

S P E A K !



Vol. 17, No. 3, Winter 2008 | Canine Therapy Corps newsletter

Labrador and Golden Retrievers Make a Difference

Canine Therapy Corps is not breed specific. We strongly believe that all dog breeds have something to contribute to our clients. In this newsletter and those to follow we will highlight different breed groups and the characteristics that make them skilled therapy dogs. Naturally, we start with the Retrievers.

Retrievers are well known for their playfulness and love of swimming and fetching. They are also known for their patience and gentleness, the attributes that make them revered therapy dogs. According to the American Kennel Club, "true Labrador Retriever temperament is as much a hallmark of the breed as the "otter" tail. The ideal disposition is one of a kindly, outgo-

ing, tractable nature; eager to please and non-aggressive towards man or animal. The Labrador has much that appeals to people; his gentle ways, intelligence and adaptability make him an ideal dog." The AKC describes the Golden Retriever simply - "friendly, reliable and trustworthy; a devoted companion."

The Labrador and Golden Retrievers of Canine Therapy Corps make a difference in clients' lives throughout our programs. Our Labs and Goldens work at:

Advocate Lutheran General with children dealing with the challenges of debilitating conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and traumatic brain injury;

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago with children and adults recovering from strokes, head trauma, spinal cord injuries, amputation and other physical challenges; and Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital with patients recovering from traumas such as strokes, spinal cord injuries, and amputations.

At Advocate Lutheran General, Daffie, a nine year-old Labrador Retriever, helps a little girl with cerebral palsy walk on her own.

"Recently Daffie and I worked with "Isabelle." Isabelle's therapist believed she could walk by herself without the aid of a

cont. page 3

Stars and Planets Align to Make Winners Circle a Celestial Success

The stars and planets aligned perfectly for the *Winners Circle*, Canine Therapy Corps' gala on September 19 at the Adler Planetarium. Co-chairs Elaine Hoffmann and Mayari Pritzker welcomed more than three hundred supporters. Guests, human and canine, mingled among the Planetarium's exhibits while bidding on an extensive array of silent auction items.

At dinner, ABC 7's Linda Yu introduced members of the Chicago Police Department Canine Unit and the real stars of the evening: ten Canine Therapy Corps volunteers representing our ongoing programs: "Tootsie" Gaffney, "Sadie Louise" Golden, "Emma" Kaplan, "P. Casso" Loftus, "Bertha" Matyas, "Daisy" Petersen, "Coco Latte" Scazzero, "Dubs" Wiersma, "Spencer" Zettek and "Otto" Zimmermann. A moving video of volunteer teams at work with children added to the guests' understanding of interactive animal-assisted therapy. Linda Levy, a former patient at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, shared her remarkable story of recovery and rehabilitation, focusing on her work with Daisy, a Canine Therapy Corps dog.

A terrific live auction followed the presentations. Fabulous trips, a day at the races

and dinner prepared by celebrity chef Art Smith raised thousands of dollars to support Canine Therapy Corps programs. Funds were also raised for the "Pet Project" – the hiring of consulting therapists to help increase our programs' effectiveness. The excitement continued with upbeat dance music performed by the Bradley Young Orchestra. The evening ended too soon, but was a tremendous success by all measures.



Mayari Pritzker and Elaine Hoffmann

Special thanks to our sponsors: *Celestial Sponsors* Mayari and Robert Pritzker, J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation and Tawani Foundation; *Galaxy Sponsors* Deborah and Bruce Crown, DLA Piper and Roger Longtin, Exelon Corporation, Debra and Jordan Hadelman, Mills Family Foundation and Alexandra and John Nichols; *Stellar Sponsors* Family Pet Animal Hospital, Caryn and King Harris, J.P.

cont. page 4



Daisy and Linda Levy

Kibbles and Bits

Welcome to our newest volunteer teams: **Lorie Latham** and **Bayla, Mary Ann Sornito** and **Lily, Karen Stern** and **Muggs** and **Wendy Toy** and **Saffie** passed the Canine Therapy Corps Certification Evaluation in August, while **Callie Cozzolino** and **Rou, Marcia Slomowitz** and **Baguette** and **David Zemon** and **Max** passed in November.

On October 16th, volunteers **Elizabeth Loftus** and **P.Casso, Birgit Mantilla** and **Spike, Wendy Toy** and **Saffie** and **Lisa Wiersma, Dubs** and **Turner**, along with Program and Outreach Director **Callie Cozzolino** ventured to Englewood's Lindblom Math and Science Academy for a colloquium on human-animal relationships. A mix of 50 general and special education high school students learned about animal assisted therapy and spent time with each dog.

On October 19th, Swedish Covenant Hospital program leader **Ramona Condie** and volunteers **Mary Dellorto** and **Gemma, Nancy Duke** and **Ida, Joyce**



Birgit Mantilla and Spike

Hansen and **Siena**, and **Sarah Poeppel** presented their program to healthcare practitioners, academics, patient advocates and hospital staff and administrators in town for Planetree's annual conference. Canine Therapy Corps' program at Swedish Covenant is an example of Planetree's patient-oriented care concept.

Volunteers **Tamara Bedricky, Nancy** and **Michael Golden** and **Sadie Louise, Gail Kaplan** and **Emma** and **Pat Morrison** and **Max** celebrated Halloween by working our booth at Anti-Cruelty's Howl-o-ween adoption event on October 25th. The event benefited the Chicago Area Shelter Alliance.

Canine Therapy Corps' Book Group will be on holiday hiatus in December, but will resume in January (date to be determined)

and couple its book discussion (*The Other End of the Leash* by Patricia McConnell) with a field trip to Shedd Aquarium to see "Pet Training the Shedd Way." This stage show features rescued dogs who are being trained by the staff using the same positive reinforcement techniques that they use on their marine mammals.

We hosted the 5th Take Your Dog to Dinner on Tuesday, September 9th. We had to utilize our rain date and the weather was unseasonably cool, but we persevered. Thanks to everyone who came out to support us, not to mention our fabulous volunteers who staffed the event.

Canine Therapy Corps will be hosting its 2nd annual spa night for dogs this winter. See our website for date and location.

Congratulations to volunteer **Sarah Poeppel** and **David Ditzler**, as well as volunteers **Jenna Gruhala** and **Eric Oltersdorf** on their respective marriages this fall.

Canine Therapy Corps sends a warm welcome to **Izzie**, a lab mix recently rescued by the **Hadelman** family.

Have some exciting news, personal or dog related? We'd love to hear it! Email your news to info@caninetherapycorps.org.

SPEAK!

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Donations

Donations in memory of, or in honor of, a special person or pet are always welcome and help us continue to provide our programs free of charge. We even have birthday cards for your canine friend's special day. Canine Therapy Corps is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your gift is tax exempt to the extent permitted by law.

Donations were made to Canine Therapy Corps:

In memory of Tag Alexander by
Martha Alexander and William Porter
Mary Ann Alexander
Elizabeth Buchanan
Janet and Larry Eaton
Caryl and Jerry Horn
Judy Keitz
Wendi Mancini
Emily and Emily Strong

In memory of John and Tag Alexander
by Karen Alexander

In memory of Max DeWert
by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ahrenholz

In memory of Scarlett Herschel
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In memory of McHenry Wilson
by Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Schuler

In memory of Frank Unterberg by Mary Ann Alexander
In memory of Rosemary Courbain
by Nancy and Michael Golden
In honor of Colette Collins
by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lipowicz
In honor of Judy Keitz and Lexie, and in memory of
Derby by Maureen and John Heakin
In honor of Linda Levy by David Brown
and Beverly Adler and Carolyn Lawrence
In honor of Barbara Morris
by Mr. and Mrs. John Bunce
In honor of Mayari Pritzker
by Mr. and Mrs. John Nichols
In honor of Colin Reeves and John Vranicar
by Mr. and Mrs. William McClayton
In honor of Turner Wiersma
by Denise and Greg Palmer

New Pilot Program at Easter Seals Autism Therapeutic School

Canine Therapy Corps is thrilled to announce its newest pilot program at Easter Seals of Metropolitan Chicago's Autism Therapeutic School. This state-of-the-art facility, which opened in July 2008, was custom designed to meet the particular needs of students with autism, emotional behavior disorders and severe learning disabilities. It is the only facility of its kind to combine educational, research, training, early intervention, school-to-work transition and independent living capabilities on a single campus.

Canine Therapy Corps' eight-week pilot program will commence in January and runs through March.

IN MEMORIAM:

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of two veteran Canine Therapy Corps dogs.

Tag, an elegant black Labrador Retriever was the beloved and constant companion of Mary Ann Alexander. Mary Ann and Tag joined Canine Therapy Corps in 2000 when Tag passed the test on his first attempt. Mary Ann and Tag worked tirelessly on behalf of the Corps. They worked at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, at Stone Institute of Psychiatry, and at Haymarket Center. Mary Ann and Tag never said no, appearing in our informational video and representing us at many outreach events, including I Am Me Burn Camp. One of Tag's proudest moments came at the 2003 benefit, when he appeared with Don Agnew, a young man who had been in a horrific automobile accident, and attributed much of his remarkable recovery to working with Tag. When the audience joined Don to command Tag to catch the bone Tag had been balancing on his nose, there

was not a dry eye in the room. But Don was only one of the many hundreds of people whose lives were touched by this empathetic, intuitive dog. We were honored to have had Tag among us for so many years, and he will be missed.

Ginger, a gentle red Golden Retriever was the cherished companion of Beth Kadow. Beth found Ginger in 1997, a shy stray. Beth was determined to help Ginger find her place in the world. Ginger found that place as a therapy dog. Ginger passed her Canine Good Citizen test, then in 2000 the Canine Therapy Corps test (first try!), followed by Therapy Dogs International certification, Dog Scouts of America and Sit, Stay Read! Ginger and Beth worked at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and at Swedish Covenant Hospital. Ginger loved new challenges and was always ready to help her client face one of theirs. We will miss her, but are grateful for her eight years of devoted service.

Labs and Goldens *cont. from pg. 1*

walker, but thought she wouldn't try because she was afraid of falling. Knowing how much Labs love to eat, the therapist and I developed an exercise where Isabelle hid baby carrots under cones on the floor and helped Daffie find them. Isabelle took the first baby carrot and began to walk toward a cone, then squatted to put the carrot underneath it. Then Isabelle told Daffie to find it. And, of course, Daffie did. Each time Isabelle repeated this hide-and-seek, her steps became sturdier and she had less fear of falling. By the end of the session Isabelle had completely forgotten about her fear and was eager to show her new abilities to her mother and sister. While Daffie was thrilled to find the carrot, what Isabelle found was much more valuable - the confidence to try to overcome her challenges and the strength to walk by herself."

Debra Hadelman

Star is a nine year-old Golden Retriever who works at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Her handler recounts some of her most memorable moments.

"Star lightens spirits and facilitates healing at RIC. A patient proudly carried Star's picture in her wallet, fondly recalling their good time together in session. A toddler recovering from a stroke enjoyed the sensation of Star gently nuzzling treats from his

hand. A patient who sustained traumatic brain injury enjoyed seeing his young son relax on the floor, Star's front leg draped over his back like they were best buds. They remained suspended in that "Kodak moment" until the Dad's session began."

Star was the first facility dog (from Canine Companions for Independence) to work in the Chicago Public Schools. During her tenure, Star encouraged children to share their feelings appropriately, behave better, try harder, improve their reading, respect themselves and others, and to just have fun.

Judith Jaffe

Toby, a four year-old Labrador Retriever, makes a connection with the patients at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital and helps them recover from their injuries.

"Every time Toby and I visit Schwab, I can see how the program makes a difference to the patients. We usually work with different patients each week, but the short time that we spend with them is full of excitement and that energy lasts well beyond the therapy session. Recently "Ina," a patient recovering from hip replacement surgery, came to the program for several sessions. Ina filled the room with her enthusiasm while working with Toby and other dogs to increase her mobility. She not only provided encouragement to all the group mem-

bers during that therapy session, but also convinced her roommates to come to the program and work with the dogs. Ina wasn't just increasing her mobility; she was also focused on passing that energy on to others. I think a big part of that energy comes from working with dogs like Toby. It's amazing that a dog who is "Mr. Wigglebutt" when he's not working can transfer that energy to the patients yet also be so gentle. The connection that Toby and the other dogs make with the patients is what makes the program so wonderful."

Linda Carr



Daffie

The Story Behind the New Canine Therapy Corps Logo

By Eric Oltersdorf, *Snackbox Design and Public Relations*

We approach logo development by asking: What is the truth of the organization? In addition to finding truth, we needed to make CTC more approachable and differentiate them from other non-profits (the competition).

We interviewed CTC officers, completed a competitive analysis, reviewed existing materials and attended therapy sessions in an effort to find the true CTC. Two important experiences resonated with us during our research, creating the “Ah-ha moments.”

The first was seeing Jared in the CTC informational video. It was inspiring to listen to his mother talk about the improvements she saw in her son after he interacted with CTC dogs.

The second was during a session at Schwab. An older woman, after many “I can’t’s,” gave a command to a dog. When the dog obeyed,

she displayed a huge smile and exulted, “I did it!”

A key insight was discovered in both of these experiences: a suffering person reached beyond limitations through a CTC dog and began the road to recovery. This is the truth behind CTC and the magic that needed to be distilled into a logo.

The logo we created consists of two parts: the symbol and the logotype. This is a graphic representation of the organization and its values.

The symbol is a gender-neutral figure representing patients participating in CTC programs. Standing in a triumphant pose, the figure is in the moment when past misfortune is overcome by reaching to embrace a new future. The dog is the figure’s shadow and represents the support that helped the patient achieve that moment of triumph.

Together, the two interact in one unified, symbiotic whole. A subtle feature of the logo is that the figure stands over the “can” in “canine.”

The logotype is a san serif typeface and has a clean, modern feel. “Canine Therapy” is in a bolder typeface to further emphasize the CTC mission and differences from other groups.

The colors offer a warmer, more approachable position. The blue is a nod to the previous logo, but with more depth. It counterbalances nicely with the orange. The orange is an energetic, warm color, yet still soft. Together, the two position CTC as a dynamic, approachable medical organization.

Editor’s note: To see the new logo in full color, please visit www.caninetherapycorps.org.

Winners Circle *cont. from pg. 1*

Morgan, Judy Keitz, Kremer Veterinary Services, McDermott Center dba Haymarket Center, Reed Smith LLP, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Thiernau Financial Services, Inc and Patricia and Daniel J. Walsh.

Janet Eaton, Executive Director summed it up this way: “The work of Canine Therapy Corps is collaborative – we partner with medical professionals, volunteers and clients to help individuals achieve remarkable strides in health and well being. Winners Circle was also a collaboration of people who believe in the healing power of the

human-animal bond and who came together to support our work in an extraordinary way. We are indebted to Mayari Pritzker and Elaine Hoffmann for chairing the gala, to our committee members for their tireless efforts, and to our sponsors and guests who made our gala a true reflection of the value of our work.”

P.Casso, Elizabeth Loftus, Derek Brust, and Lisa and Michael Sparrow



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