

SPEAK!



Vol. 18, No. 2, Winter 2009 | Canine Therapy Corps newsletter

GUESTS LET LOOSE AT UNLEASHED!

Canine Therapy Corps' guests left their inhibitions at the door of the Chicago Illuminating Company when they arrived at UNLEASHED!, our 2009 fall fundraiser. Guests rocked into the evening to the sounds of Whata Bout Bob while dining on an array of international flavors at food stations.

Competitive bidding wars went late into the evening on a wide variety of merchandise and experiences offered in the silent auction, including fabulous lodging in Las Vegas, Telluride, CO and southern Michigan. Chicago sports memorabilia, cooking lessons, golf outings and dog items meant there was something for everyone.

No Canine Therapy Corps benefit can be complete without the presence of our dogs, and UNLEASHED! was no exception. Appearing were Bogart (Bruce) Bahcall, Chiquita (Barbara) Brightman, Bonnie Blue (Barbara) Burns, Ida (Ramona) Condie, Sherman (Joe and Stephanie) Frey, Daffie (Debra) Hadelman, Jakey (Toni) Janzen and Tucker (Roger) Lutt.

We were honored by the presence of Maureen and Jim Surin, whose 3-year-old daughter Ashley is being treated for leukemia at Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital and has been accompanied on her journey by our dogs. Maureen explained how Ashley now associates her hospital visits with our dogs rather than fear and pain, and the joy the dogs have brought Ashley's whole team,

including the doctors. She was followed by Pati Nootbaar, a therapist at Advocate, and her young patient, David, who works on physical and verbal skills with his favorite dog, Bogart. David delighted the audience with his enthusiastic rendition of "Supercalifragalisticexpialidocious" which he sang to a watchful Bogart.

Special thanks to our co-chairs, Margaret J. O'Connor and Michael Sparrow, and a great committee including Naushab Ahmed, Joy Arager, Pierre Desy, Debra Hadelman, Judy Keitz, Linda Levy, Jordan Matyas, Barbara Young Morris, Connie Pikalus, Brooke Sabia and Gayle Shain, whose dedicated efforts made the evening possible.

The evening's benefactors included: Wiggly Field Sponsors – Deborah and Bruce Crown, Debra and Jordan Hadelman; Bark Park Sponsors – The Heartland Alliance, Judy Keitz and Douglas Walker; Puptown Sponsors – Family Pet Animal Hospital, Hinsdale Animal Hospital, Margaret J. O'Connor and Dr. Michael O'Meara, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Lisa and Michael Sparrow, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Thiernau Financial Services, Inc. and Patricia and Daniel J. Walsh. Special contributions were made by Allen Brothers, Cardinal Warehouse Wine & Liquors, Crown Imports, LLC, MarCon Public Relations & Special Events, Kong Company, The Romano Family, Sutton Studios, Tru-Line Lithographing and Wholesome Hide.



Co-Chairs Michael Sparrow and Margaret J. O'Connor



David and his family, Pati Nootbaar and Bruce and Bogart Bahcall



Tony Kremer and Patti Kremer

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE!

Canine Therapy Corps is proud to announce that we have been awarded a challenge grant by a very generous donor, who will match, dollar for dollar, any gifts received from new supporters and increased gifts from current supporters, up to \$20,000! So if you have not made a gift to Canine Therapy Corps in the past two years, now would be the PERFECT time to donate because your gift will double in value! Or, if you are already one of our generous supporters and can increase your most recent gift, the increased amount will be matched.

Your gift of any amount will help us meet this financial challenge and ensure our volunteer teams are there to help our clients face the very real struggles they must confront every day.

Kibbles and Bits

Congratulations to **Tara Todd Farris** and **River**, a Golden Retriever (not pictured), who passed the Canine Therapy Corps certification test in May. Tara and River have been working at Rice Child and Family Center this fall. Tara has been a volunteer and program leader and has handled Rou (Cozzolino) at Haymarket Center. In August, we welcomed **Liz Joyce** and **Maddie**, a Golden Retriever, who are working at Haymarket and in October, we welcomed **Ken Fixler** and **Billy**, a Golden Retriever, and **Anne Maxfield** and **Hampton**, a Goldendoodle! A big welcome to volunteers without dogs: **Chuck Carpenter**, **Val Leventhal**, **Holly Ruedlinger**, **Tony and Jill Ruiz**, **Charity Simpson**, **Jennifer Verploegh**, **Rachel Yap** and **Mary Zehren**.

While **Bruce Bahcall** and **Debra Hadelman** looked on, **Bogart** and **Daffie** and “their” kids dazzled the audience at Advocate Lutheran General Children’s Hospital’s spring talent show in April. Bogart and his kid, David, were such a hit that they reprised their performance at UNLEASHED!



Ken Fixler and Billy and Anne Maxfield and Hampton

Thanks to everyone who visited us at Bark in the Park! Special thanks to **Linda Carr** and **Toby**, **Nancy Duke**, **Joyce Hansen** and **Siena** and **Sarah Stewart** and **Gus** who worked our booth.

Canine Therapy Corps dogs helped relieve the stress of spring exams for some college students. Thanks to **Sarah Stewart** and **Gus** who visited Loyola University and **Linda Carr** and **Toby**, **Gail Kaplan** and **Emma**, **Birgit Mantilla** and **Hero** and **Cynthia Scazzero** and **Coco Latte**, who visited the University of Chicago.

Canine Therapy Corps had a table at the Best Friends Windy City Dog Days Adoption Event. Thanks to **Rhonda Milkowski** and **Christine Montet** and **Snoopy** for staffing the event.

Every summer, Canine Therapy Corps is honored to be invited to Camp I am Me, a summer camp for burn survivors. This year the kids ran agility relay races with the dogs and had a great time. Thanks to **Ginny Beck** and **Dylan**, **Linda Carr** and **Toby**, **Nancy Golden** and **Sadie**, **Michael Golden** and **Trudy**, **Gail Kaplan** and **Emma**, **Elizabeth**

Loftus, **D.Vinci** and **P.Casso**, **Michelle Schwartz**, **Charity Simpson** and **Sharon Van Den Hende** and **Max** for a truly memorable day.

Canine Therapy Corps returned to the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine to discuss animal-assisted therapy with high school students from all over the country contemplating medical careers. We’re told that Canine Therapy Corps is the most requested session every year. Thanks to **Louie Greenebaum** and **Rou**, **Pat Morrison** and **Max** and **Sharon Van Den Hende** and **Max** who represented us well.

In August, Executive Director **Janet Eaton** and 10-year veteran **Jersey Sparrow** (accompanied by his people, **Lisa** and **Michael**) opened the festivities at Bark For Life, a dog walk to raise money for cancer research, sponsored by the American Cancer Society chapter in Northbrook, IL.



Liz Joyce and Maddie

Did you see us in the newspaper? Our new outreach program in the Pediatric Oncology Department at Advocate Lutheran General was featured this summer in both the TribLocal and in the Pioneer Press. Canine stars **Jersey** and **Chiquita (Brightman)** were shown helping some of our youngest clients brave the trauma of cancer treatments.

cont. page 4

SPEAK!

Vol. 18, No. 2, Winter 2009

Executive Director – Janet Rosen Eaton
Program and Outreach Director – Callandre Cozzolino
Editor – Melissa Kelly
Layout – Gabrielle Davoust

SPEAK! c/o Canine Therapy Corps
 1700 W Irving Park Road
 Chicago IL 60613
 Phone: 773-404-6467
 Fax: 773-404-6759

E-mail: info@caninetherapycorps.org
 Website: www.caninetherapycorps.org

! is the official publication of Canine Therapy Corps, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to motivating individuals with special challenges through animal-assisted therapy programs using certified therapy dogs. This publication may not be reproduced or copied in whole or in part by any means without the express permission of Canine Therapy Corps. We have used our best efforts in collecting and preparing material for inclusion in this newsletter, but cannot warrant that the information contained is complete or accurate. Canine Therapy Corps does not assume, and hereby disclaims, liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omission. Submissions may be edited for length, style, and clarity; they become the property of Canine Therapy Corps.

Copyright © 2009 Canine Therapy Corps, Inc. All rights reserved.

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 Carol Krohn by Linda and Philip Abrahams

In memory of Mr. B. Spokany and Trievers Lautt by Scott Allen Barber

In memory of Snickers by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kaplan

In memory of Anita Reeves by Mr. Joe Murphy

In memory of Maggie Zander by Ms. Clara Nelson

In memory of Bing by Mr. Jim Ruud, Mr. Rick Shoemaker and Perry

In honor of Lisa Wiersma by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Granat
 In honor of Judy Keitz by Mrs. Jean Keitz and Mr. Peter Maloney

In honor of the marriage of Lauren Petersen and Trent Edwards by Donna and Scott Petersen

In honor of Funny Sunny Bunny’s 3rd birthday and in memory of Shadow by Mr. and Mrs. Skip Rosenmutter

In honor of Debra Hadelman and Daffie by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Zelby

POODLES PROMOTE POSITIVE PROGRESS

The Poodle breed originated in Germany (not France!) as a water retriever, and its famous clip was designed by hunters to help the dogs move through the water efficiently. Poodles of all sizes are exceptionally smart, active and excel in obedience training. So it is no surprise that Canine Therapy Corps' ranks include one Miniature poodle and five Standard poodles, all of whom are hard at work in our programs. Here are some of their stories.

Poodles Assist in Substance Abuse Recovery



Zoe and Dakota

Poodles are known for their dignity and intellect. Zoe, a black standard poodle, is no exception and these were Zoe's gifts to "Ann" a client she worked with at Haymarket Center, a residential rehabilitation facility for adults recovering from substance abuse. At Ann's first session, she declared her fear of dogs. In spite of that fear, Ann was determined to see the program through start to finish. Though it took her weeks to see it, Ann was a natural handler, always maintaining eye contact and using the correct tone.

Courage with a Capital 'C'

I want to share some of the special experiences that my husband, Mike, and I had volunteering with our poodles, Sadie Louise and Trudy, at the Heartland Alliance's Specialized Care for Immigrant Youth Program (SCIY). The clients in the Canine Therapy Corps program at SCIY are boys between 14 and 17 years of age who entered this country without family members to shelter or support them. All of the boys have diagnoses of serious mental illness and have suffered serious emotional traumas.

After their treatment at SCIY, the boys' ultimate goal is to return home to family in their mother country, or if that is not possible, placement in this country's federal foster care system. Our goals for the boys participating in the CTC program are to improve their language skills and impulse control and enhance their self-esteem and self-confidence.

At the start of the first session, the boys were withdrawn and shy. The SCIY staff helped with translations, making it easier for the boys to start with the basics of greeting the dogs and getting to know each other. After only one session the magic of animal-assisted

Ann bonded with Zoe, and Zoe returned Ann's affection. Zoe was responsive and always looked to Ann as her handler. When Ann entered the room, Zoe would go to her. Ann came to call Zoe "her dog," and even though she cried at graduation, Ann was proud of her accomplishments. She came to visit during a subsequent program and told me how she had used the trust and relationship building skills Zoe taught her in her recovery.

-Bunny Wagner

The initial reaction of the participants at Haymarket Center upon seeing Dakota for the first time is usually, "Wow, he's big." And that's true. He is big. But his physical size doesn't compare to the size of his heart. Dakota takes his work at Haymarket very seriously. He is hard-working and devoted, even though he may not do his commands as quickly as the other dogs. Anyone who knows Dakota would say that he listens well, but takes his time.



Trudy and Sadie Louise

therapy had begun. The boys were more confident and eager to have their pictures taken to display in their rooms and on posters in the activity room.

The magic continued each week with the boys learning to use simple obedience commands with the dogs and enjoying games while practicing their skills. As the boys worked towards their goals, they seemed to identify with the challenges overcome by Kate, a three-legged border collie who walked with the help of a mobility cart, and Gus, a senior Newfoundland. Learning to accept the uniqueness of the dogs also helped the boys be more generous with each other.

Our last session was a graduation celebration

Dakota has worked with many different participants at Haymarket – men and women, young and older, shy and assertive. During a recent Haymarket session, Dakota was working with a man named "Kevin." Kevin was a very tall man who took to Dakota right away. While he often came to our sessions looking a little defeated, Kevin always perked up when he started working with Dakota. One day, Kevin came in looking particularly down-trodden and sat down next to Dakota and me. Kevin started petting Dakota, got the biggest smile on his face and then said, "He's big and slow, just like me."

The success of the program at Haymarket Center, like all of the Canine Therapy Corps programs, depends solely upon the relationships formed between participants and the therapy dogs. No dog is better at forming those relationships than Dakota.

-Eowyn Ford, Dakota's handler at Haymarket.
Dakota is owned by Bunny Wagner

where the boys radiated the pride of all that they had achieved. Each boy told the audience a little about his experience in the program and performed a special trick with one of the dogs. There were also verbal and written expressions of joy and gratitude. One of the boys wrote us a letter in English and Spanish, highlighting his increased language skills:

"Dogs give unconditional love – thank you for all of your help.

"We love you and thank you.

"I learned to think about good things and learned about the dogs.

"I feel proud of having you here.

"The dogs make us feel good when we are sad.

"Tuesdays are special days because that is when the dogs come.

"The dogs give me trust and this is what I like."

As these courageous boys shared their experiences, we were reminded how wonderful it was to be a part of their journey.

-Nancy Golden

IN MEMORIAM:

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of three of our therapy dogs.

In May, Spike, a 4 1/2-year-old English Mastiff, passed away after struggling with health issues for several months. Spike became a Canine Therapy Corps dog in August 2006, on his first attempt at the test, and hit the ground running. Although Spike weighed in at 200 pounds when he was in the show ring, he was truly a gentle giant. His slow and steady manner endeared him to the patients at Schwab, where his guardian, Birgit Mantilla, is program leader. He also worked with the children at the Rice Center and Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital and his patience was legendary. Spike represented Canine Therapy Corps at many outreach events and always drew a crowd. Despite his size, Spike thought of himself as a lap dog, and loved to put his head or a paw in a lap or roll over to get a belly rub. He also was a fierce competitor in

Rally obedience and won multiple titles and awards in his very short life. Spike is already missed by everyone who knew him.

Abby, a Bernese Mountain Dog and constant companion of John Grady for thirteen years passed away in New York City where she had moved after working at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital. Abby was featured in our newsletter in late 2001, after she spent weeks comforting traumatized firemen and other survivors of the World Trade Center disaster. She found a new career in show business, when John discovered that he could use the same hand commands he had used at Schwab to direct Abby from behind the camera. Her work included posing for six hours with a cat for a Purina ad, starring roles in short films, and appearances in multiple comedy sketches on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, including a famous sketch with Triumph the Insult Comic. Abby performed live onstage with some of NYC's best com-

ics in various comedy clubs. Abby has left a legion of bereft friends and fans behind.

In August, Canine Therapy Corps lost our cover girl, Butterscotch, know to all as Scotchie, the beloved companion of Judith Jaffe and the beautiful collie on the front of our brochure. After passing our test in October 2000, Judith and Scotchie worked at the Rice Child + Family Center and then at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago until her retirement in 2008 because of health concerns. During her long career, Scotchie was an intuitive and attentive therapy dog. Judith recalls that a patient once exclaimed "Scotchie is the nicest person I've met since coming here!" The patient's daughter was amazed that he had spoken at all because he was so distraught over his condition that he had been unresponsive to all attempts to engage him. Scotchie was a quiet hero to the many people with whom she worked, and will be missed.

Kibbles and Bits

cont. from pg. 2

A Star is Born! Volunteer team **Roger Lutt** and **Tucker** performed in Life's Ruff, a show at the Gorilla Tango Theater from August through October. Proceeds benefited the Dog Saving Network, which aims to drastically reduce the number of shelter dogs euthanized every year. Good work!

The next generation of volunteers has arrived! Congratulations to **Shelly Gasper** and **Brian Diebold** on the birth of their daughter **Avery, Eowyn** and **Matt Ford** on the birth of their son **Tate Matthew** and **Barbara (Zimmerman)** and **Ed Moscato** on the birth of their son **Dominic**. We expected to see all three children as soon as they have their shots!



HEALING HEARTS COMES TO OUR WEBSITE IN JANUARY 2010!

Watch for the launch of our new Healing Hearts campaign, coming to our website this January. You will be able to select a Canine Therapy Corps dog to support, and we will send you a trading card like the one you see here! Collect them all or give them as thoughtful gifts that reflect your belief in the healing power of the human animal bond.

Donations will be accepted through a secure link on our website, www.caninetherapycorps.org or you may call the office to make your donation. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your gift is exempt to the extent provided by law.



1700 W Irving Park Road, Suite 311
Chicago, IL 60613
www.caninetherapycorps.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 6461