

CANINE LISTENER

MAGAZINE

DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES • FALL 2021 • NO.139

DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES EXPANDS ITS PAWPRINT IN THE NORTHEAST

DEMAND DRIVES GROWTH, EXPANSION,
AND PUPPY RAISER PROGRAM

PUPPY RAISER STORY: JACKIE KOLLER

NEW PURPOSE AND A PATH FORWARD



EXPANDING FOR BETTER LIVES
DBL EXPANSION HITS MILESTONE

CYNTHIA PERLMAN PARK OPENS
PUPPY SENSORY PARK AND RUNNING YARDS

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ON THE COVER

Front and back cover feature Massachusetts Puppy Raiser Jackie and DBL Puppy Finn

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LETTER FROM BRYAN WILLIAMS



The saying goes that every overnight success takes ten years. In August, I celebrated my third anniversary with Dogs for Better Lives and as we enter the fourth year of my tenure, the seeds of success have begun to spring. This year, we opened a second facility in Massachusetts, a historic accomplishment for an organization that has been operating out of southern Oregon since 1977. Even though we serve a national clientele with a national donor base, we've never explored the opportunity to train dogs anywhere else. But as opportunities presented themselves to the leadership team and the Board, it was clear that not only was a second facility a possibility but an opportunity we couldn't let pass by. We weren't prepared to take this leap a few years ago, but we are today.

Currently, the first puppies are on the ground in the northeast, and we've established several partnerships that will provide dogs for training, including a new rescue relationship. Soon, Dogs for Better Lives will be training the first Assistance Dogs outside of southern Oregon, allowing us to serve individuals waiting for Assistance Dogs in a more effective and fiscally responsible way.

A couple of my favorite quotes come from Simon Sinek who says, "Working hard for something is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called passion..." but, "Passion alone can't cut it. For passion to survive it needs structure. A WHY without a HOW has little probability for success." Our WHY is clear. Serving more people with the amazing dogs we train because of the way they change people's lives forever. That's always been clear. The team at Dogs for Better Lives is among the most passionate I've ever worked with. They are committed to the mission and moving it forward every single day.

What we needed to establish was the HOW. We developed a strategic vision for the future of the organization, one that involves significantly scaling the number of dogs we place each year. A vision of 10X growth and more. The vision that was adopted included opening other facilities across the country and we're proud to be announcing the opening of the first new location in over 40 years. Within that vision was a more efficient placement model that included field representatives placed in strategic locations and we're pleased to say we now have staff in nine different states. Most importantly, we've been able to accomplish this growth while cutting expenses nearly 10% over the last three years, proving the cost efficiency of the model and the fiscal discipline of staff.

The next few years will see many more accomplishments and milestones for the organization and I'm excited for the future. I hope the next seven years of Dogs for Better Lives' overnight success is as exciting as the first three. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our board, volunteers, donors, ambassadors, and staff. Thank you for believing in the mission and giving your time, treasure, and talent to see the long-range vision begin to come to fruition. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Canine Listener.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bryan

FOLLOW UPS



KIMBERLY & HHD FINLEY

Kimberly W. and HHD Finley from NJ have been together 10 years and are doing great! Finley alerts Kimberly to the door knock, doorbell, microwave, and oven buzzer. Finley just turned eleven and while retirement is on the horizon, he continues to work hard to bring the security that Kimberly needs. Kimberly says that Finley is her shadow. He is always there for her, and she gets such joy from being around him. He sleeps touching her and she knows that he will wake her if something happens in the middle of the night.



KATHLEEN & CHD HARPER

CHD Harper lives in Costa Mesa, CA and has been with Kathleen for over 5 years now. He alerts Kathleen to the oven timer, door knock, doorbell, smoke alarm, phone, and teams messages! He is ten years old and loves chasing lizards. Both Kathleen and Harper are doing very well!



DORY & CHD KELLY

Dory H. and CHD Kelly of both Tucson, AZ and Durango, CO have been together for almost two years now. Kelly works the smoke alarm, oven timer, and the door. Kelly also alerts Dory and her husband Gary to outdoor sounds and delivery trucks. Kelly looks amazing and has been healthy in his time with Dory.



SUZANNE & CHD HIDALGO

Suzanne P. and CHD Hidalgo of Bayside, CA have been a team for two years. During our follow-up, we completed the full ADI test which hasn't been done on a follow up in over a year! We went to a local trail loop, pet store, restaurant, and Humboldt State University where Suzanne is employed as a Latin American history professor. Hidalgo is working the smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, oven timer, tea kettle, alarm clock, and name-call at work. They make a great team, and Suzanne doesn't know what she would do without him.



SUSAN & HHD RADAR

Susan T. and HHD Radar of Pacifica, CA have been together for almost 5 years. Radar is working the smoke alarm, doorbell, door knock, and alarm clock. Since he is such a tiny guy, he has steps to Susan’s bed so he can alert her! He has been a great companion to Susan and her mother during the pandemic. They are a good team!



PHOEBE & HHD INDY

Phoebe and HHD Indy of Oregon. Phoebe is still just smitten with Indy and says he is her whole world. Indy is working the door knock, doorbell, and home phone. They are also working on adding a few other sounds. They moved from NY to OR about a year ago and Phoebe says Indy was the perfect travel companion.



BARBARA & CHD WRIGLEY

Barbara F. and CHD Wrigley of Temecula, CA have been together a little over a year and are doing fabulous! Wrigley works the doorbell, door knock, alarm clock, oven timer, smoke alarm, and dropped keys. The pandemic did not affect Wrigley’s performance in public - she is amazing! They are constant companions and Wrigley is the center of Barbara’s life. More lives changed for the better!



DEBBIE & CHD BASIL

Debbie P. and CHD Basil of Tennessee have been a team since February of 2020 and Basil is working like a pro! Basil alerts Debbie to the smoke alarm, timer, phone, and door knock, and is a constant companion for her. It is wonderful to see how bonded they have become. Debbie says she has no idea what she would do without Basil.



SHAYNA & LILEU

Shayna S. and CHD Lileu of Connecticut have been a team for 5 years. Shayna says that Lileu has made her life better in so many ways. The biggest one is that she always feels safe. When Shayna was in college, she slept through a smoke alarm and after that had trouble sleeping. Since Lileu was placed with her she has slept well, knowing that Lileu will wake her if the smoke alarm goes off. Shayna says there is nothing in the world that Lileu can’t do. Lileu is now ten years old and while she is a little grayer in the face, she is attentive to Shayna’s needs more than ever.

PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



ALLISON & HHD WESTON

Rockingham, VA

Home Hearing Dog Weston was placed with Allison in Virginia. The team bonded quickly as Allison's childhood pet was also a Westie mix. Weston was quick to transfer to Allison as his person and is working the door knock, phone, oven timer, and smoke alarm for her. Allison is thrilled to have Weston as her first hearing dog and newfound companion.



JANE & FD AUDIE

Bellingham, WA

Jane in Bellingham, Washington was placed with Facility Dog Audie. Jane is a school counselor and utilizes Audie to help her students learn to communicate and cope with complications that may arise as they go through their day at school. Jane says Audie is better than she ever imagined, and they were a great team from day one.

Audie will be utilizing these tasks: visit, lap, settle, pass, touch, spin, wave, shake, roll over, and fetch.



MARY BETH & HHD FAN

Casselberry, FL

Mary Beth in Florida was placed with Home Hearing Dog Fan, and it went wonderfully! Mary Beth has a strong support system, and Fan transferred all her skills flawlessly to her new mama. Fan alerts Mary Beth to the oven timer, door knock, smoke alarm, phone, and alarm clock. Fan has 4 cats, 20 chicken siblings, and a massive yard for endless zoomies. Mary Beth is so thrilled to have Fan as her ears and companion!

DBL NEWS

CHARITY NAVIGATOR RECOGNIZES DBL WITH 98.12 SCORE, ALONG WITH TOP FOUR-STAR RATING FOR RECORD 8TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

In early July, Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) received Charity Navigator's highest level 4-star mark, for a record eighth consecutive year. This 4-star rating is the highest mark a 501(c)3 nonprofit can receive from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most respected independent charity evaluator.

In addition to the annual star rating, Charity Navigator also provides a score of up to 100, recognizing a nonprofit for its strong financial health and a high commitment to accountability and transparency.

DBL received a score of 98.12 (out of 100) for its most recently completed fiscal year, 2020-2021, which runs July – June. For FY 2018-19, DBL had received a score of 96.88. This score places DBL at the top for 4-star animal charities in the state of Oregon and #2 in the nation when compared to similar service dog organizations.

"This recognition at the highest level is especially meaningful as it signifies DBL's adherence to best practices for fiscal stewardship while executing our mission in a financially efficient way," stated President and CEO, Bryan Williams. "10% of the 10,000+ non-profits reviewed annually, receive this top 4-star score, which speaks volumes for how fiscally responsible DBL is and continues to be, while being great stewards of our donor dollars."



IMAGINE DRAGONS' BASSIST BEN MCKEE ROCKED DBL WITH GIFT



Imagine Dragons' bassist Ben McKee made a surprise donation to Dogs for Better Lives, as part of his year-long commitment to donate \$1,000 a day to a different community organization.

"The past year has been a particularly challenging time for a lot of people," McKee wrote back on February 16th on Twitter. "The organizations that fight to support and protect the most vulnerable of us have been pushed beyond their limits. I have set aside \$365,000 and over the next year I will be giving away \$1,000 a day."

"We were stoked by Ben's generous gift to Dogs for Better Lives," stated CEO Bryan Williams. "It's impressive when someone with a public platform uses it to create visibility for a cause they truly care about."

DBL NEWS

RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATES OPENING OF CYNTHIA PERLMAN PUPPY SENSORY PARK AND OUTDOOR RUNNING YARDS

On Tuesday, April 27th, DBL and distinguished guests celebrated the completion of the Cynthia Perlman Puppy Sensory Park and outdoor running yards, with a ribbon cutting. In April 2020, Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) broke ground on the Cynthia Perlman Puppy Sensory Park. The 100' x 100' park provides invaluable opportunities to puppies and supports their early introduction to experiences within a variety of surrounding environments.

Located between the North Kennel and solar array, the Puppy Sensory Park provides numerous environments across its pathways and interior for puppies to explore, including rock, bark, sand, grass, and a water feature, among the trees and bushes to smell and fertilize.

"The Cynthia Perlman Puppy Sensory Park provides us with a unique opportunity to show our puppies at an early age what they will encounter on their journey to becoming future Assistance Dogs," explained Puppy Program Coordinator, Hannah Crane. "It's so important that we provide the tools necessary for our puppies and raisers to succeed, and this Puppy Sensory Park is a big part of that."

The Cynthia Perlman Puppy Sensory Park would not have been possible without the generosity of local and national philanthropic support, including Richard Perlman, Laura J. Niles Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, and the Grange Co-op. Richard Perlman and his late wife Cynthia had a long-time love of and compassion for dogs, highlighting why Rich wanted to honor Cynthia's life with this project.

"This project is very special to me for a couple of reasons," stated Richard Perlman. "DBL was one of the organizations which Cynthia always made certain we contributed to, and I wanted to do something to honor her blessed life and that would make her proud. She loved dogs, as do I, and we both agreed with the Will Rogers quote, 'If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went.' She was completely accurate in her feelings that it does not get any better than doing something good for dogs who ultimately are vitally significant to the well-being of those people who need service dogs."

In addition to the Puppy Sensory Park, DBL is nearing completion of two running yards, located to the west of the North Kennel. The running yards are situated on irrigated grass and will be utilized year-round for the dogs to exercise and let loose outside of training sessions.

One of the two running yards is named for Marvin Rhodes, a former and longtime board member (1986-2016) with then, Dogs for the Deaf. A plaque attached to the fence line recognizes Rhodes while acknowledging his many years of service to Dogs for Better Lives.



(L-R) DBL VP OF OPERATIONS TRISH WELCH, BOARD CHAIR DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH, DBL CEO BRYAN WILLIAMS

DBL NEWS *continued*

“Having a place just outside our North Kennel for our dogs in training to run free and play in the grass gives them time to just be dogs,” stated Operations Director Trish Welch. “Much like humans, they need fun and downtime too!”

Funding for this project came from several donors, including Marvin Rhodes Memorial Fund, Paul Loozen and Virginia Madigan, Carrico Foundation, Rich Perlman, and the Pacific Power Foundation.

COOKING FOR A PAWPOSE WITH DEAF ACTOR RYAN LANE

Throughout the month of September, Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) celebrates National Service Dog Month (NSDM), with a number of outreach events and online activities in regions of the United States where we place Hearing, Autism and Facility Dogs to assist individuals with disabilities.

DBL was excited to collaborate with Deaf Actor Ryan Lane (*Switched at Birth*) via Facebook Live for VIP access to a personal cooking demonstration in southern California. Actress B.K. Cannon (*Switched at Birth*) joined Ryan on set, and did an amazing job translating for the audience.



DBL and Ryan Lane Facebook and Instagram followers logged in to watch Lane create a delicious vegan dish, learned great recipe tips, and saw what tasty Caldera Brewing beer Ryan suggested the meal be paired with. This event was sponsored by DBL partner S+B James Construction. Prior to cooking, DBL client Barbara provided a demonstration with her Hearing Assistance Dog Wrigley.

“National Service Dog Month with all of its planned events, is a great way for us to expand visibility and promote the ongoing need for volunteers to answer our call,” stated CEO Bryan Williams. “We’re thrilled to be working with Ryan Lane again and look forward to the amazing dish he pairs with our newest partner, Caldera Brewing.”

This Fall Caldera is preparing to launch the co-branded label of their Pale Ale as featured during the Live Facebook event with a percent of sales supporting DBL.

DBL NEWS *continued*

PARTNERSHIP WITH GIVING BLOCK PROVIDES CRYPTOCURRENCY OPTIONS TO DBL DONORS

Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) has successfully completed its application with new partner Giving Block, paving the way to allow donors to support the national nonprofit with donations made through cryptocurrencies.

“Accepting Cryptocurrencies is an innovative giving opportunity for Dogs for Better Lives. Giving Block makes it very easy to understand and get started,” stated CEO Bryan Williams. “We’re excited to be one of the first Assistance Dog organizations to participate and pleased to be able to offer our donors yet another option for how they can choose to effectively support us.”

Dogs for Better Lives continues to be thoughtful stewards of their donor’s dollars and pleased to share that 100% of every dollar raised goes towards programmatic services. Administrative and fundraising expenses are fully funded by DBL’s endowment, specifically the annual interest earned from it, made possible by the past generosity of our Guardian Society members who have placed DBL in their estate plans.

The Giving Block was founded in 2018 after seeing hundreds of millions of dollars in Bitcoin being donated to the few nonprofits that were equipped to accept those donations. “Our founders came from cryptocurrency as well as nonprofit fundraising and operations backgrounds,” states Giving Block’s website.

The Giving Block makes Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency fundraising easy for nonprofits. Empowering mission-driven organizations, charities, universities, and faith-based organizations of all sizes to leverage crypto technology to achieve their mission. While there are more than 200 nonprofits participating on Giving Block, DBL is just the second national Assistance Dog organization to join.

In addition to now making cryptocurrency donations online, donors can also contribute in more traditional ways, including credit card and checking account.

“Our donors are beginning to ask for this, specifically how can I donate through cryptocurrency options,” stated Vice President of Development, Harvey Potts. “Ultimately, we want to provide options to our donors that work for their unique situations.”

Annually, more than 50% of cryptocurrency donations occur in December, with many donors participating in Crypto Giving Tuesday (same day as Giving Tuesday), the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. In 2021, Crypto Giving Tuesday will be on November 30th.

DBL is continuously striving to further diversify how donors can give, offering cryptocurrency is one more way DBL can serve their donors. DBL is currently exploring additional online payment options, including Google Pay, Amazon Pay, Apple Pay, Venmo, and PayPal.





EXPANDING BETTER LIVES

DBL EXPANSION HITS MILESTONE WITH ACQUISITION OF MASSACHUSETTS PROPERTIES FOR FUTURE NORTHEAST CAMPUS

By LACY PRIESMEYER & HARVEY POTTS, Staff

On Wednesday May 15th, 2021, Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) closed on two properties in Falmouth, MA, including a pet boarding facility and a veterinary clinic, which will become the future Northeast Campus and DBL's first east coast campus.

Originally launched in Southern Oregon's Applegate Valley in 1977, DBL now encompasses two campuses and four satellite offices across the country. Over the last two years DBL has been actively searching for an east coast location, to augment its national operations, while better supporting east coast clients, donors, and volunteers.

As part of DBL's 2020 Vision and four-year strategic plan, growth and expansion are critical to acquiring,

professionally training, and placing more Assistance Dogs across the country. In this case, ultimately placing more Assistance Dogs along the east coast from the Northeast Campus and relying less on cross-country transportation from the west coast.

"This is a monumental moment for Dogs for Better Lives, and one more step toward executing our four-year strategic plan, that supports the long-range vision in growing this organization into a national footprint," stated CEO Bryan Williams. "I'm so proud of everyone who put so many hours into making this project a reality."

The properties acquired in Falmouth, MA consist of a former veterinary clinic and an existing pet

boarding facility. The pet boarding facility will receive several significant upgrades to its facilities, including renovation of flooring in exercise areas for the dogs including indoor flooring and installation of artificial turf in all outdoor play areas.

Sarah McCracken joined DBL and its leadership team in late February and is overseeing the acquisition and management of the Northeast Campus, as its Executive Director. Sarah comes to DBL with an extensive background in Assistance Dog training and management, having most recently worked in a similar role for Canine Companions for Independence on their south-central campus in Texas.

“This closing on our future northeast campus is truly a milestone for Dogs for Better Lives,” stated Executive Director – Northeast Region, Sarah McCracken.

“We’re excited to be advancing forward on building renovations, acquiring puppy raisers, and eventually bringing dogs-in-training onto this new campus.”

With the launch of a Northeast Campus, DBL will be able to further expand their volunteer base and allow individuals in the Northeast region to participate in the puppy raising program. Puppy raising is both a critical part of the organization’s structure and values, and one of the most rewarding ways a local volunteer can participate in DBL’s mission. Within the past three months, five puppies have already arrived and been placed in homes in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Puppy raising has become a vital

component to DBL as the organization cannot find enough suitable shelter dogs to work with, especially during the current pandemic, where many shelters are shut down and/or have a limited number of dogs on site. DBL’s breeding program and dog acquisition from other organizations (Southeastern Guide Dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Guide Dog Foundation, Assistance Dogs International’s ABC Cooperative) helps to augment our dogs-in-training supply as DBL continues to expand their own breeding program.

The new Northeast Campus will also open new opportunities within our shelter dog program with the creation of new partnerships with shelters and rescues along the east coast. Having a campus on both the east and west coast will help alleviate cross-country transportation costs as well as improve staff time management while helping decrease the amount of time and stress a dog may experience while traveling for professional training or placement with a client. All these opportunities enable DBL to not only serve more clients but do so while also increasing support to clients and volunteers and remaining fiscally responsible.

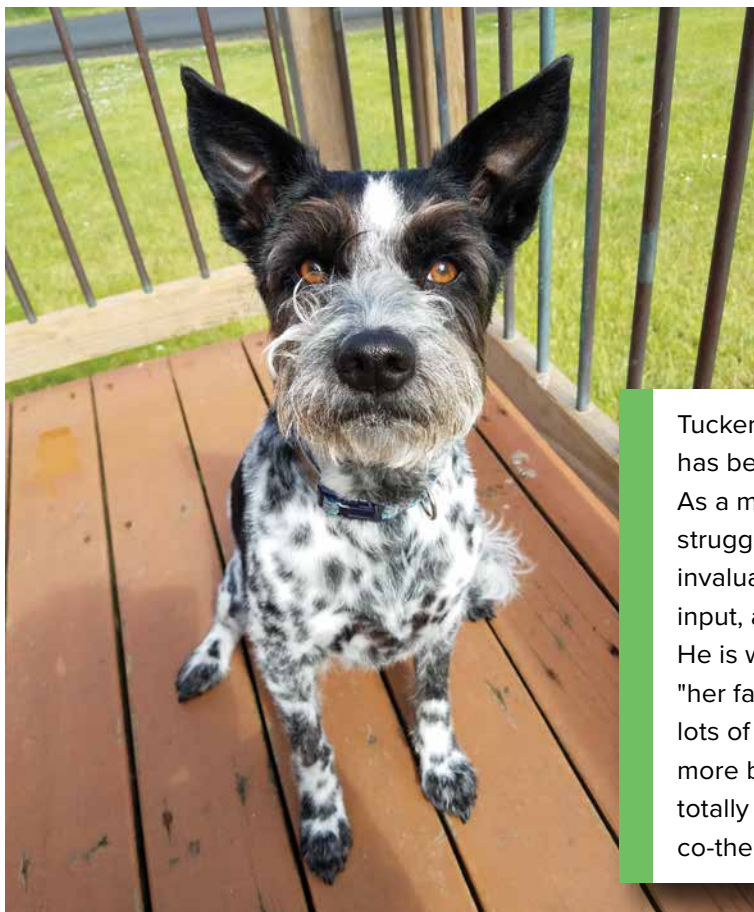
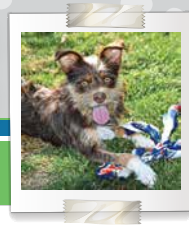
“On behalf of DBL’s National Board, we are thrilled to see this northeast campus begin to take shape, ultimately becoming our second campus, and more importantly, our east coast campus,” stated Board Chairman, David Hollingsworth. “Resources, logistics, and growth, will all be in play here, as DBL further implements its 2020 Vision and strategic plan.”

This is a monumental moment for Dogs for Better Lives, and one more step toward executing our four year strategic plan, that supports the long-range vision in growing this organization into a truly national footprint,” stated CEO Bryan Williams.



2021 Photo Contest

DOGS for better LIVES



GRAND PRIZE WINNER TUCKER

Owner: Brenda Reed

Tucker (aka Gunner) is a Dogs For Better Lives Facility Dog and has been Brenda's best buddy and beloved co-therapist for 6 years. As a mental health therapist, Brenda works with clients who are struggling with trauma, anxiety, depression, etc., and Tucker is an invaluable asset in this work. He provides comfort, calming sensory input, and comic relief (especially when he wags his tail in his sleep!). He is well loved at work and Brenda's colleagues often call him "her favorite co-worker". He definitely earns his paycheck of treats, lots of belly rubs, and ear scratches. On his off time, he loves walks, more belly rubs, and trips to the beach. He is smart, funny, and totally chill. Brenda couldn't ask for a better companion and co-therapist!

2nd PLACE

BECKLEY

Owner: Jill Pike



3rd PLACE

LUKE A.

Owner: Jodi Anicello



4th PLACE

MUFFIN JANE

Owner: Deborah Finney



5th PLACE

LUKE

Owner: Tracy Lang



BOARD NEWS

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBER

PATTY JENSEN – JOINED JULY 2021

Patty Jensen is originally from Ann Arbor, Michigan and attended the University of Michigan, majoring in communications and marketing. She started her career in Chicago but ended up finding herself in Southern California. While working as a manager of a large publication design department, she headed over to Epson to work as a merchandising manager. She met her husband, who is a Creative Director, and owned his own marketing and design agency, in the early 1990s. Jensen joined his agency and added many more clients, mainly in consumer electronics industry.

Jensen's initial interest in Dogs for Better Lives was sparked by their work with Autism Assistance Dogs. She worked with children with autism while in college and has several friends and acquaintances with children on the spectrum. She also has a love for dogs and understands how their fierce sense of loyalty and unconditional love can bring so much joy and comfort to anyone's life.

Jensen is excited to join the board of directors for Dogs for Better Lives and contribute on many different levels. Patty brings a strong knowledge of marketing, networking, and design to the table. Further she is interested in helping to recruit for the Young Professionals Board (CA) as well as promote the National Ambassador program to prospective new volunteers.

Patty and her husband have one adult son and a Pomeranian with three legs named Desi.

"As DBL further advances its regional and national reach, community partnerships, strategic marketing, and client experience have been and will continue to be critical to our success," stated CEO Bryan Williams. "From committee participation to philanthropic engagement, Patty will play a strategic role in helping to further advance DBL as a national leader in the Assistance Dog world."

With Patty Jensen's appointment, this brings DBL's national board to 17 members. Outside of eight members in Oregon, the national board has directors residing in six other states across the country, including California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina (2), and Washington (2).



BOARD NEWS

DBL RECOGNIZES LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER AL LANE



During the July quarterly meeting of DBL's National Board of Directors, outgoing member Al Lane was recognized for his service, with a brief presentation. During Lane's six years on the board, he served as vice president, following that up with serving as board president. The suite inside the North Kennel's whelping room has now been recognized in Al and Kimberly Lane's honor.

During Al Lane's tenure on the national board, both he and his wife Kimberly Lane volunteered as puppy raisers for Labrador Harley, who has since been placed as an Autism Assistance Dog. "Fostering Harley and seeing the impact he has on an autistic child's life (and that of his family) touched our hearts," stated Lane.

"Al has certainly experienced significant change in Dogs for the Deaf, now Dogs for Better Lives, during this tenure," stated Board Chairman David Hollingsworth. "We are forever grateful for his service, leadership, and commitment, and we look forward to his future engagement with DBL."

Dating back to 2015, Lane has seen an enormous amount of change, progress, and growth with the national nonprofit, including organizational name/branding change from Dogs for the Deaf to Dogs for Better Lives, completion of 18,000 sq. ft. North Kennel, and launching of Autism Assistance Dog program. Later in his tenure, he played an instrumental role during the transition in CEO leadership change, expansion of the national board, and supporting the acquisition of DBL's future Northeast Campus in Massachusetts, among other initiatives.

Raise a puppy. Change a life.

www.dogsforbetterlives.org/puppyraiser



BOARD SPOTLIGHT

DBL FAMILY MOURNS RECENT LOSS OF BOARD MEMBER JEFF RHODEN, RECOGNIZING HIS DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

Board member and longtime southern Oregon resident Jeff Rhoden passed away on August 4th from COVID19. Truly a shock and saddening to all that knew him within the Dogs for Better Lives' (DBL) family, including staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers, among others.

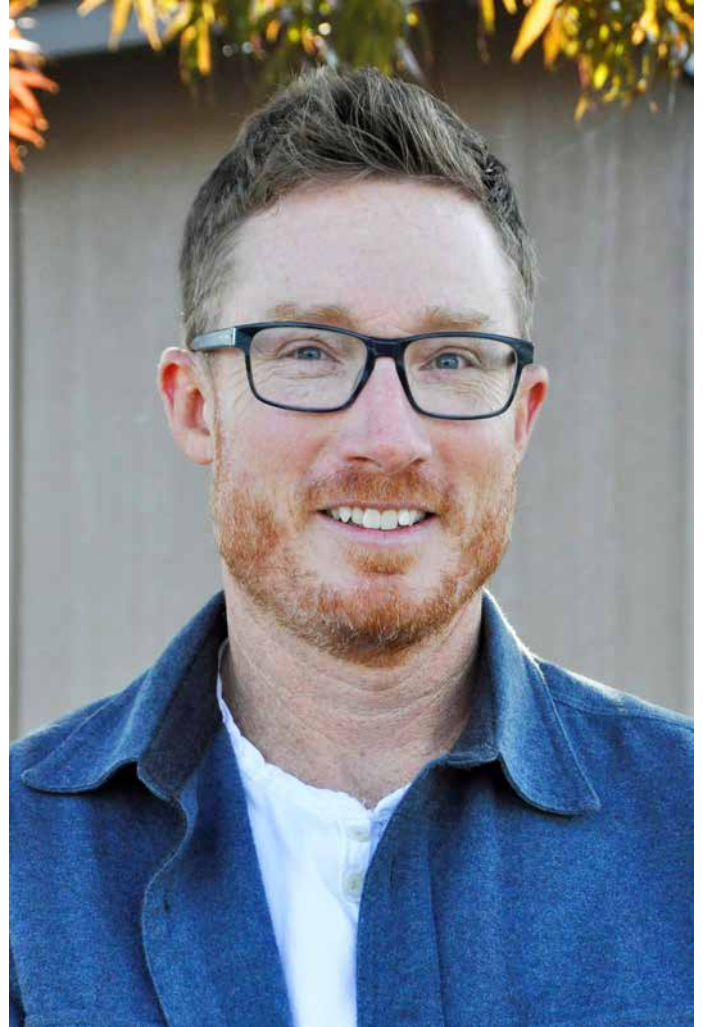
"He brought a level of empathy, love and wisdom to Dogs for Better Lives that was respected and cherished by all....as well as a good laugh daily. He will be missed, but never forgotten," shared Board Secretary, Matt Dunbar.

In honoring Jeff Rhoden's commitment and compassionate support for DBL, leadership and the board of directors have decided to name one of the (west side) running yards at the North Kennel, in Jeff's honor. A permanent plaque will be placed on the chain link fence, to include his name and photo.

"Jeff was a vital part of the DBL Board of Directors and always a pleasure to work with, stated Board Chairman David Hollingsworth. "He was also very involved in our local Southern Oregon community, lending a hand to those in need and having a tremendous positive impact on the community. He will be greatly missed by so many, and our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time."

Jeff had been serving on DBL's national board of directors since 2019, as well as actively participating on the board's operation committee and development & marketing committee.

"The DBL board and staff are still trying to process this news, an obvious shock to those of us that knew him," stated CEO Bryan Williams. "Jeff's contributions at the board level were truly valued, along with his witty sense of humor, compassion for others, and insightfulness on key discussion topics. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time."



FOSTER PUPPY PROGRAM

FOSTER PUPPIES IN CALIFORNIA

By LAURA ENCINAS, Staff

At one point a few months ago, California had 5 puppy raisers. Unfortunately, the first pup placed in Merced was career changed due to allergies. We cannot give a client a dog with medical problems so "Joy" was released from training and placed in a pet home in the Southern Oregon area. The remaining 4 pups are ranging in age from 8 months to 14 months. They are still young dogs but are looking more and more like adults.

"Albus" the Goldendoodle is now 14 months old and residing in Fresno, CA. He will be returning for formal training in October. He has been with his raiser Hanna since he was procured from 4E Kennels in September 2020. It is very bittersweet for her, but she is looking forward to him helping someone better their life.

"Cedar" the black Labrador is part of our "C" litter and residing in Camino, CA. They have been prepared to evacuate for the past two months due to fires in the Lake Tahoe area. He is a whopping 75 pounds at 12 months old! He spends his days with his retired raisers, going on outings and spending time in their wood shop. He also spends lots of time with their grandchildren

"Archie" the yellow Labrador is residing in Fairfield, CA. He is now 10 months old. He goes to work with his raiser every day, brightening the days of all the office staff. He also goes on many outings, the raiser stating that she can take him anywhere!

"Ezra" the black Labrador is residing in Ojai, CA. She is now 8 months old. Her raiser just returned to school in person and plans to take her once she gets settled into her classes. She lives on a property with rabbits, goats, a parrot, and a small dog. She enjoys lots of walks in the Ojai foothills and outings with her raiser. We have enjoyed watching these pups grow and looking forward to the possibilities and lives they will enhance and change!



ALBUS



ARCHIE



CEDAR



EZRA

We are so thankful to all our volunteers for all their time and tireless efforts! They make up an integral part of the DBL team. With their efforts, DBL continues to make lives better.

CLIENT'S CORNER

HOW WE'VE GROWN

By DR. DANIELLE ROSE, Client/Board Member

I had the pleasure of talking with my namesake Danielle Kempe, Dogs for Better Lives' new Development Manager Northeast Region, about the history of Dogs for Better Lives. Since I have progressed to "old timer" status now on my third dog from DBL, I was relaying to her what we did when I received my first dog, Chuckie. He was funded by the Good Sam's Club chapter in Tifton, Georgia.

My husband Cameron and I were invited to attend the Georgia Good Sam's Samboree celebration and demonstrate Chuckie's hearing dog skills. It was in a big agricultural center building set up with many booths and they had about 125 people. There was a bake sale table for Dogs for the Deaf as we were known then and many booths had donation boxes as well. Chuckie loved being the center of attention and his usual charming self.



After the demo and business meeting, they invited us to lead the Mardi Gras celebration parade all around the building. This was well before the cellphone, and we forgot our camera. By the time Chuckie passed at age 12 year, cellphones had become the norm and I have more pictures of Ginger, my second dog. Ginger was jointly sponsored by Good Sam's Chapters and individual donors. We were invited to attend a regional Samboree in Texarkana, AR who wanted to show their members what Dogs for the Deaf does. Ginger had been a demo dog before she came to me, and she loved meetings. She was always happiest in the busiest place around. She sashayed around the Mardi Gras parade in her purple beads and brought on many smiles. The people we met in both Chapters were primarily retirees who were exceptionally gracious and generous as well as very proud of their organization and philanthropy.



I told Danielle, that I believe those personal connections made by demonstrations and group activities that bring people together to support Dogs for Better Lives, laid the seeds for our Guardian Society (planned giving) donors today. Although the technology, natural disasters, and pandemic have dramatically changed the settings of these connections, they are equally important today. I am grateful we have been able to use the internet technology to continue training and placing dogs as well as seeking the donations to do so.

Opening an East Coast center has long been a dream of mine, and now we have it! The Northeast Center in Falmouth, MA is open. What a major milestone met from all those "seeds" of connection planted over the years. This a wonderful time to celebrate the collaboration of so many who have helped DBL grow.

Outside activities like RVing and golf are coming back due to the pandemic. Delight and I notice more people outside on our walks. Now I have a cellphone with internet and the Wooftrax (phone app) program tracking our miles for a chance to win a donation for Dogs for Better Lives. Our phone pictures on the job have linked us to our LinkedIn contacts who support us. Every time I see a post or logo from Dogs for Better Lives, it makes me smile. Even our Amazon Smile purchases make me smile as Amazon will send a percent of my purchases to Dogs for Better Lives.

It is these frequent reminders and connections both "electronic" and in person that are important in helping those seeds of contact grow into new partnerships. Relationships that support our clients and dogs while providing for our mission to make more teams possible. So here I offer you a little Mardi Gras parade visual of all of those connections dancing across the infinite screens of contact that make up our lives today to celebrate our gratitude to all of you who have helped Dogs for Better Lives grow.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

By ANDREA WOODCOCK, DBL Program Field Representative

On April 30, 2020, I left Central Point Oregon in my RV with my three dogs and my sixteen-year-old cat. It was peak pandemic, and I was relocating to the East Coast. Dogs for Better Lives had a need for a Program Field Representative in the east and I had been wanting to relocate there for several years to be closer to some very good friends. It was a quick trip, due to the pandemic. I made it across the country in about five days, staying at rest stops and only leaving the RV to walk the dogs.



Once I arrived, I stayed on my friend's property in New York. One of the biggest challenges I saw for our clients was the lack of opportunities to train their dogs now that they were stuck at home. I created the client Facebook page, and I would post several training challenges a week, so that the clients would have something to work on. I also hosted client cocktail hours to create a sense of community among the clients during a time when many of us were isolated.

Currently my work revolves around looking to expand our puppy raising program in the New England Area. We are looking for

people to take in an eight-week-old Labrador puppy, raise them in their home for a year, and give them back so that we can train them to be an assistance dog. This is one of the most difficult, but most rewarding volunteer jobs that there is. It is challenging to find people who are willing to put the time, love, and sacrifice into raising a puppy.

In November of 2020 I relocated from New York to New Hampshire after New York changed travel laws so that I was still able to travel for DBL and do placements. My fiancé and I are settled in a log home in the woods with a pack of dogs, my sixteen-year-old cat, three chickens, four hamsters, a frog, and a lizard. I am thankful to DBL for giving me the opportunity to move east and help further the mission.

PUPPY RAISERS CORNER



MASSACHUSETTS PUPPY RAISER JACKIE KOLLER'S STORY

By JACKIE KOLLER, Puppy Raiser

Why did I decide to be a puppy raiser for DBL? It's complicated. Dogs have always been an important part of our family, but when my husband, George, and I lost our black Lab, Tess, in 2019, George was battling Parkinson's and another dog seemed too much to handle. Then came Covid, and in spring of 2020, George contracted it and passed away. I spent the rest of 2020 and the early months of 2021 isolated, trying to come to terms with his passing. After fifty years of marriage, it was hard for me to envision life without him. It was tempting to just give in to the sorrow and sit around all day, reading or watching TV, but I knew George wouldn't want that and I worried about the example I'd be setting for my kids and grandkids. I finally pulled myself together began to move on. I signed onto a service called Volunteer Match, which sent me lists of local volunteer opportunities, and as soon as I was fully vaccinated, I volunteered at a local charity where I could use my artistic talents to help people in need.

It gave me new purpose, and I began to see a path forward. I threw myself into the work and began to think about getting a dog again. I was in my seventies, though, and I worried about another fourteen- or fifteen-year commitment. I decided it wasn't a wise move, gave up on the idea, and settled into my new routine. Out of curiosity, I continued to read the messages from Volunteer Match, and one evening, there was the call from Dogs for Better Lives for puppy raisers. I was immediately tempted but told myself that I shouldn't rock the boat. "Don't do it. Don't do it." I told myself when I went to bed that night. And then, my first thought the next morning was, "Do it!"

Seven weeks later, an adorable little bundle of fur sat on my doorstep staring up at me with soulful brown eyes. It was love at first sight. Finn was a joy from day one. He immediately accepted his crate, and by night three he was sleeping through the night. He was so smart, quickly mastering the tasks set for him by our trainer, Andrea Woodcock. He tolerated his vest right away. The Gentle Leader took a bit longer, but now, at 4 months, he walks several miles a day on a slack leash, ignoring distractions like bikers, other walkers, barking dogs, etc. I adore him and everyone who meets him is instantly charmed. He is so cute, sweet, and well behaved. Letting go won't be easy, I know, but he will make a great companion to someone who really needs him, and that is what I keep in mind. Sharing your home and heart with a furry little bundle of love, and making a difference in someone's life, too? What's not to love?

"Sharing your home and heart with a furry little bundle of love, and making a difference in someone's life, too? What's not to love?"



Give Your Dog a Special Treat

Order a DBL doggie bandana subscription to show off your dog's sense of style, and support our mission at the same time!

dogsforbetterlives.org/bandanarama/

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

EXPANDING REGIONAL PAWPRINT

By JO CABALLERO, YPB Board Member

The Young Professionals Board of Dogs for Better Lives has been small but mighty. This quarter we have added FIVE members to our pack!

Not only have we increased our numbers, but we have also made significant progress in:

- Our mission statement and branding
- Social Media outreach initiatives

The Young Professionals Board of Dogs for Better Lives aims to “be a leader in our communities in education, awareness, elevation and support of Dogs for Better Lives and its mission.”

We want to support DBL, but more importantly, we want our work to further educate and inform about the organization and its mission. For instance, the importance of the human/animal bond and how we as an organization work to achieve that with each of our dog/human partnerships.

We mention being a leader, because we want the DBL YPB to be ubiquitous with the assistance dog industry.

Look for us on Facebook and Instagram -- We can't wait to interact!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD – PNW AND OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN YPBS IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY, VISIT:

www.dogsforbetterlives.org/young-professionals-board/



SARA TORELLI

Seattle native and school-based Mental Health Counselor. Sara brings incredible volunteer experience and passion.



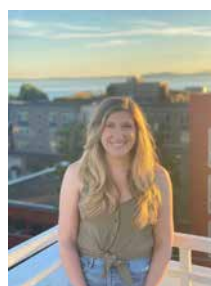
ALISON CAVANER

Oregon-based College and Career Advisor with ample volunteer experience.



MARIAH KURPULIS

Not only does she also bring years of volunteer experience, but Mariah also brings her Pet Therapy Handler certifications to our group.



ELSA REMAK

PR professional and resident social media hound -- Watch for her as we begin outreach on social media.



ELENA TELLO PORTOLES

Our newest member is an educator and dog lover alike.

NUPRO DOG SUPPLEMENT

Specially designed to condition your pet from the inside out.



For more information contact:

Janice at 1-800-360-3300 or 732-786-8822

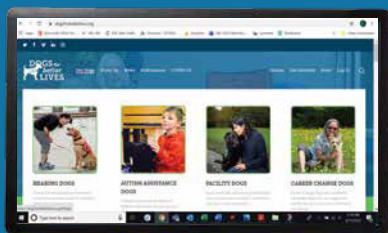
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SAVE PAPER

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our website is always open

www.dogsforbetterlives.org



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VERONA MODELING ON OUR NEW TURF AT THE NE DBL CAMPUS