

Tails_Tales

Winter Edition 2022

Wishing our friends a safe and joyous holiday season!

Dear friends,

The staff of UDS Service Dogs Program is truly blessed with having your friendship and support! You have given generously this year of your time, love and financial support. Thank you for supporting our Pups in Prison Program; our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament; our Great Pup-kin V5K as well as making purchases from our online store for treats, toys and dog food.

As our program continues to grow and thrive we are all looking forward to 2023 with hope and continued blessings as we work hard to help those people in need!

Warm regards,

Lori, Janna, Kristy, Lorrie, Susan, Jennifer and Judy

A special interview from The Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Foundation!

The Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Foundation was our program's first sponsors for dogs in the Secondary Phase of Training. Those dogs were Milton and Deora, siblings, who are still bringing great joy to their people years after their placement.



I asked Kathie Schroeder, the executor of the estate if she would share with us how their foundation became involved with our program.

Could you tell us a little about Betty and the Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Foundation? *The name of the Trust is Peter G. Schlotterer & Elizabeth M. Zipf Charitable Trust . Peter bequeathed the money at his death to his Charitable Trust. Betty & I were the original Trustees. Peter was happy to support any organization that Betty wanted. Peter was a chemist with Merck for 40+ years, but his passion was open space. He went to Temple and, in his name, we give scholarships to students majoring in Landscape Architecture or Horticulture. Betty was his long time friend and all of the other organizations that we have and do support were her choices.*

What was Betty passionate about? *animals, helping the prison population obtain life skills for when they are released, veterans, and those less fortunate through religious organizations, food banks, etc.*

How did you find UDS Service Dogs Program? *This is a long story. In the late 1990s, the NJ chapter of NAIFA (National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors) had an article in their quarterly newsletter asking for donations to sponsor two helper dogs. My dad (Bill Small) & I are members of the organization and Dad read the article. He called the NJ chapter and asked how the fund raising was going. "Not well" was what he was told. He asked how much they needed to raise and then told them that we would "take care of the full amount". The woman thought that he was kidding. Dad went to the ceremony (I was out of town) when the two young disabled girls were presented with their labs. He said that it was heartwarming and obviously would be life changing for the girls and their families. We added an additional donation to cover the food and medical care for each of the dogs for three years to help the two families. We didn't know UDS at the time, but the helper dogs (as they were called then) were arranged through UDS (you were United Cerebral Palsy of Lancaster County then). Years later, we got a note from one of the families to tell us that their dog had passed away after a long, loving, and productive life. One of my dad's and my favorite things that we have done over the years – the change in the girls' and their families' lives was tremendous.*

Peter died in 2008 and the Charitable Trust was established at his death. When Betty & I were talking about which organizations and types of projects that we wanted to be involved with, I told her about the dogs that we had sponsored before. She was thrilled with the idea, so I told her that I would do some research and find out if the organization was still in existence and if they still had "helper dogs". I found UDS (luckily, we still had the original information from our first dogs and I could locate you under your new name). We were thrilled that not only did you still have the "helper dogs", you were now doing the training. Throughout her life, Betty tried to help those who needed it and focused on the prison population. We love the stories that UDS has shared from the prisoner trainers who talked about how life changing the experience has been and that they will have job skills once released.

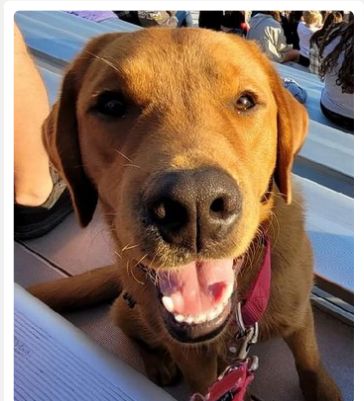
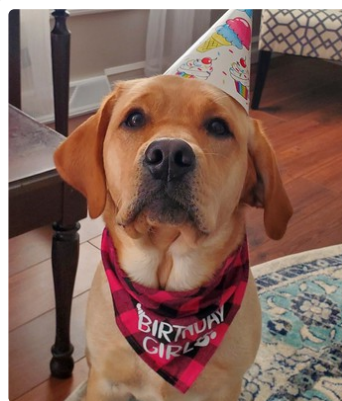
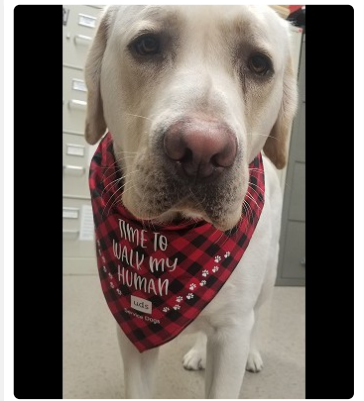
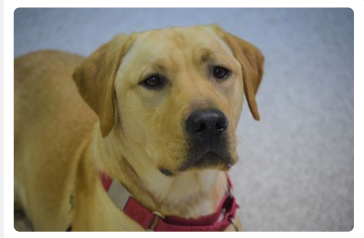
I know you shared pictures and updates about the pups with Betty, did she have a favorite? *Murray was a favorite because he was named for Betty's last dog – a golden retriever who was a faithful companion who went everywhere with her until a year before Betty died in 2016. Of course, she loved seeing them all and would be thrilled that we have sponsored so many after her death.*

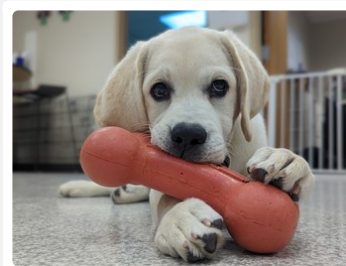
The Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Foundation has sponsored many pups over the past 7 years, why do you continue to support our puppies in training? *We continue to support the training because we believe in your mission. Dogs love to have jobs and the entire process has been life changing for the prisoners and the students/schools and individuals who are matched with the graduates.*

Kathie, Is there a certain sponsored puppy that stands out for you more than the others and why? *Oliver, Stuart, Cody, Andre, Morgan, Ian, Roanin, & Lacey were named in honor of my beloved family dogs and horses (Oliver & Roanin). Victoria was named for my daughter. I love naming the dogs! Stuart stands out because of the picture you sent of him going to prom. But, I can't really pick a favorite. Additional dogs sponsored are Petey, named after the trust founder, Jupiter, Apollo and Neptune.*

Because of people like Kathie Schroeder and The Peter G. Schlotterer & Elizabeth M. Zipf Charitable Trust we are able to help more people in the communities we serve because they believe in our mission. We are grateful for their continued support and blessed with their friendship!

Sponsored pups - The Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Foundation

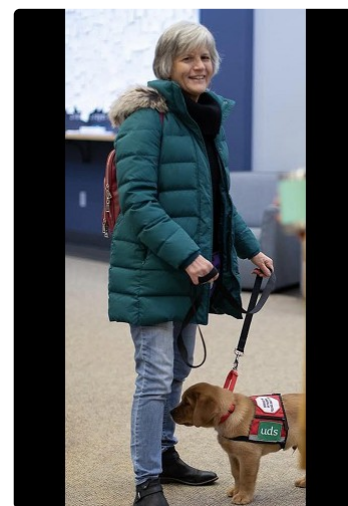




Volunteer Highlight - Meet Edna Lombardi

Why did you start volunteering with the UDS Service Dogs Program and how did you get started? *We moved to Toledo, Ohio a few years ago and I started volunteering with service dogs out there. It was something I always thought would be fun and it was a way for us to have a dog without such a long term commitment. I loved volunteering out there, so once we moved back to Lancaster County, I looked for a similar organization here.*

What are you enjoying the most through your volunteer work with the pups? *I love taking the dogs to class at UDS. The trainers are all so encouraging and knowledgeable. It's a wonderful atmosphere. I always learn a lot and have a great time doing it.*



Is there a special moment, funny or serious, that stands out to you with one of the pups you have helped train? *When we got Roanin as a puppy, he was the same size as our daughter's Chihuahua. He quickly grew to be much bigger and started scaring her when they played. Even as a little puppy, he figured out how to play with her by getting down on his front legs to be closer to her size. We recently got him back from his next phase of training in the prison. He is now much bigger than he was when he left, but he is right back down on his front legs at her level so they can still play. He is so gentle with her. I think he is going to be an amazing dog for someone - he's incredibly intuitive.*

Have you found it difficult to have a pup leave your care to enter his/her next phase of training and how are you dealing with that process? *I think I've shed a few tears with each pup I have sent off. They are all so special and sweet. It's always worth it, though, when you see them go on and do well in their next phase. And getting a new dog right a ways helps tremendously. You miss the previous dog so much, but the new one quickly steals your heart. I have never regretted having a dog, no matter how hard it is to give them up. The rewards are always so much greater than the pain of saying goodbye. And when I think about what these dogs go on to do, it seems like such a small sacrifice on my part.*

What have you found to be the most challenging part of being a volunteer for our program? *The most challenging part is to stay consistent with the training. They are so smart and cute that it's easy to let them get away with something, but that doesn't help them in the long run. It can also be frustrating to get to class and the dog that did a command perfectly all week suddenly forgets everything it knows!*

What is the most rewarding part of being a volunteer for the UDS Service Dogs Program? *I love watching a pup figure out something that I've been trying to teach them. They are so smart and so eager to please (and they certainly love their treats!). I feel like they improve daily and it's fun to watch their progress. I have only been with UDS for a year, so I haven't seen any of "my" dogs finish their training yet, but by far the most rewarding part is to see your dog get placed with an individual or organization where it will make such an incredible difference in someone's life.*



Employee Highlight - Susan Vollmar

Susan Vollmar is a trainer with the UDS Service Dogs program and works mainly with dogs entering the Intermediate phase of training as well as working with our schools waiting for or having received a Facility Dog. Read about how Susan became involved with our program.

How did you get involved with the UDS Service Dogs Program and how long have you been an employee? *I got involved with the UDS Service Dogs Program first as a volunteer. I would come in and help with kennel care by walking the dogs or doing whatever was needed. I enjoyed the dogs so much I was here on a regular basis Tuesday through Thursday. I then agreed to volunteer to help with the weekend sitting of the kennel dogs. One thing led to another and when the position for a kennel assistant opened up, I applied and was quickly hired. That was in August of 2019. In March of 2020 (right as UDS closed down due to COVID) I started a new position as Secondary Trainer for the Service Dogs Program. I can officially say that I have been an employee of UDS for 3 years now even though it feels like just yesterday.*



What do you most enjoy about your job as a Trainer? *That's easy. It would be working with the part of our program that places our facility dogs. To train a dog I know is being placed within a school where they will not just connect with one person, but with many, fills my heart. Knowing the difference they will make with the students can be life changing.*

What is one thing you wish for in regards to the program? *Unlimited time and money to grow our program.*

How do you keep from forming attachments with the dogs you train? *I don't, but I do keep the larger picture in mind. I know how much a difference the dogs we place make in the lives of the people they touch and in the end that is what allows me to "let go". Growing a bond with the dogs that we work with as individual trainers allows us to develop a connection that in turn enables us to more effectively*

train them. We learn what their gifts are and then hopefully get to place them using their gifts.

Is there a program highlight you would like to share that stands out for you in regards to your role with the UDS Service Dogs Program? *That would be the part of our program that places facility dogs. I have seen where one facility dog can pull people together and create a community or how they can decompress an anxious student so that they are able to stay in school. The stories are numerous where the power of four paws and a wet nose makes a difference.*

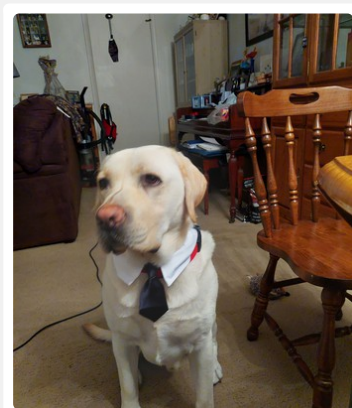


Meet Maureen McGowan and her Service Dog Ian!

I was born with myelomeningocele (a neural tube defect), and hydrocephalus at birth, making me a paraplegic. Confined to a wheelchair, daily tasks were hard to complete without the help of my family. Despite the physical challenges, I developed a sense of toughness and determination in order to keep up with other kids my age.

Talk of a service animal started early on, but never came to fruition until my early 40's when I found myself living on my own for the first time. Life was good, but something was missing.

Enter United Disabilities Services and a yellow Labrador named Ian. After completing the requirements of the program, I brought Ian home in October of 2021. It didn't take long for us to settle into our partnership, and I can't see a life without him. He's made life happier, I'm more confident, and Ian has been eager to obey every command I may give him. He's sweet, intelligent, and the best gift I could ever receive.



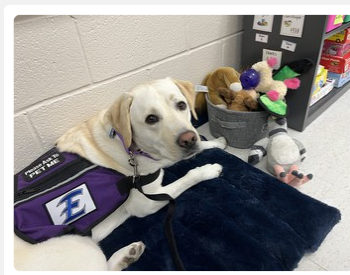
Remi, Facility Dog for East High Elementary School!

Remi has adjusted to this work beautifully. Remi is patient and gentle with the children. He waits quietly while they take turns petting him. Three children at a time are allowed to pet him and they line up for a turn. Many students who do not have pets, reach out hesitantly with a little bit of nervousness. But Remi is so still and gentle that he gains the trust of even the most nervous of

students. Remi also has a special touch with our full time learning support students. He puts his nose up on their wheelchairs and lets them touch him. In October, Remi celebrated both his graduation and his third birthday with an all school celebration. He had a hat, balloons, and children singing Happy Birthday to him. Remi truly is the star of East High Elementary School.

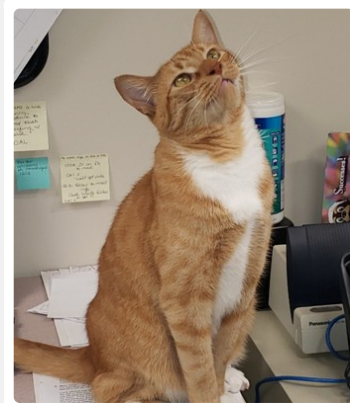
Check-out his page - *EastHighRemi* on Instagram

Thank you to Nancy Grundhoffer, Remi's primary handler.



Every kennel needs a cat - meet Harris!

Harris started working for us in January 2020 and boy is he a great kennel cat, more than we could have hoped for. Harris lives with Susan Vollmar and goes home on weekends and holidays. During the week, he is on duty and lives with the dogs in the kennel. His appearances in classes are his job, he provides distractions for our pups in training and at the same time he is helping our pups learn to accept cats. This will be especially important if there are cats living in the home of a future Service Dogs forever person. Harris has many fans and supporters, many who provide him with monthly treats and food through our [online store](#). We love Harris, we appreciate others do as well! Every kennel needs a cat, we are fortunate to have the best!



The Gift that will keep giving!

Our program was recently blessed with a new Ford Flex through the generosity of Dan & Suzy Keller. The Keller's and [Keller Bros., Ford Family of Dealerships](#) have been our friends for many years. They gifted us with our older Flex years ago, a vehicle that had accumulated high mileage and was starting to show its age. Out of the blue they said they wanted to update our vehicle with a newer model. What a blessing! Safety is a priority here at UDS and knowing our staff, dogs and volunteers will be safe when traveling to promote our program is peace of mind! We are so very thankful to the Keller's who share our vision in helping those in need. THANK YOU!



Congratulations to our 2022 Graduating Class!

On Monday, October 10th, UDS Service Dogs Program staff and approximately 65 guests gathered at Hambright Elementary School, to celebrate the achievements of 9 dogs graduating this year. Our evening was full of joy, happiness and even some tears as clients shared stories about the impact their Service, Facility and our Ambassador Dogs are having in their lives.



UDSSD Scout

Scout is a Chocolate Australian Labradoodle, born 3/16/2019, from Wild Daisy Farms; he was sponsored by Keller Bros., Ford Family of Dealerships.

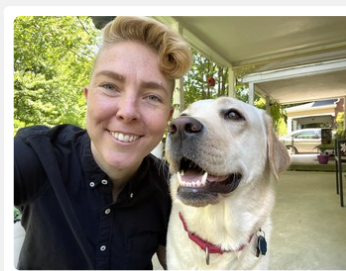
His forever person is Karen Bradley



UDSSD Ian

Ian is a Yellow Labrador Retriever, born on 11/23/2019, from Carvin's Cove; he was sponsored by the Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Foundation.

His forever person is Maureen McGowan



UDSSD Goose

Goose is a Yellow Labrador Retriever, born on 10/16/2019, from Mountain View Labradors.

His forever person is Meg Day and they were a client of our Owner Trained Training Program.



UDSFD Harry

Harry is a Yellow Labrador Retriever, born on 11/23/2019, from Carvin's Cove and brother to Ian; he was sponsored by the Schoenberger family.

Harry works at
Shippensburg Intermediate



UDSFD Kosmo

Kosmo is a Yellow Labrador Retriever, born on 11/23/2019, although he shares a birthday with both Harry and Ian, Kosmo is not related and is from Angie Jurisson; he was sponsored by Primitives by Kathy.

Kosmo works at
Shepherdstown Elementary.



UDSFD Dugan

Dugan is a Black Labrador Retriever, born on 6/9/2019, from YBR Farm.

Dugan works at Northside
Elementary.



UDSFD Remi

Remi is a Yellow Labrador Retriever, born on 10/16/2019, from Mountain View Labradors.

Remi works at East High Elementary and has his on Instagram Page: EastHighRemi



UDS Ambassador Morgan

Morgan is a Yellow Labrador Retriever, born on 12/13/2019, from Zion's March; she was sponsored by The Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Foundation.

Morgan lives with Edna Lombardi and works with Linda Rineer, both dear friends and volunteers.



UDS Ambassador Quincy

Quincy is a Yellow Labrador Retriever, born on 8/2/2019, from ABC-Whelped at CPL.

Quincy lives with Trainer Lorrie Snyder and her husband Jim.

New Pups begin their 2-year training journey - Welcome!

It's always so fun to welcome new puppies to our program. No matter what they decide to become, Service, Facility, Companion or Pet, we will enjoy providing them with the support they need over the next 2 years!



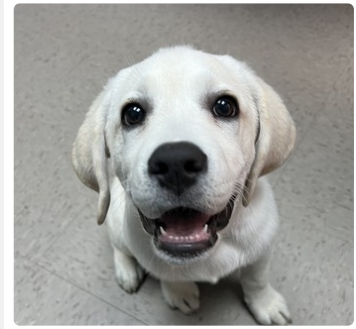
Josh

Josh, born, 3/4/2022, started his training journey with the Pavlovec family before traveling to Houtzdale to enter our RUFF Pups in Prison program.



Lizzie

Lizzie, born 6/26/22, started her training journey with UDSSD Trainer, Susan Vollmar. Lizzie recently traveled to Houtzdale to participate in our RUFF Pups in Prison program.



Jupiter

Jupiter, born 6/29/22, started his training journey with Erica Brandt. He recently traveled to Houtzdale to participate in our RUFF Pups in Prison program.



Apollo

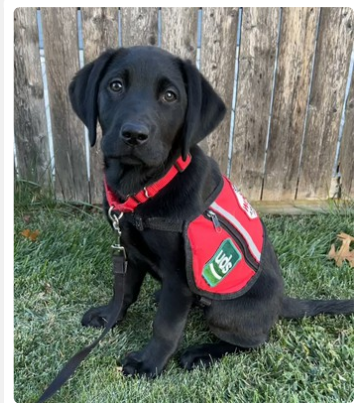
Apollo, born, 7/12/22, started his training journey with UDSSD Puppy Coordinator, Kristy Conrad. Apollo recently entered our RUFF Pups in Prison program at SCI Houtzdale.



Sunny

Sunny, born, 7/24/22, started his training journey with Mike Steltz with our Solutions Brokerage Division. Sunny begins his training at SCI Houtzdale on December 7th.

(Sunny is pictured here with his brother Neptune)



Neptune

Neptune, born, 7/24/22, started his training journey with Mary Langton, Staff Accountant with UDS. Neptune begins his training at SCI Houtzdale with his brother, Sunny, on December 7th.



Casey

Casey, born, 6/22/22, started his training journey with volunteer puppy raiser, Carolyn Lehman. Casey was named after Casey Allyn from WIOV. Many of you may know we named one of our other dogs after Jerry Murphy who passed away unexpectedly. Murph and Casey were the morning team for 19 years at WIOV. In some small way Murph and Casey are reunited once again...

Keeping our dogs safe this holiday!

It takes a Village - THANK YOU!

*We all know how important volunteers are in our world. The very definition holds great meaning; **a person who freely gives of their time, love, compassion, commitment, dedication and so much more.***

Without our volunteers the UDS Service Dogs Program would be unable to continue to experience growth as we strive to develop into one of the leading Service Dog organizations in the state of Pennsylvania.

A SHOUT-OUT to all of the amazing volunteers both long time volunteers and our new volunteers for signing up for kennel care and walking our dogs each day, for providing a loving home on weekends, over holidays and during challenging times we experienced in 2020!

You truly are our volunteer angels!

Partnering for Paws Online Donation Store

Amazon Wish List

Bringing back "Pick Your Own Prize" B I N G O

Mark your calendars now, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023. Doors will open at 10am with the first game starting at 11:30. Event will be held at Farm & Home Center in Lancaster, PA.

GREAT baskets, raffles, snacks will be available for purchase and lots of UDS Pups in Training for a great afternoon of family FUN!



Proceeds will help cover the rising cost of Veterinary Care for over 25 dogs in different phases of training.

We look forward to seeing you at our BINGO event for the first time since 2019!

Tickets will go on sale, January 3, 2023. \$25 in advance - \$30 at the door - contact Karen Slick at karens@udservices.org to secure your tickets. Raffle tickets will not be sold in advance and can be purchased the day of our event. Thank you.

Any questions, contact Lori Breece, at lorib@udservices.org

Photo credit: Turn Key Ridge Labradors - Jupiter is from this litter.