



Paw Street Journal

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2010

New Horizons Service Dogs Board of Directors

Sally Chester, RN
Co-Chairperson

B.J. Thompson,
Co-Chairperson

Michael Ray,
Secretary

Michele Poole,
Treasurer

Beverly Broberg

Michael Counes

Michael Craig

Jeffrey Eagle

Jessica Hathaway, DVM

Lois Mackey

Claudia Porgiglia

Nancy Sleuman

Michael Swindle

Honorary Board Members

Jack Hanna
Jimi Cook, DVM

Check us out on
Facebook!
Go to:

[www.facebook.com/
NewHorizonsServiceDogs](http://www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsServiceDogs)

Once Upon a Time...

New Horizons Service Dogs was founded in 1995 and is celebrating its 15th year of service to Floridians with disabilities. As a service dog user, I know it is not just simply about service dogs. It is about independence and the freedom the service dog provides. Service Dogs give others the opportunity to look beyond the disability. My inspiration for this program evolved from the first-hand discovery of what a dog can really do for a person with a disability. A service dog can retrieve a dropped item, open a door, or get a phone in an emergency making the difference between being dependent or independent. Our mission is to share the gift of independence and freedom with others who have mobility issues.

All of us at New Horizons have so much to be grateful for: from our volunteer puppy-raisers and breeder-caretakers who pour their hearts into the training of our future service dogs, to the people and clients who repeatedly commit their time and energy to promoting our cause. I thank you for your tireless efforts, your dedication and your enthusiasm.

In the pages that follow, there are photos that celebrate the joy of the new canine/client partnership. On a daily basis we are witnesses to the bonds that develop, the stories of how our dogs change our clients' lives and the lasting relationships that form, strengthen and continue to inspire each and every one of us.

I am pleased by the incredible outcomes of our Prison Pup Programs at the Sago Palm Work Camp and the South Florida Reception Center. Observing the interactions between the inmates and their puppies, the genuine devotion that literally has turned these grown men into playful but effective puppy raisers is

nothing short of amazing. What an impressive sight. Thank you to the Florida Department of Corrections staff for making this possible.

The Salty Dog fundraising committee has once again been a tremendous spirit and ambassador of New Horizons Service Dogs. This year's upcoming event on April 20th is shaping up to be one of the best events yet. In this difficult economy, I know that this is a direct result of the committee's hard work and persistence. It is fundraisers like the Salty Dog that allow New Horizons Service Dogs to continue placing service dogs at no cost to the recipient.

And, finally, I must give a special acknowledgement to our Board of Directors for their intuitive direction and the contributions they selflessly make to improve the organization. Every year we get better and better thanks to their input.

I am looking forward to a great 15th year!

-Janet Severt
Executive Director

"Dogs can open many doors; not just a mall door, but in the minds and attitude of people we meet."

Janet Severt



Prison Pup Program is Flourishing

Written By: Claudia Porpiglia

If you were to visit Sago Palm Work Camp (a satellite facility of nearby Glades Correctional Institution in South Florida) you would find many things typical of a prison facility. There are the razor wire fences that surround the facility, guards, multiple locking doors that close behind you as you enter hall ways and common areas, inmates in blue prison uniforms, etc. In one cell block you will find something not so common, 6 Golden Retrievers and 2 Labrador puppies. These puppies and the 16 inmates chosen to work with them are a part of the facility's new Prison Pup Program.



The Florida Department of Corrections, in cooperation with New Horizons, has established the Prison Pup Program at Sago Palm in order to train service dogs. Over the 18 month training period, the inmates will teach the dogs basic commands as well as such skills as turning light switches on and off, opening and closing doors, how to brace in order to help someone stand, to retrieve items and much more. At the end of the training period the dogs will return to New Horizons' training facility where they will receive any specific training they need and then be paired with a disabled person.

The inmates who participate in the Prison Pup Program are given the opportunity to earn certification in dog grooming and training while training service dogs for New Horizons. All of the inmates will someday be released from prison so this Re-Entry initiative is a critical part of

preparing them for re-entry into society. Walt McNeil, Florida Department of Corrections Secretary, has said, "This program not only benefits persons with disabilities who will gain lifelong companions and assistance, it helps our inmates to become more productive citizens upon release."

Although this program is only a couple of months old, it is already making a difference in the lives of those involved. The inmates have embraced the job at hand and are learning a new level of patience. The bond between the puppies and their trainers is evident in the faces of the inmates and the response of the pups. The Florida Department of Corrections is already looking at the possibility of expanding the Prison Pup Program to other facilities and we at New Horizons are looking forward to seeing how this program will impact our ability to provide service dogs to those who need them.



How You Can Help!

New Horizons Service Dogs is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving Floridians. Your much-needed tax-deductible gift will be greatly appreciated.

In Honor of Friend, In Memory of a Pet, Celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary

Yes, I would like to help NHSDI! Please acknowledge my gift in the amount of \$_____

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone / email _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

Please make checks payable to New Horizons Service Dogs.

Thank You!

A Note from our Board Chair

I recently had the pleasure of helping two young students at the Weiss School speak about New Horizons Service Dogs to their classmates. The two students along with their families are currently training service dogs to assist individuals with disabilities. As I watched the students speak about what a service dog is and what New Horizons Service Dogs does, I couldn't help but smile. It was inspiring to watch these two students embrace the mission of New Horizons Service Dogs and share it with their community.

As New Horizons Service Dogs embarks on its 15th year of service to Floridians with disabilities I am proud to be part of an organization that continues to inspire not only its participants, but the community around us. I challenge each and every one of you to take a look around and see who you can inspire today by embracing the mission of New Horizons Service Dogs. - Sally Chester, RN MS



A Tower of Hope

By- Marsha Wilett

The Tower Of Hope was founded by Cathy Carilli in 2006 as a tribute to the memory of her husband, Tom Sinton. Tom was killed in the September 11th terrorist attack on World Trade Center. His death in 2001 is linked directly to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as our nation's response to those terrible events. The organization was founded on the basis of Cathy Carilli's love for this wonderful man and his love of animals. Cathy wanted The Tower of Hope to play a major role in helping the seriously wounded in those conflicts to have the opportunity to lead more independent lives by being paired with service dogs.

In addition to funding service dogs for wounded veterans, Cathy wanted The Tower of Hope to be a source of information about service dogs and act as an advocate for the greater use of service dogs for our veterans who were coming home with serious injuries, PTSD, and other disabilities. The Tower of Hope has provided funding for two of our clients who are disabled veterans: Josh Cooley and Donald Nelson.

Josh Cooley and Courage



Josh was a member of the Sheriff's Department when September 11th 2001 occurred. Feeling compelled to make some contribution on behalf of his country and the people lost on that terrible day, Josh joined the Marines and was deployed to Iraq. Josh suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of a roadside IED explosion in which his vehicle caught fire. When his fellow soldiers realized he was still inside the vehicle, they rushed to extricate him, but not before Josh was

severely burned. Josh underwent 53 surgeries in 2 and ½ years and spent another year in rehab. His left leg and arm are still impaired due to decreased strength and coordination. Due to his head injury, speech and conversation are difficult. Courage is helping Josh in unbelievable ways. Josh is communicating again and can walk for brief periods with Courage by his side.

Donald Nelson and Rusty

Donald Nelson was wounded by machine gun fire and suffered exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam. After his partial recovery, he returned to the states and began working with his brother as a plumber. During his employment, he was involved in an accidental explosion, suffering burns over 90% of his body. Again, he survived and was doing well until a debilitating stroke left him with severe right side paralysis in 1990.



Despite all of these traumatic experiences, Don's attitude is positive and he exhibits tremendous willpower and enthusiasm. He wants to maintain his independence and self-sufficiency for as long as possible. Rusty, his service dog, is making sure that his wish for independence becomes a reality.

New Horizons Service Dogs is grateful for The Tower of Hope's endorsement and support of our organization and these two deserving and courageous veterans.

Rosie to the Rescue

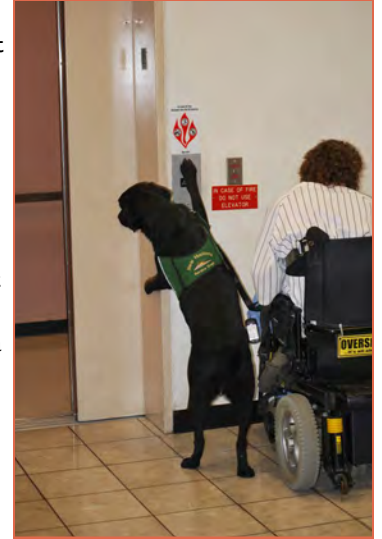
By: Steve Kenny

I've often been told by many doctors and physical therapist that a person with my level of disability (C-5 quadriplegic) can't live alone,....and I don't. I currently live with two great service dogs who help me defy what the medical experts may say. It was shortly after my 26th birthday in May 1993 when my life drastically changed forever; while horsing around in a swimming pool with friends, I hit my head on the bottom of the pool and shattered my 5th cervical vertebrae. What the doctors were right about was that I was paralyzed from my shoulders down and never walk again.

I've always been an independent person and I've always loved dogs, little did I know that one day one of them would depend upon the other. It's now been fourteen years of proving people wrong, however last year I was worried that I wouldn't be able to continue with my independent living situation. You see, my first service dog Sunny, a female yellow lab was aging rapidly and quickly becoming unable to help me any longer. Fortunately, Janet Severt and the folks at New Horizons Service Dogs were able to provide me with Rosie, a beautiful female black lab who came to our rescue and allowed Sunny to retire.

Now Sunny is free to relax and enjoy her golden years and Rosie has quickly "picked up" (primary job) all her responsibilities. Thanks to New Horizons program Rosie knew how to do many different tasks, and with their help as well as Sunny's, it didn't take long for her learn my specific needs. Rosie had no problem getting used to my power wheelchair, knowing almost instinctively where to position herself to best assist me; when retrieving one of the at least 20 things a day I drop on the floor, when opening a door, pressing an elevator button, closing the refrigerator door behind me and doing the many other physical tasks I can't manage. Most importantly both Rosie and Sunny can bring me a cordless phone on command, and have had to during the occasional emergency like falling out of my wheelchair or bed.

I know my family and friends are definitely more at ease with my lifestyle knowing the dogs are with me. Their invaluable service is only outweighed by there unconditional love and the emotional well being I get from their companionship. Three is definitely not a crowd, Rosie has been a wonderful addition and will allow me to continue with my independent lifestyle and defy what others might say about me living alone. However my fiance and her two cats may add a "Brady Brunch" like twist to it all.



My Hero

By: Lorraine Sutton

“Peek saved my life. You can’t get much more heroic than that.”

I am in a wheelchair full time due to spinocerebellar degeneration, housebound, and Peek has opened up a whole new world to me. He is my constant companion and people that would never have spoken to me before now stop and chat because of the dog. It has made isolation so much less of an issue. Peek saved my life. You cant get much more heroic than that.

Peek knows over 80 commands. (People are always awed.)

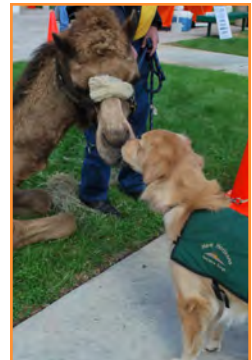
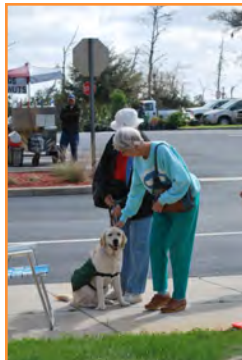
The skills he can perform are picking things up for me, opening and closing doors, turning lights off and on, paying for items at the store, carrying items, throwing away garbage, etc. But those are tools. The main thing that is so life-altering about having an assist dog is not what he can do for me, but the change in focus from me to him.

I had a day where I was in quite a bit of pain, only getting out of bed to walk the dog. I thought, “I don’t want to live this way.” But I also thought who will walk the dog, feed the dog? I had no question about love. Everyone who meets him falls in love with him. I am not self-centered enough to believe that he could not learn to become devoted to someone else. But I am devoted to him. And he pulled me out of my slump. I knew I had to pull myself together to take care of him and when he looked at me, he took care of me.

He is not only a great companion, but when I look at him, something magical happens. It is no longer about me and this disease but him and all the beauty in the world.



Out and About With New Horizons...



Once you see what a trained service dog does and how it can transform the life of its partner you will never look at a dog the same way again. This is what brought us to New Horizons Service Dogs and the Puppy Raiser program. We are true dog lovers, and the chance to raise a dog that will eventually move on to become a service dog is something that makes you feel wonderful every day deep down inside. The knowledge that we are gaining pertaining to training dogs, as well as the friendships we have made are truly priceless and augment the pure joy of raising the puppies. Knowing that we are doing something for the better good with these animals and that we get to enjoy them every day is a combination that few things in life can offer.

-written by Barry & Judy Farber, Puppy-Raisers & Breeder Caretakers



Some of Our 2008-2010 Teams...



LORAINNE AND PEEK



CODY AND TONI



STEVE AND ROSE



TABITHA AND REZZIE



DUNCAN AND JACKIE



INTERIM HEALTHCARE AND ODIE



ANDREA AND PILOT



DONALD AND RUSTY



ANDREA AND WIZARD



BOB AND INDY



JOHN AND BUCKY



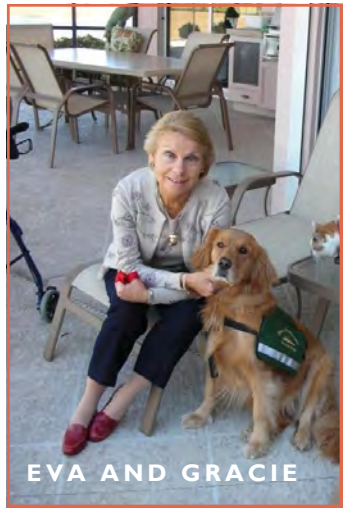
CHARLIE AND HANNA



JONATHON AND SWAYZEE



HERITAGE HEALTHCARE AND ADONIS



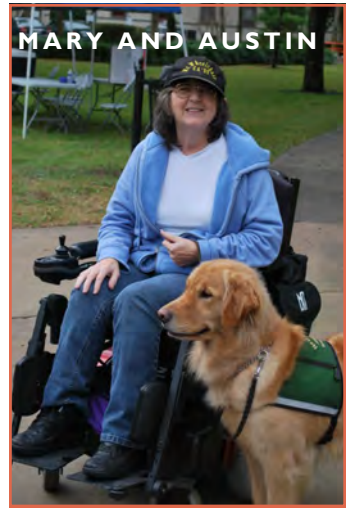
EVA AND GRACIE



DOUG AND CABERNET



PAUL AND LORI



MARY AND AUSTIN



RUSS AND BENLEY



DEB AND SEGO



MISTY AND MURPHY



ILANA AND FRED



CORY AND NUTMEG



JUAN AND KAPLAN

A big
THANK YOU
to
everyone who
has made these
partnerships
possible!

In Loving Memory of Samantha Brown and Sandra Loch...

A Child...A Dog...A Best Friend

Raising a child with an uncontrolled seizure disorder has been challenging. In the early years, we had to make choices that felt like we were just guessing what was best. The medical professionals we worked with were great but they all agreed that Tina was not a "textbook" case so their advice was often that we needed to do what we thought was best. Over time, Tina developed physical problems that require use of a wheelchair or walker as a side effect of the two brain surgeries she had to help bring her seizures to a more manageable level.

Quality of life has always been a driving force in the decisions we have made on her behalf and we felt that a service dog might provide Tina with companionship, and a social bridge. After contacting several organizations, New Horizons was the only agency willing to work with Tina.

To say that Koki has made a difference in Tina's life is a gross understatement. They are best friends and adore each other. When we are out in the community and someone comes up to meet Koki, Tina just beams. If a person talks to Koki but ignores Tina, Koki will keep looking at Tina and draw the people to speak to her. Koki was not trained to alert for seizures but has done so on several occasions. Anytime Tina has a grand mal, Koki is right there with her licking and loving on her.

We are so grateful to NHSDI! The vision that NHSDI has goes beyond just placing dogs to help people in "practical" ways. NHSDI provides a lifeline to those who are struggling to just survive and they have made Tina's life so much richer (and

ours too!)

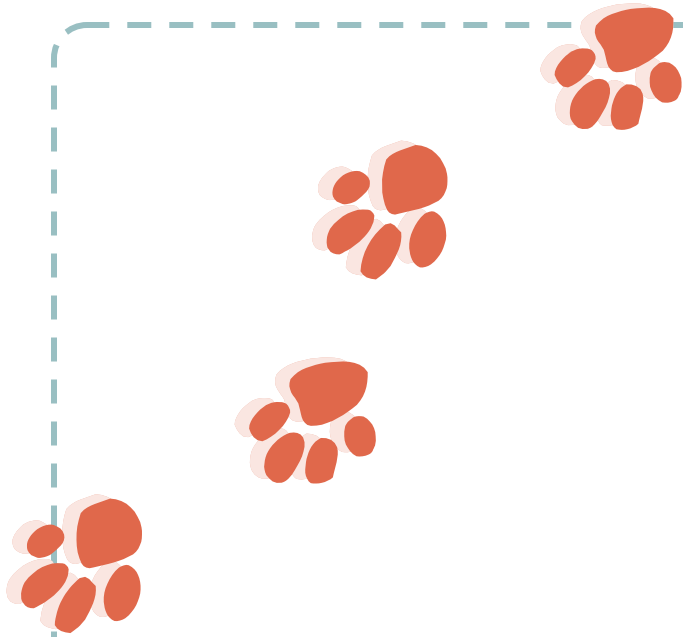
-Claudia Porpiglia, 2010

It Takes Two to Tango

By Mary Murphy

Alex Knight is a normal, 16 year-old girl, complete with a cell phone, a Facebook account and a busy high school schedule. She also has an identical twin sister, Katie. Of course, there is one unique thing about Alex that everybody loves: her New Horizons Service Dog, Tango. Tango is a 4 year-old Golden Retriever who helps Alex get around. Alex has Cerebral Palsy, but doesn't think of the condition as a handicap. Alex said, "I am so glad I have Tango because he helps me do things by myself that I would otherwise need my mom to do. Plus, he's a good icebreaker for meeting new people; he is just like a magnet. People are less intimidated by my wheelchair because of Tango." New Horizons Service Dogs, Inc. introduced Alex to many dogs to see which would best fit Alex's needs. Tango ultimately was the best match. When they first met, Alex knew Tango was the right dog for her. Alex said, "Tango has really changed my life by helping me when I drop something and helping me make new friends." Katie, Alex's sister, commented, "I like having Tango around because he is fun to be with and I get to see Janet Severt a lot. I like Janet's support." Alex and Tango: another successful match made by New Horizons Service Dogs, Inc





New Horizons Service Dogs, Inc
 1590 Laurel Park Court
 Orange City, FL 32763

Family Camp 2010

You are invited to join New Horizons Service Dogs at our first annual Family Camp. Spend a weekend away with your family and dog while getting to know volunteers, clients, and supporters of New Horizons Service Dogs. There will be plenty to do including training sessions, swimming, informative and fun classes, campfires, and team building.

When: May 14, 15, & 16
 Where: Camp Challenge
 31600 Camp Challenge Road
 Sorrento, FL 32776

Call the office at 386-456-0408 for a registration form.

Check-in begins at 5:00 on Friday and Check out is at 1:00 on Sunday.

The Mission of New Horizons Service Dogs is to;
 Provide quality, trained service dogs to people with disabilities;
 Educate the public and raise awareness regarding the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities;
 Provide on-going support to the recipient to assure a successful working partnership.

NHSD Wish List

Gift Cards for dog or office supplies

Video camera

8 ½ x 11 copy paper

LCD Projector

Gift cards for home improvement stores

Dog grooming supplies

Kongs (large)

Pupperoni dog treats

Blank DVDs and Cases

Gardening Supplies

Whole House Generator

Riding Lawn Mower

Mini Van



Assistance Dogs International, Inc.

Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry Since 1987