



Paw Prints

Summer 2010

Assistance Dog Program Continues Success with Spring Graduation

The most recent assistance dog graduation was held at SDI on April 23. This was once again another piece in the history of success that has graced our organization in the past years. And success was the evening's theme. Executive Director Bill Dahlkamp stated that "success is something that is not measured by the end or completion of something, but the continuation and growth of that something. Success lies in the journey, who you meet and what you achieve, and not the final result." For everyone in attendance that evening, Support Dogs was their success.



Joan and Houston

Joan and Houston's success is that that Joan returned to SDI for her successor dog. She received her first service dog, Jinx, from the organization eight years ago in April. The fact that she received her second service dog proves her successes will continue back in Mississippi with Houston.

With Timmy and Judy, SDI realized it could train a hearing dog for a young man whose success will be having the confidence to face his teenage years and grow, knowing he has a wonderful companion to be by his side. Timmy's companion will assist in hearing for him and allow him to enjoy life with his friends.



Timmy and Judy

With Sandi and Wheatley, SDI realized it could place a hearing dog outside the St. Louis area and give Sandi the tools she needed to succeed with Wheatley by her side. Sandi's dog hears for her in the evening while she doesn't wear hearing aids. For the first time, Sandi is able to watch her grandchildren because Wheatley alerts her to the sounds of a baby crying.



Sandi and Wheatley



Ann and Waco

For Ann and Waco, the success is not that Ann will use the dog in her job, but the success will be Waco's continual and unrealized impact on the children at Youth In Need, where he will accompany Ann every day. Waco is the first dog placed at a Youth in Need facility, and specifically the first being used full-time in a Head Start Program.

It was a joyous evening for all and, as always, SDI would like to thank everyone who makes the assistance dog program (and all other programs) successful. SDI is happy to place quality assistance dogs to those in our community and we wish the best to our clients.

**Reserve your table for SDI's
Annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction...
see page 6 for details**

Board of Directors

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Katie Ruiz

Nadine Wenig

Amy Woolston

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



It is said that the only constant in the universe is change. In order for things to improve, they must go through a periodic (but necessary) change to reach a certain level of improvement and quality. This fittingly applies to Support Dogs. SDI has gone through many changes over the years...many that have improved the organization's services and mission.

Take, for example, the dogs we provide. Not only have the breeds changed over the years, but their skills have also evolved from being a provider to only people with mobility-related issues to now being available for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing and providing emotional support to those diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In addition, we have seeded and grown the TOUCH program to meet healthcare community requirements, as well as expanded the Paws For Reading program to help address the needs of literacy in area schools and the public library system.

If springtime means change, then this spring at SDI followed that theme with the organization's leadership (I had the honor of stepping into the role of Executive Director) and technology (our newly redesigned website thanks to the generosity of Pat and Aja Stokes). These are just a couple of the changes that moved the organization forward. In July, SDI's Board of Director's leadership is also preparing for a change.

SDI Board President Scot Seabaugh, along with Board Vice President James Woodward, and Program Committee chairman Stan Zimmerman will be stepping down and new leadership will be stepping up. SDI certainly thanks these gentlemen for their many years of service and for bringing the organization into its own. We look forward to the new board leadership, which will help us meet the future challenges for our clients, volunteers, donors, and community.

Through all of these changes, there has been one thing that has remained consistent: your support. Whether you are a volunteer, donor, or client, your continued support of the organization has helped us to meet various challenges. This allows SDI to provide ongoing quality services for those who depend on us in the community. With these positive changes, SDI looks forward to a bright and prosperous future for many years to come.

Regards,
Bill Dahlkamp

“Sit, Stay, Come” - Obedience Classes Available

Are you looking for something to do with your pooch this summer? Support Dogs' obedience classes provide an opportunity for your dog to learn skills and form a good working relationship with your dog.

(show prep), and nose works/scent detection. All classes are six weeks in length and cost \$100.

To request a schedule or to sign up, please call the office or visit our website. This is a great opportunity to do something fun with your dog this summer!

We offer classes in puppy and basic obedience, patio manners, handling

Support Dogs to Start New Program called IN TOUCH

by Bill Dahlkamp

SDI is excited to announce a new variation on a current program: the new IN TOUCH program is essentially the same as the TOUCH program except facility residents will now come to SDI for their TOUCH visits. This will provide an outing for the residents of interested facilities, while still providing the opportunity to interact with the dogs.

SDI is currently lining up teams to help with this endeavor. The program, which will debut on Tuesday afternoons starting in July, is open to all facilities, including those on the wait list for the program to be held at their location.

The new program is twofold: it gives residents the opportunity to get out and about while providing the chance to meet new people visiting from other facilities. It's a great way to make new friends, both the two-legged and the four-legged kind! As the program grows and develops, SDI will be able to accommodate multiple groups on different days of the week. If you know of a facility that might be interested in participating, please let us know.

We currently have two facilities that are interested and expect this number to grow quickly. Stay tuned to future newsletters for updates and photos of the program in action.

Trainers Receive ADI certification

by Bill Dahlkamp

We are very proud that, for the past few years, SDI has been accredited through Assistance Dogs International (ADI). Now we are absolutely bursting with pride since both of our assistance dogs trainers, Katie Ruiz and Nadine Wenig, have earned their certification as Service Dog Instructors through ADI.

The certification process is long, intense, and involved. The trainer must train a specific number of dogs, provide the dogs' recertification, and follow-up with the clients. The trainer then takes a written test that gauges their knowledge on dog training, as well as participates in a performance evaluation with dogs in training to demonstrate their dog handling skills.

Katie completed and received her certification in May, and Nadine earns hers in June. This is another important step in validating our assistance dog program. In the words of ADI, "...certification represents a significant achievement and is indicative of (a) strong commitment to upholding the highest professional standards of excellence within the Assistance Dog Industry."

News from the Advance Training Department

by Katie Ruiz and Nadine Wenig

Team Training is upon us and we are ready! The advanced training department has been busy. We have worked with the candy litter (Cadbury, Whopper and Wrigley), as well as their sister Ticket, for several months to ready them for July's Team Training. The dogs are all eagerly awaiting to begin their new lives as assistance dogs.

Lucky for us we will still have Glider, Fanny Mae, Diesel, Ronnie and Denver in Advanced Training. They are all at different stages which keeps our training day interesting. Glider and Fanny Mae came to us through traditional means, being raised by Volunteer Puppy Raisers, while Diesel and Ronnie were late additions to Support Dogs. They joined us as adults and moved right into Advanced Training. Denver has had a varied upbringing, being both at the Greenville Prison and with a Volunteer Puppy Raiser.

The Support Dogs' kennel is full of potential assistance dog candidates and we like it that way. We have fun with all the different skill levels, backgrounds, and personalities our dogs bring. We are looking forward to the upcoming Team Training and the new group that will turn into kennel after the training.

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 March 1, 2010 - May 31, 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

Mrs. Peggy Brennan
Mrs. Ann Weinerth

Mrs. Patricia Eder
Ms. Nancy Sachar

Mr. Mathew Eilerts, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Adams
Ms. Ann Ilene Goessling
Mr. Hoylman & Andrea Ax
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Zurosky

Steve Lichtblau's sister, Linda
David & Jill Belsky

Mr. Hiram S. Liggett, Jr.
Mr. Robert L. Blanke, Jr.

Mr. Joel Margulis
Mr. Joe Flegel

Mrs. Mary Miller
Mrs. Linda Straubinger

Mr. Scott Modde
Mrs. Linda Straubinger

Ms. Betsy Morgan
Mr. Joe Flegel & Lilly

Frances Muck
Mrs. Linda Straubinger

Ms. Elaine Seligman
Mr. Joe Flegel & Lilly

Mr. John Underhill
Mrs. Linda Straubinger

Sara Wald-Dickler
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley M. Wald

Natalie & Sara Wald-Dickler
Mr. Morton Bloch

Mr. Tom Woodward & Hutch
Ms. Diana Woodward

Mr. Doug Woollard, Jr.
John, Audrey, Erika, Gail, Carolyn &
Louise Taylor

In Honor Of

Mrs. Gayln Bratcher
Mrs. Barbara Barber

Birth of Grandson & Nephew
Evan Chancellor
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Zimmerman

Jackie Downing
Evansville Kennel Club

Susan Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hoven

Mr. Joseph Flegel
The Chod Family Foundation/Ronald Chod

Ms. Cheryl Gigley
Ms. Nadine Wenig

Ms. Carol Holmes & Maya
Dr. & Mrs. Todd Howard

Terri & Steve Keller
Ms. Carol Holmes

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

The marriage of Alvah & the late
Jackie Levine's son
David & Jill Belsky

Miss Anna Lister's Graduation
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Hooper

Miss Claire Lister's First Communion
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Hooper

Claudia & Bob Noe
Ms. Carol Holmes

Steven & Tina Pannier
Sandra & Jerry Pannier

Jo & Jerre Reily
Ms. Carol Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Stokes
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Purnell

Mrs. Linda Straubinger – Thank you
Mrs. Fanny Buth

Mr. Alan Travis' Birthday
Marvin & Elaine Gernstein
Nardie & Sally Stein

Mrs. Amy Woolston
Mr. & Mrs. David Anderson

In Memory Of (Pets)

Abbie
Mrs. Donna Stephens

Adobe
Ms. Kathryn Lass

Annie
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Holly

Becky & Jake
Mrs. Carol Selbert

Buddy
Ms. Julie Rosenfeld

Callie
Mr. & Mrs. David Dimit

Hunter
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Smith

Jade
Karen Bellville

Our Japanese Chin
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Waterman

Jessie
Chris Van Sickle

Kaya
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Bondurant

Molly
Mrs. Claudia Noe

Peppermint
Julie Rosenfeld

Sanibel
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Buechel

In Honor Of (Pets)

Beck, TOUCH graduation
Karen Bellville

Comet
Mr. Ken Hogan

Lady
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Flamm

The Water Buffalo
Janice Brennan

Wheatley
Sandi Dieringer-Crane

Will
Ms. Virginia MacDonald

Take the Challenge!

By Ann Weinerth

Because of your continued generosity, Support Dogs is able to meet the daily challenge of providing quality assistance dogs to individuals with disabilities, as well as providing TOUCH therapy teams, at no cost to the recipients. This sets us apart from all other groups, and it is something that we are very proud of.

In April of this year, longtime SDI donors Pat and Aja Stokes issued a \$50,000 challenge grant from the Stokes Family Charitable Fund of the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation. The challenge runs from April 1 through December 31, 2010. It is a wonderful opportunity and we invite you to help us meet (and exceed) their expectations.

For every new donation to SDI, the challenge grant will match it dollar-for-dollar. It's a perfect way for your family and friends who have considered contributing in the past but have yet to do so. Current SDI donors can help us meet the challenge by increasing their donation from 2009, with the monetary difference being matched (i.e. if you donated \$50 last year during the challenge timeline of April 1 – Dec. 31, 2009 and donate \$100 toward the 2010 challenge, your \$50 donation increase will be matched). The Stokes' challenge grant is applicable to donations only and not to event purchases.

This grant will ensure our ability to fulfill goals and dreams for clients nationally through an assistance dog, as well as locally through pet therapy visits to those we serve in the St. Louis metropolitan community. These two programs are vital for those who depend on SDI to meet their challenges and improve their quality of life.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Together we will continue our mission of opening doors to independence for so many deserving individuals.

Booster Shot!

Your gift might even qualify for your company's matching gift program. Some service organizations will also match cash gifts made to SDI. The best way to find out is to ask your corporate HR department or your service organization treasurer, who will have the details and necessary forms to obtain the matching gift.

Volunteers Make Money!

Many employers will "pay" their employees to volunteer a set amount of hours per year at their favorite organization. Two such companies are MasterCard and Bank of America, who pay as much as \$250 to \$500 per year to an employee's favorite charity when the employee volunteers on a regular basis (Bank of America even continues to "pay" its volunteer retirees too). Ask your HR department if they will "pay" for you to play with us.



I want to help Support Dogs fulfill the \$50,000 Stokes Family Challenge Grant!

Please accept my gift in the amount of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

MasterCard Visa Discover Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Card Security Code _____ Telephone _____
(3 digit code on back of card)

Tribute Gift: honor memory of _____
human pet

Send Tribute acknowledgement to: _____

Support Dogs, Inc.

Annual Trivia Night

Benefiting the programs of Support Dogs, Inc.



*Time: Promptly at 7 p.m.
(doors open at 6 p.m.)
NEW LOCATION!!!
Maalah Temple
12545 Fee Fee Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63146*



*Date: Saturday, August 7, 2010
\$25/person or \$200/table of 8*

*Soft drinks and beer provided.
Limited seats available - reserve your
spot early!*

(Call 314-997-2325)

Reservations: Ann Weinerth
Call: 314-997-2325 ext. 106
Fax: 314-997-7202 Email: aweinerth@supportdogs.org



Yes! I want to reserve my spot for Support Dogs, Inc. Trivia Night

_____ \$200 (each) Reserved Table(s) seating for 8 guests	\$ _____
_____ \$25 (each) Individual seat(s) at a table of 8	\$ _____
_____ I cannot attend but want to help	\$ _____
	Total Due \$ _____

(Please Print)

Name (Table Host): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

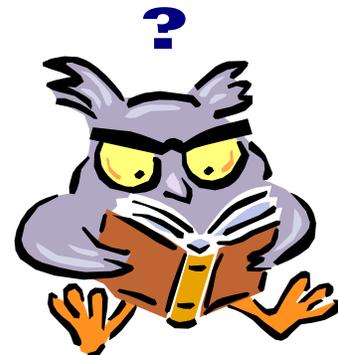
Circle method of payment: Cash Check Mastercard Visa Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Security Code (3 digit code on back of credit card): _____

Table Guests' Names

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____



Dogs in the Ruff Scores a Hole in One!

By Ann Weinerth

Dogs in the Ruff Golf Tournament scored a hole-in-one from its participants on May 21, raising \$6,000 for SDI. The 117 players thoroughly enjoyed the cloudy day as they drove, chipped, and putted through the Dogwood and Redbud courses at the Norman K. Probststein Golf Course in Forest Park. The first and second place teams who won in the two flights were awarded a one-of-a-kind trophy (a gold painted dog statue acknowledging their achievements). The following are the events' winners and contributors. A big thank you goes out to everyone who made this such a success. Look for the tournament to return in May 2011.



Grey Eagle Beverage Sponsor

- First Place Flight A**- Jim Gonzales, Jim Banyas, Steve McMahon, and Tom Zeloski
- Second Place Flight A**- Bill Meyer, John Meyer, Ron Jedda, John Merker
- First Place Flight B**- Ted Agniel, Clark Hedger, Greg Schuette, Josh Stevens
- Second Place Flight B**- Bill Kroc, Bruce Kurka, John Morgan, Vic Salini
- Closest to the Pin (Women)** - Charlene Gifford
- Longest Drive (Men)** - Kevin Beckman
- Longest Drive (Women)** - Gina Woodruff



Linda Straubinger guiding Obi to the hole

- Gold Sponsor**
Huber, Ring, Helm & Co., P.C.
- Silver Sponsor**
Polsinelli Shughart, PC
- Beverages Courtesy of**
Grey Eagle Distributors
Mr. Willie Glickert
- Hole Sponsors**
American Kennel Club
Bethalto Care Center
Daniel Charpentier, DDS
Froesel Tire
Warren Glickert Family
Willie Glickert
Greenville Veterinary Clinic Ltd.
Kee West Farm
Linda Straubinger & Ruby
Gene and Donna McMahon
Bill Meyer, SDI Volunteer
Mitchell Lawn & Landscape
Murray the Cat
Obi and the James Woodward Family
Sievers Retrievers
- Cash Contributor**
Special Children, Inc.
Clark Animal Hospital, Inc.
- In-Kind Contributions**
AKC Museum of the Dog
Arch Mosaics
Bill Dahlkamp
Mary Noel George, M.D.
Willie Glickert
Golfport of Maryland Heights
Grey Eagle Distributors
Hickey College
Kathy & Todd Howard
Nestlé Purina PetCare
Norman K. Probststein Golf Course
Outback Steakhouse - Saint Charles
Lisa Ring, M.D.
SportClips Haircuts- Wentzville
Linda Straubinger and Ruby
Swift Print Communications
Ann Weinerth
Paul Zemitzsch
- Support Dogs thanks its volunteers!**
Mendy Beckman
Patrick Bellman
Kathy Bissell
Ali Glaser
Terri Keller
Kelly Klein

(volunteers cont'd)

- Claudia Noe
- Mandy Presley
- Frank Scheithauer
- Dan Schwent
- Carol Smith
- Jennifer Vermillion
- Dan Woodward
- Patty Zubal

Presentation Dogs

- Bender
- Mitzi
- Obi-Wan Kenobi

Dogs in the Ruff Committee

- Willie Glickert
- Jim Gonzales
- Bill Meyer
- Dan Schwent



Hey Mulligan...

Advice from the SDI Canine Staff

Mulligan, How do you convince Nadine to give you all those treats?

It's easy! Learn this trick and the treats will magically appear! First, you must have to know how to lie down on command. Then, using your nose, follow the treat (your human will be holding it) toward the ground. The hand will open for you. So hurry! Gobble up that snack. You'll hear your person say "good night" or "night night" as you put your head on the ground. You're on the right path to learning this behavior when your human slowly moves their hand out of the picture. When they say those words, put your head on the ground and I bet you'll get a treat! It's just that simple. Stop by and show what you have learned to Nadine. I'm sure she'll give you a tasty treat!



Support Dogs, Inc.
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314-997-2325
www.supportdogs.org

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Proud member of



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.

It's A Challenge

Don't forget to contribute to the *Stokes Family Challenge Grant!* Visit our website or call the office for more information.

Good Dog Dine-Out!

Join us for a meal (or two!) at one of the following restaurants. Simply download a participation flyer (available two weeks prior to the event) from our website or email aweineth@supportdogs.org for a copy! Invite your friends and family, and SDI will earn 10-30% of the sales generated. We're looking for more dine-out restaurant partners, so please contact the office if you know of additional restaurants.

July 21 from 4-9 p.m. - California Pizza Kitchen (Creve Coeur - 10590 Old Olive Street Rd.)

August 4, all day - Oberweis Dairy (Kirkwood - 10338 Manchester Rd.)

August 19, from 4-8 p.m. - Noodles & Company (Chesterfield - 1784 Clarkson Rd.)

November 16, from 4-8 p.m. Noodles & Company (Creve Coeur - 10925 Olive Street Rd.)

December 16, from 5-9 p.m. - McAlister's Deli (Fenton - 170 Gravois Bluffs Circle Dr.)

Schnucks E-script Card

Swipe your E-script card which will result in 1-3% percent of the total being donated to Support Dogs by Schnucks. It's easy and it's free. Need a card? Ask for one at your local Schnucks or contact our office.

Save the Date!

July 5 - Independence Day recognized (SDI office is closed.) Make a Tribute gift to Support Dogs in honor of or in memory of your favorite American!

August 7, 2010 Trivia Night and Silent Auction NEW LOCATION! MOOLAH TEMPLE 12545 FEE FEE ROAD.