



Yellow Neener Photography

OUR NEW HOME

Hear from our Executive Director about the progress of our new home. **p3**

HAPPY TAILS

Chelsea gains some freedom and independence thanks to her Diabetes Buddy Dog, Josette. **p5**

SAVE THE DATE

It's our 10th Annual Walk for the Dogs and we're celebrating this anniversary in a BIG way. **p9**

KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

- by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director

Progress is ongoing at D4D... Our new training center is progressing well with the inspections completed for all the framing, electrical, plumbing and other internal systems. The drywall has been completed and by the time the newsletter is issued, I anticipate that the walls may be textured and finished. Paint will follow as will the installation of cabinets and furniture.

We are in the process of selecting appliances and other items to furnish the training center and working with the contractor to build our new dog wash. We will be working soon to plan for the move across the parking lot to transfer furniture, fixtures and supplies to stock the new facility.

There are still some unknowns due to the complexity of working with the various contractors and county inspectors for some of the special needs for the building that cause difficulty in setting a move in date. We are planning to hold a series of open house dates to showcase our new home. We're also working to build a plan for volunteer participation in the various activities that will be taking place in this wonderful new space.

Our new training staff, Cindy and Hayley Sevilla, have been fully integrated into our program activities and are enjoying their work. As you may be aware, Christina Hobson has recently returned from family leave after the birth of her son, Mason. We are so happy to have her back and working with our dogs again.

We said good bye to Moses on April 6th as our friends from Righteous Pups left to take him back to Australia, fully trained to act as a second proof dog to start their Diabetic-Alert Dog Program. We wish them well in their startup "Down Under". We will maintain a continuing relationship with them, using various means to help them through some of the bumps in the road as they begin to train and place dogs with Type 1 Diabetics in their country.

Lots going on at D4D and lots of positive progress on many fronts for us... we thank our community for helping make it all possible!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

GET INVOLVED AND SHARE YOUR TALENTS WITH D4D...



Everyone meet D4D Volunteer, Mary Morofsky...

Mary has been volunteering her time and talents to Dogs4Diabetics for over two years. We're so grateful to have volunteers like Mary who help make all the wonderful things we do at D4D possible.

"I started volunteering with Dogs4Diabetics a few years ago when my son, Mike, was partnered with his life-saving companion, Mezzo. This amazing dog has changed the life of Mike and our entire family. Mezzo has taken away so much of our worry knowing he is by Mike's side keeping him safe from the severe low blood sugars he suffers.

It is such a comfort to know Mezzo can catch these changes before any device can and alert Mike before he becomes symptomatic. As a mom who was constantly worried about her son there is no greater gift than to see the positive impact Mezzo has had on Mike's and his family's life. My husband and I are forever grateful and appreciative of this program and truly life-changing gift.

As a thank you I volunteer my time and skills to try and help other Type 1 Diabetics in need of the same services. I assist in any way I can... from making gift baskets for their Annual Walk for the Dogs to help raise funds, to baking for client events. Anything I can do that helps D4D continue onward and upward.

I encourage everyone to volunteer for this amazing organization in a way that makes sense for them... every effort makes a difference and can transform a Type 1 Diabetics life forever."

- Mary, D4D Volunteer & Grateful Parent

HAPPY TAILS

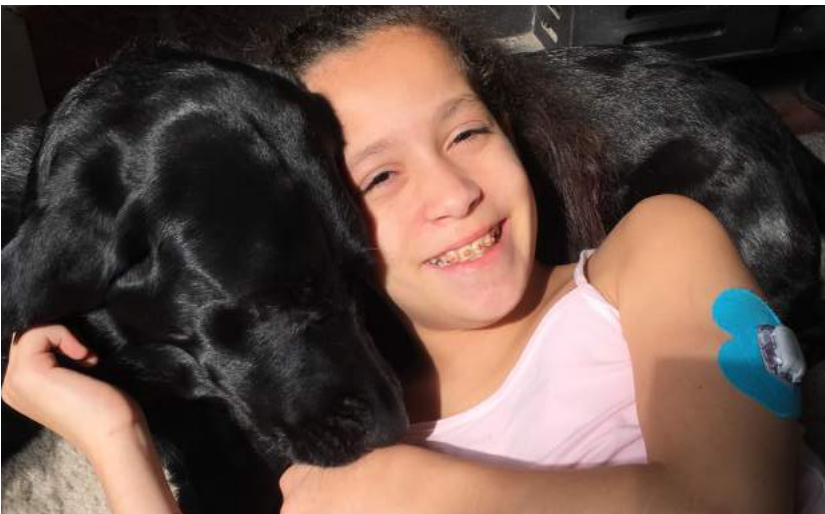
Diabetes Buddy Dog Team, Chelsea and Josette...

When Chelsea was eight years old she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Rosie, Chelsea's mom, explains she was admitted into the hospital for four days with a blood sugar of 557. Chelsea tried to understand what the doctors were telling her when they said she now has Type 1 Diabetes and that only 20% of her pancreas was functional.

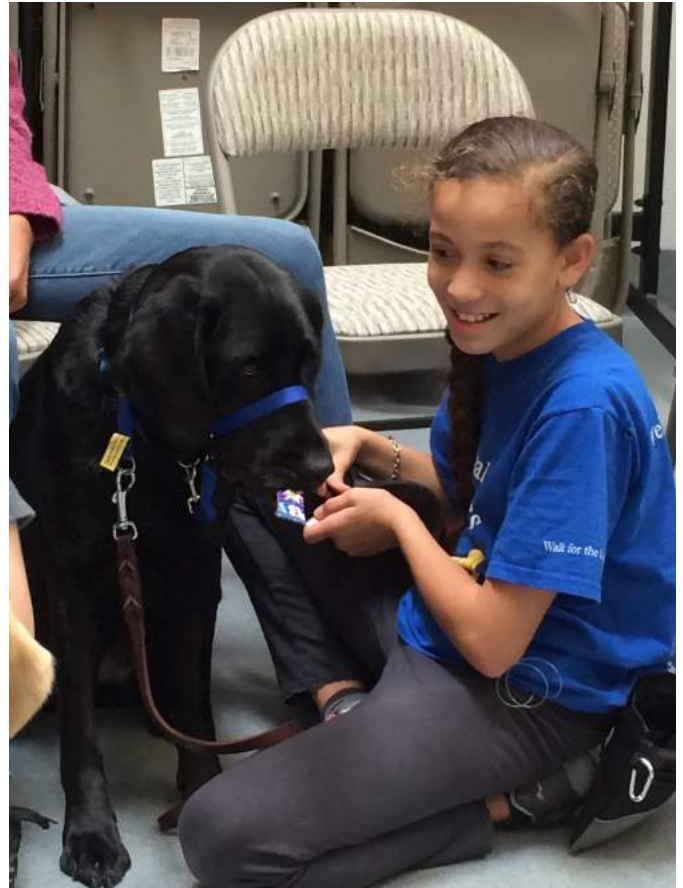
"What did that mean for her, for us, now as well as in the future - we had no clue at the time what that would look like or the challenges we would face. While at the hospital, the doctors and nurses gave us as much information on the disease as possible within those four days, and how to best treat and manage the disease. Although we were all overwhelmed by the prognoses, Chelsea immediately took charge and ownership over the disease, as did we.

Once we got home we went through all the information given to us by the hospital: "What is Diabetes," "Diabetes Camps for Kid," and "Service Dogs for Diabetics." Her eyes lit up, and she knew that's what she wanted... a service dog! And because of that, because she was so definite about it, we found Dogs4Diabetics, and Josette and Chelsea found each other.

The journey of this diagnosis has been a tough one, but with the support of Dogs4Diabetics, friends and family, to getting a CGM, a pump, and now Chelsea's Diabetes Buddy Dog, Josette, we feel so incredibly appreciative for all the support."



"I cry happy tears because I'm so thankful Josette is with me helping me with my diabetes." – Chelsea



"For the first-time Chelsea slept in her bed since being diagnosed with T1D. She had been afraid to do so, out of fear of who would take care of her. Even the thought made her panic and gave her anxiety. And all though I assured her that she'd still be taken care of, and that her CGM would alert me and I'd go to help her, she still was afraid.

However, now she is sleeping in her own room, but not alone, she has Josette to sleep with her. She said having Josette there by her side made her feel more safe. I must say, Josette has yet to disappoint; she catches highs, lows and continually loves whole heartedly.

Thank you D4D, and all those whose love, dedication and training went into helping shape Josette into the AMAZING companion she is today for our daughter."

– Rosie, Chelsea's Mom

ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

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



Woof! D4D is changing the game...

If you haven't heard we're celebrating our 10th Annual Walk for the Dogs with a 5K Lantern "Run".

It will be an unforgettable illuminated evening to remember with glow gear, a lantern lighting ceremony, unbeatable swag bags, vendors, food trucks, "run" prizes, raffle prizes, a glow costume contest, and a live DJ.

Can you believe all this fun we will be having? It's going to be a "run" and after party to remember - one for the books!

We already have over 12 teams signed up and over 62 participants. It's so incredible to know we can all come together and raise money to support our life-saving partnerships. I just love seeing everyone get involved and support our work.

Remember we're calling it a "run" but it's whatever you want it to be... run, walk, dance, or prance. Enjoy the "run" however you want, and have a BLAST doing so!

I sure hope you and your four legged friends will come join us for all the festivities. Remember, all humans and dogs welcome!



- Danielle

TREATS FROM THE TRAINER... LEASH SAFETY!

- by Christina Hobson, D4D Trainer



Dangers of the Retractable Leash... you have many choices when it comes to leashes and it is up to you to know what leash is right for you and your dog. Retractable leashes are extremely popular way to walk and play in an unenclosed area with your dog, but there are many dangers associated with them.

A Retractable Leash (flexi-leash) is a thin cord wrapped around a spring-loaded device housed inside a plastic handle that fits comfortably in a human hand. A button on the handle controls the amount of cord that's extended. As that cord plays out, the dog is less confined to walking beside you. Some cords extend up to 26 feet.

The Dangers:

- Dogs learn to pull because pulling extends the lead. We teach our dogs to walk politely and confidently next to our sides. Dogs learning to pull toward whatever they want with a retractable leash can easily translate to your 6 foot leash. This can lead to your dog scavenging for food or other items, inappropriately going to visit other dogs, or pulling you into a dangerous situation.
- If the dog pulls the leash out of your hand they now have a leash and leash housing chasing them which can cause panic and injury to your pet, bystanders or other pets.
- Even though dogs are attached on a leash these retractable leashes can easily break if your dog runs to the end of them with enough force. If this happens you are now dealing with a loose dog and possible injury to yourself.

Good Leash Options:

- If you know you are going to be in a very distracting environment and you don't quite know how your dog is going to respond it is best to always play it safe. Keeping your dog on a 6 foot leash is going to allow your dog to stay close enough to you if you need to quickly and safely get them out of a situation.
- Another option is a long line leash. You can use a long line in an environment where you want to allow your dog more freedom, but want to make sure they are safe; such as playing on the beach, in the snow or other enclosed areas. Long line leashes come in many sizes (10-20 feet) and are gentle on the hands. When interacting with other dogs you have a lot of line to deal with, but it is easier to untangle yourself and other dogs.



Enjoying some freedom and fun on a long line leash.

BEGINNER FOSTER CARE CLASS...

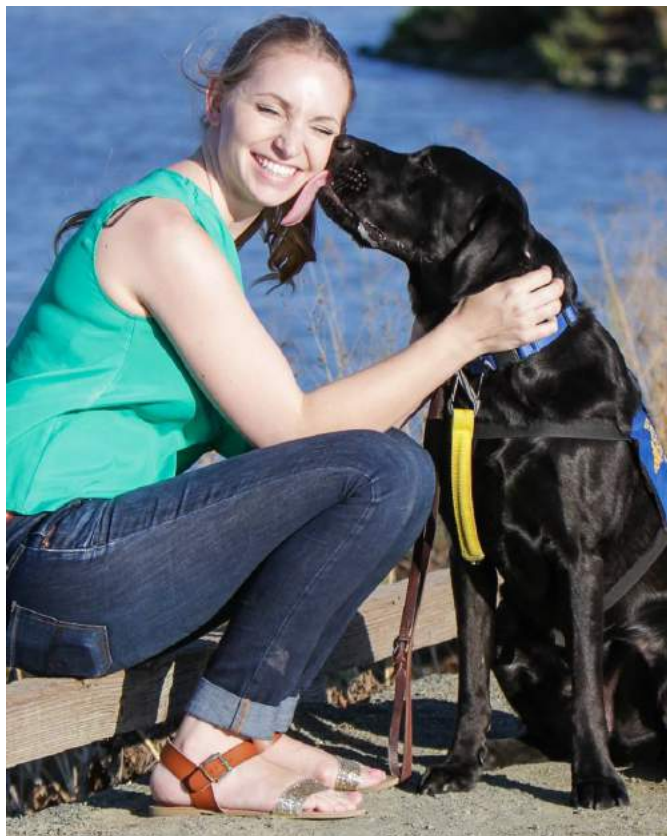
Every volunteer matters and makes a difference in our efforts!

Would you like to take one of our sweet pups home? Consider getting involved in our 10-week Beginner Foster Care Program. Learn all there is to know about fostering one of our dogs in training. How can you resist these faces!?

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).

Classes start on Thursday, May 11th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at 1875 Arnold Drive in Martinez, CA. If you're interested and want to learn more please contact Stephanie Perkins, D4D Foster Care Leader at: fostercare@dogs4diabetics.com

Open your home and your heart... foster for D4D!



"I understand that the dogs are one with me for a short time and will eventually move on to their client, but having the opportunity to love them while they work to learn life-saving skills has been so fun and rewarding."

- D4D Foster Care Provider, Kellie



Beck, D4D Foster Care Provider enjoying some snuggles...





DOGS4DIABETICS **5K LANTERN "RUN"**

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNUAL WALK FOR THE DOGS

JOIN THE LANTERN FUN "RUN" - HELP SAVE LIVES
CREATE. JOIN. BACK A TEAM.

D4DLANTERNRUN.ORG

Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek Saturday, June 10th
5:00pm - 9:00pm

- Glow Gear
- Costume Contest
- Lantern Lighting Ceremony
- Unbeatable Swag Bags
- Raffle Prizes
- Food Trucks
- Vendors
- Live DJ

An illuminated 5k walk/run through the evening...
all humans and dogs welcome!





DOGS4DIABETICS GRADUATING CLASS

You're invited to join us in celebrating our graduating client/dog teams, and all who made these life-saving partnerships possible. Join us for our spring graduation.

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*Walnut Creek Christian Academy
2336 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA*

Saturday, April 29th

2pm - 4pm

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 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, The Del E. Webb Foundation who shares in our passion to make a difference in the diabetic community.

"Charcoal makes every day a "good" diabetes day; he is my life-saver and best friend."

- Tiffani

A special thank you to The Del E. Webb Foundation for helping create this powerful partnership... you have forever transformed this team's life.

WISHING YOU SOME SPRING FUN AND SMILES...

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