



DOGS4DIABETICS

Winter 2016

Keeping you in the KNOW - latest and greatest at Dogs4Diabetics

Client/Dog Team, Casie & Anders



WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2016

Mark your calendars for the many fun, and exciting D4D activities. **p5**

VOLUNTEER WAGS

We love our volunteers! Meet Cody Meyer, our newest volunteer. **p7**

TREATS FROM THE TRAINER

Learn how to keep your pups safe during the cold winter months. **p8**

KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

- by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director

2016... We at D4D hope that everyone we touched in 2015 has enjoyed the holiday season, and we wish each of our clients, volunteers and our many supporters a prosperous and productive New Year. We look forward to a year of growth and new accomplishments as we plan for 2016.

Our organizational theme for 2016 is Powerful Partnerships. As we look at our past efforts, we see all of them tied to relationships that come from a wonderful mix of people and organizations with varied interests and objectives. All of which are tied together in helping Dogs4Diabetics succeed in its mission of training great dogs, to support people with a need.

The results are many-fold: it is clients having great long-term success in bonding and developing wonderful relationships with their dogs; it is volunteers fostering dogs and helping deliver parts of our client and dog training; it is families and many other people assisting D4D develop the necessary resources; it is corporate sponsors understanding our community and connecting us to their public audiences to expand the reach of our program. All of these things represent the power of working together to develop powerful partnerships.



Our D4D community is amazing, and I'm thankful to be part of it. I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2016!

- Ralph

D4D represents a community that comes together not just because of an interest in dogs or diabetes but also because of the opportunity to join a group that is making a positive impact in the world.

We thank everyone who has had a part in our efforts in 2015, and engage you into the efforts that we will be taking in 2016 to move forward in an even greater way. We have seen wonderful successes and life-saving relationships put in place this last year and we will see more in 2016.



HAPPY TAILS...

Russell & Addie

“My diagnosis with Type 1 Diabetes all came about because I broke my wrist at soccer camp.” Russell, explains, “I was 11 years old and it was the summer before sixth grade. When I went to get my cast changed, my doctor noticed my excessive drinking (of water), and sent me to Urgent Care where they ran tests. That’s when I found out I have Type 1 Diabetes.”

“I went through the standard process: meet bad doctors, find good ones, start on shots, and moved to a pump... but things tuned around five years later when I got Addie, my Medical-Alert Assistance Dog.”

With a big smile on his face Russell discusses his best Addie story. “My freshman year of high school, about 2 months after I got her I was playing in a lacrosse game. Addie was on the sidelines going crazy about 60 yards away from me and caught my attention. I pulled myself out of the game, feeling terrible. My blood sugar had gone from 188 to 47. This is just one of the amazing stories about Addie saving my life.”

“Even though it can be awkward having a dog with me all the time, she is my favorite aspect of life. Addie and I are living proof of how powerful the D4D program is, she has changed my life!”

ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

- by Danielle, Mark Ruefenacht's trusted Medical-Alert Dog & Best Friend

Woof! I am sure all of you have heard the human expressions, "Watch out for the fly on the wall," and "Keep your ear to the ground." I understand that they have a special meaning about hearing exciting things. Well, I should let my humans know that in our world, I am the "Dog on the floor," and I hear everything, in all the meetings that I attend for D4D.

So, let me tell you all, there are many exciting and great things being planned for 2016. I am excited and you may know that I don't do a lot of jumping around these days. However, this year is going to be one to jump up and down about, Woof!

The staff is planning for more dogs and humans to be trained this year, along with at least 2 graduations and a lot of other fun activities.

We have an Open House on Sunday January 31st at 5:00pm. Plan on joining us for the Pet Food Express Dog Wash, we still have to set the weekend. Our Annual Walk will be on Saturday, June 11th, Armstrong's Picnic will be on Friday, July 1st, and DOGtoberfest will be in early

October. Then if that's not enough excitement for you our Graduations are already planned for Saturday, April 30th and Saturday, November 5th.

All the great humans who help us out are working hard to plan our best year yet, and we all hope you will get involved in join us for all the fun in 2016!

Also, in case you didn't know I turn 13 this year! I'm loving life, and so grateful to be part of the life-saving work we do at D4D.



Dogs4Diabetics
OPEN HOUSE
come celebrate our Founding Dog,
Armstrong's birthday with us!
Open to the public, bring
your friends and family.

Where: D4D Training Center
Time: 5pm -7:30pm
When: Sunday, January 31st

- * LEARN ABOUT D4D
- * OUR 2016 VISION FORWARD
- * CLIENT/DOG TEAM TESTIMONIAL
- * FOUNDER Q&A

LEARN MORE:
Dogs4Diabetics.com

Yellow Neener Photography

MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER

- Steve Berry, D4D Board Treasurer



Welcome Steve...

Steve is the Vice President and Relationship Manager with Presidio Bank and has nearly a decade of experience in commercial banking. Prior to joining Presidio Bank, he was a Vice President/Commercial Relationship Manager with Umpqua Bank in Walnut Creek, CA. Steve relocated to the Bay Area after starting his career in in Roseville, CA with North Valley Bank where he held various Credit Analyst positions and was ultimately promoted to AVP/Commercial Loan Officer.

Steve earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento and is currently enrolled in the Pacific Coast Banking School program which is is partnered with the Graduate School of Business at the University of Washington.

Steve is passionate about giving back to the community, and was first introduced to the D4D family in 2012 by a former Board Member and current donor of the organization. "I was incredibly impressed by the science behind the training of the dogs and the organization's mission and vision. After seeing the benefit that D4D provides to its clients and their families, I was interested in getting more involved to help D4D reach more clients." He was asked to join the Board in August 2015 and responded with an emphatic "yes!"

Steve is also involved in with Rotary International including his current position of Treasurer with the Diablo View Rotary Club of Walnut Creek.

Steve lives in Pleasant Hill with his girlfriend Maureen and they are very excited to welcome their first child in May 2016. Steve's hobbies include playing golf, playing/watching basketball, hiking, and volunteering in the community. Steve also enjoys cooking/eating great food and enjoying a good glass of wine.

VOLUNTEER WAGS...

We Love our Volunteers

We enjoy the participation of volunteers from all walks of life, with varied interests, skills and life experiences. Cody Meyer joins us at D4D every Monday to assist in grooming and caring for our dogs-in-training. During the week, Cody attends boarding school at the California School for the Blind in Fremont and returns to his family in Sonora, California each weekend.

Cody learned about D4D from one of his teachers, who raises puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind. His teacher introduced him to another of our volunteers and after doing some additional research into our program, he visited our training center. He is now a weekly volunteer with a regular role in caring for our dogs. "I love interacting with all of the D4D dogs!"

With his guide dog, Cody commutes via Bart and Lift, for the 1 ½ trip to the Nylabone Training Center in Concord. Having graduated from his GDB placement program at age 16, Cody felt that while he was proficient in mobility and orientation with his cane, he feels that Champagne adds greatly to his safety, mobility and positive interaction with the public. He appreciates the high quality training that both he and Champagne have received to assist him in fulfilling his ambitions.

We are very appreciative of Cody's dedicated effort and service to our program. He represents an excellent example of the quality of the volunteers that allow our program to serve the needs of our clients.



"My objective in working at D4D is to gain experience in working with dogs and their training. I'm also interested in having a better understanding how D4D serves its clients through these highly skilled Medical-Alert Dogs. I want to be able to assist D4D's clients succeed with their dogs. And, having seen the quality of effort put into the training and placement of the D4D dogs, I want to help spread the word about D4D and its mission. Volunteering at D4D is a great way of serving the community and helping others and at the same time."

- Cody Meyer

TREATS FROM THE TRAINER

- by Christina Vincent-Power, D4D Trainer



As the harsh winter months settle in, it is important to think about keeping your dogs safe from all of the dangers the season can present. Knowing how to best care for your dog in the cold is essential. Here are some guidelines to follow when dealing with all things winter.

What is too cold for your dog? Playing outside in the snow is a blast, but the cold can be very dangerous. Despite their thick fur, dogs exposed to extreme low temperatures run the possibility of freezing their extremities like the tips of the ears, the tail, and feet. Also known as frostbite, it is not usually a life-threatening condition, but can lead to further complications, like hypothermia, and can be deadly. There is no hard and fast temperature number as to what constitutes weather that is too cold. Always limit your dog's exposure to the extreme cold. As a rule if you're not comfortable and have to bundle up, your dog could potentially be in danger.

What about winter grooming? Continue to groom your dog regularly. Dirty and matted hair does not hold warmth. If your dog has long hair, check for ice and snow accumulation. Trim fur between the toes as ice and snow can build up there too! If your dog gets wet, dry thoroughly! If you regularly have your dog shaved, ask the groomer to keep the coat a little longer for the winter or consider using a dog coat.

Salted or Chemically Treated Area's... Take special care of your dog's feet when walking in areas suspected of using rock salts or chemical de-icers. After a walk it is always a good idea to make sure your dog gets dry and warm, remove any ice and rinse any salt from your dog's paws, making sure they are thoroughly cleaned off. Most dogs, regardless of their coat length, benefit from wearing booties to not only keep their feet warm, but protected them from snow, ice and unwanted substances.

Frozen Bodies of Water/Ice... Make sure your dog has a leash when around frozen bodies of water because the ice you might encounter might not be thick enough to support your pet. If a pet falls through the ice, do not attempt to rescue your pet yourself; call 9-1-1 or go for help.



LAGUNITAS TRIPLE MATCH CHALLENGE...

We did it!!! We are ecstatic to announce we have achieved our \$30,000 Lagunitas Brewing Co. Matching Challenge. We are over the moon excited and want to thank each and every one of you for making this campaign so successful! There are not enough words to express our gratitude to Lagunitas, our anonymous donor, and all of you who got behind D4D and supported our mission.

We are humbled by your amazing generosity, which is a life changing and saving gift for a child or adult with diabetes. Your donations will forever transform their lives... what a fantastic way to end 2015 and start 2016 with a bang. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and tails. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

TYPE YOU SUPPORT GROUP...

Is open to the public, it provides insulin-treated diabetics with a forum to discuss their lives with diabetes. The group is led by Dr. Steven Wolf, board member and client and Diabetes Educator Jeannie Hickey, board member and volunteer. It offers both a structured and open forum of topics. Visit our website to learn more, and check-out our support groups for the spouses and partner of insulins-dependent diabetics. D4D holds these support group meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the D4D Training Facility.

SAVE THE DATE, DOG WALK...

It's that time of year again to start forming your Walk Teams for our Annual Walk for the Dogs. This fun-filled day will be on Saturday, June 11th at Heather Farm Park. The Walk website will be live in February, so get ready, get set...



Spenser, completed his client training in Dec. 2015.

GET INVOLVED...

Spenser and Fred, D4D clients are having an impact in the D4D community! Both Spenser and Fred work for Google and nominated D4D to be part of Google's Giving Week, which was a huge honor.

This was an amazing opportunity to spread the word about our organization, raise awareness, and be recipients of Google employees amazing generosity. If that wasn't enough Google matched all the donations made by their employees to D4D!

Spenser and Fred are amazing ambassadors for D4D, and it is efforts like these that make all the difference in our success.

Thank you both for your initiative, time, energy, and effort that went into making this exciting partnership happen!

DONATE

Thank you to each and every donor, your donations, large and small, contribute to the success of our program!

- Donate online at www.Dogs4Diabetics.com
- Mail in a donation to: Dogs for Diabetics, Inc.
1647 Willow Pass Road, #157
Concord, CA 94520-2611
- Or visit www.dogs4diabetics.com/donate/ to find out the various other ways you can contribute

D4D THANKS YOU

Thanks to all who've made this newsletter possible:

- Mary Hooker, Yellow Neener Photography
- Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director
- Christy Gillham, Director of Development
- Carrie Skym, Programs Manager
- Christina Vincent-Power, Trainer
- Diane Ketcham, Programs Coordinator

Like us on **FACEBOOK**, follow us on **TWITTER** and share us with your friends!

Also, check us out on **YOUTUBE** - "Dogs4Diabetics"

CORPORATE SPONSORS

BECOME A PARTNER OF D4D...

The following organizations have supported Dogs for Diabetics, Inc. for many years with donations of dogs, financial resources and various other goods and services which have been critical to D4D's mission. They have earned the right to be thought of as Partners to the Achievement of our Mission.

We are able to provide our great dogs to insulin-dependent diabetic clients at virtually no cost, through the generous support of our supporters. D4D relies on the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations. We would like to honor and thank these donors for their support, which in many cases, has been provided over several years.

The D4D Family Thanks You:

- Allied World Insurance Company
- AvoDerm
- Bollinger Canyon Animal Hospital
- Canine Companions for Independence
- Central Garden & Pet
- Four Paws
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Lagunitas Brewing Company
- Nylabone
- Pet Food Express
- Presidio Bank
- Worldwise Inc.

We welcome other organizations to develop a similar commitment to serve the Medical-Alert Assistance Dog community throughout the United States and the World.



Yellow Neener Photography

Trial placement, Erryn and Pax are working hard to meet graduation requirements. This photo is worth a thousand words... you can tell how much this life-saving gift means to Erryn.

This partnership was made possible by all who support our work, our mission, and share our passion to make a difference in the diabetic community.

WISHING YOU A MAGICAL WINTER – WOOF, WINNIE

Yellow Neener Photography

