



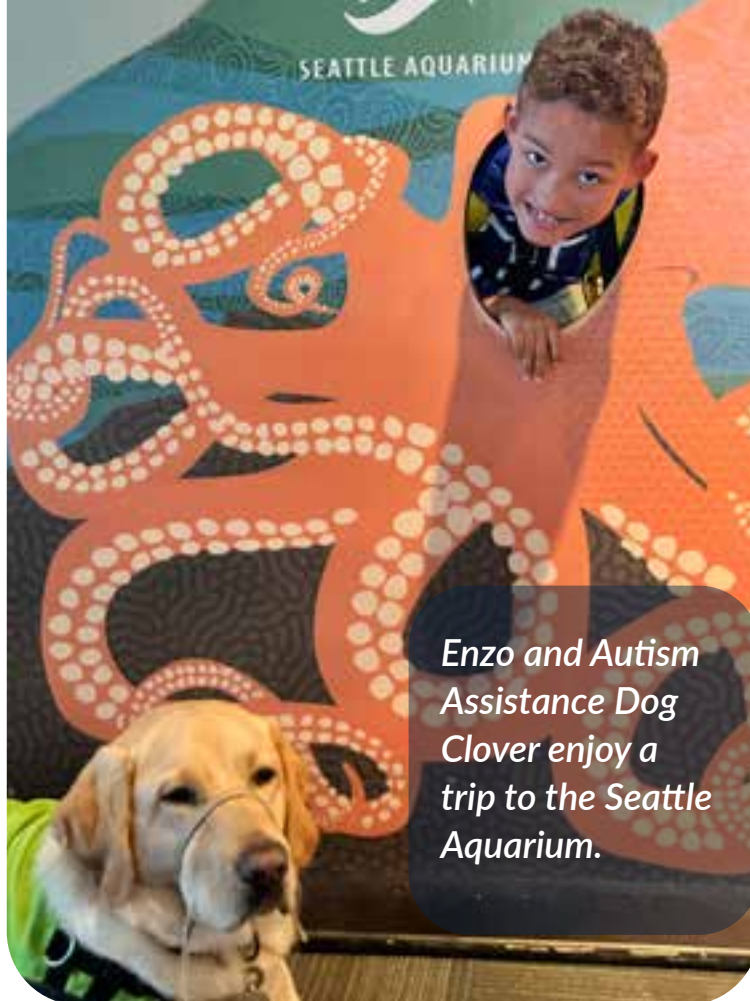
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL
YEAR 2024-2025



CONTENTS

2024-2025 Fiscal Year in Review	2
Welcome	4
Major Gifts	5
Bone AppeTREAT 2025	6
Bone AppeTREAT Winners	7
Hearing Assistance Dog	8
Autism Assistance Dog	9
Facility Dog	10
Shelter Program Expansion	12
Nonprofit Partner	14
Featured Volunteer	15
Featured Puppy Raiser	16
Guardian Society	17
Corporate Partner	18
Foundation Giving	19
Community Partner	20
2024-2025 Financials	22
Bequests	23



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.



WHY WE DO IT

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.

ON THE COVER: Certified Hearing Assistance Dog Hazel has made Tracee's life brighter.

How your support made a difference

Fiscal Year in Review

July 2024-June 2025

More lives impacted by Service Dogs

166 ACTIVE SERVICE DOG TEAMS



* INCREASE FROM FY 2023/24



Growing Partners



1

NEW SHELTER PROGRAM PARTNER added in our From Shelter to Service Dog Program (Atlanta Humane Society)

2

NEW REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARDS: Texas and Southeastern U.S.

Record Year for Breeding Program

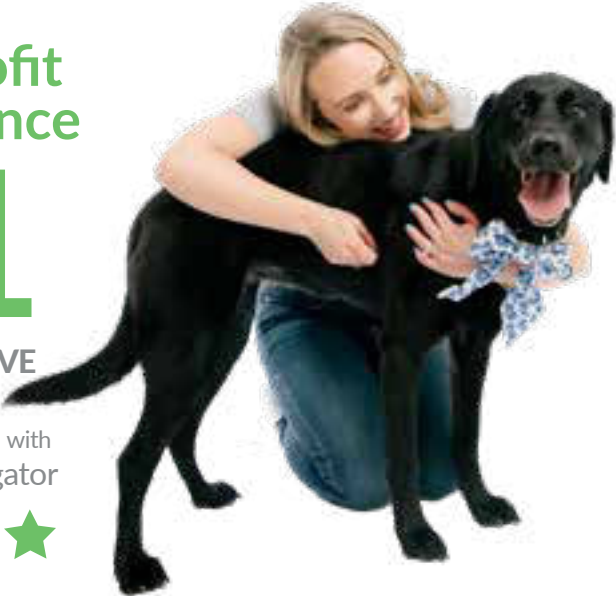
8 BREEDER DOGS... 43 FUTURE SERVICE DOGS

49 PUPPY RAISERS 27 STATES

Nonprofit Excellence

11

CONSECUTIVE YEARS as a 4-star charity with Charity Navigator



Welcome

It is with deep gratitude that I share this year's annual report. Thanks to the dedication of our incredible community, Dogs for Better Lives continues to grow, thrive, and change more lives than ever before.

This year, we are proud to have earned a **4-star Charity Navigator** rating, including a **perfect 100% score** this summer—a reflection of our commitment to accountability and responsible stewardship.

Our programs are expanding in meaningful ways. We have a **record number of active teams**, demonstrating our growing national impact. Our **breeding program** continues to flourish, and our **From Shelter to Service Dog program** is bringing more dogs into the pipeline to become life-changing Assistance Dogs in the years ahead. Every advancement ensures more people in need will have access to these remarkable dogs—at zero cost to them.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our donors, volunteers, Puppy Raisers, Breeder Caretakers, Regional Advisory Boards, Board Members and staff. From providing financial support to dedicating time and care to our dogs, your contributions make our mission a reality.

Your impact is evident in every corner of Dogs for Better Lives:

- The growth of our **breeding program** ensures a steady supply of healthy puppies for training.
- The success of our **growing From Shelter to Service Dog program** opens doors for more shelter dogs to become Assistance Dogs.
- The dedication of our **Puppy Raisers and Breeder Caretakers** shapes the dogs' futures.
- The generosity of our **donors** maximizes the life-changing potential of every dog we train.



As we look ahead, there is still more work to do. Our team continues to explore new opportunities to expand our reach, deepen partnerships, and grow our programs efficiently. Your ongoing support remains the backbone of our success, covering training, medical care, and lifetime support for both dogs and clients.

Inside this report, you will find inspiring stories of the dogs, clients, and volunteers whose lives have been touched by your generosity. On behalf of everyone at Dogs for Better Lives, I extend my heartfelt thanks. Together, we are training **more Assistance Dogs for more people in need**, and your support ensures the impact of this work will last for years to come.

Sincerely,

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

Bryan Williams
President & CEO

A Family's Gift, Guided by a Love for Dogs

For Miranda Tollman and her family, philanthropy is a deeply personal journey guided by three passions: animals and wildlife, climate change, and supporting underprivileged children. When the family established their Donor Advised Fund, Dogs for Better Lives immediately stood out as an organization worthy of their support.

"We were deeply touched by the work that you do," Miranda shares. Having spent a decade on the board of a Los Angeles rescue nonprofit, she understands the challenges facing shelter animals and the transformative power of the human-animal bond. The Tollmans discovered DBL through word of mouth in the rescue community, drawn by its stellar reputation for impact and excellence. "DBL's longstanding reputation, built on years of stories of impact, made this an easy decision."

What makes DBL especially meaningful to the Tollman family is personal experience. Over the years, they've witnessed firsthand how dogs change lives—supporting families affected by autism, veterans battling PTSD, and friends who are hearing impaired. **"Time and time again, studies show how much dogs help enrich the lives of people,"** Miranda reflects. **"To support an organization doing such important work helping these individuals in need is an honor."**

Their DAF makes this giving even more fulfilling by allowing the entire family, including their children, to engage in meaningful dialogue about causes that matter to everyone. "We are able to give accordingly as a family," Miranda explains.

"We understand the deep bond and connection that dogs and humans have, and we have been beneficiaries of that love in our own lives," Miranda says. "To know that individuals and communities in need are given this life-changing gift is truly something special and what is needed in the world."

"DBL's longstanding reputation, built on years of stories of impact, made giving an easy decision."



Lenny, who is in our From Shelter to Service Dog Program, works on his skills in public with DBL trainer, Jenny. The Tollman's appreciate that DBL continues to prioritize training shelter dogs as future Assistance Dogs.

A Celebration of Dogs, Community, and Creativity



Dogs for Better Lives' 3rd Annual Bone AppéTREAT was an event to remember! This friendly culinary competition brought together creativity, compassion, and community, all in support of training and placing life-changing Service Dogs with people with disabilities. From the excitement in the kitchen to the energy on stage and online, every moment was filled with heart and purpose.

Thanks to the generosity of 28 event sponsors, our contestants, judges, and supporters, the event raised just over \$200,000—enough to fully fund multiple Service Dogs.

Our deepest gratitude goes to our presenting sponsor, Boehringer Ingelheim. Julie Ryan-Johnson, SR AD, Shelter Engagement Program at Boehringer Ingelheim, shares, "We support Dogs for Better Lives, because we

believe the best dogs for the job aren't defined by where they come from, but by the heart they bring to it. Whether purpose-bred or rescued from shelters, each dog receives expert training to transform lives."

We also thank Harry & David for hosting our national watch party. Rhonda Klug, Head of Experiential/ Retail Marketing & Community Relations at Harry & David, said, "Harry & David was proud to support the 3rd Annual Bone AppéTREAT event, a unique culinary event that unites our community through creativity and compassion. It is an honor for us to be part of an initiative that positively impacts so many lives."

Congratulations to our 2025 winners: Randy & Nancy Gordon (Top Dog Winner), Kelly Hall (Most Chomp-Worthy Treat), Catharina Armstrong & Laura Pickett (Re-Bark-Ably Beautiful Treat), Tom Pierson (Most Paw-Some Video), and 2025 runner up, Brad Hicks (Ulti-Mutt Chef). Collectively, they raised over \$60,000 for Service Dogs.

Mark your calendars! Bone AppéTREAT 2026 will be held on **May 15, 2026**. We can't wait to welcome our next group of chefs, judges, sponsors, and supporters for another unforgettable celebration of dogs, community, and compassion.



RECIPES FOR YOU!

Download the recipes from our 2025 event at:



dogsforbetterlives.org/bone-appeatreat

Randy and Nancy Gordon went above and beyond in their fundraising efforts, raising over \$24,000 to secure their position as Top Dog in the 2025 event



Competitive Hearts, Compassionate Impact

Randy and Nancy's love of dogs—and their passion for giving back—made DBL's Bone AppeTREAT the perfect opportunity to combine fun, friendship, and philanthropy. "First reason was my love for dogs. Then the wonderful cause of providing Assistance Dogs for families with autism and for d/Deaf individuals," Randy shares. This year's competition featured former Chamber of Commerce CEO's like Randy. And Randy knew three of his Bone AppeTREAT competitors personally.

Motivated by a lifelong competitive spirit, Randy and Nancy went above and beyond in their fundraising efforts. "I've been a fierce competitor all my life," Randy says, "and the thought of beating my friends in the competition really motivated me to be 'Top Dog!'" Their drive paid off, earning them the title of Top Fundraisers this year.

The experience was deeply meaningful for the couple. "After running two Chamber of Commerce's for over 38 years, I've had the opportunity to give back to so

many nonprofits," Randy explains. "Nancy and I are big dog lovers. We adore our 11-year-old Havanese, Buddy, and we also have a close friend who has a son with autism. This event was really special."

Their efforts drew overwhelming support from friends and colleagues, with more than 100 donors contributing and 40 attending their watch party to celebrate the announcement.

Reflecting on the experience, Randy encourages others to participate: "If you love dogs or know someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, or has a family member with autism, this event is for you. You can participate and raise money whether you are a contestant, donor, or volunteer!"

Through their enthusiasm, generosity, and playful competitive spirit, Randy and Nancy not only won the competition—they helped ensure Dogs for Better Lives can continue providing life-changing Service Dogs for families in need.

From Shelter to Service: Hazel's Journey with Tracee

When Tracee first met Hazel, she felt an instant connection. "I just wanted to pick her up and snuggle with her," she recalls. Hazel, a graduate of Dogs for Better Lives' From Shelter to Service Dog Program in Texas, entered Tracee's life just six months ago, and the two have since formed a bond built on trust, independence, and love.

A Partner in Every Step

Hazel is trained as a Hearing Assistance Dog, alerting Tracee to essential sounds like the doorbell, oven timer, and smoke alarm. But her impact goes far beyond her tasks. On their first trip together—navigating a shuttle, a busy airport, and a two-hour flight—Hazel remained calm and focused, giving Tracee a sense of security she'd long hoped for.

Even in everyday moments, Hazel proves invaluable. "When we are out walking, she will hear a car approach from behind when I don't. She will stop and look back—letting me know a car is coming."

Building Confidence and Connection

Hazel's presence has given Tracee greater independence and improved how others interact with her. "I no longer worry about missing the doorbell or carrying a timer," she says. "People show more politeness toward me. Without a Service Dog, if I say I'm deaf, many people just stop trying. With Hazel, they at least try." One store clerk even typed a message into his phone so Tracee could read it: "Beautiful dog, did you find everything you needed?"

A Bond Like No Other

Beyond practical support, Hazel has become Tracee's constant companion. "She is my best buddy. We are a team. She gives me the confidence to do things

I wouldn't attempt alone." With Hazel, Tracee now feels comfortable exploring her community and meeting new people.

The Power of Shelter Dogs

Hazel is Tracee's third DBL Service Dog and her second from a shelter. "Both were perfect in their sound work, obedience, and personality."

Tracee is deeply grateful to everyone who helped bring Hazel into her life, especially her foster parents. "They did an amazing job. They couldn't have matched me with a better dog."

"She is my best buddy. We are a team. She gives me the confidence to do things I wouldn't attempt alone."



Clover Brings Calm and Confidence to Enzo's Life

When Clover, an Autism Assistance Dog from Dogs for Better Lives, first met Enzo, the connection was instant. "They must have played up and down the hallway at least 50 times," recalls Enzo's mom, Nikki. "But on the first night when it was just us, Enzo leaned up to her in a way he hadn't allowed other dogs—that really moved me. It was overwhelming, so positive."

Since that day, Enzo and Clover have become inseparable. "Were it not for the fur, I would say Enzo and Clover were siblings! They play constantly," Nikki says. Clover has brought calm, confidence, and new routines into Enzo's life. "A great example is going to the dentist," she shares. "With Clover around, even without touching, Enzo is calmer and more willing to try things. This weekend, he allowed a full exam and cleaning."

Clover's specialized task work—touch, settle, visit, and squish—helps Enzo focus and regulate when he feels overwhelmed. Beyond that, she's teaching him valuable lessons about responsibility and connection. "He can do some light care for Clover—petting her, playing, and

"With Clover around, Enzo is calmer and more willing to try new things"

turning on the faucet so she can drink," Nikki explains. "Caring for her helps him develop self-care skills. Clover is also teaching Enzo about relationships and the natural back and forth that's helping him form better connections with kids his age."

This summer, the family took a vacation to Seattle—something that once felt impossible. "Clover is a superstar with her vest on. I can encourage Enzo to "guide" her out in public and that really helps him focus and calm down," Nikki says.

From bedtime cuddles to family walks, Clover's presence has transformed daily life. "She comforts me too," Nikki adds. "Clover is pure love and an amazing addition to our family. For those who donate, we are so very thankful to you. This work really changes lives."

Bringing Courage, Comfort, and Calm to Charlevoix County

“People are often anxious when they come to our office. Having a positive interaction with Scully first helps set the tone. It tells them: you’re safe here.”

When Facility Dog Scully joined the Charlevoix County Prosecutor’s Office in early 2025, he didn’t just become part of the team—he transformed it. His handler, Jen, had dreamed of bringing a Facility Dog to the office for years. “We were absolutely delighted to receive Scully into our lives,” she says.

Working alongside victims of crime—especially children—can be emotional and intense. Scully’s calm, intuitive nature has already changed how those moments unfold. “People are often anxious when they come to our office,” Jen explains. “Having a positive interaction with Scully first helps set the tone. It tells them: *you’re safe here.*”

In the courtroom, Scully’s quiet strength offers a lifeline. He rests gently against a child’s leg or leans close enough to be felt—his warmth a steady reminder that they’re not alone. Jen recalls one young survivor who had been terrified to enter the courthouse. Before their first meeting, she drew a picture of the dog she hoped to meet. When she finally met Scully, her fear melted into fascination. **“She went from being afraid to even walk into our building to testifying—and looking forward to coming back,” Jen says. “That wouldn’t have been possible without Scully.”**



Scully’s presence in Charlevoix County was made possible entirely by the generosity of donors and volunteers. “We’re a small, rural office,” Jen says. “Our county budget could never have paid for something like this. Because of donors who believe in the impact of a working dog, we were able to bring Scully here at no cost to our office. You didn’t just bring a dog to our team—you brought hope, healing, and heart to our community.”



Atlanta Humane Society



From Shelter to Service Dog Program Continues to Grow

Since its founding, Dogs for Better Lives has always trained shelter dogs to become Service Dogs, giving both dogs and people a second chance. This commitment continues with the expansion of our pilot From Shelter to Service Dog program, designed to improve the success rate of shelter dogs pursuing Service Dog roles. With the Atlanta Humane Society joining as the second shelter partner—following Operation Kindness in Carrollton, Texas—multiple dogs have already begun their journey from uncertain rescues to skilled candidates for Service Dog work.

Trainers in the program identify shelter dogs with the temperament and drive to assist people with disabilities. These dogs live with foster volunteers while receiving professional training, learning skills that prepare them to provide independence and companionship to future clients. Even dogs that do not complete the program graduate with enhanced abilities, improving their chances of adoption into loving homes.

Gwen Dudek, DBL's Vice President of Program, reflects on the new partnership: "Every dog we welcome from Atlanta Humane carries the potential to change a life. We are deeply grateful to the shelter and its team for giving these dogs a chance to shine, and to our volunteers who nurture them every step of the way."

Cal Morgan, President and CEO of Atlanta Humane, shares, "Partnering with Dogs for Better Lives is a remarkable opportunity for our shelter dogs. It gives them a second chance while making a profound difference in someone's life. We are proud to partner with DBL in this life-changing work."

Housed at Atlanta Humane's new Marietta location, the program allows dogs to train in a home-like environment, practicing real-life skills while building

confidence and trust. This collaboration expands DBL's reach, helping more Service Dogs find homes with people in need and giving shelter dogs a meaningful, life-changing purpose.

The From Shelter to Service Dog Program now operates in two locations: Operation Kindness in Carrollton, Texas and Atlanta Humane Society in Atlanta, Georgia.



Service Dogs Take Flight with Angel Flight West



Jet, born on May 30, 2025, is a jet-black Labrador Retriever who is being raised by a Puppy Raiser in Montana. The Angel Flight West Team looks forward to the opportunity to fly Jet to DBL's West Campus when it is time for him to enter training.

Since early 2025, Angel Flight West (AFW) have been helping to transport future Service Dogs across the western United States through a partnership with DBL that's already making a measurable impact. Through August, 15 volunteer pilots have transported 15 dogs to and from our training facility and to Puppy Raiser and Client homes, saving DBL roughly 172 staff hours in just eight months.

"Our volunteer pilots love flying these missions, which enable AFW to serve more people in a unique way — ensuring individuals with a variety of challenges receive the support of a service animal," says Jessica Hayes, Communications Director at AFW.

The partnership has already created heartwarming moments. One puppy, Jigsaw, embarked on a three-leg journey from Montana to Canada. Pilot Scott Warner recalled, "Jigsaw had a full day of flying and snuggles on his three-leg trip." As a playful tribute to the partnership,

DBL even named a puppy "Jet," celebrating the volunteers who make these flights possible.

For both organizations, the collaboration reflects the power of teamwork in the nonprofit world. Hayes explains, "Partnering with DBL gives our volunteer pilots the opportunity to use their passion, talents, and resources for good — all while helping transport DBL's precious canine cargo." By combining AFW's flight network with DBL's mission of providing life-changing service dogs, the organizations are overcoming transportation barriers and reaching more people than either could alone.

Looking ahead, both DBL and AFW are excited to grow the program, delivering more puppies and Service Dogs to those who rely on them. It's a partnership that highlights not just the joy of flying, but the profound difference a Service Dog can make in someone's life.

Leading with Passion for Service Dogs

For AJ, volunteering with Dogs for Better Lives was personal from the start. Two parts of DBL's mission resonate most: supporting people who rely on Service Dogs and ensuring the well-being of the dogs themselves. AJ explains, "I view animals as sentient beings and strongly believe they should be treated with respect and love. DBL encapsulates that in their training and placement of their dogs."

Taking on the role of Chair of the Northeast Regional Advisory Board (RAB) has allowed AJ to expand her impact on the mission. Working alongside like-minded RAB members and DBL staff, AJ describes the experience as truly fulfilling. "I feel fortunate to be part of a team that loves dogs and giving back— as a chair, I couldn't ask for a better group."

Watching DBL grow in the Northeast has been especially rewarding. From establishing a presence in Cape Cod to expanding in-person events across New England, AJ is enthusiastic about the progress. "We are building partnerships with community members and local businesses, which will help enhance our impact even further. Seeing the growth over the past few years has fueled my continued commitment."

The personal connection to DBL makes the work especially meaningful to AJ. "As someone who has benefited from the unconditional love and acceptance of a dog throughout my entire life, and has an autistic family member, being part of DBL affords me the ability to truly walk in my passion and purpose," AJ shares.

Through volunteering, AJ engages donors, community members, and fellow dog lovers—helping ensure DBL continues transforming lives through the unique bond between people and Service Dogs.



"I feel fortunate to be part of a team that loves dogs and giving back— as a chair, I couldn't ask for a better group"

Raising the Next Generation of Service Dogs

“Puppy Raising has been one of the greatest joys of my life. If you are thinking about raising, definitely give it a shot.”

For Laura, raising Service Dog puppies has been a passion for more than two decades—and her latest puppy, Rooster, is no exception. “I love Golden Retrievers, and when I had the opportunity to raise one for Dogs for Better Lives, I decided to try out a new organization,” she says. “Rooster is the 16th puppy that I have raised.”

Rooster has brought a fresh burst of energy to Laura’s experience. “He is much more energetic than any of my previous 15 puppies, which made for some fun training sessions. The communication with Dogs for Better Lives staff has been exceptional, and I have enjoyed this experience,” she shares.

What Laura loves most about puppy raising is watching the puppies learn. **“When I am teaching them something and it clicks for them—that is always my favorite part. It’s also a lot of fun to have a puppy at the end of the leash on adventures around town.”**

Laura’s giving Rooster a “good luck tour” in their last month together before he turns in for professional training. Together they’re visiting local stores that supported his journey and sharing his playful personality with fans worldwide on Instagram. “People fell in love with his adorable morning greetings and fun personality. One of Rooster’s favorite places to play is the beach, and I’ll make sure he gets some beach time before he goes off to training!”

As Rooster prepares to enter formal training, Laura hopes he finds the path that suits him best. “I hope that Rooster enjoys training with his trainer and finds his perfect match.”



For those considering becoming a Puppy Raiser, Laura offers encouraging advice: “Puppy Raising has been one of the greatest joys of my life. If you are thinking about raising, definitely give it a shot. It’s a little over a year commitment, and it goes by very fast. And the heartbreak of turning in a puppy? Get another one—you’ll find it’s worth it!”

Leaving a Legacy of Love

"I hope our gift will enable DBL to reach more people and expand their good work."

For Mr. and Mrs. Haverly, their connection to Dogs for Better Lives began with personal experience and a deep appreciation for the bond between humans and dogs.

"I've been profoundly deaf in my right ear for 25 years," shares Mr. Haverly. **"Over the years, I've done a lot of research and reading about hearing loss. I started seeing DBL mentioned in the literature I was reading and became interested in following their work."**

That initial interest grew into a meaningful relationship with DBL. "After following DBL for several years pre-pandemic, I hosted a six-month-old Lab for DBL while their Puppy Raiser was on holiday," he recalls. "Of course, helping feels good."

Becoming Guardian Society members—those who include DBL in their estate plans—was a natural extension of the Haverlys' lifelong love of dogs and their belief in DBL's mission. "I hope our gift will enable DBL to reach more people and expand their good work," says Mr. Haverly.

From childhood days learning how to walk alongside his father's English Springer Spaniel to hosting Ezra, the black Lab from DBL, dogs have always been a part of Mr. Haverly's life. "I think it's a good idea to try to help and maybe leave the world a bit better place than when you arrived."

Through their legacy gift, the Haverlys' are ensuring that DBL can continue providing life-changing Service Dogs for years to come—helping people live with greater independence, safety, and connection.



Bridging Corporate Resources and Nonprofit Impact

“As a veteran who is also hard of hearing, their work really resonates with me on a personal level”

Jacob Orchard, a member of Dogs for Better Lives' (DBL) Regional Advisory Board – Pacific Northwest, has long been driven to turn good intentions into real impact. “I became a Change Agent through my employment at Microsoft because I wanted to do more than just support causes—I wanted to help them thrive,” he shares. In this role, Jacob connects nonprofits like DBL with Microsoft resources, coaching them on how to maximize benefits available to qualified organizations.

He first learned about DBL through Microsoft's Give campaign and felt an immediate connection. “As a veteran who is also hard of hearing, their work really resonates with me on a personal level,” he explains. DBL's mission—providing Service Dogs to support independence, confidence, and accessibility—mirrored challenges he has faced firsthand, making the partnership deeply meaningful.

Over the years, Microsoft's support has grown beyond technology donations to include sponsorships, workplace events, and employee

Puppy Raiser David Bond and future Service Dog Jerry represent DBL at Microsoft's Network for Good event.



giving. “What’s meant the most to me is seeing the relationship evolve beyond donations into real engagement,” Jacob notes. He recalls Hackathon events where employees collaborated to show DBL how technology could amplify their mission.

For Jacob, bridging corporate resources and nonprofit impact is personal. “Nonprofits often have incredible missions but limited resources to fully realize them. I see it as my responsibility to help close that gap,” he says. One standout moment was hearing about a Hearing Assistance Dog placed with a veteran: “Knowing that our efforts at Microsoft helped make that connection possible—through technology, funding, and advocacy—was a proud moment for me.”

Jacob encourages employees to start small and be intentional. “Share a story, highlight a nonprofit during Give month, or organize a simple event. Use the tools your company provides, like matching programs or volunteer days. Advocacy from one person can create a ripple effect that inspires others and drives real impact.”

A white van with 'DOGS for better LIVES' branding is parked outdoors. The van features large green paw prints and the text 'WILL YOU RAISE ME?' on its side. A dog is visible on the side of the van. The background shows trees and a building.

Helping to Drive DBL's Mission Forward

Since 2016—back when Dogs for Better Lives was still known as Dogs for the Deaf—the Frog Crossing Foundation has had the pleasure of watching the organization grow and evolve as it expanded into Autism Assistance Dogs and Facility Dogs. The Foundation is also pleased to see DBL train rescued shelter dogs for service in addition to training puppies.

The Frog Crossing Foundation is a private foundation that provides grants to other deserving charitable organizations for the benefit of women, girls, and animals. The Foundation handpicks potential grant recipients and invites them to submit proposals for consideration that align with the Foundation's mission. Each proposal is then reviewed and considered at the Foundation's annual meeting, and grants are determined based on the Foundations' available resources and the intended use of the grant funds as detailed in the applicant's proposal.

While DBL informs the Foundation of its many new projects, DBL has asked the Frog Crossing Foundation to provide funding for specific practical and necessary projects like buying vans and supporting the new East Coast facility in Massachusetts. The Foundation

recognizes and appreciates DBL for its forward-thinking efforts to expand its programs and help more people and wishes DBL continued success as it strives to bring service dogs to people with disabilities and vulnerable populations.

Dogs for Better Lives has a small fleet of vehicles that our staff uses to transport our future Service Dogs to veterinary appointments, public training outings and even placement trips. The vehicles are all customized for the safety and comfort of our dogs and are used daily. DBL's vehicles are made possible by the combined support of donors and foundations like the Frog Crossing Foundation.

DBL Honored as Grand Marshal in 2025 Pear Blossom Festival

Dogs for Better Lives staff and volunteers built an amazing float to align with the 2025 event's theme: A Pear of Paws.



Darcey Self, a long-time Medford resident, has supported Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) for decades, tracing back to her teenage years in Malin. Her grandparents, who owned a small country restaurant, were members of the Good Sam Club and longtime supporters of Dogs for the Deaf, as DBL was then known. Darcey fondly recalls donating her tips to the organization and later joining fundraising efforts through the Venture Club while finishing college in Medford, including celebrating the groundbreaking of DBL's Central Point campus.

When the Pear Blossom Festival Board was selecting a Grand Marshal for 2025, Darcey championed DBL. "I continue to support the organization and wanted more people to know who they were and what they did," she said. The Board agreed, recognizing DBL's long-standing presence and strong reputation in the community.

The Pear Blossom Festival, an annual spring celebration in Medford featuring a parade, street fair, and community events, welcomed DBL with enthusiasm. Their parade entry delighted tens of thousands along the route and viewers on live TV. "We heard from parents and kids who had never known about DBL before," Darcey said. "Some children were so inspired that they wanted to foster or train dogs themselves!"

Looking ahead, the festival plans to continue supporting DBL with parade entries and street fair participation every year. "Many people do not understand the blood, sweat, tears, and hard work that goes into making non-profit organizations like DBL work," Darcey said. "Many non-profits and their boards and employees are unsung heroes that need to be recognized for the amazing work that they do."

DOGS for
better
LIVES

dogsforbetterlives.org

DOGS for
better
LIVES



Providing assistance dogs since 1979

DOGS for
better
LIVES

DOGS for
better
LIVES

DOGS for
better
LIVES

CHANGE LIVES
WITH US



RAISE A
PUPPY

FOSTER
OR TRANSPORT
A DOG

JOIN
A REGIONAL
ADVISORY
BOARD



dogsforbetterlives.org



2024-2025 Financials

Support & Revenue

Contributions & Grants:	\$4,866,509
Program Service Revenue:	\$5,500
Investment Income:	\$1,025,893
Other Revenue:	\$190,008
Total revenue, gains, and other support:	\$6,087,910

Expenses

Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits:	\$4,172,230
Other Expenses:	\$1,677,855
Total expenses and losses:	\$5,850,085
Revenue less expenses:	\$237,825

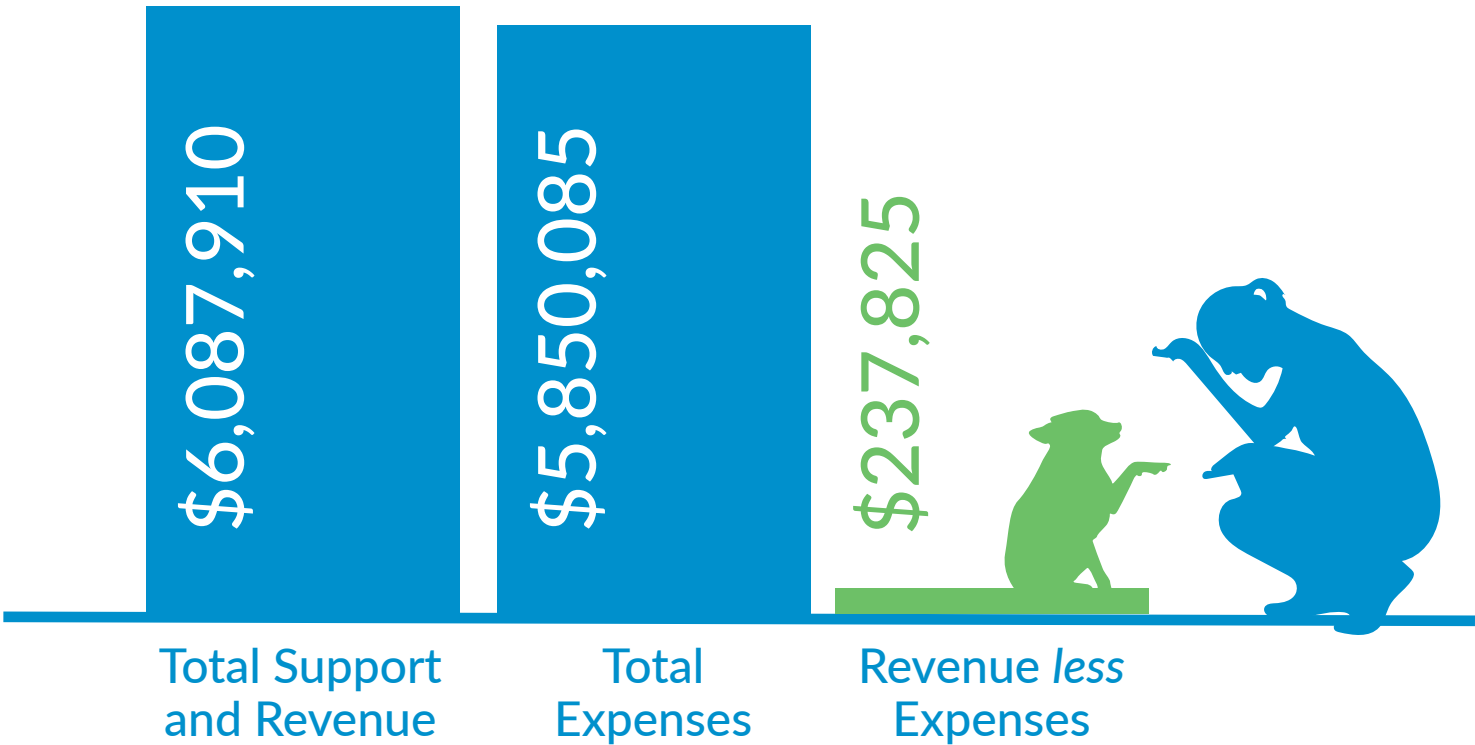
Assets

Total Assets:	\$17,027,372
Total Liabilities:	\$399,469
Net Assets:	\$16,627,903

*All figures are based on our 2024-2025 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.

100% of donor dollars supports programmatic services.

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Tim Cibula (Chair)
CarrieJo Hoelzel (Vice Chair)
Stephanie Deines (Treasurer)
Emily Nelson (Secretary)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Dr. Catharina Armstrong
Stacie Bianco
Dr. Josh Broadwater
Cindy Culbertson
Lisa De Vivo
Michelle Farabaugh
Kellie Green
Garren Heye
Patty Jensen
Richard Perlman
Dr. Michelle Quinn
Dr. Erinn Rhodes
Lisa Robinson
Dr. Julie Ryan-Johnson
Chad Stark

REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS

RAB-Pacific Northwest
Emily Widen, Chair
Kaitlyn Franz, Vice Chair

RAB-Northeast
AJ Cullen, Chair

RAB - Southern California
Mika Kahn, Chair

RAB-Texas
Jim Harger, Chair
Sonya Thompson, Vice Chair

RAB-Northeast
Cathy Hayes, Chair

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bryan Williams, President & CEO
Gwen Dudek, Vice President of Program
Sara Ifert, Vice President of Marketing
Sarah McCracken, Executive Director, Northeast Region
Harvey Potts, Vice President of Development
Meagan Steahly, Vice President of Finance
Trish Welch, Vice President of Operations

Bequests

Anonymous
Elinor K. Avenatti
John J. Bahm Trust
Mary E. Bell
Maureen M. Clayton
Dorothy E. Davis Trust
Paula J. Dodd-Cramer
Marcia L. Donoghue
The Colleen Eatherton Trust
Lucille H. Edgerton
Martha Ann Hanthorn

Arthur and Katharine Hyde Irwin
Doris M. Johnson
Sonja N. James
Cheryl G. Jones
Marilyn L. Klock
Phyllis A. Kowats
Marie Diana Lee
Jean Loew Trust
The Estate of Virginia S. Machen
Thery McKinney Trust
Kenneth D. Meeker

Loris Micken Estate
Audrey Naismith
Hilda O. Nitchman
Josephine H. Overdick
Teddi A. Taylor
Janet H. Wallace
LaDonna K. Ward
Jerry Watari
Edward J. Visconti
Vivian M. Wayman



FOLLOW
us on Facebook /
dogsforbetterlives



FOLLOW
us on Instagram
@dogsforbetterlives

WEST CAMPUS

10175 Wheeler Road
Central Point, OR 97502
(541) 826-9220
(800) 990-3647

NORTHEAST CAMPUS

188 Nathan Ellis Hwy
East Falmouth, MA 02536
(508) 564-4088



*Puppy Raiser Laura Allen with
DBL Future Service Dog, Rooster.*

info@dogsforbetterlives.org
www.dogsforbetterlives.org