



# Paw Prints

Fall 2009

## History Continues to Be Made in Assistance Dog Program

by Bill Dahlkamp

Friday, August 28 was a very special day for the Assistance Dog Program at Support Dogs, Inc. – more so than usual. Support Dogs graduated our “Fall Session” assistance dog class. Every client that receives a new canine partner is special and is cause for celebration. But looking back at this most recent graduation, it came to mind that the individuals in this class made Support Dogs’ history in their own unique way.

First and foremost, Support Dogs would like to congratulate Service Dog Team Joe Flegel with Lillie, Youth Service Dog Team Jacob Donjon with Indy, and Animal Assisted Therapy Dog Team Diane Silman with Simon. We wish them well and the very best in their future endeavors. And, of course, we thank the breeders for providing such quality puppies and the Volunteer Puppy Raisers who take the time and donate their energies to prepare the puppies for their life of service. Without everyone working together, the assistance dog placements would not be possible.

As for the history of these three clients...

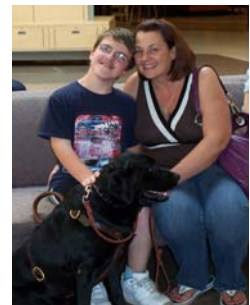
...let’s begin with Joe Flegel. Joe has been involved with Support Dogs for 22 years. Joe started in June 1987 when he received his first service dog, Tackle. Over the years since Tackle, Joe’s service dogs have included Dover, Jolly, Gus, and now Lilly. Joe earns his place in SDI history as the client who has received more service



Joe Flegel and Lillie

dogs than any client at SDI. We would like to thank Joe for having the trust in Support Dogs to continue his relationship with us each time he receives a successor dog from the organization.

...Jacob Donjon is a lively and intelligent young man who was partnered with Indy. Indy, as some may remember, was the first dog raised and trained at the West Overland Fire Department. The entire department, under the direction of trainer Nadine Wenig and Chief Michael Marlo, helped prepare Indy for his life as a service dog. Indy is helping Jacob with his balance, retrieves, and being the best buddy a 15-year-old boy could ask for.



Jacob Donjon, Indy and mom Cindi Varner

...Diane Silman was partnered with Simon for an Animal Assisted Therapy placement. Diane is the Executive Director of an organization in Missouri that advocates for children who are victims of mental, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Simon’s role is that of a Court Advocate; Simon is part of the forensic interview process with the children. He then accompanies the children to court when they have to testify. Simon will also act as a therapy dog for the organization’s shelter. Simon earns the distinction at SDI, as well as for the state of Missouri, as being the first Court Advocacy dog placed in service.



Diane Silman and Simon

History is made every time SDI makes a new placement and the service team begins a new life together. No matter the placement and no matter the dog, every team has a special place in SDI history and without them, the organization would not be the well-respected organization it is today. Thank you to everyone who helps us make history every day!

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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.

**A Message from the Executive Director**

Did you know a Tribute gift to Support Dogs is a wonderful way to recognize someone of importance in your life or a great way to honor someone during the holidays?

Support Dogs is honored to receive gifts in memory or honor of clients, service dogs, pets, TOUCH dogs, TOUCH handlers, family, and friends. These gifts celebrate the relationship individuals have with Support Dogs and the impact they have had on the honoree.

**Tribute Gift Recognition**

To recognize the special occasions, achievements or events that motivate Tribute gifts, Support Dogs acknowledges these gifts in several ways.

- A thank you letter is sent to the donor, recognizing the tribute made by the gift.
- A notice card is sent to the person or family, recognizing the tribute made by the donor.

If you are interested in making a tribute gift, please send your gift along with the following information:

- Name and address of donor
- Name of person/pet honored or remembered
- Address and phone number of honoree or family of deceased
- Special occasion if appropriate, i.e. birthday, anniversary

Send to: Support Dogs, 11645 Lilburn Park Road, St. Louis, MO 63146. For more information regarding tribute gifts, please contact the office.

By making a Tribute gift, you honor a family member, friend or someone special in your life while supporting programs at Support Dogs.

Happy Holidays!

**Trivia Night & Silent Auction**

*By Ann Weinerth*

Though the Dog Days of summer heated up, Trivia Night players had a cool time last August while enjoying the cold beverages, food friends, and fun trivia questions.

The annual event was held at CBC High School where 20 volunteers helped setup the event. Sixty-three tables were sold and the event netted just over \$18,000, including a grant from Lutheran Thrivent Financial Services.

Special thanks to Board and Friends members who supported the wine raffle. And thanks goes out to Grey Eagle Distributing and Pepsi Americas – Gateway Division for the beverages. A special sponsor this year was Uno Chicago Grill in Chesterfield. Uno's donated a goodie bag for all participants as well as cookies for each table- THANKS! Support Dogs also thanks the auction donors, staff, and volunteers who helped make this year's Trivia another success.

Trivia Night is the second largest fundraiser for Support Dogs with all proceeds benefiting our programs.

## Paws for Reading

by Bill Dahlkamp

As the school year started, so did Paws for Reading. As you may recall from the previous issue of Paw Prints, in addition to area schools, Support Dogs has teamed with the St. Louis Public Library. We wanted to share a few photos of the library dogs "in action".



Harry at Barr Branch



Shakti Diva at Divoll Branch



Allie at Carondolet Branch



Maximus at Central Branch

## 2009 Another Great Year for TOUCH

by Bill Dahlkamp

Tuesday, November 10, was another proud day at Support Dogs. We had the honor of hosting another TOUCH graduation. This class included 30 new teams from the fall session and five from the summer session, which was held in DeSoto. Congratulations to the new Teams and welcome aboard!

SDI would like to welcome the new facilities that have joined the facility roster during 2009: St. Clare's Hospital in Fenton, Siteman Cancer Center/Center for Advanced Medicine (downtown), The Women's Chemo Infusion Center, St. Charles Habilitation Center, Always There Home Care and St. John's Place.

Support Dogs congratulates the 65 TOUCH teams that graduated in 2009 and would like to thank all Teams for helping to make the program milestones possible – 20 years of program service and over 1,000 TOUCH teams certified.



Lucy, Sadie, Nina, and Rosie dressed for Halloween at Shriner's Children's Hospital

### Hey Rupert...

Advice from the SDI Greeter



If you would like to ask Rupert a question, please send it to [rupert@supportdogs.org](mailto:rupert@supportdogs.org)

With the cold winter weather approaching here are a few things to watch for with your dogs and puppies:

1. Remove ice and snow from your pet's paws and coat at once. Frostbite can occur in a short time. Frostbitten skin may turn reddish, white, or gray. If you suspect frostbite take your pet to a warm place, thaw out slowly with warm moist towels and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.
2. Some substances used to melt ice and snow have low to moderate toxicity. Keep them stored out of pet and children's reach. Also be sure to remove salt or other ice melt products from your dogs paws

immediately - they can become sick, or the products can burn their paws.

3. Remember to clean up any and all antifreeze spills. Antifreeze can be fatal for a pet or child. It has a sweet taste and your pets are drawn to it. Contact your vet immediately if you think your pet has ingested antifreeze.

4. Holidays are also a busy and potentially dangerous time for our pets. We have extra shopping bags and items coming and going, ribbons, ornaments, tinsel, foil wrappings, extra electrical cords, strings of lights, holiday treats such as chocolates, fatty foods and bones that could be harmful or toxic to our pets. Please be cautious and aware of your pet's whereabouts at all times.

Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year !!!

Rupert 

## Development Updates

By Ann Weinerth

It's been a year since I wrote about the two year extension of the IRA Rollover provision that was part of the October 2008 economic stimulus package. The IRA Rollover provision was made retroactive from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009- time is running out and we encourage you to consider this type of gift to benefit Support Dogs. The provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred ("rolled over") from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charitable organization. The following limitations still apply but, as always, consult your tax advisor:

- \*Donor must be age 70 ½ or older.
- \*The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000
- \*The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts.)

If you would like to learn more about planned giving, IRA Rollovers, or Charitable Remainder Trust, please contact the office.

In the last edition of *Paw Prints*, there was information about the Assistance Dog Program and the Taylor Veterinary Fund. Here's another SDI program worth funding with a designated gift.

The TOUCH Program (Therapy of Unique Canine Helpers) funding begins at the \$1,500 level which equals the cost incurred by us to train one TOUCH Team. The TOUCH program began 20 years ago and in 2009, the 1,000 TOUCH Team received certification. There are over 270 active teams currently making regular visits in the metropolitan St. Louis area. These teams visit over 31,000 people annually in over 70 sites, including visits to patients of St. Louis Children's Hospital, Siteman Cancer Treatment Center, and Jefferson Barracks Veterans Hospital as well as certain schools in the Special School District, just to name a few. The target population of TOUCH is any facility that could benefit from pet assisted therapy.

The TOUCH program is not breed specific and each dog is evaluated based on its temperament. The

handler and dog are then required to complete a 12-week certification course, learning advanced obedience, role playing, patient scenerios, and solidifying the bond between the handler and the dog.

Each year we train between 50-80 teams with each trainee paying a one-time \$150 course fee. That fee only covers part of the expense incurred by Support Dogs. Other expenses include professional dog training, administrative costs and continuing maintenance of each Team. Expected TOUCH program income from a variety of sources totals \$165,520 but the all inclusive administrative costs total \$175,530.

We need your help to ensure the TOUCH program continues in your community. Your gift of \$1,500 or more may be pledged over a calendar year and is completely restricted to support only the TOUCH program. If you would like, you could make your gift a Tribute to someone special, be it human or pet. If you have any questions regarding this and other funding options, please call!

## A Relative Tale - Another Howling Success!

The final activity in the two-part series with the Wild Canid Center took place on October 18. As in May, guests boarded a motor coach and traveled to Support Dogs to enjoy a service dog demonstration with SDI Trainers Nadine and Katie and two talented Advanced Training canines, Judy and Michelob. A special guest, Officer John Wilson from the Maryland Heights Police Department along with his canine partner Ronja also wowed guests with a demonstration. Guests enjoyed great eats and other SDI program demonstrations from volunteers and staff.

each guest enjoyed hot beverages and desserts during a fascinating lecture presented by Assistant Executive Director Kim Scott. The 37 guests and their hosts then hiked through the darkness towards the wolf enclosures. Much to the delight of everyone, the wolves howled on queue! Well, actually, the pack was responding to the far-off wail of an emergency vehicle set in their key of E flat. Nevertheless, the pack's howling couldn't have been better planned!



All boarded the bus for a quick drive to the Wild Canid Center where

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2009**  
 Tuesday, December 1st -  
 SDI Open House

Thursday, December 10th -  
 Wine tasting at SDI

**2010**  
 Saturday, January 23, 2010 -  
 Sh-Boom Dance

Saturday, March 27, 2010 -  
 Tacky Ball!

Watch future newsletters and your mail box for important event details.

## Trainer's Conference

By Katie Ruiz, Nadine Wenig, and Cindi Blanke

Estes Park, Colorado – SDI staffers Janice, Gayln, Cindi, Nadine and Katie attended Assistance Dog International's (ADI) 2009 Trainer's Conference hosted by Freedom Service Dogs. The two day conference consisted of workshops with topics ranging from evaluating and serving clients to training and entertaining dogs. We were fortunate enough to hear Temple Grandin, a successful businesswoman with autism, speak about service dogs for people with autism. We also listened to a professor from the University of Denver speak on serving those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Some enthusiastic presenters also demonstrated

training specific tasks for people with autism that we found we could easily use with any of our clients. An ADI Accreditation Assessor was on hand to provide information on the necessary preparations organizations would need to be successfully accredited or recertified. There was even an impromptu talk from a service dog organization that placed a service dog in the court system, just like our Simon!

A veterinarian spoke about canine nutrition and a panel representing different organizations talked about various pieces of equipment they use with their clients. We had a chance to break into small groups and discuss some training techniques, such as bracing, bed time tasks, dog evaluations and counter balance. Our very own Janice Brennan was on a panel discussion about Kennel Enrichment

from which we gleaned new ideas that we too can apply to our already wonderful enrichment program. We met Sister Pauline, who helped initiate the very first puppy raising program for prisons.

We enjoyed the opportunity to learn about other organizations and those techniques we can apply to the programs at Support Dogs.



Katie, Gayln, Cindi, Nadine, and Janice trying to stay warm at the conference

## Greenville Hosts 7<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony for SDI

By Janice Brennan with Ann Weinerth

October 9, 2009 marked the 7th graduation ceremony for the service dogs in training at FPC Greenville. Since 2001, we have successfully collaborated with the prison education department. Twenty female inmates and ten dogs have lived and worked together for the last 12 months just like their predecessors. The female inmates learned to train our dogs to be obedient, reliable, helpful, and tractable. They also taught the dogs to retrieve and hold, open and close doors, help with counter transactions, ignore dropped food, and carry bags just to name a few of their skills. Over the year, Volunteer Puppy Raisers in St. Louis and the FPC Administrative staff have kept the prison dogs (as we call them) for visits

and for field trips outside of the prison compound. While in prison, the dogs are cared for with kindness and a positive attitude by the inmates and everyone who becomes involved with this program.

This season's graduates are Cadbury, Whopper, Wrigley, Skittles, and Waco with puppies Beemer, LT, Denver, and Booster remaining at the prison until they too are ready for advanced training next year. Each year the Greenville graduation ceremony includes showcasing the skills the dogs have learned and a slideshow of each dog's development. This year's ceremony had a Halloween theme and one slide even showed the dogs in "costume."

Support Dogs staff and prison staff members, volunteers, family members of the graduating inmates all attended the ceremony. A special guest was Youth Service Dog client Wolfgang, his mother Stephanie, and service dog Chip. They were there to not only

congratulate everyone but to also give a testimony about how important the prison program is to Support Dogs and it's constituents. The ceremony included the prison administration awarding certificates to each new graduate. Each year Support Dogs proudly participates with the FPC Greenville prison in this wonderful and fulfilling work program for its female inmates. We're looking forward to another great year of training and the 8<sup>th</sup> graduation in the fall of 2010.



Prison pups Whopper, Skittles, Wrigley, and Dallas

## 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.

### Poinsettia Sale to benefit SDI - ORDER NOW!

Decorate with poinsettias this holiday season while helping SDI. There are three colors (Red/Pink/White) available and we're taking orders through December 4! **Call your order in today, specify the quantity, color and size.** Pickup at SDI Friday, December 11 from 4-6 pm and Saturday, December 12 from 9-Noon. Costs/sizes are: \$10.00 - 6.5" with 5-8 blooms (small), \$16.25 - 8" with 10-12 blooms (medium), and \$21.50 - 8" with 15-20 blooms (large).

### Wrapping for the Holidays

Much to our delight, Support Dogs was chosen as the Charity Gift Wrap organization at South County Mall. Volunteers and staff will **man the station at various times from November 27- December 24.** The Charity Gift Wrap Station is just that- for each gift we wrap, shoppers are encouraged to make a donation of their choice. If you would like to volunteer, give us a call. Otherwise, consider having SDI wrap your gifts at South County Mall!

### SDI Wine Tasting

Join us for a holiday wine tasting at Support Dogs **on Thursday, December 10 at 6 p.m.** presented by PRP Wine International. You'll get to taste great international wines and enjoy a light snack. Why not bring a friend? The wine tasting is complimentary but space is limited. For each case of wine purchased, SDI will receive \$24.

### Great Holiday Gift!

Rainforest Coastal Labs has developed a special formula shampoo **for dogs with sensitive skin and dogs that are frequently outdoors.** The shampoo sells for \$12 per bottle for either formula and is available exclusively at SDI. In addition, Support Dogs receives \$5 from each bottle sold. A great holiday gift for the dog lover and their four-legged companions.


### E-Script Card at Schnucks

**Schnucks will donate up to 3% of your purchase** amount each time you swipe the SDI e-script card. Just visit the Customer Service desk and ask for an e-script Community Card. Or, call SDI to obtain an e-script card and we'll activate and mail you the card! The program is free and greatly benefits Support Dogs.

### Tacky Ball 2010 - Canine Carnaval


Saturday, March 27, 2010 is the next Tacky Ball, Canine Carnaval at the new Palladium St. Louis. **The Fabulous Motown Review** will be entertaining guests. And, **through December 31, 2009, you can purchase discounted single reservations at \$79 each.** That's a \$20 savings- so, make your reservation early and join the fun in March!





## Sh-Boom Dance

to benefit



### Support Dogs, Inc.

Saturday, January 23, 2010

at


### Kirkwood Community Center

111 S. Geyer  
Kirkwood, MO 63122

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Registration & Grazing	6-7:00 p.m.
Dancing, Drinking and Raffles	7- 11:00 p.m.


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Ticket Prices include food, beer and soda

- \$25.00/person (In advance)
- \$30.00/person (At door)
- \$40.00/person (Individual Sponsor)
- \$400.00/Table (Corporate Sponsor)

For more information call Robyn James at  
(314) 997-2325 or e-mail at rkjames@supportdogs.org



**TRIBUTES**

The Tribute Fund of Support Dogs, Inc. provides a means of expressing your feelings of gratitude and recognition for service performed, significant anniversaries achieved or any glorious moment. It also offers you the opportunity to remember a loved one, either human or canid, who will always hold a place in your heart.

Below are Tributes received from July 1 - October 31, 2009, representing the first quarter of the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Although extensive effort has been made for accuracy, errors and omissions 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.

<b><u>In Memory Of</u></b>		
Mrs. Joyce Blair Ms. Norma McDowell	Mrs. Elizabeth A. Wetteroff Mr. & Mrs. Mark James Mrs. Katie Conklin	Taylor Karen Bellville
Mrs. Virginia Burroughs Mr. & Mrs. Dan Schwartz Mr. & Mrs. Alvery Bartlett Mr. & Mrs. Bob Noe	Mr. Thomas B. Woodward Mr. James G. Woodward	Woody Karen Bellville
Edith Fink Mr. & Mrs. Larry Woolweaver Ms. Lois Hendrickson Mr. & Mrs. Don Erhardt	<b><u>In Memory Of (Pets)</u></b> Bravo Mrs. Stacey Alexander	<b><u>In Honor Of</u></b> Meggan Bayer Patricia Hedrick
Mr. Floyd Griffin Mrs. Ann Weinerth	Hollywood Hedrick Patricia Hedrick	Tom Gutel Joan & Jules Stiber
Ms. Polly Grue The Grue Family	Laddie Mr. & Mrs. Mark James Ms. Carol Holmes Ms. Donna Bondurant Mr. & Mrs. Roger Weinerth	Dr. Robert Kaps Judy Wagner
Mr. Jim Hall Mrs. Linda Straubinger	Maggie Moo Mr. & Mrs. Craig Toder	Joan & Kendall Killgore & their 3 wonderful 4-footed kiddos Ms. Michele Rutledge
Mrs. Luna Holtzman Mr. Marvin Holtzman Ms. Cindy Gebelein	Our Japanese Chin Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Waterman	Helen Kunz's Birthday Emily Kunz
Mr. Ray Pryor Ms. Deborah A. Herndon	Riley Sharon Greenberg	Margot Martin's Birthday Kathy Geekie
Dr. Jeffrey D. Rempala Ms. Vivian Reisinger	Shadow Karen Bellville	Mr. Robert Mayer's Birthday Susan Ansehl
Mrs. Judy Rubin Mr. Joseph Flegel	Shadow Sharon Greenberg	Kenneth Thornberry, DVM Patricia Hedrick
Mr. Roy Stenmark Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shelton	Sir Oliver Buckethead Karen Bellville	Sheila & Tim Walsh Sharon H. Subow for Samee, Tinkerbell, Mei Ling & Thai Thai
Mr. Phillip Straubinger Ms. Linda Straubinger	Stanley Sharon Greenberg	<b><u>In Honor Of</u></b> Lewis & Clark Deborah Lowes

**Be Thankful...  
From SDI Staff**

Be thankful for early morning meows and gentle wet-nose nudges because having a pet means unconditional love even at 5 a.m. *Ann Weinerth*

Be thankful for those in your life that encourage the best out of you because those who challenge us to be our best see who we can be and love us enough to help us achieve what they already know. *Katie Ruiz*

Be thankful for the roads you travel in life as each one is graced by Divine Providence and perfect timing. *Gayln Bratcher*

Be thankful that your dog seems to love you most when you need it the most! *Cindi Blanke*

Be thankful for nose prints on the front door, each is a signature of someone who's never waiting to see you again. *Greg Hogan*

Be thankful for when Barbie dolls make their home in the living room, for the forts built of blankets, for the laundry that never ends, and for the dishes sitting in the sink – reminders of having four children to love. *Amy Woolston*

Be thankful for the hardworking and dedicated Support Dogs volunteers and staff members. *Robyn James*

Be thankful for your friends and pets - they are the family you choose. *Bill Dahlkamp*

Be thankful for the life you surround yourself with because it will embrace you with love in return. *Nadine Wenig*

Be thankful for puppy and baby breath. *Janice Brennan*

**Support Dogs Wish List**

Kennel/Canine Care Needs

- Laundry and dishwasher detergent
- 30 gallon garbage bags
- Chews for large dogs: white nylabones, Dental Chew, Galileo, Double Action Chew, Knot bones
- Key chains to be used as retrieve items (convention giveaways etc.)
- Rubbermaid 4-shelf storage unit (deep, wide width for dog food bags)
- Milkbone brand dog biscuits (all sizes)

Office/Administrative Needs

- 20#, 8 ½ x 11 white copy paper, color paper (pastels, hot colors welcome)
- Auction items and empty baskets
- CD/DVD- RW
- Heavy duty paper shredder for office use
- Digital camera
- 2 Navy blue polyester banquet size tablecloths
- 24x36 white foam core boards
- Gift cards Schnucks, Dierberg's, Shop 'n Save, PetSmart, PetCo, Sam's or Costco



**Support Dogs, Inc.**  
11645 Lilburn Park Road  
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[www.supportdogs.org](http://www.supportdogs.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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**DATED MATERIAL**

**Join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Support Dogs Holiday Open House**

