



Canine Helpers for the Handicapped, Inc.

5699 Ridge Road (Rt. 104) Lockport, New York 14094
716-433-4035 (Voice or TDD) 439-0822 (FAX)
Beverly D. Underwood, Executive Director



CUSTOM-TRAINED ASSISTANCE DOGS
HEARING ~ SERVICE ~ MOBILITY (MULTI-SERVICE) ~ SEIZURE ALERT ~ THERAPY

Building Independence Since 1983

e-mail us at CHHDogs@aol.com - or visit our website at caninehelpers.org - for additional information

NEWSLETTER 60

August 2009

Published and edited by Doreen and Bev

Upcoming Events



Mediumship Night & Basket Raffle

Saturday Oct. 24 ~ 4 pm
Holiday Inn ~ Transit Rd. Lkpt.

Christmas Open House & Basket Raffle

Saturday Dec. 5 ~ 11 am to 4 pm
CHH Training Center

Wish List

Cash

Baskets to raffle
Gift cards
Shower stall
Gas grill
Stockade fencing
Lawn sweeper
Folding chairs
Tables
Dryer
Fire extinguishers
Smoke alarms
Blankets
Towels
Clay kitty litter
Dog toys
Nylabone Wish-
-bones
Slicker brushes
Bleach
"Free" detergent
Paper towels
Toilet paper
Tissues
C-fold paper towels
HP ink cartridges
88, 95, 96, 97
Legal envelopes
Printer paper



**Thank you Marion
for many years of
cutting and adding
our register tapes!**

Anna Maria Lagona and "Dodger" Service Dog ~ Standard Poodle Buffalo, NY



More than two years ago we started, as many parents do, to plan seriously for our daughter's college experience. We realized that would be necessary to move her to a greater degree of independence. This, too, is something that many parents strive for; however, due to our daughter's severe medical conditions and special needs, this planning encompassed an entirely different dimension. The unique challenge was to encourage the greatest degree of independence while addressing the multifaceted challenge of Anna Maria's special needs.



After exploring several options, and with encouragement from several of Anna Maria's physicians, her caseworker and her physical therapists, we decided that a service dog was the best answer. Of course, due to the environmental allergies and breathing problems it was necessary to find a service dog that would not make the allergies worse.

Enter Dodger, the brilliant tuxedo-coated Standard Poodle and months of hard work at Canine Helpers for the Handicapped, Inc. Anna Maria and Dodger are now ready to start college. They make a great team.

Our thanks go to Canine Helpers for the Handicapped, Inc., for all of the hard work and long hours spent on a program of training that was specially tailored to Anna Maria's special needs, so that Anna Maria can have this great opportunity. Dodger has become a member of our family, and we are happy to be a part of the Canine Helpers family.

Maria and Jim Lagona



THANK YOU ALL

for responding to our requests for Dash Tapes, Ink Cartridges, Wish List items and "Feed the Dog" Sponsorships, as well as the many other ways you help Canine Helpers.

We greatly appreciate your continued support.

Beverly



Our WEBSITE is currently under construction. It will be kept up to date with upcoming events, adoptable pets and more. Thanks to Jon and all those assisting with it.

Reliable VOLUNTEERS needed to help augment the work of our downsized staff !

PET HOMES NEEDED!

We still have a couple wonderful dogs available for adoption to caring homes. "Autumn" is a special eleven year old black Lab. She is very healthy and lovable. She would do best in a relaxed environment without children. Even though she is a senior girl, she still deserves, and would so much love, a



person of her very own. Please call if you are interested in opening up your heart and home to her.

Briar McCann and "Blue" Seizure Alert Dog ~ Bichon Frise Youngstown, NY

Briar McCann is a beautiful and sweet 5-1/2 year old boy diagnosed with Spastic Quad Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Scoliosis, developmental delays and is legally blind. Briar may be non-mobile and non-verbal, but he is a very happy child and so full of life! "Blue" is a cute and caring 1-1/2 year old Bichon Frise that Briar's family is in the process of training as a Seizure Alert Dog in the home.



Blue is being trained to watch over Briar and to "get help" (alert) his parents and/or nurse when he is having a seizure and when his feeding pump alarms. She is additionally being trained to alert Briar's parents and/or nurse when he is coughing, gagging and/or vomiting and needs to be suctioned. It is of the utmost importance to Briar's family that Blue be trained to alert them of any form of distress Briar could be displaying during the night when they are asleep.

Blue stayed at Canine Helpers' Training Center for approximately three months before going home with Briar. The training has been very frustrating and time consuming for Briar's family, but they are hoping and praying every day that Blue learns what she needs to do. For some day she could very well save Briar's life.

Special thanks to Make-A-Wish of WNY for granting Briar's wish of having "Blue" trained for him. Blue is a wish come true that keeps giving Briar the unconditional love that only a loyal, devoted dog can provide.

In Memory of Pets



Muffin

By: Dorothy & Frank Merrill

Rascal

By: Kathy D'Elia

Barney

By: Coralyn & Robert Anderson

Therapy Dog Burt

By: Monica Calleo

Painter & Smokey

By: Rhonda Griffin

Travis Family Pets

By: Sue & Kirk Travis

Kona

By: Deborah & Jeff Klein

Killian

By: Christine Hoffman

All Our Pets

By: James & Dolores Gordon

Taffy & Misty

By: Edward Grus

Penny

By: Janis & Philip Toenniessen

Corinne & Clarke Mandel

By: Frank & Corinne Heer

All the Dogs That Have Gone Before

By: Judy Goldstein

Regis & Gretchen

By: Beverly & Staff

Chester

By: Karen Diemunsch

Glenda

By: Jane Olstad

Misty

By: Margaret Lomas

Baron

By: Jeannine Piette

Molly, Meghan & Gracie

By: Marilyn Lynch

Mr. Zonkers & Sparky

By: Janet Schultz

Moses

By: Joseph & Kathleen Hurley

Heidi

By: Leon Refermat

Trooper

By: Mrs. Carol Di Francesco

Happy

By: Kim Fitzgerald

Brownie

By: Connie Magro

Reno

By: Joyce Cromwell

Nikki, Sheba & Flynn

By: Edward Gasielcki

Kelly & Lexi

By: Jack & Sharon Karstens

Outstanding Support!



**Make a Wish Foundation
Catt Family Foundation
W. J. Cox Associates, Inc.
Bon Ton Community Day
Ovid-Willard Lions Club
Don & Rose Hills & Tanner
UW - Greater Capital Region**

**Aspire of WNY
Lions Club of Olcott Inc.
EMS Insurance Group
James Simpson
Jean Feldman
Susan McCarthy
Quota Intl. of Amherst**

Every penny helps ... thank you to some very special kids!




**Our Special Thanks to
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1676 Niagara Falls Blvd. Tonawanda, NY
for sponsoring our May Newsletter!

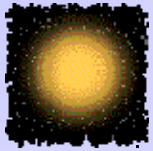
*We couldn't have
done it without you!*

Can you help us bring these teams together?

We have an immediate need for people (or organizations) to help sponsor several deserving clients in the Buffalo area, Amherst, East Amherst, Rochester, Johnson City and Bushkill, PA, plus several more waiting to be interviewed and accepted. Unfortunately our financial situation is tighter than ever despite the many cutbacks we have made, forcing us to only train clients with their Service Dogs after they have found sponsorships.

Please read the following story from Joanne expressing the importance of a Service Dog to a person with disabilities. Joanne is one of our many clients seeking sponsors for her new Service Dog, Gabe. If you would like to help Joanne or any of our clients, or if you would like additional information, please call Beverly. 

**Canine Helpers for the Handicapped
presents their Fall Fundraiser:**



Mediumship Night & Basket Raffle

Have you ever had a psychic reading or wanted one? Then come one, come all!
Enjoy yourselves and be amazed while helping bring our deserving clients and their service dogs together.

We invite you to join us with internationally known psychic-medium, Reverend James Lagona for an intriguing Mediumship Night & Basket Raffle!

When: Saturday, October 24, 2009

Where: Holiday Inn
515 S. Transit Rd., Lockport

Time: 4 p.m. Raffle Starts
6 p.m. MEDIUMSHIP READINGS

Cost: \$20 presale or \$25 at the door

For tickets or more information contact:
Canine Helpers at 433-4035
or chhdogs@aol.com
Visit our website at caninehelpers.org

Hi. My name is Joanne Goldman. Seven years ago, my life changed dramatically. That is when "Peanut", my Golden Retriever, became my Service Dog. Actually, as far as how he has impacted my life, he became half my heartbeat. I have fibromyalgia, degenerative discs and nerve damage in one leg. This means I have mobility and balance problems, as well as chronic pain and muscle spasms throughout my body. No two days are alike. In past years, without Peanut helping me walk, I would have at least one fall during winter which would lay me up for weeks. Without his assistance, I have fallen and broken my nose 3 times. When Peanut and I first became a team, I had to use a rolling walker. The problem was there were days when I couldn't lift the walker into my car. Then I learned how to walk with Peanut wearing a harness with a raised handle. From that moment life was different. I could navigate into almost any place. Steps and narrow aisles were no longer barriers. I now had one hand free. Most importantly, icy snowy days were not the danger they once were. During the past seven winters I haven't fallen. Every time I would slip, Peanut somehow knew how to brace and steady me. I love being out in nature. Prior to becoming a team, I was restricted to paved paths; with Peanut I could conquer woodland and stone paths.

I didn't feel truly disabled until February when Peanut died rather suddenly. Life changed in so many ways. I had to get crutches to walk with, although they are precarious on slippery surfaces and carrying even a light bag of groceries is virtually impossible. Now when I drop things, either I have to ask for help picking the item up, or risk losing my balance. Before, Peanut could pick the item up for me. Most importantly, Peanut's partnership meant I was not alone. I am single and have no family in the region. On days when I was feeling poorly, he would be by my side. He motivated me to get up and get going. There were a number of times that his signals alerted me to my health situation changing, and I was able to get help or find a place to rest before my health became an emergency, and on occasions when I needed it, Peanut was able to get help for me.

Today, 6 months after Peanut's death, I am training with a new dog, "Gabe". Gabe has some years of experience being a Service Dog, and it has been an interesting training time as we learn about each other. Training so that we understand each other can't be taken for granted. We have to grow together as a new team and that takes time to learn. I can't wait until I can get my life back without the barriers. When Gabe joins me at home, it will be the beginning of that life.

Joanne

Bon-Ton Community Day! Sat. Nov. 14

Call Canine Helpers for your coupon booklets or stop by our table at the Bon-Ton and save big! Get \$10 off coupon; six coupons; 30% off early bird coupon & more! Only \$5 per book & proceeds will benefit Canine Helpers.

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My name is Rocco, and I am the pet Shih-tzu in the Lagona family. My family consists of Jim (the Papa, or, as he likes to think, the "alpha dog"), Maria (the Mom who loves dogs), and, last but not least, "my girl" Anna Maria.

My life has changed dramatically in the past year. You see, "my girl," has many medical and physical disabilities. I always try to help her and be there when she is sick. The problem is that I am only 13 pounds, and, as much as I try, the most I can do is be with her and make her smile. "My girl" just graduated from high school and will be starting college this August, and we decided it was time for her to become more independent. My family convinced me that a Service Dog would be helpful for "my girl," and besides, I would have a "little brother." I thought a Service Dog might be a good thing for her, but I didn't think I had any need whatsoever for a "little brother."

Well, like it or not, we all decided to pray for a special "guardian angel dog" to help "my girl." Boy, was I surprised when I met "Dodger". He is a huge Standard Poodle. After many months of training at Canine Helpers, I watched him grow from a silly puppy to a well-trained certified Service Dog. There were many days when I didn't think it would ever happen, but at times I am even proud of him.

Dodger helps "my girl" with many things. He helps her balance when she walks, he picks up many different objects for her, braces for her to help her get up, pulls her wheelchair, takes off her jacket, helps calm her anxiety, gets help if she falls down or needs any type of help, but most of all he gives her confidence, companionship and love. Of course, he does all of this under my supervision.

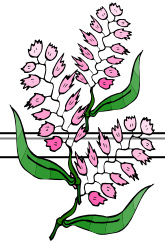
I would like to thank all of my new human friends, and some of my new dog friends – oh yeah, and those two cats – at Canine Helpers. I think "my girl" and my big "little brother," Dodger, are going to make a great team. Now, if I can only keep Dodger from stealing my nylabone.

Love Rocco

In Honor of Loved Ones

Charles Deuser
By: Norma & Walter Frech

Jonah
By: Kathy Du Bois



In Memory of Loved Ones

Rosemary Deuser
By: Lynn Marohn
William Killewald
Jo Ann Bailey
Marie Geisel
Judith Geerkin
Barbara & Herbert Young
Mary Simonetti
Gerilyn & Timothy Oldenburg
Tonawanda Public Library
Edward & Mary Catherine McKee
Dan Marohn
Bonnie Sibley
Dorothy Marohn
Norma & Walter Frech

Mark Edward Hoyt & "Babe"
By: Janine E. Hoyt

Alice Gasiiecki
By: The Family of Brian Brusco
Edward Gasiiecki
Adele A. Siejak
Douglas & Pat Young
Mr. & Mrs. Rothenberger

Elmer E. Sloper
By: Finger Lakes Good Sam. Chapter

Harriet H. Weber
By: Jennie Calato
Julia Feeney
Marjorie L. Weber
Maryann Quinlivan
Mary Wasielewski
Dawn Filipiski
Carol Engel
WNY DDSO
Richard & Peggy Dorman
May & Hugh Sampson
Monica Kwiatkowski
Richard & Patricia Primavera
Kathryn & Robert Collins
Margaret Henneberry
Thomas & Frances Lesswing

Marguerite (Betty) E. Green
By: Lark Mattoon
Barbara Barbero
Mark Hardy
Patricia & William Cummings
Sean & M. Kathryn Rogers

Donald Sobocinski ("Corky")
By: Mr. & Mrs. T. F. LaVanche

Barbara McMillen
By: Alice Shimer

Cam Watson
By: Doris Anderson

Ruth Kinsler
By: Shirley Ellis

Lucia LaPorte
By: Richard & Ann Jasinski

Jean Kantz
By: The Kolbe & Buri-Shaffer Families

Frances Schultz
By: Jacki (BPW, AARP) and
Denise Allison

Robert B. Carlin
By: Judith Carlin

Josephine Stephen
By: Gina Fedele

Gertrude Martin
By: Gerald Murphy

Elwood Atwater
By: Boita L. Tarajos

Rev. Herold Nuwer
By: Nancy Failing



Josiah Stephen Renaldo
By: Great Grandma Underwood
and Family

In Honor of Pets



**April & Casey
Rusy & Daisy**
By: Christine Bognar

Sara & Sami
By: Anna E. Mc Collum

Buffy
By: Wendy & Michael Fortin

Josh & J. Travis
By: Natalie Owens

Sagwa
By: Aurelie Bain

Daisy
By: Swiftwater
Council #186

Star
By: Carlene Deacy



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5699 Ridge Road
Lockport, New York 14094

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See you at our Basket Raffle & Mediumship Night October 24th

Many Ways You Can Help . . .

- Become a member. Memberships are for one year, July 1st through June 30th. Membership forms appear on page 3 for your convenience.
- Help sponsor a client and assistance dog team
- Help us feed a dog for one month – or as many dogs as you'd like for as long as you'd like!
- Volunteer at our training center or at our fundraisers to augment our downsized staff.
- Send us your Dash Markets tapes – we redeem them for cash
- Donate a wish list or basket raffle item
- Purchase a "Garden Stone" to place in our Memory Garden
- Give to the "Caring Canine Fund"
- Leave a "Living Legacy" through Planned Giving
- Purchase RADA Cutlery through CHH – it's made in the USA
- Help repair our kennel roof – we need supplies as well as labor!
- Save your empty ink cartridges – we redeem them for cash!
- Ask your employer to become a Corporate Member or match your cash donations
- Tell others about Canine Helpers



Canine Helpers for the Handicapped, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to training dogs to assist people with disabilities to lead more independent and secure lives. **Hearing Dogs** alert deaf and hearing impaired persons to sounds in the environment. **Service Dogs** assist the physically disabled individual with common tasks that are difficult or impossible to accomplish unaided. **Mobility (Multi-Service) Dogs** perform a variety of tasks for individuals with multiple disabilities or special needs. **Therapy Dogs** provide close companionship for individuals or residents of institutions. **Seizure Alert Dogs** alert their partners to oncoming seizures and assist them in any way needed. The minimum cost of training each dog is \$15,540. Recipients are asked to help fundraise to cover the cost of their dogs.

For further information or an application, or if your group is interested in an informative talk or demonstration, please contact Beverly Underwood. (See heading on first page for address and phone number.)

Tax Exempt Status as defined in Section 501-C (3) of the IRS

Pursuant to Article 7-A of New York State Executive Law 174-B, copies of the latest annual report may be obtained upon request from this organization or from the office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271