

# CANINE LISTENER

MAGAZINE

DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES • SPRING 2022 • NO.140

Harry & David

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR BETTER LIVES

WITH HARRY & DAVID

## STEP UP FOR SERVICE DOGS

NEW PARTNERSHIP LETS SUPPORTERS WALK  
TO SUPPORT DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES



**'MY CAUSE, MY CLEATS' INITIATIVE**  
NFL PLAYER ERIC SAUBERT REPS DBL

**DBL WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS**  
RICH PERLMAN, EMILY NELSON, & MICHELLE FARABAUGH

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## ON THE COVER

DBL Assistance Dogs in Training Major posing at Harry and David's Country Village.

Cover photo taken by Kayla Galvan



## CANINE LISTENER TEAM

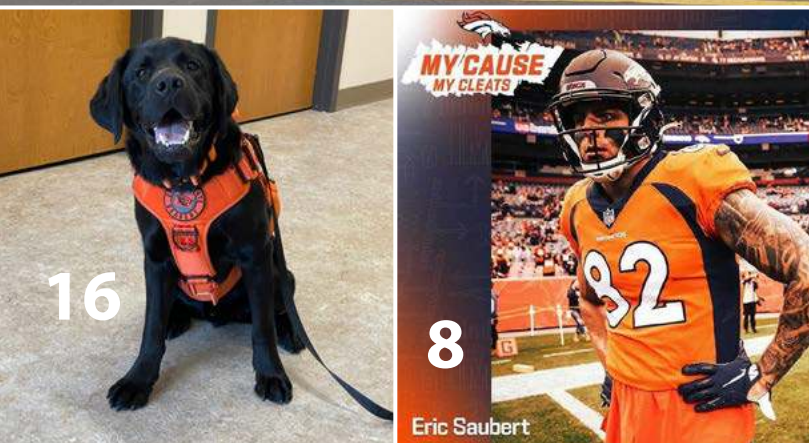
Managing Editor — Lacy Priesmeyer

Contributing Editors — Laura Encinas, Sara Ifert, Jo Caballero

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# PRESIDENT & CEO

## LETTER FROM BRYAN WILLIAMS



During my MBA program, I participated in an activity I have never forgotten throughout my career. The final week before graduation, we were partnered with a student in a different cohort with the goal of acquiring what was written on a notecard that was handed to us moments before we began negotiations. Purposefully, we had never met or interacted with the student across from us. Was this person trustworthy? Would this person lie to achieve the goal? There was no way to know.

Armed with years of a training through the rigorous program, we thought we were deft negotiators, and each side was ready to win, unwilling to give up an inch to get what we wanted. Each side held information close to the vest, fearing that a slip of the tongue would give the other side leverage. Hours passed and as the deadline for completing negotiations neared, panic set in. The assignment had to be completed on time or we would not be allowed to walk with our class. In the end, each side caved, neither getting exactly what we wanted. It was easy to see dejection on faces as students returned to the lecture hall. The professors in the room asked, who achieved the goals they were assigned? Zero hands were raised into the air.

Two professors faced each other, and one asked, what goals are you trying to achieve? Holding nothing back, one of the professors read verbatim the goals written on his notecard. The other professor did the same. Each traded their respective notecard and began discussing how they could work together to help each other. In five minutes, an agreement was reached, and a partnership was born. Many students left upset, complaining of a trick assignment, and wasted time. I left with an invaluable lesson, thinking back to many wasted opportunities. I've brought that attitude to working with people, organizations, and businesses ever since. If we start from a place of trust, believing that together we can accomplish more, true partnerships are born.

Dogs for Better Lives' mission is bigger than one organization. We know that the demand for the amazing dogs we train and place with the clients we serve may never be met. To change more lives, we must look outside our walls. We must look at ways in which people, businesses, and organizations can work together to accomplish more. For partnerships to be true partnerships, we must begin from a place of trust, share common goals, and define how we can work together to accomplish these goals. We are humble enough to recognize that we need help to get to where we want to go.

One of my favorite authors is Simon Sinek who says, "Trust emerges when we have a sense that another person or organization is driven by things other than their own self-gain." This is critical to effective partnerships and we, at Dogs for Better Lives, feel it is so important that we built it into our 'why'. At Dogs for Better Lives, we believe it's an honor to be a part of something bigger than ourselves and we're impassioned with what we do. Operating as a team, we put the mission above the individual, trusting in one another to break through challenges and obstacles to maintain our mission of bettering lives by matching people with the amazing dogs we train.

If we truly aim to grow the reach of our mission and become the organization we envision, we must rely on partnerships to take us across the finish line. For those currently partnering with DBL, thank you. For those considering it, please reach out to us. I look forward to future and continued collaborations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Williams".

Bryan Williams  
President & CEO

# PLACEMENTS

**DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES IS COMMITTED TO PURSUING OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE DOGS TO PEOPLE ACROSS THE NATION, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT OUR DOGS ENRICH PEOPLE'S LIVES IN WAYS BEYOND MEASURE.**



## **FD RUTH & ALLISON**

*UTAH*

Facility Dog Ruth was placed with Allison in American Fork, Utah. Allison is a teacher in a special education classroom for elementary school-aged children. Allison and Ruth quickly bonded and developed a great working relationship. Although this is Allison's first dog as an adult, she naturally took to the training process and said that it was very similar to working with young children.

Ruth is a fixture in Allison's classroom as she helps to reward good behavior from the children and makes trying new things less scary. Ruth works place, settle, squish (lap/lower back), visit, touch, shake, high five, and retrieve for Allison.

Allison said that she is excited to have Ruth and that she can see the impact her presence and tasks have on the students in her classroom and the school. She's also happy to have Ruth as her pet at home so she can go on long walks to explore local parks and get all the puppy snuggles that she's been missing out on.

At placement, Allison said that her favorite memory was when they were training at the school. A few students had approached Ruth to pet her, and Allison was explaining that Ruth was going to be coming to class each day to work in their home room. The look of pure shock and happiness that spread over the kids' faces was impactful to Allison and she said it made her so excited to get to work!



## **AAD TAYLOR & JAMES**

*WASHINGTON*

Autism Assistance Dog Taylor was placed with James in Spokane, Washington. James' family applied for an Autism Assistance dog and have been on the wait list for 2 years. They were very excited when they were offered Taylor.

After meeting Taylor, the family quickly warmed up to her, with James referring to her as his new dog sister. James is a little shy and can struggle to make friends, but Taylor is an excellent match that helps bring him out of his shell. James' parents said they were most excited for Taylor to be a social bridge in public spaces, hopefully bringing people towards James and helping him to build social skills and engage more.

James is most excited for Taylor to work the deep pressure therapy tasks for him like squish and lap. Taylor will also be working touch, visit, and settle. Although James doesn't use anchoring, he does have his own leash attached to her vest in public that prevents James from wandering and keeps him more focused.

# PLACEMENTS



## **HHD FERN & LEAH** *OREGON*

Home Hearing Dog Fern was placed with Leah in Portland, Oregon. Fern came to DBL in November of 2020 from Southeastern Guide dogs in Florida. Back in April, DBL learned it would be best for Fern to be a Home Hearing Dog to help avoid putting her in uncomfortable situations with public restrooms and tight spaces. This was also a deciding factor to try and avoid sending her to a client that required flying.

Leah and her spouse both work in the forestry field and are a very active couple. They enjoy backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, marathon running, swimming, and being outdoors which is perfect for Fern and her ability to keep up with an active lifestyle.

Fern was a quick learner with sound work and was eager to alert her handler to sounds. Those sounds include oven timer, smoke alarm, alarm clock, door knock, doorbell, telephone, and name call. Leah grasped the sequence of sound work with ease, and near the end was able to problem-solve and help decide how to work through challenges. Leah was instantly smitten with Fern and said that Fern warmed up to their home and settled in nicely.



## **AAD LIZ & ROWAN** *OREGON*

Autism Assistance Dog Liz was placed with Rowan in Oregon. Rowan and their family have waited 2 1/2 years for Liz. Rowan's parents talked about how hard it was for Rowan, waiting to be matched. When Rowan was asked if Liz was worth the wait Rowan said, "Absolutely. Without a doubt. She's wonderful!"

Liz does visit, lap, squish, touch, and settle with Rowan. Rowan is a great trainer and has Liz doing all the cues, often showing their parents how it's done. Liz also knows a few tricks like fetch and shake and Rowan LOVES showing that off to folks.

Liz slept on the bed the first night with Rowan and every night after that. After that first night, Rowan said, "It was just so wonderful. Liz took up a lot of the bed, but I still slept so well. I think it's because I was so warm and loved." Rowan was eager to take on responsibility and gladly measures and feeds Liz her meals and goes out into the yard with her each time she potties to clean up after her.



## **CHD WALDO & DIANA** *WEST VIRGINIA*

Certified Hearing Dog Waldo was placed with successor client Diana in West Virginia. Diana is absolutely thrilled with Waldo and said the second day of placement that, "it feels like he's just always been here." He's working the door knock, doorbell, phone, alarm clock, smoke alarm, and kitchen timer.

# PLACEMENTS



## **CHD TESLA & NONI** *CALIFORNIA*

Certified Hearing Dog Tesla was placed with successor client Winona (Noni) in San Luis Obispo, California. This is her third dog from Dogs for Better Lives. She recently lost her beloved “Glitter” so was over the moon to receive Miss Tesla. They bonded immediately and work together seamlessly! Tesla is working oven timer, doorbell, cell phone, landline phone, smoke alarm, RV smoke alarm, and door knocks in the RV.

Tesla has changed Noni’s life in so many ways. Noni feels more comfortable and confident going out and is planning an RV trip, which she hasn’t felt comfortable doing since she lost her last dog.



## **HHD POPPY & ALLISON** *CONNECTICUT*

Home Hearing Dog Poppy was placed with Allison of Connecticut. Allison is a college student who lives with her fiancé Jack. Poppy alerts Allison to the oven timer, phone, smoke alarm, doorbell, door knock, alarm clock, and name call. Poppy worked these sounds with ease at placement and both Allison and Jack were impressed with how quickly she took to working sounds in their home.

Allison says the thing she enjoys the most is when Poppy wakes her up to the alarm each morning, and the companionship that Poppy provides.



## **AAD SERENITY & LUKE** *OREGON*

Autism Assistance Dog Serenity was placed with Luke in Portland, Oregon. Luke had been patiently waiting on the waitlist for almost 3 years.

Serenity is the perfect calm dog to help keep Luke grounded and refocus his nervous energy. Luke’s mom says that his anxiety usually comes out in excited outbursts, compulsive behaviors, and movement, and Serenity has helped from day one to promote more stillness and calm. His parents said that his anxiety appears to be much lower since Serenity joined the household. Luke seeks tactile stimulation, and Serenity provides that while also providing deep pressure when needed. Luke’s mom recalled one day that Luke was wearing his glasses, something he normally never does. It was because the glasses are blue, and they match Serenity’s vest.

Luke’s favorite tasks are Squish and Lap. Serenity is also working touch, visit and settle. Luke isn’t using anchoring, but he does have his own leash attached to her vest that he enjoys holding and keeps him from wandering. He made sure to tell all his friends and neighbors, “she knows a lot of behaviors, but doesn’t know shake... can you believe that?”

# FOLLOW-UPS



## **FD DEACON & ROSIE**

*OREGON*

Facility Dog Deacon and Rosie have been working together for about a year and a half and are doing amazing! Deacon has become a part of Rosie's life flawlessly and they're a great fit. Rosie said that Deacon is perfect because he always goes with the flow and is just as willing to spend a weekend out hiking or on the couch. Deacon is working settle, lap, place, visit, squish, and high five for Rosie's classroom of middle school aged children. Rosie and Deacon did a phenomenal job on the public access test and have maintained a high level of obedience.



## **HHD POPPY & ALLI**

*CONNECTICUT*

Home Hearing Dog Poppy and Alli have been working together for a little over 5 months and Alli says she truly feels Poppy is her "soul dog" and that they have the greatest bond. Alli loves spoiling Poppy and that Poppy absolutely loves swimming, playing in the snow, and playing fetch.

## **CHD – CERTIFIED HEARING DOG**

Certified Hearing Dogs respond to sounds in the home and have Public Access with their person.

## **HHD – HOME HEARING DOG**

Home Hearing Dogs are trained to respond to sounds in the home but are not trained/certified to accompany their person in public.

## **FD – FACILITY DOG**

Facility Dogs go to work with and assist professionals such as physicians, teachers, counselors, police officers, and child advocates.

## **AAD – AUTISM ASSISTANCE DOG**

Autism Assistance Dogs are trained to enhance the safety of children with autism by acting as an anchor and preventing the child from bolting person.





## DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES WINS CENTRAL POINT CHAMBER SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD



Dogs for Better Lives was recently honored by the Central Point Chamber of Commerce (OR) as their 2022 Small Business of the Year.

The announcement was made during of the annual Chamber Denim and Diamonds Awards Banquet and Auction on March 12, 2022. Chamber members, local dignitaries, community leaders, and business owners attended the event and participated in the silent and live auction.

“The Central Point Chamber of Commerce was delighted to award the 2022 Small Business of the Year title to Dogs for Better Lives. This award is voted on by our Chamber Members, recognizing a fellow business as a standout business,” said Steph Hendrickson from the Central Point Chamber of Commerce.

Trish Welch, VP of Operations at DBL attended the event and accepted the award on behalf of the entire Dogs for Better Lives Team. “It was great to be able to connect with members of the Central Point community at their awards ceremony and banquet. The entire team at DBL is incredibly proud to be recognized for our efforts and we are honored to have been nominated by fellow businesses in our area,” said Trish.

“Dogs for Better Lives consistently demonstrates excellence in business, community support and sustainability practices. We are proud and honored to include them in our Membership,” said Steph.

Dogs for Better Lives has been an engaged member of the Central Point, Oregon community since moving to our 40-acre West Coast Campus at the base of Lower Table Rock in 1989.



TRISH WELCH, VP OF OPERATIONS AT DBL

## DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES RECEIVES GRANT FROM MUTTNATION FOUNDATION AND TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY

Dogs for Better Lives was recently surprised with a generous \$5,000 grant from Miranda Lambert's MuttNation Foundation and Tractor Supply Company. The grant is part of the MuttNation's Mutts Across America program that provides a quarter-million dollars in grants annually to shelters and animal nonprofits that promote animal welfare.

Each year the Foundation chooses a nonprofit in all 50 states to receive a grant. DBL was chosen as the Oregon nonprofit to receive the reward. Organizations are carefully vetted based on criteria such as rescuing dogs, fiscal responsibility, advocacy, community presence, website, and social media presence and more.

DBL maintains a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed by continuously keeping their physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing at the center of all our decisions. The DBL team is also dedicated to our community of clients and supporters, providing our services with kindness, compassion, and transparency.

"We're so appreciative of Miranda Lambert's MuttNation Foundation and Tractor Supply Company for their grant in support of our organization," stated CEO Bryan Williams. "With only one winner per state each year, we know there is a high bar to be selected as a recipient. This honor is truly a testament to the hard work of DBL's staff, volunteers, and partners in Oregon and across the country."

Since 2018, MuttNation's Mutts Across America has supported more than 350 shelters with over \$1.5 million in grants.



MEMBERS OF THE DBL STAFF AND THREE ASSISTANCE DOGS IN TRAINING POSE WITH THE COMMEMORATIVE CHECK FROM MUTTNATION



**As our valued donor, we would like to hear from you!**

We would love to hear how you think we're doing, and how we can better communicate with you according to your preferences. Our team at Dogs for Better Lives will use this information to explore ways that we can improve.

**Take our survey at this link: [dogsforbetterlives.org/survey](https://dogsforbetterlives.org/survey)**

## DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES NORTHEAST TRAINING CAMPUS OFFICIALLY OPEN

On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, the Northeast Campus of Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) officially opened to the public. Members of the DBL Board and staff joined the community for a ribbon cutting event with the Cape Cod and Falmouth Chambers of Commerce. Members of the community were welcome to attend the event where they toured the fully renovated facility, met DBL puppies-in-training, and spoke with staff.



MEMBERS OF THE DBL BOARD AND LEADERSHIP TEAM, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, CUT THE RIBBON TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NORTHEAST CAMPUS.

The facility will operate as a boarding and dog daycare facility for the public and will also offer training and kennel space for our Assistance Dogs in training.

In 2020, DBL's Vision and four-year strategic plan focused on the growth and expansion needed to acquire and professionally train more Assistance Dogs across the United States. The new Northeast Campus will make it possible to provide more Assistance Dogs to people in need across the eastern U.S., without relying on costly cross-country transportation from our West Coast Campus.

"This is an exciting milestone for Dogs for Better Lives. The demand for Assistance Dogs is greater than ever, and our new Northeast Campus will help us place more dogs, in the northeast and across the nation. The high-quality facility we're unveiling today is a true testament to the tireless work of our staff," said CEO Bryan Williams.

The Falmouth facility was purchased in May of 2021 and was briefly open to the public before closing for the fall and winter months for a full renovation. Thanks to donor support, kennels have been renovated, higher-quality flooring has been installed, and the outside exercise yards were upgraded to bring the facility into the modern era, providing a safe and clean space for all dogs on-site.

"We can't wait to welcome Assistance Dogs in training to our new campus soon," stated executive director – northeast region, Sarah McCracken. "We've come a long way with renovations and building connections in the community. To support this next phase, we're eager to recruit more puppy raisers in the Northeast."

DBL is looking for puppy raisers and breeder caretakers in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, DC, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia & Virginia to continue to build the volunteer network necessary to train and place more dogs. To learn more about ways to support DBL and/or become a puppy raiser, visit our website's "Get Involved" section at [dogsforbetterlives.org/get-involved](https://dogsforbetterlives.org/get-involved).

"We're thrilled to be officially opening our doors of our new training campus to the Cape Cod community," stated board chairman, David Hollingsworth. "With today's opening of our training campus and boarding facility, our strategic plan for expansion takes another major step forward," stated David.



# PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER LIVES

## PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER LIVES WITH HARRY & DAVID

*By Wanda Cockey, DBL West region Development Manager*

In the summer of 1993, Harry & David made their first corporate gift to Dogs for the Deaf (now Dogs for Better Lives) in tribute to one of their employees. Since that first gift, Harry & David has continued to support the programs and mission of Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) with significant donations! Their consistent partnership and support over the years has helped DBL to grow in multiple ways.

In 2017, DBL launched a new Corporate Program known as Partnerships in Excellence. Harry & David was one of the first to join as a key partner with this new venture. The next year, Rhonda Klug, Head of Experiential Marketing at Harry & David, joined the Corporate Partner's Leadership Team and helped to recruit additional committed businesses for the Corporate Program over the next two years.

The partnership directly supported the placement of an Autism Assistance Dog in 2018, a Hearing Assistance Dog in 2019, and the complete renovation



ATTENDEES AT THE HARRY & DAVID DINNER AT DBL'S CENTRAL POINT CAMPUS LISTEN AS CHEF SKYLER GOLDEN OF TRUFFLE PIG CRAFT KITCHEN INTRODUCES THEIR FIVE-COURSE MEAL AND PAIRINGS FOR THE EVENING.

of the West Coast Campus' original kennels built in the early 1980s. And then, suddenly, the COVID-19 pandemic devastated the world. The DBL campus closed, and most staff worked remotely as much as possible.

The Partnerships in Excellence program built around quarterly meetings and corporate mixers, had to pause.

In late 2021 when the world began to re-open, it became apparent that the model would need to be revamped. This would not hinder Harry & David's commitment to partnering with DBL - on the contrary. Their commitment had only grown stronger as they looked for ways to care for their community members. Last year, Harry & David's philanthropic support made an impact on the well-being and health of dogs in training and puppies whelped through a gift-in-support of veterinarian care.



BRYAN WILLIAMS, DBL CEO; NED FORD, HARRY & DAVID CFO; STEVE LIGHTMAN, HARRY & DAVID GROUP PRESIDENT GOURMET FOODS AND GIFT BASKETS; TRISH WELCH, DBL VP OF OPERATIONS; HARVEY POTTS, DBL VP OF DEVELOPMENT, SHARING SOME PUPPY LOVE BEFORE DINNER.

This partnership with Harry & David is so much more than just philanthropic support. Harry & David's Country Village staff welcome DBL trainers and dogs in-training onsite weekly, allowing program staff to work with their dogs in public; a very important aspect of the journey to become a Certified Assistance Dog. These outings with trainers and dogs in training assist with socialization, training around distractions and temptations, passing adults and children without greeting them as well as the sweet-smelling food in every bin! It is an essential part of training that all hopeful Assistance Dogs must go through to test their progress.

Most recently, the partnership created a joint venture with Harry & David Hosted Dinners on DBL's West Coast Campus in Central Point, OR. The training room located inside the West Coast Campus' North Kennel, built with concrete floors and specialty paint for maximum durability, was transformed into an elegant setting by Harry & David design staff. The exquisite five course meal was prepared by Chef Skyler Golden of Truffle Pig Craft Kitchen and ended with the dessert to melt your tastebuds – including the custom doggie bone cookie topper. The evening even brought an unsuspected donation from Robert Raymond in support of the DBL mission!



DBL congratulates Harry & David on their long-standing commitment to the communities they operate in Southern Oregon and across the country. Since 1934 Harry & David has been establishing firm roots in the Rogue Valley area with a brand that is known nationwide. From freshly picked fruit to expertly crafted gift baskets filled with delicious treats, Harry & David is committed to providing premium quality and excellence in every way. This year, Harry & David CEO Steve Lightman will be retiring, and we wish him the best. Steve's leadership has propelled the growth of the local and national brand during his time as CEO and he will be missed.

We at DBL have witnessed this excellence and are sincerely thankful to be one of the many organizations chosen by Harry & David as a worthy charitable partner. In the end, we believe we have a lot in common with Harry & David – each of us delivers joy to the doorstep of those we serve.

**This partnership with Harry & David is so much more than just philanthropic support. Harry & David's Country Village staff welcome DBL trainers and dogs in-training onsite weekly, allowing program staff to work with their dogs in public - a very important aspect of the journey to become a Certified Assistance Dog.**

# BOARD NEWS

## DBL WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### RICH PERLMAN – JOINED OCTOBER 2021

“The Board of Directors are pleased to welcome Rich Perlman onto DBL’s National Board of Directors,” stated board chairman David Hollingsworth. “Rich and his late wife Cynthia, as long-time donors, truly understand DBL’s mission and the critical work the national nonprofit orchestrates. Coming from the shipping and transportation industry, we appreciate Rich’s understanding and expertise in moving precious cargo from one point to another.”



BOARD MEMBER RICH PERLMAN

Cynthia and Rich had been annual donors to DBL for nearly 10-years, when Cynthia passed in 2017. In 2019-20, Rich made a significant gift in support of the future Puppy Sensory Park to be located on DBL’s West Coast Campus in Central Point, OR. The now Cynthia Perlman Puppy Sensory Park was dedicated with a ribbon cutting in Spring 2021 and is used regularly in training and presenting various environments to puppies, helping to orientate them to textures, smells, and experiences that they may encounter later in training and/or with their human.

### MICHELLE FARABAUGH - JOINED IN APRIL 2022

Michelle Farabaugh grew up in western Pennsylvania and was lured to the west coast 25 years ago, where she currently splits her time between California and Southern Oregon.

Michelle is an entrepreneurial-spirited, visionary executive whose nearly three decade career is hallmarked with CEO, chief marketing officer, and Board of Director roles for iconic retail brands, including Sommsation, Harry & David, BevMo!, Smith & Hawken, West Marine, and PetSmart.

“You can see the health and well-being of people improve when they have the love and support of a service dog with them,” stated new board member Michelle Farabaugh. “I am honored to work with an organization focused on the well-being of their clients and the dogs that will improve their lives for years to come.”



MICHELLE AND HER GOLDEN RETRIEVER, THEO

Michelle was recognized as a Top Women in Retail in 2019 and one of San Francisco’s Most Influential Women in Business in 2016. She earned an MBA in entrepreneurship from the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business, Babson.

# BOARD NEWS

First developing her love of dogs as a child, it wasn't until Michelle, and her husband trained their current dog to be a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and completed Therapy Dog Training that she genuinely appreciated the impact a dog can have on a person's life. Michelle's team would repeatedly ask her to bring her golden retriever to work with her.

"I believe it is important to give back. Dogs for Better Lives' values and their passion for dogs align well with my values and passions. I believe Dogs for Better Lives provides a valuable resource for several categories of people in need. DBL is making a positive impact and enhancing lives every day. I am honored to be a part of this growing organization."

## EMILY NELSON – JOINED JANUARY 2022

"The Board of Directors are pleased to welcome Emily Nelson onto DBL's National Board," stated Board Chairman David Hollingsworth. "With her extensive background in law and human resources, Emily will quickly help to augment DBL's national board and its growing northeast presence. Growing up and now living in Massachusetts, her community networks and contacts will further support the important growth DBL is focused on in New England and along the east coast."

Emily Nelson, a lifelong dog lover and New England native, recently returned to the Boston area where her family lives and she is excited to be a part of this growing national nonprofit.



BOARD MEMBER EMILY NELSON

Emily Nelson graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, then earned her law degree from Boston College Law School. She has practiced law for over 10 years and specializes in labor and employment law, spending the last several years working as in-house counsel for national corporations. Through this work, she has seen the incredible value that Assistance Dogs can provide in the workplace and more broadly in daily life. Along with her in-house practice, Emily provides pro bono legal services for survivors of domestic violence and serves as a volunteer alumni interviewer for Harvard.

As we continue to work towards growing and diversifying DBL's national Board, if you should have interest and/or know of someone that would make for a great addition, please visit our website's "About Us" page.

# FOSTER PUPPY PROGRAM

## FOSTER PUPPIES IN CALIFORNIA

By LAURA ENCINAS, Staff

There are many exciting milestones happening in California! The four of the five original puppies who were with puppy raisers in California have been returned to our Oregon campus for official Assistance Dog task training – of the five, one was released before official training started for skin allergies.

Since their return, one of the dogs, Cedar – who couldn't quite make it as an Assistance Dog due to his separation anxiety – was transferred Working Dogs Oregon to be placed as a Therapy Dog/Victim Support Dog with Oregon State University Police Department. Thus, giving DBL an opportunity to provide another life-changing dog! The three remaining dogs are doing well and remain in training to become Assistance Dogs.

We now have four new puppies in foster care in California:

- A 7-month Lab in the Sacramento area who came to us from the ABC Co-op.
- A 7-month Mini-Doodle currently in the San Francisco area donated by Brigadoon Service Dogs in Washington.
- A 4-month labradoodle in the San Jose area, and a 4-month labradoodle in Ojai – both donated from KC & CO Labradoodles in Arkansas.

The puppies are thriving in their puppy raiser homes – gaining a variety of experiences and learning general obedience. We're delighted to have two successor puppy raisers back raising a puppy with us again!

Last yet certainly not least, we currently have a shelter dog in training in California. The dog was procured from our rescue partner Valley Animal Haven in Lemoore, California. They have a staff trainer that works with the dogs, so most of the dogs have some training upon rescue. The little guy is doing well, adjusting, and learning how to behave in public.

We are so thankful to the network of rescue partners, assistance dog organization partners, breeders, and our volunteer puppy raisers and breeder caretakers! The partnerships we have are instrumental as we expand our services and broaden our networks to continue to change and better lives.



**LANDO**



**CEDAR**



**SAGE**

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.



# 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

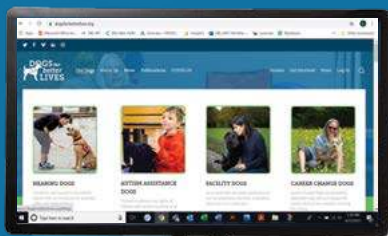
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# SAVE PAPER

# FIND US ONLINE

our website is always open

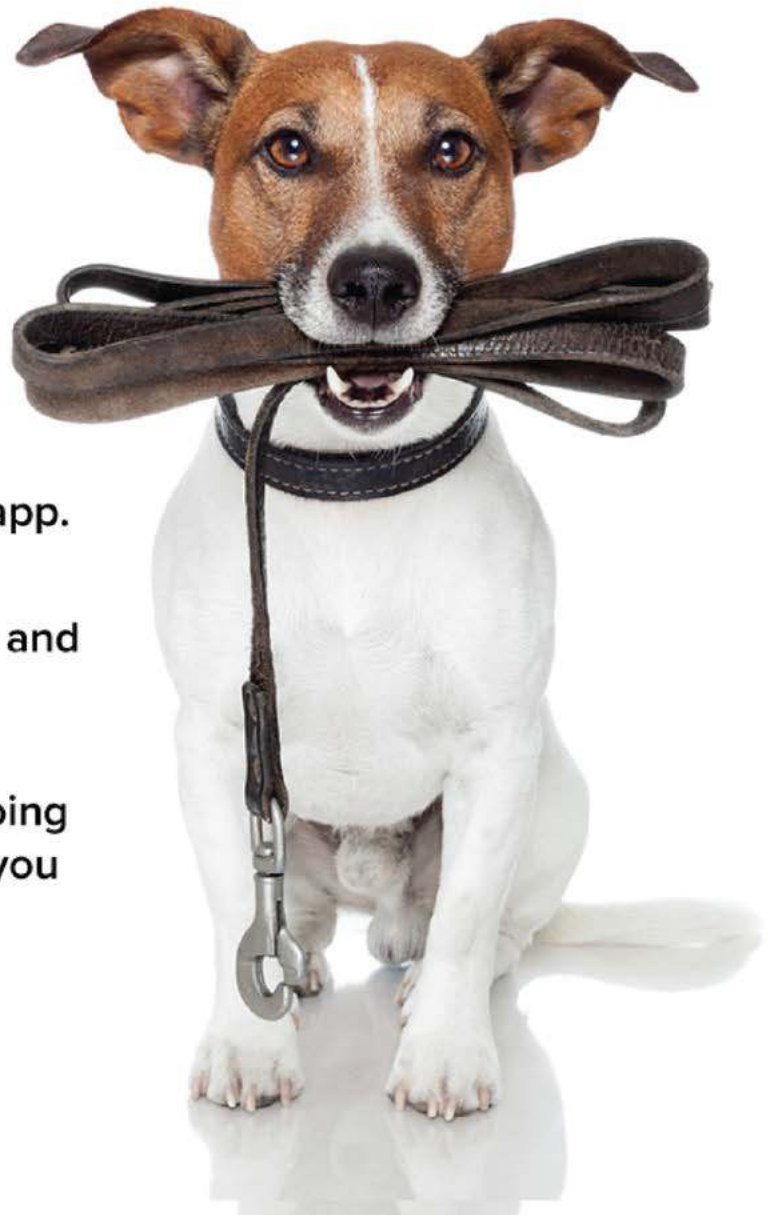
[www.dogsforbetterlives.org](http://www.dogsforbetterlives.org)



Find Us | *We're Social*



# Support Dogs for Better Lives just by walking your dog!



## How it works:

- 1.** Go to [wooftrax.com](http://wooftrax.com) and download the free WoofTrax app.
- 2.** Choose Dogs for Better Lives and join the challenge.
- 3.** Use WoofTrax when you're going out to take a walk. The more you walk, the more we can earn!



[www.wooftrax.com](http://www.wooftrax.com)



# Step Up for Service Dogs



## **NEW PARTNERSHIP LETS SUPPORTERS WALK TO SUPPORT DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES**

*Sara Ifert, DBL Vice President of Marketing*

A partnership with WoofTrax and Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc is helping to raise funds and awareness for Dogs for Better Lives (DBL).

“I’m excited that this partnership has come to fruition, through the generosity of our sponsor Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. The Step Up for Service Dogs Challenge will not only raise much-needed funds for Dogs for Better Lives, but it will help raise awareness about what makes a true, accredited Service Dog,” said Doug Hexter, DBL Board Member and CEO of WoofTrax.

Throughout the challenge, supporters can turn their daily walks with their dog into life-changing donations for Dogs for Better Lives. The Step Up for Service Dog Challenge will be taking place on the WoofTrax app between now and July 15, 2022. For each walk recorded on the app by challenge members, 10 cents will be donated to Dogs for Better Lives to support the care and training of accredited service dogs. The maximum total donation is \$10,000. These donations are made possible by our generous sponsor, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.

### **HOW TO JOIN**

- 1.** Download the WoofTrax app – it’s a free smartphone app that lets people support their favorite animal organization—like Dogs for Better Lives —just by walking their dog! Supporters of DBL regularly Walk for a Dog, turning on the app every time they take their dog for a walk.
- 2.** After downloading the WoofTrax app, select DBL (Oregon, Dogs for Better Lives) as your animal charity, and make sure you join the Step Up for Service Dogs challenge from the challenge tab of the WoofTrax app to benefit Dogs for Better Lives.
- 3.** If you already have the WoofTrax app, simply join the Step Up for Service Dogs Challenge on the challenge tab of the app.

“We are thrilled to be the featured nonprofit in the Step Up for Service Dogs Challenge! Throughout the challenge, we’ll be sharing all the amazing things our professionally trained Assistance Dogs do to help people in need with the WoofTrax community,” said Sara Ifert, VP of Marketing at DBL.

# T.A.G. FOSTER VOLUNTEERS

## T.A.G. FOSTERS

Lacy Priesmeyer, DBL Digital Marketing Manager

Sometimes our dogs need a place to stay for a few days or they need a ride to another location. Enter our T.A.G. team of foster volunteers! Whether a dog needs to be transported to or from a partner organization, a foster home, or a field representative, or whether a puppy raiser needs a short-term foster to fill in while on vacation - these volunteers help bridge the gap to free up DBL staff time and resources.

Could you be one of our T.A.G. team?

Our T.A.G Fosters:

- Act as a short-term foster for dogs and puppies (puppy sitters) both in training and career changed.
- Help to transport program dogs/puppies.
- Provide a safe home environment
- Observe dog behavior in a home setting
- Transport dogs to Dogs for Better Lives when needed
- Change lives!

Fostering is a great way to help our dogs through various stages of their stay with Dogs for Better Lives. **We have three categories available so that you can choose one that best fits your lifestyle:**



**Transitional.** You provide a home for our newly recruited Assistance Dogs before they are transported to Southern Oregon for professional training. Most of our dogs recruited from a shelter environment benefit strongly from time in a foster home to ease with this transition.

**Assisting.** You assist a dog currently in professional training at our center in Southern Oregon. Some of our dogs find kennel life stressful, providing a short-term home while they are still training to become a certified Assistance Dog can make all the difference. This is a fantastic opportunity if you live close by a Dogs for Better Lives facility.

**Giving.** You give a post training home to one of our Career Change dogs awaiting adoption. The Assistance Dog career isn't always the path for every dog - with basic training from our certified trainers, these dogs make wonderful family pets! This category requires the flexibility to transport dogs to/from Dogs for Better Lives for meet and greets with adopters.



Why joining our T.A.G. Program is right for you:

- You can make an important contribution to Dogs for Better Lives by helping our dogs be the best they can be!
- You are willing to communicate with our staff and have the patience and desire to work with a young, active dog in our program.
- Dogs for Better Lives is responsible for all veterinary care of the dog.



Learn more about the T.A.G. Program at:  
**[dogsforbetterlives.org/get-involved](https://dogsforbetterlives.org/get-involved)**

Click the 'Foster a Dog' tab to find our application.



## Give Your Dog a Special Treat

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

[dogsforbetterlives.org/bandanarama/](https://dogsforbetterlives.org/bandanarama/)

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

## YPB NEW MEMBERS

By Jo Caballero, YPB Board Member

The DBL Young Professionals Boards (YPB) are comprised of like-minded individuals in their 20s, 30s, and 40s that have a passion for dogs and giving back to people with disabilities in their communities. Members are engaged in helping to market the mission of DBL, participating in outreach events, as well as planning and fundraising through a variety of initiatives.

With the support and guidance of the regional Young Professionals Board in both the Pacific Northwest and Northeast, DBL will host key events nationally around September's National Service Dog Month, engaging volunteers, and community partners. Eventually, DBL will have Young Professionals Boards across the country, working to support each of national nonprofit's planned five regions. Currently DBL has satellite offices in Washington, California, Arizona, and New Hampshire.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST



### Allison Int-Hout

Allison joined the Young Professionals Board – PNW in October 2021. She is an estate planning attorney at a law firm based in Seattle, Washington. Allison's law practice includes estate planning and estate administration, and her favorite part of her job is working with clients to create estate plans that meet their goals and bring them peace of mind. When Allison isn't working, she enjoys taking long walks along the river with her dogs, traveling to new places, eating sushi, and reading mysteries.



### Danielle Meadows

Danielle joined the Young Professionals Board – PNW in January 2022. She is an American Sign Language (ASL) teacher at Wenatchee High School in Wenatchee, WA. Danielle has two dogs, which are her world! She has a senior boxer named Pippa, who her family adopted in 2014 and a French Bulldog puppy named Cooper, who keeps everyone he meets on their toes! Danielle has a soft spot for dogs and knows how valuable it is to have a pet. Danielle has always been fascinated with the work Assistance Dogs do and is excited to learn more during her time on the Young Professionals Board.



### Caroline Roers

Caroline joined the Young Professionals Board – PNW in February 2022. She resides in Seattle, WA and is currently a program manager with Amazon. Caroline is passionate about giving back to her community. Volunteering with Dogs for Better Lives gives Caroline a great opportunity to fulfill that passion while sharing the benefits that dogs can bring to people's lives, like reducing anxiety and depression – something she's experienced firsthand with her own dog.

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

## NORTHEAST



### **Blake Joh**

Blake joined the Young Professionals Board – NE in February 2022. He is a Vice President on the Healthcare Investment Banking team with SVB Leerink (NY). Blake resides in New Jersey with his wife, son and two dogs, Panda and Kaya.



### **Janelle Suckley**

Janelle joined the Young Professionals Board – NE in February 2022. With her business and veterinary technology background, Janelle is rewarded with the opportunity to work with animals while operating her successful and growing pet sitting business, It's Catnip Wishes & Cookie Dreams: Professional Pet Sitting and Care (MA).



### **Nick Bierley**

Nick joined the Young Professionals Board – NE in February 2022. He currently serves as Director of finance for Veterinary Emergency Group and lives in Manhattan. Nick travels to Michigan every chance he gets to spend time with his family and their two dogs, Leo and Stella.



### **Jessica Sexton**

Jessica joined the Young Professionals Board – NE in March 2022. She has dedicated her professional career to enhancing the human-animal bond. Jessica currently is the program coordinator for an in-hospital based center which provides research, education, and animal assisted therapy to patients, staff, and students in Richmond, VA.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD VISIT:**

[www.dogsforbetterlives.org/young-professionals-board/](http://www.dogsforbetterlives.org/young-professionals-board/)



10175 Wheeler Rd., Central Point, OR 97502



Dogs for Better Lives  
Serving clients nationwide from:  
10175 Wheeler Road  
Central Point, Oregon 97502

Voice/TDD 1-800-990-3647  
[info@dogsforbetterlives.org](mailto:info@dogsforbetterlives.org)  
Fed Tax ID#93-0681311 CFC #10969

MAJOR AND ROLANDA POSING AT HARRY AND DAVID'S COUNTRY VILLAGE