



DOGS4DIABETICS

Spring 2016

D4D Chief Canine Ambassador, Hollis



HAPPY TAILS

Lindsey's journey with Ruffle, and their life-saving partnership. **p3-4**

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW

Did you know D4D has some very BIG news? Check out what's ahead for D4D. **p6**

THANK YOU PET FOOD EXPRESS

The Dog Wash was a huge success thanks to everyone who supported us. **p8**

KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

- by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director

We have been having a lot of fun in the last several months at D4D. Many of you will have joined us for the fun time at the Pet Food Express Dog Wash event on April 16 and 17. I want to thank all our volunteers that helped represent D4D in such a positive way; and a huge thanks to the customers and staff at Pet Food Express for their massive support to help us carry out our mission!

Others are making a difference every day. We have an Eagle Scout Project underway to start our memorial garden. The scout's have been at D4D preparing the initial areas to place your memorial bricks, our first memorial bench, and provide a means for recognizing your pets, family and friends with a beautiful brick engraved with your personal message. We will be adding your bricks as you request over the future. We plan to expand this project as we move forward.

D4D volunteers and staff have enjoyed participating in outreach activities over the last quarter. One particularly fun activity was joining the youth class at Congregation B'Nai Shalom in Lafayette to introduce them to one of our wonderful dogs, Jessa, and tell them about how our program helps people with diabetes. We had about 30 youth and parents in attendance. The class has been collecting recycle to donate to D4D and they are planning to have a team participate in our walk. We have given similar presentations to Diablo View Middle School, Clayton Valley High School, St. Perpetua School, the Rio Vista and Clayton Rotary Clubs and are planning more as we move forward.

Our program is reaching out to engage new volunteers. One great success we have seen in the last quarter is the startup of a new Foster Club with volunteers from the Albany and Berkeley communities coming to our Foster Classes and learning dog handling skills. They are working together to foster several dogs and provide dog pools to transport the dogs to the training center during the week. It is engaging new people, having them participate in a fun and supportive way to help us work with more dogs and support this mission. We want to expand this type of participation as we grow.

Thanks to all who are making these things happen at D4D!



A very special thanks to Troop 493 for all their help with D4D's Memorial Garden!

HAPPY TAILS – LINDSEY AND RUFFLE

– their diabetes journey...



“My name is Lindsey Posey, and I am a 33 year old Type 1 Diabetic. I was a pretty "typical" 25-year-old woman when my life was thrown a curve ball. I had finished college and was trying to find myself in the real world. I wanted independence like my friends. I wanted a job I could do well at and be proud of, and a place to call my own. That was put on hold when I was admitted to the ICU due to Diabetic Ketoacidosis. I was then told I was a Type 1 Diabetic and my life would never be the same. I would have to learn to do what my pancreas was no longer capable of doing.

Lindsey, explains, “the feeling of being alone in this was overwhelming.” She goes on to say, “people would ask questions about my new found disease, and would try and show concern and interest.”

“ I knew that they would go home or hang up the phone and soon carry on with their lives while I was stuck trying to deal with learning how to live and keep mine going. I was scared of the hypoglycemic episodes where I swear I thought I was dying.... and having one of those when you’re alone with no one to help and you are on the floor too weak to lift yourself, confused, sweating and panicking that you wont get to sugar in time is really scary. They can come out of nowhere.”

“The independence I once had longed for was out of sight. People started treating me like I was unable and more like a child. Constantly questioning if I was okay, if had I checked my blood sugars, and what they were? I started being told I shouldn't do some things or go places on my own. Honestly, I would question it too at times. I grew fearful of everyday things like sleeping and driving. I became depressed.”

“My mom was reading an article one day and came across a story that featured Dogs4Diabetics. Who knew that was the start, or restart, of my life. Like a mother, her persistence to protect and make sure her child had the best possible shot at life, she contacted D4D. Within a year I was accepted into their client class.”

HAPPY TAILS – CONTINUED...

– their diabetes journey...

“D4D was amazing. I was one of the "normal" ones there. It was the first time I had been around that many other Type 1 Diabetics. It was therapeutic to be able to go somewhere and relate to so many people. Everyone understand what I was going through, and it was comforting to know I wasn't alone. D4D saved me. They saved and restored my hope for independence and what I considered to be normalcy. I met the most amazing people. I was volunteering and teaching other people about D4D and sharing their story. I wanted to help people who felt the same things I felt and where going through what I was going through.”

With a huge smile on her face, Lindsey describes when she met her soul pup, Ruffle. “She literally saves my life over and over. Ruffle gives me my independence and hope back. She is my guardian angel and I can't imagine life without her. My family has a better peace of mind knowing I have her by my side. The day I was matched with Ruffle is still one of the happiest days of my life. She is able to tell me that my blood sugar is going low before I know its happening, and before I would even think to test. Ruffle has alerted to these dangers when I'm driving and even when I am sleeping. The lows that would incapacitate me before are more rare now. D4D and Ruffle have given my quality of life back. Having Ruffle by my side when I was home alone with a newborn was reassuring, as if bringing home a newborn wasn't scary enough. I'm no longer consumed with loneliness, fear and despair due to my diabetes. I know now that this disease doesn't have to take over my life. I now have a wonderful husband, and a beautiful 2-year-old daughter. We own a home and I work a full-time job... thank you Dogs4Diabetics!”



ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

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

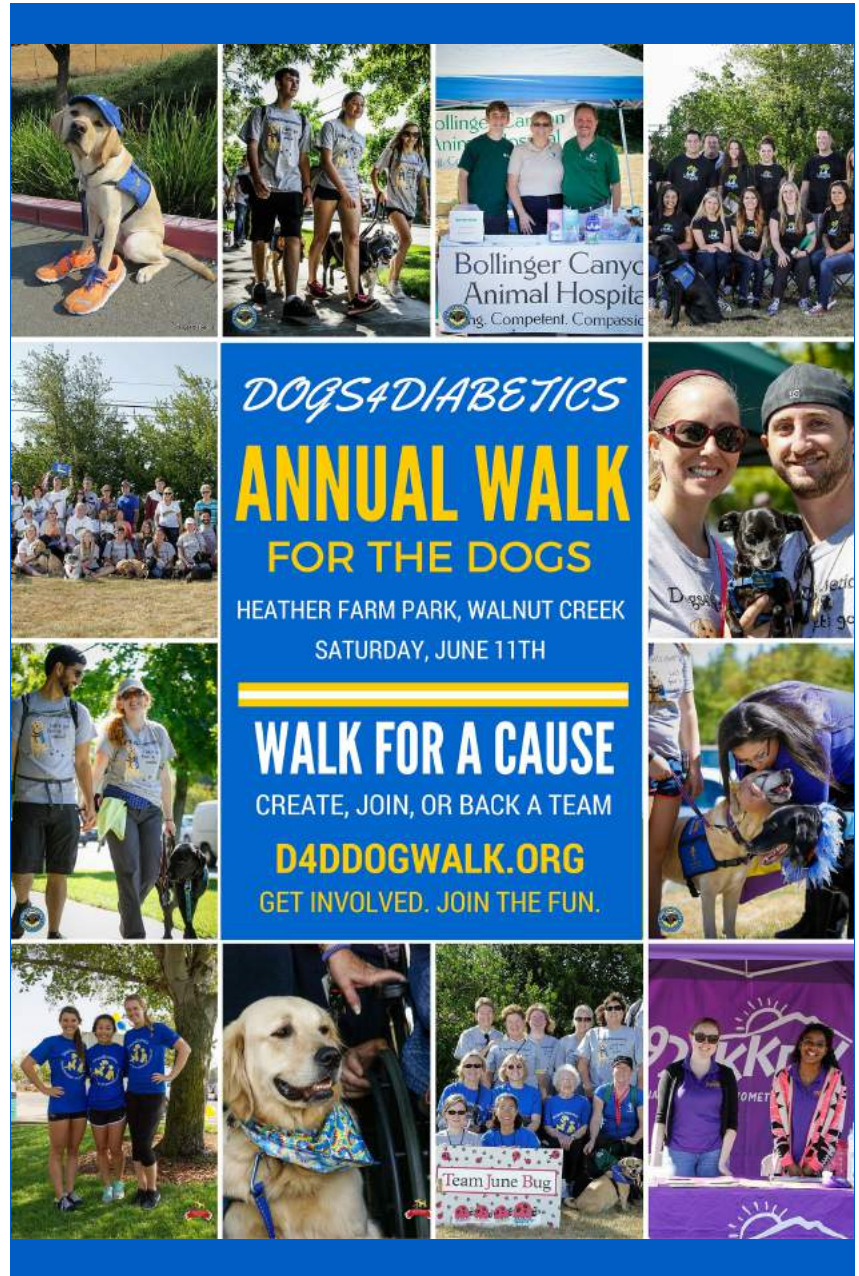
Woof! We have a full house at the D4D Training Center. Every kennel is full on training days with new recruits from Guide Dogs learning to help our human friends. It is really a busy place, with a lot of fun, new volunteers coming in to help out with the training every day. I enjoy hanging out in the lobby with a nice bed placed so I can catch the sun and enjoy a nap with my friends in the office.

All of us dogs are looking forward to the Walk for the Dogs on Saturday, June 11 at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. I hope that all you humans will sign up for the walk and bring your doggy buddies to join us for a fun day. I really want to see all my service dog buddies from D4D and GDB. Come and hang out for the day. It will be a great time to sniff and greet!

We have volunteers that are planning a lot of special activities for the summer. Armstrong's Picnic will be held at the Grove Park in downtown Clayton early in July. It will be an informal picnic, with everyone bring their dinner and a desert to share.

Another fun activity is a day camp for kids introducing young prospective clients and their parents to our dogs. It will be held on Saturday July 23rd. Save the date and watch for the registration announcement and sign up as space will be limited. More is planned and you will be excited to see all the stuff that will be happening during the year.

Keep in touch, 2016 is going to be a fantastic year. Woof! Woof!



D4D'S FUTURE...

an exciting update!



Something BIG is brewing at D4D...

We mean (approximately 5 times larger than our current space) BIG! Stay tuned for more exciting details over the next few months, and join us at our Annual Walk for the Dogs for the big reveal on what's ahead for D4D! The entire D4D Team is excited for what's ahead, and are making great strides to serve the larger diabetic community.

WINTER CLASS...

a huge success!



Winter Client Class just finished...

We had a great group of client's who began their journey with Dogs4Diabetics back in February. While in class they learned all there is to know about D4D, dog handling, public access, and how to maintain a successful working partnership with their future Medical-Alert Assistance Dogs - plus so much more! We're so proud of all they have accomplished, and know they will be terrific ambassadors for the D4D program.

D4D YOUTH CAMP...

serving our young diabetics!



D4D's Summer Youth Camp...

Dogs4Diabetics is pleased to announce the "Double D" Summer Day Camp! Children and teens are invited to participate in a day camp at D4D to learn about what life is like with a service dog, and how a hypoglycemic-alert dog can become a part of your life! Visit our website, under "Events," to learn more and register your kiddos today!

TREATS FROM THE TRAINER

- by, Christina Vincent-Power

Rattlesnakes, Ticks and Fleas...

Here are some helpful guidelines when dealing with rattlesnake, tick and flea season:

Rattlesnakes... Consider talking with your vet about getting the rattlesnake vaccine for your dog. The vaccine doesn't stop the response of the venom, but the reaction to the bite is reduced or may be delayed. Always walk with your dog on leash and stay on the trail. Avoid letting your dog walk in tall grass and weeds with heavy underbrush.

What to do if your dog is bitten by a rattlesnake:

Carry your dog to the car, unless you cannot, then walk them. Keep them quiet and limit their activity, so the venom doesn't spread. Get your dog to the closest emergency vet right away!

Fleas... Fleas like ticks are a common pest to our dogs and love temperatures between 65 and 80 degrees. Although fleas are around most of the year, March and April are prime times when they start to become abundant. The best way to prevent fleas is to be proactive.

Tips for Fleas:

Consult your veterinarian about the best way to protect your pets from fleas. Make sure you buy your flea treatment from your veterinarian and not your local pet store or places like Costco -where you don't know the quality of handling /exposure their products have.

Ticks... Ticks are commonly found in urban and rural environments alike. Our dogs are very susceptible to tick bites and tickborne diseases. There are only a few vaccines available to prevent some tickborne diseases. Vaccines don't prevent ticks from hitchhiking into your home, making it very important to use a tick preventive product on your dog. Signs of tickborne disease may not appear for 7-21 days or longer after a tick bite, so watch your dog closely for changes in behavior or appetite if you suspect that your pet has been bitten by a tick.

Reduce the chances a tick will transmit disease to your pets:

Check your pets for ticks daily, especially after they spend time outdoors. If you find a tick on your dog, remove it right away. Ask your veterinarian to conduct a tick check at each exam.



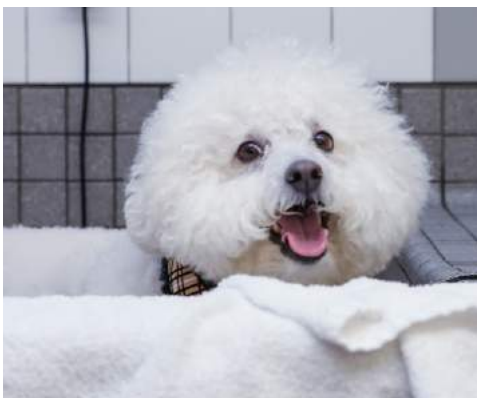
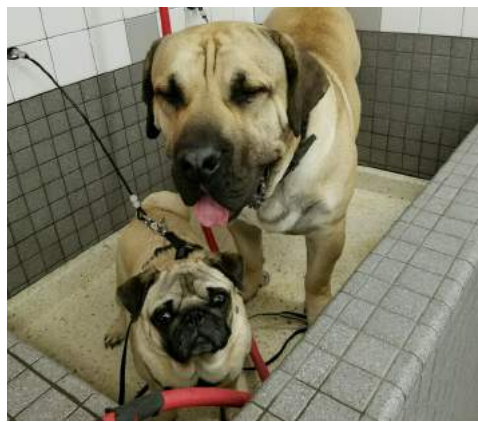
THANK YOU PET FOOD EXPRESS!!!

It's official... our Pet Food Express Dog Wash raised an astonishing **\$48,726.36** - this is truly incredible!!!

The outcome of this wonderful event will allow us to change, transform, and save the lives of other insulin-dependent diabetics. It is efforts like this that make what we do possible, and it is organizations like Pet Food Express, their team, their customers, and YOU who make a lasting impact in the lives D4D aims to empower.

We hope you will continue to support Pet Food Express and their Pet Wash, as they genuinely care about their customers, the furry loved ones in our lives, and strive to better our communities through their philanthropy. We LOVE Pet Food Express!

It's amazing what you can accomplish when you partner with such GREAT people - from the bottom of our hearts and tails... thank you, thank you, thank you!



IN THE COMMUNITY...

Kim Denton, D4D client is having an impact on the D4D community! Kim, partnered with Golden Gate Fields for their “Dollar Day,” rallied other D4D volunteers to help sell hot dogs, sodas, and candy at the event. This simple act of volunteerism allowed D4D to receive a \$500 check!

This was an terrific opportunity to spread the word about our organization, raise awareness, and support our work.

Kim, and so many of our other client's, as well as volunteers are amazing ambassadors for D4D, and it is efforts like these that make all the difference in our success.

Thank you Kim for your time, energy, and effort making this fun event 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
- Worldwide 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.



Terri, just finished our Winter Client Class, and is working with D4D pup in training, Hale, on her handling skills.

Terri's journey to get a life-saving pup with Dogs4Diabetics is made possible by all who support our work, our mission, and share our passion to make a difference in the diabetic community.

HAPPY SPRING TO EVERYONE....

D4D Pup in training Moses working on his sent training.

