



*Yellow Neener Photography*

# KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

- by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director

We announced our year-end Double Match Challenge in November to raise \$50,000 to support our plans to bring on new staff and support our new training facility. Two generous anonymous donors agreed to match our campaign... and we held our breath to see how it would be received.

It was an overwhelming success! We were so pleased to see so many people become involved by purchasing our t-shirts promoting the theme “Empower” and “Living Relentlessly Well.” We were humbled by the generosity of so many that made additional and substantial donations, which allowed us to exceed our goal, raising \$51,330! As a whole the campaign raised \$151,330. Thank you!!!

As you are aware, D4D’s board and management have been working on plans to grow our program as we are financially able to do so. These plans are coming to fruition. The new D4D training center began construction in late fall. At this time the building framing is almost complete; plumbing and electrical has been installed, paint colors and cabinets have been selected. We hope to have the center available by spring.

In our last newsletter we reported the selection of two new young clients, ages 8 and 10 for placement with non-accessible D4D Diabetes Buddy Dogs. We are pleased to report that both children are now successfully working with their new companions. We have selected two more children, ages 4 and 8 for D4D Diabetes Buddy Dog placements. They and their parents will be trained to work with the dogs in a variety of service skills beyond scent work to complement the technology used by the children and their parents to manage the child's diabetes.

A sincere thank you to everyone who is helping us fulfill our vision for the future of Dogs4Diabetics! We are grateful to have such an amazing community supporting our efforts!

EMPOWER. LIVING RELENTLESSLY WELL.



# D4D FOSTER CARE FUN...

Every volunteer matters and makes a difference in our efforts!

D4D would not exist without the support of its many volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to help train and support our dogs and clients, raise funds to support our work, and help with the various other activities that make what we do possible.

Our Foster Care Providers are just some of the wonderful individuals who generously give their time. The number of dogs we can accept into our program is determined by the number of Foster Care Providers we have available. These individuals are such an important and crucial piece to creating the life-saving partnerships that we do... plus they really do get to have all the fun (dog snuggles, slobbery kisses, and their dog training efforts directly transform our clients life).

In a recent Foster Care class Mark, D4D's Founder, spoke about the importance of every member of the D4D family, no matter how small they may feel their part is.

D4D embraces each volunteer as a member of a close community supporting one another in our mission. We offer challenging and fulfilling opportunities for those who are passionate about improving the lives of diabetics.



“Every volunteer effort is part of a intricate machine, much like a clock, working to keep D4D fulfilling its mission.”

– Mark, D4D Founder



Join the D4D family... volunteer and make a difference!



# HAPPY TAILS

Independence... Savannah & Fitz

“I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at 14 months old. Growing up my parents were beyond supportive and allowed me to follow my wildest dreams, but at some point there is only so much you can allow a little girl to do because she had a box and wire (aka insulin pump) strapped to her hip 24/7 and the constant worry diabetes can cause.

Fast forward about 11 years and you run into a young girl attending classes at D4D getting placed with her first Medical-Alert Assistance Dog, Alya. Life changed drastically... I was now just like any other girl going to sleep overs with the added bonus of no longer having to set alarms in the middle of the night for fear of low blood sugar. I had my life-saver by my side waking me up and keeping me safe.

Fast forward to my teenage years... driving like everyone else and never worrying about going low because I had my furry best friend riding shotgun letting me know in advance of potentially dangerous situations.

Fast forward to now... I'm a college student, placed with my second D4D Medical-Alert Assistance Dog, Fitz. I have a busy schedule just like any other college student running from class to class, to sorority meetings, volunteering at Children's Miracle Network, all the while attempting to balance a social life. Not to mention trying to remember to do laundry and grocery shop. I'm not stressing about low blood sugar while studying for finals, or worrying if my blood sugar is going to fall dangerously low at night. Navigating life and diabetes on my own for the first time is less scary because I have Fitz to do it with me.

One thing you won't see thanks to Dogs4Diabetics is someone hindered by her diabetes.... yet empowered to live a life just like everyone else without it. Thanks to D4D I have met my very best friends, both two legged and four. I have been given the opportunity to follow my dreams, from attending an SEC college on the opposite side of the states, to participating in the Disney College Program. D4D has given me my independence, confidence, and desire to live my life to the absolute fullest.”



# ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

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

Woof! I hope you enjoyed the holiday season as much as I did. It was super fun, got to spend lots of special time with family and friends (human and canine). I even took vacation time off from the proof work I do at D4D just to enjoy some rest and relaxation. It was a nice break from my routine... but boy was I excited to get back to the training center and see all my D4D buddies.

D4D has several new dogs in training. You can read about them in our "Monthly Treat," which is D4D's newsletter that gives you all the details on our dogs in training as well as the status of clients working with dogs to meet graduation requirements. The "Monthly Treat" can be found on the D4D website.

I am looking forward to the new training center to get finished this year. It has a nice large set of windows in the front that I am sure will generate some great sunbathing for me to enjoy. Also, I have been told that we will have an open area in the back that will be available for us dogs to enjoy. Woof! Woof! Our own play yard! It will even have a grooming center for us to use instead of getting our baths outside, and several training rooms for dogs and clients to work in at the same time. Life is looking up, thanks to D4D's human friends and supporters who are putting this together.

We have had a lot of new visitors coming to D4D to learn about us dogs. They watch us in the training room, help groom us, and even give us lots of snuggles. It's great to be able to show them how we do our work, and even educate those who are looking to become clients of D4D.



*This sweet girl is scent training to develop her life-saving skills.. keep up the great work Koi!*

There are so many ways to get involved and join the D4D community... join our Type You support group, volunteer your special skills and talents, and if you want to become a client attend PAWS, our Pre-Application Workshop. If you happen to be at the training center be sure to say hello (I love belly rubs)!

 - Danielle

# TREATS FROM THE TRAINER... MUSHROOMS!

- by Christina Hobson, D4D Trainer

With all the California recent rains you may have noticed some sneaky fungi popping up in your backyards, neighborhoods, and local parks. Mushrooms look delicious and inviting, but most are extremely dangerous to both you and your pets.

Mushrooms are extremely hard for even the experts to identify as poisonous and non-poisonous. Many look very similar and frequently grow side by side.

The Bay Area is home to two of the world's most toxic mushrooms (among many other poisonous varieties) - Amanita Phalloides (the Death Cap) and the Amanita Ocreata (the Western Destroying Angel). Both are robust mushrooms that grow near oak trees and contain lethal toxins.

## ***Common signs to watch for if your pet ingested toxic mushrooms...***

- Nausea
- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Walking drunk
- Depression
- Tremors
- Seizures

## ***What can you do?***

Contact your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline immediately for treatment advice if your pet ate toxic mushrooms. To avoid your pet eating mushrooms all together make sure to keep pets leashed while on walks, and stay away from areas known to have lots of mushrooms. Yards should be checked every day and if any mushrooms are present they should be removed promptly before your pet notices them. Be diligent... help keep your furry loved ones safe from these deadly mushrooms.



### ***Identifying Death Cap...***

Look for the whitish stalk (about 6 inches long) with a large round bulb at the end. The cap of the mushroom can look olive green, pale green, yellow, and sometimes white or brown. The cap size can range from 2.25 to 6 inches wide.



### ***Identifying Western Destroying Angel...***

This mushroom gets its common name from its infamously pure white fruiting body, which is easily identified. It will have a white cap, stalk, and gills.

# MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS...

help us welcome Cindy and Hayley!



## The D4D Family is Growing...

### Welcome Cindy and Hayley!

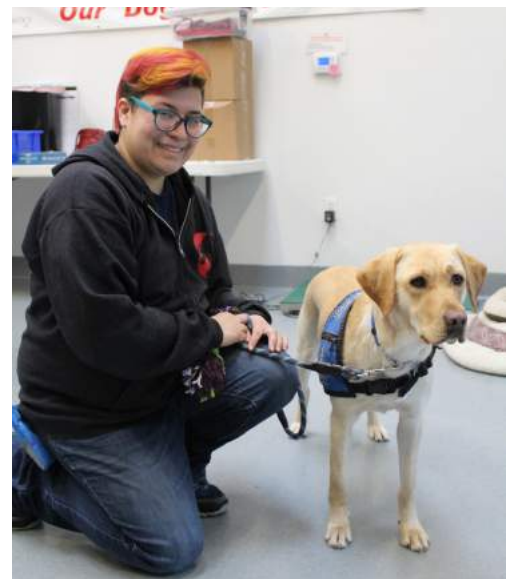
We're excited for everyone to meet our two newest team members, Cindy (left) and Hayley (right). They will be helping train our furry life-savers as well as helping with D4D's Foster Care program. They've hit the ground running and are a wonderful addition to our family!

**Cindy...** has been a long time volunteer with D4D, as well as a Guide Dog Puppy Raising Group leader for many years. As a certified American Red Cross First Aid and CPR instructor, Cindy has been training D4D clients in dog first aid as part of our training program. Cindy has also trained our staff in human and dog first aid to ensure our ability to address emergency situations.

*"I love my new job training for D4D! As a long-time volunteer for Dogs4Diabetics I have come to admire D4D's patient and skilled Programs Manager, the talented trainers, cutting-edge training techniques, high standards, and sense of community. I am proud to be a member of this team." - Cindy*

**Hayley...** has been a long time Guide Dog Puppy Raiser with her mother, Cindy, and has worked with her as a co-leader in supporting her Guide Dog group. Her interest in dog training lead her to participate in search and rescue training as well as work as a veterinary technician for local veterinary care providers. Hayley has also taken various dog behavior and training classes for these various activities over the years and provided dog-owner education in obedience and behavioral modification training.

*"I love working for D4D because of the progress and training they've done with the dogs and the clients. It's an organization that brings people together and it's great to be a part of it." - Hayley*



# BIG. DARK. GLOWY. EXCITING. WALK NEWS!

D4D'S 10TH ANNUAL WALK FOR THE DOGS...

**Get Ready...**

**Save the Date!**

Will you be joining us?  
Saturday, June 10th is  
our 10th Annual Walk  
for the Dogs.

That's right this is our  
10th Annual Walk and  
boy are we mixing  
things up for this BIG  
fun anniversary!

Stay tuned for all the  
new exciting details  
you won't want to  
miss.

All we can say is get  
ready to be surprised...  
a Walk unlike any other  
D4D Walk!

Not to mention the  
after party... swag  
bags, contests, live  
music, and so much  
more!

Stay tuned for the all  
new Walk and Walk  
after party details...  
that won't disappoint!



SAVE THE  WALK DATE

## A D4D WALK TO REMEMBER

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017**

**STAY TUNED FOR THE EXCITING NEW DETAILS**



**D4D'S 10TH ANNUAL WALK**

# TAIL WAGS...

Dogs4Diabetics is excited to announce the support of The Del E. Webb Foundation and Sun Life Financial.

The Del E. Webb Foundation invests in productivity that results in long-term benefits. They believe that investing in results-based programs will impact the future of our society by allowing it to reach its maximum potential.

Sun Life Financial awards grants to organizations that are committed to the prevention of diabetes and its related complications. Their motto is to “Team up Against Diabetes.”



The Del E. Webb Foundation and Sun Life Financial have both provided major support to D4D, which will foster the development and growth of our organization. We are honored to call them our partners and will be recognizing their support at our next Graduation with a graduating Client/Dog Team.

*We sincerely thank them both for supporting our mission in such a meaningful and impactful way!*

## 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](http://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/](http://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 Treggett, 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 to them, 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.



This life-saving partnership was made possible by our cherished partner, Worldwise Inc. who share in our passion to make a difference in the diabetic community.

*"Jacqueline is my best buddy and has made my diabetes cool." - Jake*

Thank you Worldwise Inc. for your team sponsorship of Jake and Jacqueline... you have forever transformed this team's life.

WISHING YOU SOME WINTER FUN AND SMILES...

