

Foothills Kiwanis Club of Boulder

News from “Alert Service Dogs for Kids” Project

Welcome to our second newsletter that provides information about the “Alert Service Dogs for Kids” program, which provides specially bred dogs to children with diabetes or allergic conditions. It has been nearly a year since our last newsletter, and much has happened. This newsletter will describe progress over the past year, updates about our sponsors, testimonials from some of our Academy families, and our vision for the future.

WHAT’S HAPPENED?

Celebratory Graduations

Since our last newsletter in April 2014, two families graduated in October. One of these families has a child with type-1 diabetes who immediately upon her Public Access certification began taking her dog KB to school. Fortunately, her school seems to have been very forthcoming and accommodating to her



need for an alert service dog. Specifically, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may require school districts to allow a child to bring a service

dog to school as a part of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

A FAPE provides special education and supportive services that allow a child with a disability to

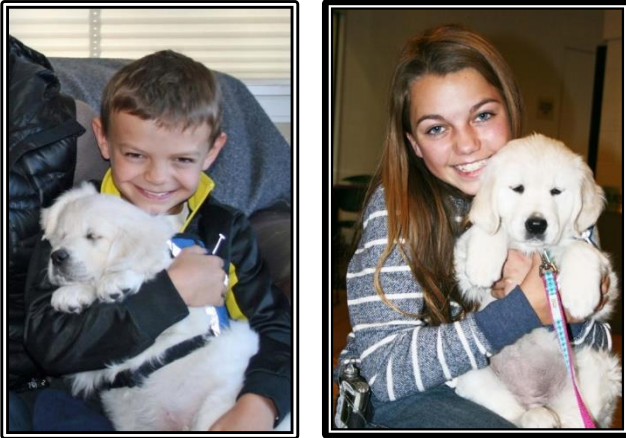
benefit from his or her education. For some children with disabilities, a service dog is an integral part of FAPE. Determining whether a service dog is necessary for a FAPE requires an individualized assessment by the child’s education team. Students who want to bring a service dog to school should notify the school district prior to receiving the dog so the school district and student have time to meet, discuss any concerns, and develop a plan. If the school has concerns, such as allergies, safety issues, or disruption to the school environment, it is best to set up a meeting with the school district representatives to discuss the issues.

The other graduate is a child that has seizures and is developmentally delayed. His family will continue to work with their dog Bob who is learning to support their son when he has a debilitating seizure and also to provide physical support as the child becomes more mobile.



Addition of New Families

In November, two new families were added to the program. Because of the probability of our golden retriever breeder moving out of State, we selected



two puppies from another breeder and presented them to two children, both of whom have type-1 diabetes. As depicted in the photos, these pups are English bred (as compared to American bred) and have a distinctive cream/white color associated with this breeding.

Booth at American Diabetes Association (ADA) EXPO, Denver, Colorado

On Saturday, February 7, 2015, the project volunteers, including several families and their dogs, staffed a booth at the annual ADA Expo. We enjoy the opportunity to meet attendees, describe the benefits of our program, and show off our children and their beautiful alert dogs in training.



SPONSOR UPDATES

In May 2014, South Boulder Animal Hospital (SOBO) became our second Veterinary Clinic (along with All Pets Animal Hospital Boulder) as a “Top Dog” sponsor providing wellness care, vaccinations, neutering, and chipping services for our pups. We thank them for their participation.

In January 2015, our program received a grant from the Rocky Mountain District Kiwanis Foundation, and in February 2015 we received a grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation, which also qualifies them as “Top Dog” sponsors and allows us to better plan for the future. Since our program relies solely on sponsorships (for a complete list, please visit our website at www.AlertDogs4Kids.org), fundraisers, private donations, in-kind support, and volunteers, we sincerely appreciate all of our supporters that help us meet the goals and objectives of the program.

RECENT FUNDRAISERS

Dog Days at Lake Valley--On June 9, 2014, the Foothills Kiwanis Club had a very successful and fun benefit at Lake Valley Golf Club in Longmont, CO (“Dog Days at Lake Valley”). The Alert Service Dogs for Kids program was a prime beneficiary of the fundraising event. Thanks to our entire club, friends, and family of club members who volunteered to support last year’s tourney and to Lake Valley personnel, sponsors, and players who all made the benefit a success.



“Paws for Kids Cause”--On October 22, 2014, Twisted Pine Brewing Company (one of our sponsors) held a benefit for our program, which included a silent auction and proceeds from the day’s take that was a fun event for the more than 100 people that attended.

TESTIMONIALS

We are very proud of our families and their dedication to training of their alert dog for the benefit of their child. Following are some testimonials from parents:

“Our daughter was outside playing a game on the porch while her dog Pumpkin was inside. Pumpkin broke down the baby gate to get upstairs to alert my husband. Following testing, our daughter’s blood sugar level had dropped 200 points. All doors and windows had been shut. We are very thankful that Pumpkin is persistent.”

“We had our first ocean/beach alert the first day we arrived. We left the airport and as promised to the kids, headed straight for the beach. I was up on the beach with our dog Copper, and my diabetic daughter and her father were out in the water swimming. I’m guessing they were about 50-60’ out with only their heads above the water. It was also VERY windy. But sure enough, Copper alerted, and I called my daughter in and she was high. Salt, sand, wind, birds, two other dogs, new people all around and he was still keeping track of his girl.”

WHAT’S COMING

Just In (Mark Your Calendar)—“Dog Days at Lake Valley” is back on for June 15, 2015! Become a sponsor and/or come and golf with (or without) your canine friend and support our “Alert Service Dogs for Kids” program and other youth-oriented projects. There will be prizes, a silent auction, a provided lunch, and some of our service dogs will be there too. See the Foothills Kiwanis Club website at: www.foothillskiwanis.org for all the scoop.

Adult Training Seminar--Many adults that have diabetes or allergies have asked us how they might

avail themselves of our services. As a result, we are planning on conducting a one-day alert dog training seminar, depending on interest, for those adults that either have their own dog or are thinking of obtaining a dog to perform these skills. If you would be interested in attending such a class, which would be held on a weekend in the Boulder CO area (date to be determined), please indicate your interest in an email to lbritton2149@gmail.com with details about your situation, your age, and if you have a dog, the breed and age of the dog. There also is a link on our web page that provides some additional details.

Upcoming Graduation--Another child and her dog passed their Public Access Certification test in December and will graduate in late February. That will bring our number of graduated families and their dogs to eight in total and will leave five dogs in training. We are looking for additional applicants, and for up-to-date information about our program or to submit an application, visit our website at www.AlertDogs4Kids.org

IT TAKES YOUR SUPPORT

There is not a better way to encapsulate what the gift of a well-trained alert dog and companion can mean to a family and the quality of a child’s life than to hear the words from a grateful father:

“It’s hard to find the right words to express how grateful we are to all you have done for us, for our son, for our dog Bob, and for all the other service-dog families. You and the service dog program came into our lives when we were desperate for help for our son, and we are so thankful. Although Bob has not (yet!) begun to alert for seizures, the joy, companionship, and love he has provided for our son and our family is invaluable. And, we still look forward to the day we can call you and tell you that Bob alerted to a seizure!”

We appreciate the contributions of all of our sponsors, private donors, volunteers, and the tireless commitment and dedication of our families to help ensure the protection and enhanced independence of their child. This vital work would not be possible without such support, and together we can help ensure a brighter future for an afflicted child one dog at a time.

***Your generosity gives the gift of extra protection and enhanced independence to our families and their child in need. Your tax-deductible donation in any amount is greatly appreciated and can be sent to:**

**Foothills Kiwanis Club of Boulder
Attn: Linda McMullen
182 Anemone Dr.
Boulder, CO 80302**

A tax exempt non-profit organization under 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.