



#### PARTNERSHIPS

Hear from our Executive Director about our new partnership with ARF!

#### CA FIRESTORMS

Horroric CA firestorms impact many of our clients, volunteers, friends, family, and supporters.

#### MEET THE PUPS

Check-out all the D4D superstars in training... each pup is working on their life-saving skills!

*Yellow Neener Photography*

# KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

- by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director

I am astounded at the generosity of our supporters with their enthusiasm, energy and excitement, as well as their willingness to support our mission in so many ways! This summer has been one of preparation and sharing of our mission with many new people in the community as well as those of you who have been involved with D4D for so many years.

We held our official Public Open House last month along with several private open houses for our donors, volunteers and foster care providers. We also have been using the facility in the evenings for our weekly foster care meetings and client training sessions where we have had large groups involved. What a wonderful thing to have space to increase our activities and enjoy the work with more people at the same time.

For the Public Open House, we had in excess of 150 people present to hear from the Mayor of Concord, Laura Hoffmeister; Jim Heim from Central Garden & Pet (CG&P); and Tracy Gimbel, from Tony LaRusso's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), as well as our own Founder, Mark Ruefenacht. All spoke of our work with the diabetic community, our dogs and our commitment to our mission, both regarding our past efforts, but mostly focusing on our future!

We were so excited to share our vision of where we would like to go in the services that we offer. A major announcement was made regarding our exciting new partnership with ARF, to adopt and train rescue dogs for our program. We are so thrilled to provide a new "leash" on life for these dogs... truly Homeless to Hero Canines!

Additionally, I want to recognize and thank Lagunitas Brewing Company for hosting another wonderful DOGtoberfest on our behalf! It was a fun event with great music, food and people. Carissa, Tony, and their team sure know how to throw a party! We appreciate this annual opportunity to share a great time with our friends and supporters.

Continue to follow our progress as we move forward and into this next chapter of our mission...





# CALIFORNIA FIRESTORMS

We can and will rebuild, we're stronger together!

As many of you know we're located in Concord (Northern), California and have many client/dog teams, volunteers, supporters, and friends who are impacted by the horrific firestorms. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by this tragedy. Know you can lean on your Dogs4Diabetics family for anything you might need during this time, just ask. We're stronger together!



D4D Client/Dog Team, Brittany and Izumi, were personally effected by these heartbreaking fires...

"We live in Santa Rosa and were evacuated at 2:30am on October 9th because of the Tubbs Fire. When our apartment complex manager told us that the fire was a mile and a half from our home, we knew we needed to move quickly to get out safely. We had ten minutes to gather the most important items we could and even that was about five minutes too long; by the time I opened the front door to dash down the stairs to my car, the fire was on our property and the smoke was so intense I couldn't see anything. We could feel the heat from the flames and were caught in 80 mph winds that were swirling embers the size of barbeque briquettes over our heads. I froze - I had no idea how I was going to get down the stairs and to the car with Izumi without getting burned.

She jumped into action, channeled all of her training from when she was a Guide Dog pup, and guided me down the stairs and straight to my car through smoke, hurricane force gusts of wind, and falling embers. She was completely unfaltering, rock solid, and exactly what I needed in those precious minutes.

Through the next week and a half of our evacuation, she didn't miss a single alert despite the intense smoke exposure and lack of sleep. On a normal day Izumi amazes me with the ways she keeps me safe and in this extreme circumstance she surpassed any expectations I had.

She even brought comfort to the firefighters that were housed at our evacuation site; a few of them told me that it was because of her unconditional love and fluffiness that they felt able to return to battle the flames day after day. Anyone who knows Izumi knows that she is truly one of a kind, and it's no surprise she brought safety and hope during this time of uncertainty and tragedy. I can't express how grateful I am to have her - she truly is a hero and deserves all of the Zuke treats and medals in the world". - D4D Client, Brittany (and Super Hero Izumi)



# HAPPY TAILS

Client/Dog Team, Sandy and Hale...

"I have been living with diabetes for 62 years (I am sure glad D4D is not named Dogs and Dinosaurs 4 Diabetics), it is only since August 2016 Hale and I became partners. And since that day, Hale brings a smile to my face everyday, and one to everyone he meets. Given a chance, he will always give you a big lick hello.

Hale is like a beacon of light. That is, whether alerting on me, at 4:07am or 4:07pm, his bright eyes staring at me means I need to check my blood glucose. And, he will always insist I issue the command "Let's Check". So, not only does he get his reward, but, I too am rewarded with tighter blood glucose control, and with peace of mind knowing he's watching after me.

After a five hour plane trip, the flight attendant told me, "if only all plane passengers were as well behaved as Hale, she might be without a job". I can't thank the Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, D4D Fosters, and the entire D4D team enough for making our life-saving partnership possible.

Recently, Hale and I were visiting a doctor for an annual exam. The doctor was interested in Hale and how he is helping me remain free of long term diabetes related complications.

It is the Dogs4Diabetics family that continues to mean so much to me. While I might be volunteering my time with Scent Training, helping prepare our new facility, or, other D4D activities to say thank you for this gift... the D4D Team, Fosters, Volunteers, and others behind the scenes, simply are the stars. Put another way, it is my entire D4D family (of course including Hale) that are so important to me.





# ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

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

Woof! We are ready to move into the new Training Center! My friends, Hollis & Jessa have been keeping me up to date on all the activity at D4D as I have been enjoying my retirement with the family at home.

Our long-time friends at Central Garden & Pet have indicated that they want our new home to continue to be the "Nylabone Training Center". They are working with us on new ways to help with resources to make sure we have the best home possible. And, we are going to be sharing it with some new buddies.

Our friend, Tony LaRusso, (you know him, he's the guy who shows up at the Bark in the Park to share the baseball diamond with Mark and Hollis). Well, he loves dogs and helps them out by rescuing homeless dogs for people to adopt and love for life! He is working with D4D to give some of these dogs a new job. They are going to work with more of my human friends who need some help with their diabetes.



D4D is going to adopt them and place them with D4D Foster Care Providers, who will work on their obedience and other social skills (some of these dogs did not have the same puppy life that I and my Guide Dog buddies have had, and some may need to learn some more things about living and working with humans). I hope that you might consider helping us with this new effort! The more Foster Care Providers we get, the more dogs we can put in new homes with a great job! I know that Mark and all the staff are excited about this opportunity to work with other doggy buddies; it's a great opportunity to help even more people, and give other dogs a chance to have such a great life. And it is a great life!

The folks at Guide Dogs have been very supportive of this new opportunity for D4D. From the very top, the CEO, Chris Benninger, expressed her joy in D4D undertaking this role. Our friends at Guide Dogs love all dogs and want the best for all! I am so happy for all that D4D is doing and how it has grown over my lifetime. Remember, I have been here since the beginning! I wish only the best for the future of D4D and hope that all you will help to make that happen!



Woof, Danielle

# TREATS FROM THE TRAINER... ROAD TRIP!

- by Christina Hobson, D4D Trainer



**Anytime is a great time for an epic road trip with your pet...** especially when the holidays are right around the corner. But, before you head out here are some tips to make your adventures together even more enjoyable.

**Plan your route...** you want to ensure that your schedule accommodates time for regular breaks for your pup's physical comfort and happiness. Your dog needs to have the opportunity for potty breaks but also to walk around and experience the new environment. Plan to take a 15 to 30 minute break every 4 hours. You can also make very long trips more enjoyable for both of you if you plan stops at locations with pet-friendly attractions.

**Get a weather report...** this can help you better prepare for issues like rain that could slow your travel, and also to avoid potential natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Also, take the weather into consideration when packing for your dog. If it's colder than they're used to, you may need to pack some clothing for them too.

**Pack a bag for your dog...** Separating your dog's things from your items will make them easier to access when you need them on the ride. Consider all the places you will visit along the way when packing. Items you may want to include:

- Your dog's regular food and food bowl
- Water (collapsible food/water bowls are great for travel)
- Medications
- Poop bags
- A collar and leash
- Updated tags
- Medical records and vaccination certificates
- Grooming supplies and a towel
- Kennel
- Dog bed and blankets
- Favorite toys

*Go explore, have fun, and bring your furry companion along! Remember, NEVER, leave your pet alone in the car.*



# BE A D4D FOSTER CARE PROVIDER...

Be the first to foster our rescue pups from ARF!



This is our most recent group of clients who finished their D4D client training. We are so very proud of all their hard work and can't wait for the day each of them graduates with their life-saving partner. We have many clients waiting to be placed with their guardian angel... and we need your help to foster these furry life-savers so we can bring more dogs into our training program, and ultimately make more powerful partnerships possible!

Would you like to take one of our sweet pups home? Consider getting involved and joining our 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 lives).

Plus... with our new partnership with Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation we need Foster Care Providers now more than ever! We want to begin training rescue dogs and need loving homes for these furry friends. You can be the first to foster our rescue pups! Contact Programs Manager, Carrie, to learn more: [carrie@Dogs4Diabetics.com](mailto:carrie@Dogs4Diabetics.com)

*"I understand that these dogs are only 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".*

*- Kellie, D4D Foster Care Provider*

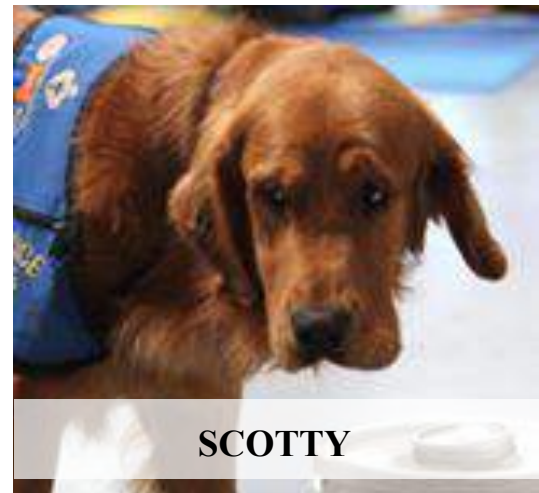


# MEET OUR DOGS-IN-TRAINING...

Fogerty, Gabe, Malone, Reva, Rover, Scotty, and Swanee!

## Kickin' Training Tail...

Our dogs go through months of training to learn and perfect their life-saving skills. We love seeing their progression through our program and their skills grow... they're not just adorable faces, they're incredibly smart pups who will go on to transform, empower, and save the lives of our clients. We're so proud of all our dogs-in-training!







## 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 fall graduation.*

*Walnut Creek Christian Academy  
2336 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA  
Saturday, November 18th  
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](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** (@OfficialDogs4Diabetics), follow us on **INSTAGRAM** (D4D\_Official)...  
and share us with your friends! Also, watch us 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
- Worldwise Inc.



This life-saving partnership was made possible by a cherished D4D supporter, Wallis Smith. Wallis shares in our passion to make a difference in the diabetic community.

*"Kiko and I got out of the office to enjoy a weekend camping trip at Lake Pillsbury. Even with all the fun and adventuring, she stayed on top of her alerting game and caught two of my lows! She's a life-saver!" - Katie*

A special thank you to Wallis for helping create this powerful partnership... you have forever transformed this team's life. Join us for Graduation on Saturday, November 18th to see Katie and Kiko graduate our program!

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



WISHING YOU THE VERY BEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON...

D4D Pup-in-Training, Gabe, enjoyed some Halloween fun!

