



DOGS4DIABETICS

FALL 2016

Keeping you in the KNOW - latest and greatest at Dogs4Diabetics

Lorne, D4D Pup in Training at DOGtoberfest next to the D4D Truck



BUDDY DOG TEAM

Help us congratulate Jake and Jacqueline. They are D4D's first Buddy Dog Team. p4

ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

Help us celebrate our graduating client/dog team on November 5th. p5

MEET OUR FALL CLASS

We are excited to have 10 new clients starting our training program. p7

Yellow Neener Photography

KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

– by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director



Fall has finally arrived... Monday, October 3rd was our DOGtoberfest at the Lagunitas Brewing Company in Petaluma, and it was our first real fall day. The first sprinkles hit in the afternoon, but the evening was beautiful. We thank everyone who came out and supported this fun-filled event and enjoyed the evening with the D4D Team.

November is Diabetes Awareness Month, and JDRF is working to raise awareness through their campaign, #TD1LooksLikeMe and is capturing photos and stories that highlight the real people that deal with this disease. While we are a small part of that community, D4D reflects the same images, stories, struggles and hopes that are being told from around the USA.

All of us at D4D are working to promote awareness of these same issues, but with the added element of support that we provide with these great dogs. However, D4D is more than just our dogs. We share a wonderful community bond which is seen in our First Thursday Team Meetings; our Regional Activities; our monthly Type You Support Group and the many, many activities that we hold throughout the year.

As you are aware, D4D is growing in many ways. Construction has begun on the internal improvements for the new building being prepared as D4D's new home. We hope to have the facility available to us by Spring, 2017. In the interim, we are working with new dogs recently arrived from Guide Dogs and have our Fall Client Training Class underway. Additionally, we are working with several young clients under age 12 for prospective placements of additional Diabetes Buddy Dogs in the near future. It is an exciting time!

In November, we will be sending out our year-end appeal. With everything that we are doing to expand our capabilities to serve the diabetic community in a bigger way, we need your help. This year our campaign will include t-shirts to help you share our program, as well as the support of an anonymous donor, who will match the funding that we develop. I want to thank everyone in advance for helping to make this a pivotal year for D4D!

Ralph Hendrix
Vice President & Executive Director

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our volunteers...

All of us enjoy special treats, including our dogs. D4D has enjoyed the long-time volunteer support of Sara Keaton.

Sara, is the niece of D4D's Founder, Mark Ruefenacht. She lives with her parents, 5 sisters and 2 dogs, along the Northern California Coast, where they own and operate the Mendocino Chocolate Company. Well, guess what? They also make tasty dog treats for D4D!

Sara has always felt a strong bond for D4D's wonderful dogs. Whenever she and her family would come to visit their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins in Concord she would ask to spend time at D4D. "I love helping out in the training room and grooming the dogs." Sara donates her time, skills, and brings her contagious love for dogs when she volunteers.

At home, Sara works in the bakery and enhances organic dog biscuits with a dog-friendly coating to make D4D "Armstrong Treats." She even packages the treats herself and makes sure each package is topped with a pretty gold ribbon. Armstrong Treats are sold through the Mendocino Chocolate Company stores, the Lagunitas Brewing Company at their pub as a menu item, and at all D4D activities. Sara started this labor of love and asked that all proceeds from these sales be donated back to D4D to support our mission.

Thank you Sara! It takes dedication and effort to sustain this long-term effort of preparing, packaging, and distributing Armstrong Treats for the benefit of D4D. You're an incredible volunteer and we cherish you as a D4D team member. We also value the accomplishment and pride that Sara's work brings to her as a person with special needs.



HAPPY TAILS - FIRST BUDDY DOG TEAM

Jake's Journey...

Jake and Jacqueline are D4D's first Buddy Dog Team. This adorable duo will be making their life-saving partnership official at our Fall Graduation.

We launched the Buddy Dog program in an effort to serve insulin-dependent diabetics of all ages. These pups are specially trained to meet the exact needs of our clients.

Hear Jake's story...

"Jake was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at age 4 and was in preschool at the time. As his parents, we noticed the change in him gradually. Before he was diagnosed, he became less active and less his usual happy self. It was so scary to see our sweet little boy lose joy in playing with his brothers and friends. He seemed exhausted and sad all the time. As terrible as it was for him to be diagnosed with T1D, it came almost as a relief to know that this would be something that we could manage together and help him live a healthy and happy long life.



If you knew Jake, you'd know being a Type 1 Diabetic will never slow him down. At age 10, Jake plays club soccer and club lacrosse year round. He actively takes charge of his health and is diligent about his diabetes management. Being the first Type 1 at his school in nearly a decade, Jake paved the way for future diabetic children at his school. He is not ashamed or shy to tell people about his diabetes and is happy to show people what he's doing and explain. Being the responsible young man he is, we were open to hearing that he wanted to write a letter to Dogs4Diabetics about getting a dog. D4D was extremely responsive and the process was a pleasant and thorough learning experience.

We now have Jacqueline! While the whole family loves her, she is completely devoted to Jake. She seems to understand how important she is to him and to us. We feel so lucky to have her as part of our family. We're also more comfortable with her being a "buddy" dog as opposed to an ADA service dog because we want Jake to have the flexibility of just being a kid sometimes rather than always being responsible for a dog. Jacqueline is a great combination of both a diabetic buddy dog and his best friend." - Werner Family

ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

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

Woof! In our last newsletter, I was telling you how busy it was at D4D and how I could hardly find a place to nap because we had so many dogs in training. Well, things did slow down a little as the trainers finished working with all those great dogs, which are now placed with clients.



Jeannie's placement with Quinoa... such a happy day!

Many will be graduating on Saturday, November 5th at the Walnut Creek Christian Academy from 2pm-4pm. Join us to celebrate and honor the effort of our clients, fosters, volunteers, and staff who have all made these life-saving partnerships possible.

There are several very special people that will be recognized at the graduation, one of whom will be graduating with my canine friend, Quinoa. Jeannie Hickey, who was the first person to help Mark in his research, will be graduating with her!

I am so excited for this placement as Jeannie has been my friend for my entire life. Not to mention she helped Mark establish the whole idea of service dogs using their noses to help people with diabetes.

Also, two of my canine friends from Australia will be recognized. They have finished their training and will begin training other dogs for placement with clients in Australia. Mandela is already home in Australia and Moses will be leaving shortly. I wish them both a long and happy career just as successful as the one I've enjoyed with Mark.

Also, I was so happy to see Jacqueline paired with Jake, as our first Diabetes Buddy Dog placement. We have two additional dogs working for this career as a Buddy Dog. My furry friends at D4D are working with several young kids to help them and their family manage their diabetes with their particular needs.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Graduation... until next time, Woof! - Danielle



TREATS FROM THE TRAINER...

- by Christina Hobson, D4D Trainer

Dogs and Holidays... Holidays are a great time of year to visit with family and friends, to catch up, cook delicious foods, and celebrate. Having a service dog that goes with you everywhere, or even a pet dog, there are a lot of things to consider around the holidays especially when guests come to visit or while going to another's house.

If visitors come over or if you go visit another home with your dog never hesitate to err on the side of caution. Always try to think about everything your dog may encounter beforehand and during any interactions with someone else, their house or even in your house.

In General (even with the best behaved dog):

Start Carefully:

- Always have your dog on leash or tie down whenever your guests arrive or you enter someone else's home. If you are at home the crate is another a good option.
- Always have a bait bag on and reward frequently for positive behaviors.
- Make sure everyone is educated on how to interact with your dog.
- Survey the area you will be in with your dog. Check floors, counters, holiday decorations to make sure all are safe, secure and not within reach.

Observe Diligently:

- If you do let your dog greet others make sure you watch interactions like a hawk.
- Always have eyes on your dog. Even if your dog is on leash there is a potential for problems to occur.

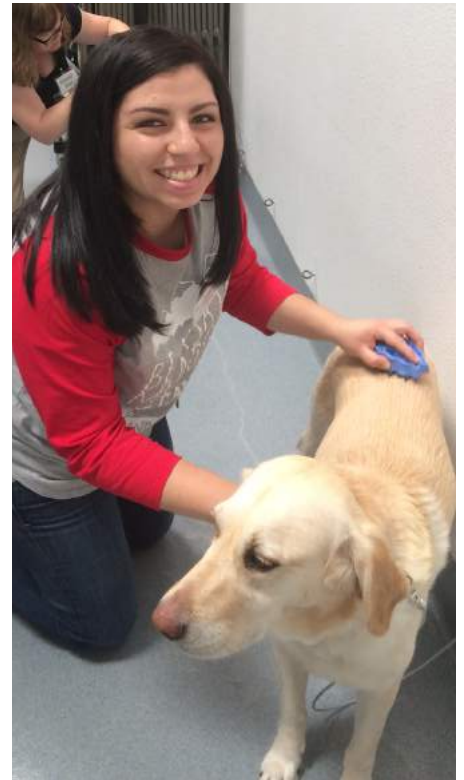
Manage Obsessively:

- When doors open sometimes dogs have the tendency to run out. Keeping them inside will ensure their safety. Make sure your dog is wearing current identification just in case.
- When the holidays come around the likelihood your dogs ingesting unwanted items always seems to go up. Make sure to keep your pets away from the table, holiday decorations, unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.



MEET OUR FALL CLIENT CLASS

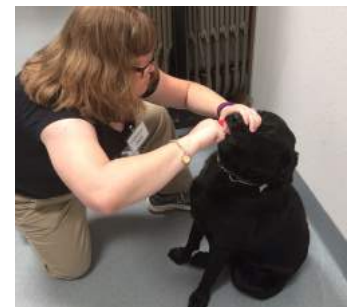
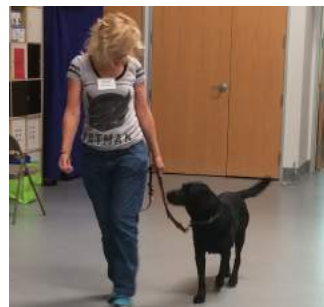
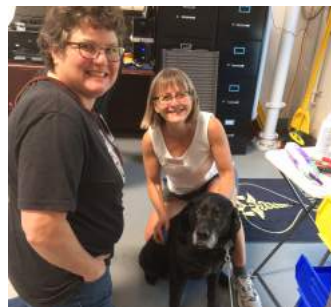
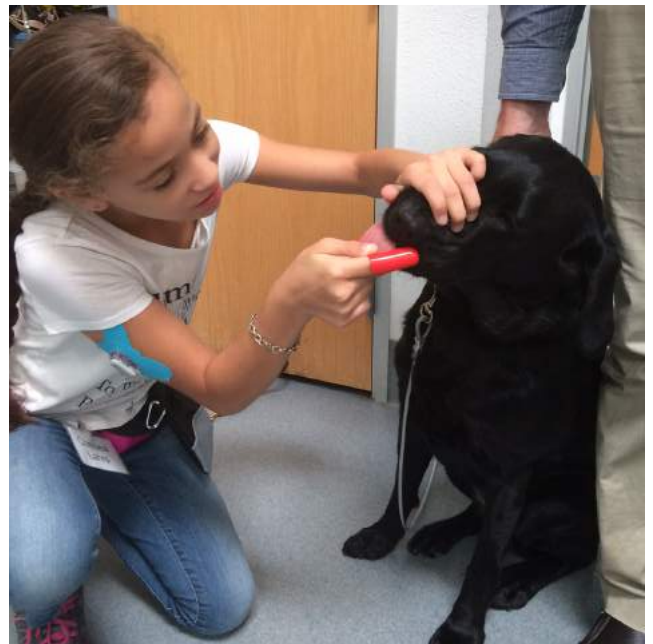
Their D4D journey begins...



Let the fun begin... our Fall class has started! We have nine new clients who are working to be placed with a Medical-Alert Assistance Dog and one client who is working to be placed with a Buddy Dog.

We're so excited for these newbies to complete their classroom and field training. They will be learning all the necessary skills (from dog grooming to obedience) needed to have a successful and life-saving partnership with a D4D pup.

Our dogs are a support tool, which provides a means to transform the client's diabetes management in several ways. We're honored to be part of their journey and look forward to the day they graduate!



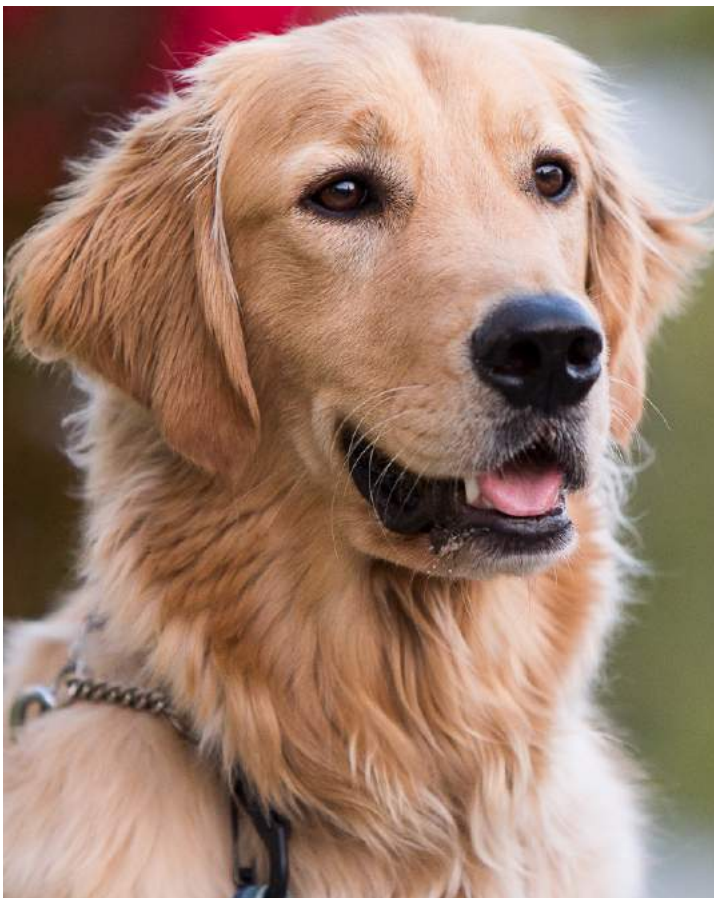
Thank You

LAGUNITAS BREWING COMPANY



Dogs4Diabetics 4th Annual DOGtoberfest
(Photos by Yellow Neener Photography)

Thank you for your support!
We raised an astonishing
\$14,719.74!



How can you say no to this adorable face? Lorne, is a D4D pup in our training program.

FOSTER A D4D PUP...

In need of some wet noses and sweet slobbery kisses in you life? Become D4D Foster and bring home one of our pups in training.

Foster Care is the foundation of Dogs4Diabetics. The number of dogs we can accept into our program is determined by the number of Foster Care providers we have available.

“I foster because I love dogs and I love people. And I love that I can volunteer to help both!”

- Kellie Case

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity where your service will help save a life please contact our Foster Care Leader, Stephanie Perkins.

Email: fostercare@Dogs4Diabetics.com

Get involved and help save, transform, and empower a diabetics life by fostering a D4D pup!

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 Hobson, Trainer
- Diane Ketcham, Programs Coordinator
- Ryan Arter, Program Assistant

Like us on **FACEBOOK**, follow us on **INSTAGRAM** 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
- 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.



Client/Dog Team Madi and Winnie will be graduating the D4D program on Saturday, November 5th at the Walnut Creek Christian Academy from 2pm-4pm. This team was sponsored by the efforts of the Pet Food Express (PFE) Dog Wash. Thank you PFE!

“Winnie, has completely transformed my life. Winnie is my life-saver, best friend, and guardian angel.” - Madi

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FOR THE D4D TEAM...

and the D4D Elf (Ravenna)

