

KEEPING YOU



IN THE NOSE



MEDICAL ALERT ASSISTANCE DOG, KELLEN

KEEPING YOU

IN THE NOSE

THE LATEST AND GREATEST AT DOGS4DIABETICS | QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | FALL 2018

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Holidays. Dogs. Kiddos.
D4D Trainer Tips!



DOGS4DIABETICS™

Kibble *from the* Corner Office



BECKY & SWANEE



KIM & TROY



PEBBLES & COLLIER



REESE & ROVER



SUZANNE & SHERLOCK



TIM & GABE

COMING TOGETHER to INSPIRE

When recent events like DOGtober Blues & BBQ and our Fall Graduation bring together the amazing people (and dogs) of our community, I'm so grateful for everyone's efforts and truly inspired by all their hard work.

On November 3rd, we celebrated the graduation of six more life-saving partnerships! For the first time, graduation was held at our new Nylabone Training Center, and everyone that made it possible... staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors, partners, clients, and families were there to congratulate our dedicated teams. A very special thank you to each and every one of you, who go above and beyond to help us in our mission to empower diabetics to thrive.

This year, we follow the happy tails of four of our life-saving partnerships, who will be featured in our year-end giving campaign. These teams are thriving in the world and in the face of diabetes. We so admire how our teams are living full and active lives, breaking down stereotypes about diabetics, and living beyond the limitations imposed by the disease.

Our community makes it possible to help diabetics live beyond, and with new and improved programs like Tour Thursdays, Volunteer Outreach, and our Canine Training Partners, we are growing and strengthening our community relationships. To better engage our community, we're also happy to announce that we've been collaborating on a new D4D website and our first ever Annual Report! They will both launch this year and make it easier to stay involved and learn about all the growth and transformation at D4D.

To each member of our community, thank you! We appreciate your time, effort, and generosity. You truly inspire us to continue to grow and go beyond. Upward together!

Christy Gillham

HAPPY TAILS

A NEW LIFE-SAVING PARTNERSHIP, REESE & ROVER

I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when I was five. It was very stressful because it was my first year out of preschool and into Kindergarten. It was also right after Halloween. I remember trying to hide when I would have to get a shot and how different my life became after my diagnosis. The first year was especially hard, whenever I ate I had to test my blood sugar before and give myself a shot after, both of which I hated. Type 1 Diabetes caused me to mature earlier and take on more responsibilities than my peers. When I received a pump, it made my life 100 times easier and more and more technology kept coming out. I started using a Dexcom but did not like putting another needle in me, so I did not wear it often. Also, the earlier CGM's were not as accurate as they are today. I became very independent throughout the years, but Type 1 Diabetes was still very hard to manage.

I kept hearing and reading about Diabetic Alert Dogs and knew that was what I wanted. Throughout the years, I have become unaware of my lows and would only feel low when I was in the 30s or 40s. I barely wore a CGM and it would often be inaccurate. I applied for a service dog my freshman year of high school and then was eventually paired with Rover. Rover has been so great in my life! He catches my lows and quick drops before I feel them and sometimes even before my CGM catches them. He has made me feel safer and helped me sleep sounder because I know Rover is always there to watch over me.

I have always played a lot of sports and would never let diabetes stop me. It has always been a struggle making sure I don't have to sit out during a practice or game due to a low blood sugar. It has been especially hard since I stopped feeling my low blood sugars and made me have to check my blood sugar more often and whenever I had a chance. Coming into high school, I had to come up with new plans to manage my diabetes while I was getting used to new stresses. Since freshman year (I am now a Junior) I have played three sports, tennis, basketball, and softball. I had to go through many trials to find out how my blood sugar reacts to each different sport. Rover has helped me feel safer at practices and games knowing he is always watching me.

D4D has also been a huge help in my life. It is such a close group of people that I love being a part of. They are all so supportive and plan fun, group events for everyone. Everyone supported me through the waiting process and then getting acclimated to having Rover in my life. It was so hard to wait for a dog but everyone helped me through it, and it was well worth the patience. They all gave me amazing pointers on how to do everything with such an amazing dog in my life. Everyone is so helpful whether I have a question about my day to day diabetes or if I have a question about Rover or even if I have a question about sports or colleges. Thank you D4D for my life-saver!

- **REESE**, D4D Client



November

= DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HELP ADVOCATE THIS MONTH

Diabetes... if you don't live with it yourself, then it's likely you have a family member or friend who does. Although D4D's purpose is to support diabetics, 24 hours a day – 7 days a week, in order to improve their lives today, we join the diabetic community in hoping for a cure of this disease.

This November during **National Diabetes Month**, we challenge you to help raise awareness of this ever-growing disease and the many people who are impacted by it.



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

D4D Teams Kristin & Kellen (*right*) Savannah & Fitz (*left*)

The month of November is an opportunity to use our collective voice to reach as many people around the world as we can, to raise awareness about diabetes and to celebrate the lives of those who live with Type 1 Diabetes and those who love them.

SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ★ You can commit to joining our year-end appeal (see page 11) efforts which help D4D provide life-saving dogs free of charge to our clients.
- ★ You can become a D4D fundraiser; fundraising volunteers are crucial to our organizations success, impact and longevity.
- ★ You can tell all your family and friends about D4D and encourage them to get involved and give back.
- ★ You can follow us on our social handles
(*Facebook*: @OfficialDogs4Diabetics & *Instagram*: D4D_Official) to help share and spread the word about our mission in the diabetic community.

There are many ways your efforts can make a big impact during National Diabetes Month! We at D4D will be “working like a dog” during the month of November to get the word out about Diabetes. We will be challenging you to get involved and become an advocate. Together we can make a difference and support this ever-growing disease and improve the lives of all affected by diabetes.

Meet the D4D DOGS-in-TRAINING

KICKIN' TRAINING TAIL

We're proud to spotlight these 9 fun-loving dogs-in-training! Each of them is working hard through the phases of our training program and receiving wonderful love and support from our trainers, volunteers, and Canine Training Partners. Thanks to them, these dogs are learning our accurate and reliable scent detection and getting ready for their life-saving partnerships!

Want to see our dogs in action? Stop by on Tour Thursdays, or become a volunteer in the Training Room. Our new website will also feature an interactive and up-to-date page we're calling *Nose Tracker*, which will detail the progress of each dog-in-training. Puppy raisers from GDB, our CTPS, other volunteers, and clients will be able to upload photos of the dogs to keep our community "in the nose"!

AKIMA



BASTILLE



BETTY



MOON



NEWTON



PERLA



UMPIRE



JIEQUES



WHISTLER





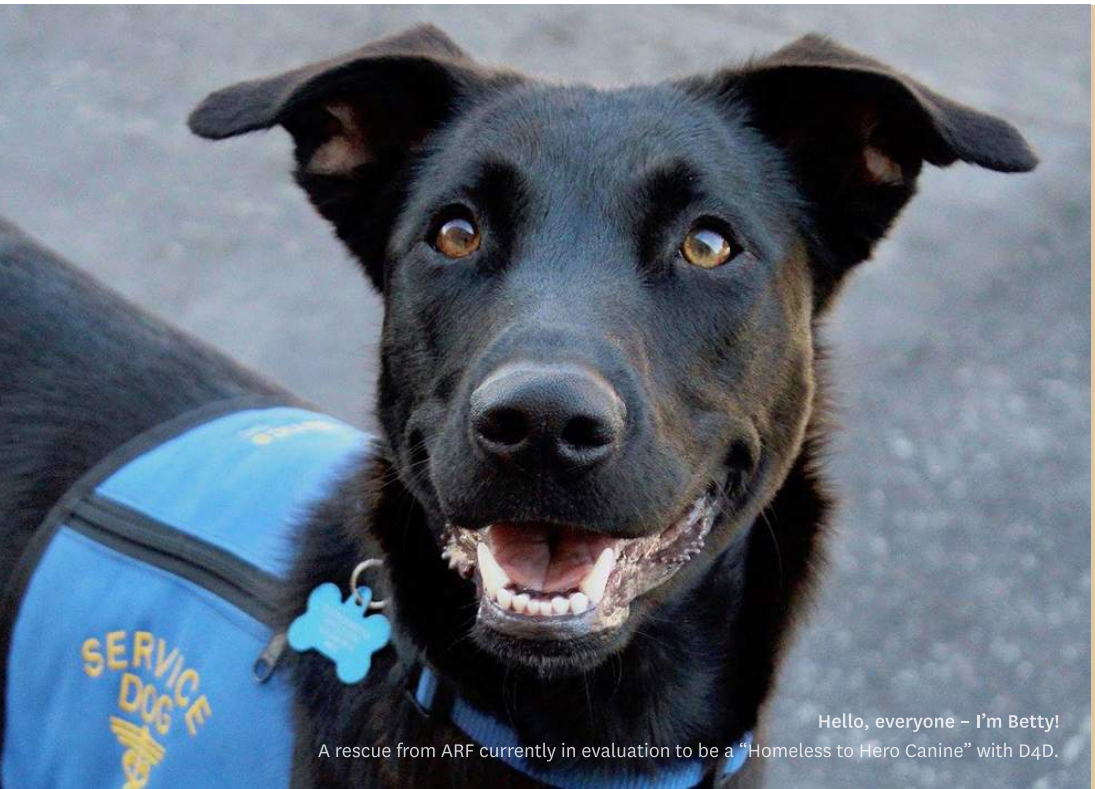
A R M S T R O N G ' S

Dog House

by HOLLIS, D4D CHIEF CANINE AMBASSADOR

HAVE YOU HEARD?

We have some new improvements to our home! **We have a new Dog Wash!** It is like having our own personal Dog Spa, so we can be bathed, groomed, and get our nails done all at our Nylabone Training Center.



Hello, everyone – I'm Betty!

A rescue from ARF currently in evaluation to be a "Homeless to Hero Canine" with D4D.

We also have a new Armstrong Memorial Garden.

The garden includes multiple relieving areas with artificial turf, crushed granite, as well as a beautiful garden with night lighting as well as wonderful shaded gazebo. The gazebo includes benches and a picnic table for our humans to use. It give us a place to go and enjoy after training or just to dry off after a spa treatment. Life at D4D is Great! Woof! Woof!

The last major improvement that is almost complete is a great big, blue elevator-type material lift. This is to help our humans move equipment and supplies upstairs for storage and keep the training room clear for our training.

Our home is just fantastic... and to top it off my dog buddies are growing in numbers with all the new dogs coming from both **Guide Dogs for the Blind** as well as **Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation**. In fact have you met Betty? Betty is our newest ARF rescue who has joined our "Homeless to Hero Canines" program. Stay tuned for all her progress in training!

Woof! Woof!

Hollis

Treats from the Trainers



DOGS & KIDDOS

The holidays are coming and inevitably it means friends, family, and kiddos. If your dog hasn't been exposed to children you can't expect your dog to be comfortable or tolerant.

Dogs and children can be a great combination if your dog has learned how to behave around kids. Some dogs love children and seem to naturally know how to act around them. These dogs still need training and socialization. It's important that they know their boundaries.

Not all dogs will get along with kids. In fact, some dogs are even afraid of children. Many of these dogs can be trained to behave around kids at a safe distance, but some will never be able to safely interact with them.

If you have children living in or visiting your home, it's vital to ensure they are always safe around your dog.

What can you do if you don't have time to socialize my dog before family and friends visit?

If you don't have time to completely socialize your dog before encountering a child. Make sure you manage the environment to prevent inappropriate behaviors from happening. If you don't want your dog to counter-surf, never leave the roast on the counter when you leave the room. If you don't want your dog to bite or hurt a small child, never leave the two of them alone together.

Dogs often do better if they have an escape route or a safe place to be while a child is in your home. Crate train your dog so that he is happy and comfortable in a crate. Make it clear to any children in your home that the crate is off limits to them. This way your dog can interact with the children when they want, but they can also have a safe place to take a break.

How can you prepare your dog to be around a child?

The best way to build a good relationship between your dog and children is to use positive reinforcement. When your dog is behaving well around children, be sure to give them lots of praise, treats, and attention. Your dog will learn that good things happen to them whenever kids are around. Soon they will be happily seeking out children, and keeping them on their best behavior.

Tour Thursday at D4D is a big hit with the kiddos!



Canine Training Partners



OUR CANINE TRAINING PARTNERS AT WORK AND PLAY!

Boy! Have we been busy improving our Canine Training Partners program! We've welcomed feedback from the community and made changes to achieve a great balance of work and play!

We appreciate how our Canine Training Partners work with us to improve our dogs' skills and techniques. They teach our dogs reliable recalls, good positioning, and prompt responses to commands, and it's amazing to see the dogs respond so lovingly to the hard work and dedication of their Canine Training Partners! Thank you, all!

We had so much fun at our CTPs Halloween party, dressing up in costumes, playing games, and enjoying the company of a wonderful group of people and dogs!

Want to talk to someone about our Canine Training Partners program? Email ctp@Dogs4Diabetics.com or visit us on Tour Thursdays to learn more about our program, meet some of the staff, and visit with the dogs.



HELP US CHEER THEM ON!

These Client/Dog Teams are working hard to meet graduation requirements!

ABE & PRENTICE



AISLING & TUCSON



ALI & RUBINA



ANTHONY & FITZGERALD



DENISE & SALSA



DIANA & MICHELLE



MAUREEN & EDDIE



NATALIE & RUPA



CONGRATS ARE IN ORDER

These Client/Dog Teams have met graduation requirements (walking the stage in November)

JEN & NARU



SHEILA & KEMP



Community Spotlight



"I am so proud of my school, Eugene Padan Elementary!! We raised \$726 for D4D and surpassed our goal. Great job, Panthers! Thank you to the families and staff for your generous spirit. This money will help bring a life-saving Service Dog into someone's life."

– **D4D CLIENT, MAUREEN C.**

D4D Client & Eugene Padan Elementary School came together to fundraise for our client/dog teams

"I think it's important to give and to give back no matter how big or small. This year, in spite of personal grief, I was afforded the ability to give again to D4D and to support their rebranding. Since clients are the first ambassadors for D4D, it's important that they promote the organization and their new look."

– **D4D CLIENT, BECKY H.**

D4D Client donated \$5,000 for new branded D4D service jackets



We've been busy spreading the word about D4D... led by our Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, Kim Denton, we've been connecting with the community by speaking at school events, marching in parades, and presenting at other diabetic organizations, like JDRF. We're working hard to spread the word about D4D, advocate for diabetics, and reach loving people to volunteer and support our mission!

In Case You Missed It

We had a totally awesome and incredibly fun DOGtober Blues and BBQ this year! It was a wonderful music-filled evening with great friends and dogs and delicious beer and food, and we raised a tail-wagging \$13,671.38!

A HUGE thank you to Lagunitas Petaluma Tap Room & Beer Sanctuary, their team, and all our friends, volunteers, clients, Canine Training Partners, and our entire community for making this year's DOGtober Blues and BBQ a huge success! We want to also acknowledge our sponsor, Worldwise, Inc. and the Kohl's volunteers from San Rafael and Santa Rosa who helped make this signature event one for the books!

The D4D Team is honored to have such an amazing community, and we're truly grateful for all your efforts on our behalf. Together we are saving lives... and having a blast doing it!



Dear Family & Friends,

As another successful year at Dogs4Diabetics draws to a close, I ask that you make a valuable donation to help us continue our mission of creating life-saving partnerships that inspire, transform, and empower diabetics in our community.

Every day I'm amazed by how our life-saving partnerships are thriving in the world and in the face of Type 1 Diabetes. With our dogs alerting by their sides, clients are living full and active lives, breaking down stereotypes about diabetics and living beyond the limitations imposed by the disease.

"People are always shocked when they find out that I'm a Type 1 Diabetic. They ask, 'how can you be lifting weights and racing cars?' and 'doesn't your blood sugar get in the way?' I don't let stereotypes get in my way, knowing that Naru is out there looking out for me." – JEN & NARU

Like our client/dog teams, our staff and volunteers go beyond in their everyday lives. We operate on limited resources, wear many hats, and do whatever we can to support our mission of empowering diabetics to thrive. This year, in our new and improved home at the Nylabone Training Center, we've built our capacity so we can train more teams, welcomed new community events like Tour Thursdays and our Volunteer Training Orientations, and grown our team in order to positively impact more lives in the diabetic community. 2018 has been a year of growth and transformation at D4D, and we only want to do more and go further beyond!

Will you help us empower Type 1 Diabetics to live beyond the limitations of their disease?

This holiday season, you have the opportunity to TRIPLE the impact of your donation to D4D! Two generous anonymous donors have each pledged \$25,000 to match every gift dollar-for-dollar made before January 7th. So when you make a donation of \$25, D4D will receive \$75 to support our mission! Please get involved and help us raise \$100,000 together as a community.

"I choose to be active and optimistic and fight through the challenges as they come. Having Gabe with me gives me the freedom to pursue activities with a level of confidence I wouldn't have otherwise. I can operate with a best friend and a safety net at all times. While diabetes is a well-known illness, nobody understood the complexities of managing it and living with it until I came to D4D." – TIM & GABE

Triple your tax-deductible donation this year by visiting D4DLiveBeyond.org. Make a donation of \$25 or more and receive a limited edition T-shirt as our little way of saying thanks! Follow and share our efforts #D4DLivingBeyond.

We need your help to continue to serve diabetics who are living beyond the disease. For 2019, we are preparing to train and place 20% more life-saving partnerships, and this incredible double match opportunity could make such an impact. At D4D, we've always understood that diabetes is a costly and complex disease to manage, so we've always provided our programs, our dogs and trainings, and lifetime support for teams at no cost.

On behalf of the team at D4D, thank you for being an amazing friend and part of the family! We are beyond grateful for all of your love, compassion, and generosity. Your continued support makes it possible to help our community thrive and live beyond diabetes. Thank you!!

Our best to you and yours this holiday season,

Christy Gillham

Christy Gillham

Executive Director, Dogs4Diabetics



Corporate Sponsors

Join the D4D Family...

The following organizations have supported Dogs4Diabetics, 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 ~

Allied World Insurance Company

AvoDerm

Bollinger Canyon Animal Hospital

Central Garden & Pet

Four Paws

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Lagunitas Brewing Company

Nylabone

Patterson Foundation

Pet Food Express

Presidio Bank

Sun Life Financial

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation

Worldwise 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.



Among attendance at our Fall Graduation was the organization's largest individual donor, the Conner Family from Erie, PA. Andrew Conner contributed \$175,000 in memory of his wife Donna Conner, who passed away due to complications of Type 1 Diabetes. Donna was a dog lover, and she, Andrew, and their daughter Lara had a special bond with Madison, a wonderful yellow Labrador retriever originally acquired by Lara. The contribution of the Conner Family has significantly impacted the number of diabetics D4D has been able to serve.

At Saturday's graduation, Andrew, his daughter Lara, his grandson Joseph, and his niece Cindy were specially acknowledged as the sponsor of one of the graduating client/dog teams. This team, Kim and Troy, is the third life-saving partnership that the Conner Family has generously sponsored.



DOGS4DIABETICS™

Our Dogs Save Lives.

(925) 246-5785

info@dogs4diabetics.com

www.dogs4diabetics.com

Donate Options



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
- **Visit** www.dogs4diabetics.com/donate to find out the various other ways you can contribute!

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