to Benefit Support Dogs, Inc.
www.supportdogs.org

Norman K. Probstein Golf Course - Forest Park
6141 Lagoon Drive
St. Louis, MO 63112

Friday, May 21, 2010
Check-In/Lunch at Noon
1:00 PM Shotgun Start
4 Person Scramble

Registration Fee: \$85 (\$90 After May 1)

Includes:

18 Holes & Cart
Lunch, Dinner, & Beverages
Silent Auction & Prizes



To Register:
314-997-2325
awainerth@supportdogs.org



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St. Louis, MO 63146
314-997-2325
www.supportdogs.org

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DATED MATERIAL

The Refrigerator Page

Welcome to the Refrigerator Page. Feel free to clip this page and place where you will be reminded of all Support Dogs' happenings. To obtain more information please call 314/997-2325.

Dates to Remember for 2010...

Saturday, March 27 from 6 – 11:30 p.m. – Tacky Ball 2010 Canine Carnival (see page 3).

April 3, from 10am - 4pm - *Four Muddy Paws will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt at both their Lafayette Square (1711 Park Ave.) and Edwardsville (2127 S. State Route 157) locations. For a \$5 donation, Four Muddy Paws will allow a dog and his owner the chance to find five eggs inside the store. Each egg has a prize ranging from in-store coupons, decorated treats or Easter toys.*

All proceeds benefit Support Dogs.

Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day) – *Call SDI to order a Support Dogs' tribute card for Mom.*

Friday, May 21 - Dogs in the Ruff Golf Tournament (see page 7).

Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day) – *Remember a loved one who served in the military with a tribute card.*

Sunday, June 20 (Father's Day) – *Dear old Dad would love a tribute card; call today!*

Saturday, August 7 – Trivia Night and Silent Auction (new location: Moolah Temple 12545 Fee Fee Rd)