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MISSION

Dogs for Better Lives is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that professionally trains dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed and the people we serve.



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.

VALUES

- Care for the dogs by keeping their well-being (physical, emotional and mental) at the root of all decisions.
- Care for clients by providing our services with kindness, compassion and patience.
- Care for donors by being responsible stewards of our "donor dollars" through mindful and conscientious use of company time and money.



CANINE COPILOTS
Saving hours of staff
transportation time



152 ACTIVE TEAMS

In 32 states

50 CLIENT FOLLOW-UPS

2.9 MILLION TAIL WAGS

112,043 VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED 40 PUPPIES BORN

Highest in DBL history

63%
PLACEMENT RATE

Highest in DBL history

MILESTONES



FIRST SIX
GRADUATES
in the PRISON
PUPPY RAISING
PROGRAM



NEW BREEDER DOGS SELECTED

Increasing to 5 total Breeder Dogs



10 YEARS RUNNING

4-Star Charity Navigator Rating



Bone AppeTREAT 2024 raised more in its second year, funding more Service Dogs.



FIRST TWO
PLACEMENTS

from the SHELTER
TO SERVICE DOG
PROGRAM

and 7 shelter dogs currently in training

ON THE COVER: Certified Hearing Assistance Dog Albus is Candace's best friend and companion.



Donors | Clients | Volunteers | Partners | DBL Staff Regional Advisory Boards | National Board of Directors

Reflecting on a remarkable year



From our donors to Puppy Raisers to volunteers to Board Members, I personally thank you for your the support of our community as you contribute in numerous ways. We could not fulfill our mission without the support of so many people across the country. Thank you for your continued faith in Dogs for Better Lives as we aim to train and place more dogs.

More life-changing Assistance Dogs for more people

We are helping more people in need obtain Assistance Dogs through:

- The growth of our breeding program
- A successful first year in our From Shelter to Service Dog program
- The amazing commitment of our volunteer Puppy Raisers and Breeder Caretakers
- The dedication of our donors who entrust us with using their hard-earned dollars to make a significant impact through the dogs we train.

Looking ahead to new opportunities

While we are proud of the progress we've made, there is still work to be done. We are constantly looking for ways to grow efficiently. Your ongoing support is the backbone of our success. Every contribution helps cover the costs of training, medical care and ongoing support for both dogs and clients, as all dogs are placed free of charge. I'm excited to share that we will announce the launch of a new partnership in the From Shelter to Service Dog program soon, which will deepen our long-standing commitment to training shelter dogs as Service Dogs.

Real stories of your impact

Inside this annual report, you will find heartwarming stories about our clients as well as the donors and supporters who made those placements possible. I hope you enjoy them and continue to follow the stories of the dogs we train and clients we serve throughout the year. If you haven't already, I encourage you to follow our social media and sign up for our email newsletter, The Pawsitivity Chronicles. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Gratitude

On behalf of everyone at Dogs for Better Lives, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your belief in our mission. You are an essential part of our journey, and we are deeply honored to have you by our side. Together, we are making a difference that will last for years to come. Personally, I am humbled and grateful to serve as CEO of Dogs for Better Lives, working with our incredible team members who are so dedicated to furthering our mission of changing lives through the dogs we train.

Sincerely,

Bryan Williams President & CEO





four-legged family

After 30 years in Oregon, Loree Seibert retired from nursing and moved to sunny Florida. However, she left a remarkable gift behind for the Rogue Valley, where her family has deep roots.

Seibert provided a significant donation to support the construction and renovation of the memorial garden at the Central Point facility. Unveiled last summer, The Seibert Family Field of Memories is a fitting tribute that ensures her family's legacy. The revitalized garden has 150 memorial stones, including the Seibert family's two stones for beloved dogs and family members, Tioga and Finnegan. Loree's commitment to DBL stems from deep personal ties. Loree, her parents and her daughter have all helped raise Service Dogs for various organizations. For six years, Loree served on DBL's national board.

"It has been so exciting to see the vision for DBL grow, expand and go national," she says. "I love that DBL is changing lives, all at no cost to their clients. Dogs for Better Lives holds a very special place in my heart."

The Seibert Family Field of Memories is currently at capacity, and unfortunately, we are not accepting new memorial stones.

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Livestreamed event brings dog lovers together

The Bone AppéTREAT dog treat competition, DBL's signature event, raised nearly \$137,000 – enough to fund two Assistance Dogs.

In May, volunteer chefs around the country showed off their creativity and cooking skills with recipes for human-grade dog treats. In addition to winners Amy Alton and Bree Bryson of California, the other contestants included Josh Broadwater, D.V.M., of North Carolina, Tara Faye and Angie Monforte, representing Texas, and David Cuttrell from Oregon.

Amy McWhirter emceed the event, which was livestreamed. The expert judges included Cynthia Murray of 4Legz Dog Treats, Dr. Serena Marie Ross, and school psychologist Jessica O'Connor with Facility Dog Lander.

DCH Brunswick Toyota of New Jersey was the presenting sponsor. General Manager Lisa De Vivo, a DBL board member, expressed the company's pride in supporting the event.

"We are thrilled to support an organization that supports people and shares the same core values we do as a company with their passion for the community and dogs," she says.

DBL is grateful for all the sponsors and volunteers who supported this event.

Get the treat recipes and an event recap at dogsforbetterlives.org/bone-appetreat.

"When the opportunity arises to give back, why not make the most of it?"

-Amy Alton

Frozen treat melts hearts

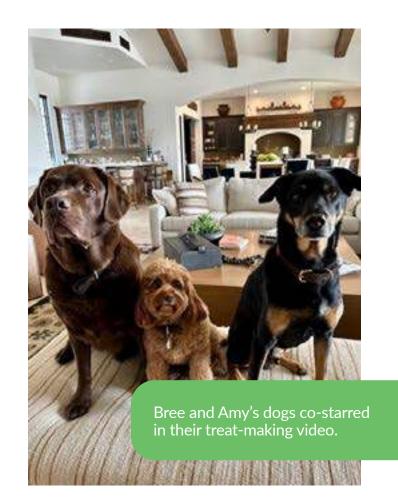
Bree Bryson couldn't contain her excitement when she was invited to participate in the second Bone AppéTREAT competition. She called her lifelong best friend, Amy Alton, to join her in the culinary fun.

"When the opportunity arises to give back, why not make the most of it?" Amy suggested, and they set to work in the kitchen together.

The duo dove into the challenge enthusiastically, whipping up four variations of baked treats. Ultimately, they decided on a creative frozen treat, naming it the Bruiser, Pete and Wilson Treat to honor their three beloved dogs. Their dogs were thrilled to be the taste testers and even their husbands got involved, sampling the treats and cheering them on.

A highlight of their experience was hosting a "yappy hour" in their neighborhood, where they sold their delicious treats and raised funds for DBL. A representative from DBL even traveled from Oregon to join the fun, sharing the organization's mission with the community.

Their hard work paid off; Bree and Amy raised an impressive \$12,608 for DBL. For Bree, knowing every dollar directly supported meaningful programs was fulfilling. Amy, who discovered DBL through the competition, was astonished by the incredible impact of Service Dogs and how much time, effort and money goes into raising and training dogs. Together, Bree and Amy created unforget-table memories while making a real difference for Service Dogs and those in need.





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Walking together for Service Dogs



For the eighth consecutive year, DBL proudly partnered with the Hearing Loss Association of America's Walk4Hearing program, a fun initiative to raise awareness and funds for those affected by hearing loss. Over the years, this collaboration has proven impactful, with DBL receiving 40% of funds from walkers who designate the organization. Since 2017, DBL has received \$36,500 for the general fund.

"Walk4Hearing started in 2006 to raise awareness about hearing loss and fundraise for vital resources," explains Ronnie Adler, a senior manager of the program and an individual with hearing loss. "Each year, walkers gather in 21 cities across the U.S. It's great to see families – sometimes with multi-generational hearing loss – join in a show of unity and support."

Ronnie shared an inspiring story about a family from New York who have dedicated over a decade to the walks, designating DBL as their fundraising beneficiary. The family told Ronnie how the walks give them a profound sense of belonging. They have a daughter who has hearing loss and a recently adopted deaf rescue dog.

"Being surrounded by others with hearing aids and cochlear implants has offered them hope and companionship," Ronnie notes.

As anticipation builds for the Spring 2025
Walk4Hearing locations, DBL encourages more
supporters to join in and embrace the spirit of
community and awareness at these meaningful events.

Walk4Hearing Locations / 2025

SPRING 2025

Tampa, FL - May 3
Westchester/Rockland - May 17
Alameda, CA - May 18
Long Beach, CA - May 31
Milford, MI - May 31
Madison, WI - June 8
Indianapolis, IN - June 14
St. Paul, MN - June 21
Hartford, CT - June 22

FALL 2025

Louisville, KY – Sept. 14
New York City, NY – Sept. 21
Chicago, IL – Sept. 28
Brighton, MA – Oct. 5
Cary, NC – Oct. 12
West Windsor, NJ – Oct. 12
Glen Echo, MD – Oct. 19
Philadelphia, PA – Oct. 19
Nashville, TN – Nov. 1
Mesa, AZ – Nov. 1
Houston, TX – TBA

A legacy of love for animals

Looking for a good place to retire, T.J. found the Rogue Valley, just a few miles from DBL's west campus. Though he has a passion for all kinds of animals, T.J. didn't know there was such a thing as a Hearing Assistance Dog until he encountered DBL.

"I toured Dogs for Better Lives and learned how they can train the dogs to do so many things. Dogs enjoy serving others, and they are very sensitive. They know us better than we know ourselves." he chuckles.

T.J. decided to ensure his legacy resonates beyond his lifetime. In his will, he established a charitable foundation for DBL and three other animal-related charities. The foundation will distribute funding annually in perpetuity, so T.J. continues to support the inspiring work of these organizations even after he's gone.

"It just makes sense," he says. "This way, the charities can budget consistently each year instead of relying on one-time donations."

T.J. takes immense pleasure in knowing his contributions will create a lasting impact, ensuring that each wagging tail echoes his dedication for years to come.

"I've been a careful investor and a thrifty soul, so I believe this is a good way to spend my money," he says. "Supporting a charity that does so much good truly brings me joy."

For more information on how you can become a member of our Guardian Society, visit dogsforbetterliveslegacy.org or contact Wanda at (541) 423-8385 or wanda@dogsforbetterlives.org



T.J. with Service Dog Sesame

on a visit to DBL's campus in

now a Certified Hearing Dog

Oregon in 2020. Sesame is

in Massachusetts.

Making a difference through philanthropy



Vice Principal Doug with Merlin on Merlin's first day as a Facility Dog for the high school.



Oregon's South Medford High School students learned how to make a difference through philanthropy. Thanks to the Oregon Community Foundation's innovative Community 101 program, students in the school's Key Club discovered the power of grantmaking while learning about their community. This year, their efforts aligned serendipitously with their vice principal's personal journey to bring a Service Dog to campus.

The classroom-based Community 101 program, funded by local philanthropist and business leader Patsy Smullin, empowers students to act as grant makers. Students research local nonprofits, conduct interviews, and decide how to allocate funds to impactful causes.

"By meeting with nonprofits, understanding what they do and awarding grants, the students grow up in seconds, better understanding their community and wanting to be leaders in it," says Smullin, a longtime volunteer and supporter of the program.

This year, the South Medford Key Club selected DBL to receive a \$3,000 grant to support our mission. The grant process included a DBL campus visit, and interviews with staff to learn more about their work. The students and advisors also had an opportunity to visit with Service Dog in-training Merlin, who proudly showed off his skills on the Central Point, OR campus. Coincidentally, South Medford Vice Principal Doug had independently applied to DBL for a Facility Dog to assist in his role overseeing counseling and social-emotional support. In the spring, the stars aligned when the Key Club's work with the organization intersected with Doug's application. After a meetand-greet with Merlin, the decision was unanimous. Merlin officially joined the school community in June.

Merlin quickly became a beloved presence at South Medford. Known for his playfulness and calming influence, he provides comfort to students dealing with anxiety or stress. Whether offering a reassuring "lap hug" or rolling over for belly rubs, Merlin brings joy to students and staff alike.

"It's been overwhelmingly successful," says Doug, who reports that Merlin's impact has been felt across the school.

Through Community 101, South Medford students learned the value of philanthropy to support the training of Service Dogs like Merlin. Going strong for more than 25 years, the Oregon Community Foundation's program worked with nearly 900 students around Oregon to distribute 93 grants in 2023-2024.





"From the moment Franny arrived, there was an instant connection," Amy remembers. "Timmy just loved her so much."

Timmy's family waited two years for Autism Assistance Dog Francine, or Franny for short. She's been part of their family for three years now. For Timmy's parents, Amy and T.J., Franny offers their son companionship and a soothing presence in a world that can often feel overwhelming.

Timmy is now a happy sixth grader, known for his genuine care for those around him. However, like many children on the autism spectrum, he sometimes finds himself struggling with sensory overload from sounds,

smells and crowded spaces. Despite these challenges, his incredible memory and passion for learning shine through.

With Franny, Timmy has a reliable companion he can turn to when the world becomes too much. One of their favorite routines is for Timmy to lay on Franny's side, resting his head on her chest and listening to her steady heartbeat and rhythmic breathing. Timmy cares for Franny, too, by helping with feeding and walking.

"Franny has made a huge difference for our family," Amy says. "An Autism Assistance Dog can change your child's life. Before long, you can't imagine life without a Service Dog. And the fact that DBL provides them to clients for free? You can tell how much they care about the kids and the dogs."

A pawsitive presence on campus

In May 2023, Mackenzie achieved a dream she had long nurtured: becoming a Facility Dog handler. Mackenzie is a police officer at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. With the arrival of Archie, the pair bridge the gap between law enforcement and emotional support for the campus community.

"What Archie does is not something you can physically see most of the time; he helps heal people from within," Mackenzie says.

Tasked with community engagement, crisis response and stress relief, gentle Archie offers solace to students and staff alike. Trained in pressure therapy, Archie instinctively senses when someone is in distress. He can lay on laps, providing a comforting weight to trigger the release of feel-good hormones, helping individuals regain a sense of calm and safety.

"Archie's main role is to respond to people in crisis and those experiencing trauma," Mackenzie says. "He also assists victims through the criminal justice system."

Mackenzie notes that Archie is as professional as he is affectionate. Whenever the vest goes on, he knows it's time to work. Since introducing Archie, Mackenzie has had inquiries from 10 police departments keen to learn about the program—each wanting an "Archie" of their own.

Mackenzie says many people do not fully understand the role of a Facility Dog. Archie's popularity allows her to talk about DBL, Facility Dogs and how they help the community.

"Archie is great at his job! He loves to come to work every day and interact with his CWU Wildcats!"



How does a dog feel about being a Wildcat? He loves it! Facility Dog Archie and Officer Mackenzie help college students through tough times.



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David and Future Service Dog Sandy join members of the Regional Advisory board, Pacific-Northwest, at an outreach event during National Service

Dog Month in September.

PUPPY RAISERS
NEEDED NOW

NATIONWIDE!

Doodle dog unleashes joy

Living with hearing loss, Candace got a boost of happiness and confidence when she was paired with Certified Hearing Dog Albus, or Albie, as she calls him. Their bond enhances Candace's daily life and transforms the atmosphere of the high school where she works.

Before Albie arrived, Candace often had sleepless nights filled with worry. Would her pillow shaker alarm go off in the morning? Would she hear the doorbell? Then came Albie, an affectionate golden doodle with a personality as bright as his golden fur.

"He's so funny and definitely has a personality!" says Candace.

Albie is also a source of unconditional love and companionship, qualities that have profoundly impacted Candace's life. Albie is the first dog Candace has ever had.

"I didn't know how much you can love an animal and receive a love so pure," she reflects. "Albie has taught me so much. He has changed my perspective on the value of pets, let alone Service Dogs."

As a social-emotional skills interventionist at a Spokane, Washington high school, Candace's presence is made even more special with Albie by her side. While the students are not allowed to pet him, Albie's presence is a source of comfort.

"The school is so excited to have him—he even has his own school swag, ID card and yearbook photo!" she laughs. Albie occasionally demonstrates his skills in the classroom, captivating students and reinforcing Candace's modeling of coping and emotional resilience lessons.





her a new best friend.

Having successfully trained three DBL puppies— Poppy, Noelle and Cobbler—David welcomed Sandy as his fourth puppy last June. His puppy-

raising adventures coincided with the beginning of

"I was specifically looking for something to do to be helpful and make a difference," he says. "Dogs for Better Lives just checked all the boxes for me."

the pandemic in 2020.

Puppy Raisers create a safe and socially stimulating environment for the puppies, dedicating time to their basic training and skills development. David took in 8-week-old Poppy despite having no formal dog training skills.

"The DBL training is 90% for the humans," he explains.

One of David's favorite aspects of raising puppies is their playful energy. He and his wife, Kellie,

live in Seattle with two elderly dogs. Shih Tzu-mix Biscuit and French bulldog-mix Sita are sedate old ladies, their routine lifestyle contrasting sharply with the spirited antics of Sandy, who enjoys wrestling and playing.

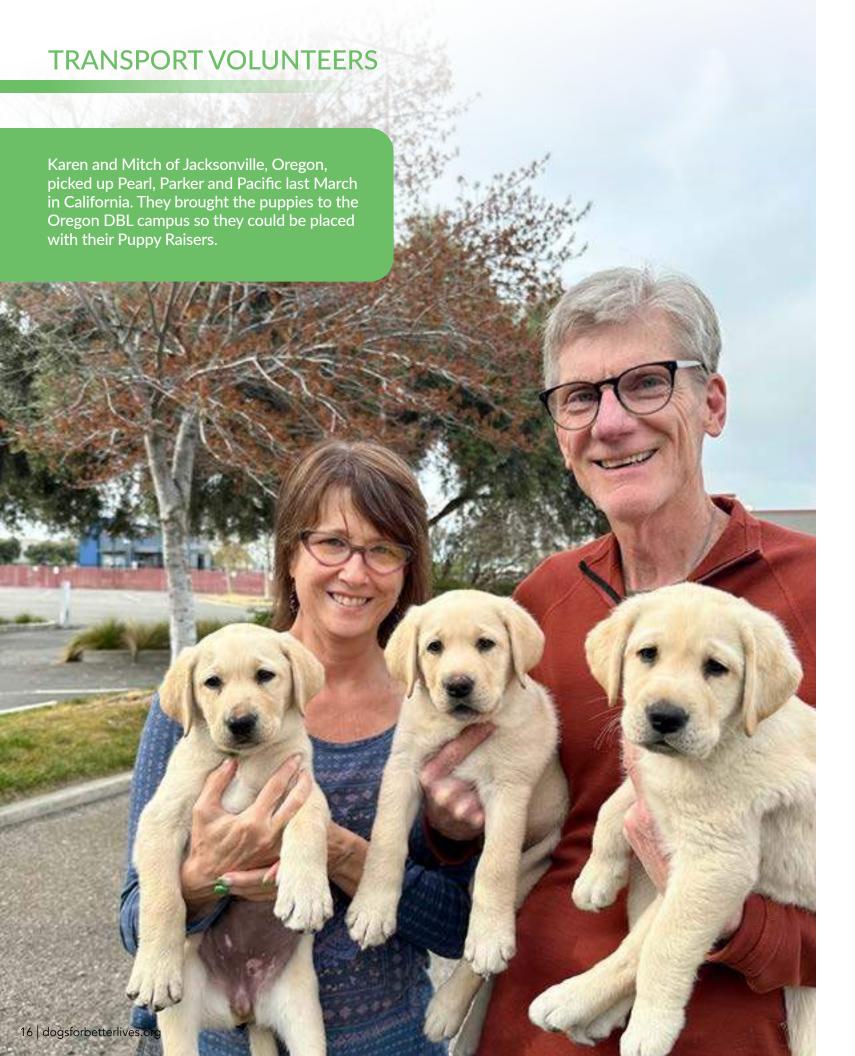
David says he is frequently asked about the emotional impact of having to return puppies after a year together.

"It's not about feeling loss and sadness; it's about knowing these dogs are going on to have extraordinarily purposeful lives," he says.

The joy of seeing the difference these dogs make in their new homes is incredibly rewarding. He often exchanges photos with the owners of the dogs he has raised.

"It's lovely to see them all look so happy," he says.

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Driven by love

Three little puppies were ready to leave their birth home in California and come to DBL for placement with Puppy Raisers. As they've done many times, Mitch and Karen jumped in their car and set off on a six-hour roundtrip journey to bring the puppies to their new homes.

Five years ago, the couple discovered a wonderful mission: transporting and providing temporary housing for dogs in transition. They have driven or fostered 46 DBL dogs so far.

"It takes a village to get these dogs around the United States, and we are just one cog in the system," Mitch says.

As passionate volunteers for DBL, the couple give their time and use their own vehicle and gas. Combined, it's a significant cost-savings for the nonprofit.

"This is something Dogs for Better Lives needs, and we can do," Mitch says. "We often see where a dog ends up and how it will care for a person or a family."

In their partnership, Mitch is the dog whisperer, and Karen is the coordination pro for the many pickups and drop-offs. By opening their home when needed, dogs can avoid staying in kennels while they are in transition.

"We get to see dogs at different stages of their lives and training," Karen says. "It's fun to see them develop. The black Labrador puppies especially all look identical but as much as they look alike, their personalities are different. They are so smart."

With hearts full and gas tanks emptied, the couple is grateful to play a part in transforming lives.

"This is something Dogs for Better Lives needs, and we can do." –Mitch

interested in helping future Service Dogs as a foster or transportation volunteer?

Learn more at: dogsforbetterlives.org/ foster-or-transport-a-dog/



2023 -2024 FINANCIALS **I FADFRSHIP**

Support and Revenue

Contributions & Grants: \$3,721,912 \$800 Program Service Revenue: Investment Income: \$958.802 Other Revenue: \$376,152

Total Support & Revenue: \$5,057,666

Expenses

Salaries, other compensation, \$3,610,684 employee benefits:

\$1,743,577 Other Expenses:

\$5,354,261 **Total Expenses:** Revenue Less Expenses: \$(296,595)

Assets

Total Assets: \$16,608,159 Total Liabilities: \$218,081

Net Assets: \$16.390.078 Support & Revenue ,057,66 Total ட 4





*All figures are based on our 2023-2024 Financial Statements and IRS form 990, and have been audited by Aiken & Sanders, Inc., Montesano, Washington. To view a copy of this report and our IRS Form 990, visit our website at dogsforbetterlives.org/ financials/ Dogs for Better Lives is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1977. Federal tax ID number: 93-0681311.

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\$(296,595)

Training \$3,586,013

Public Education \$1,043,859

Administrative and fundraising expenses are fully funded by the interest earned from our long-standing endowment.

100% of donor dollars supports programmatic services.

Fund Development \$433.936







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