



Service Dogs

Tails_Tales

Winter Edition 2023

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 4th Annual Golf Tournament; Bringing Back BINGO, 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 2024 with hope and continued blessings as we work hard to help those people in need!

Warm regards,

Lori, Kristy, Janna, Lorrie, Susan, Jennifer, Marilea, Kyla and Beth

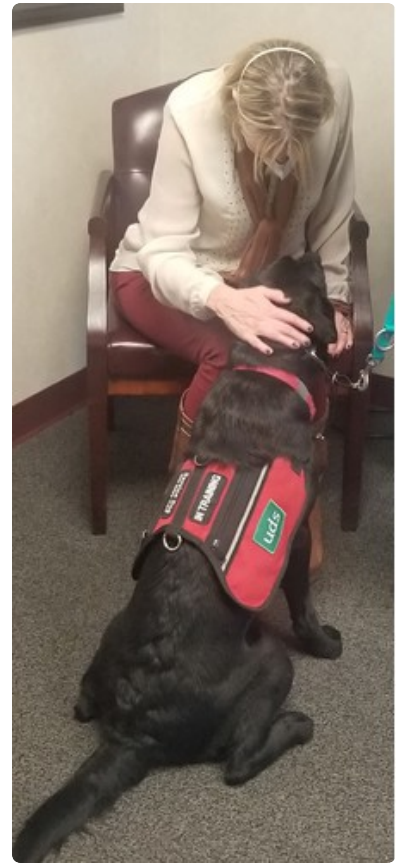
Meet Denise Buckwalter, Partnering for Paws Sponsor

I learned about UDS Service Dogs purely by accident when Jennifer King of UDS walked into my office with Martin, a black lab who recently returned from his training time in the RUFF Pups in

Prison program at SCI Houtzdale, his extensive training. Once I und te
 prison after doing "time" for almost a year, I immediately wanted to help.

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I quickly determined this was a program that provided genuine service dogs to a very sensitive population while providing incarcerated people and their families the unique and priceless opportunity to do the same. Training these dogs doesn't just transform the inmates experience of incarceration, the transformation seeps into his family as they begin to see him in a completely new light. The inmate has a challenging and critical mission to accomplish while enjoying the tender affection of the puppy. I see this as a chance for these men to experience love, touch and companionship in an otherwise emotionally sterile existence. It is quite possible this training experience is the first time in their lives they've experienced authentic pride in doing something for no other reason that it is life changing for another human being.



This genius symbiotic process makes supporting UDS extremely natural to me. Like it's just common sense to do what you can to help when it impacts so many people in such profound ways.

This makes it easy to ask people to support the program. I will continue to donate and encourage my colleagues and friends to do the same because it's a big bang for your buck in the impacting people department. I don't let them forget it!

I am grateful to Mike McDonald at McDonald At Law, my employer, who is also supporting pups through this program providing dog food for many of these dogs currently receiving their training at UDS!

Volunteer Highlight - Meet Kate Manners

My name is Kate Manners. I'm 35 years old and have lived in Lancaster my whole life. I was born with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy and received my first wheelchair when I was 22 months old. I also have low vision and peripheral vision issues. I graduated from Hempfield School District in 2007. I took classes at HACC for 2 ½ years. Following that I started attending the Adult Enrichment Program offered through UDS. I live at home with my parents.



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I signed up with three different dogs in the past. One of them passed away. I always wanted a service dog since I first met one at the age of 6. However, it just never worked out for me. In 2012 my mother signed me up to volunteer with the UDS Service Dogs Program as a puppy pal. She thought it would be a good way for us to explore whether having a service dog might work at this time in my life. It gave me a very hands-on, up-close experience on what it means to train and own a dog. Unfortunately, due to my vision impairments it is very difficult for me to work with a dog independently. My mom has willingly continued to help me with dog training all these years and I have found it to be deeply fulfilling and meaningful.

Volunteering with the dogs is so worthwhile!! I have gotten to see how the dogs grow from wiggly little puppies to disciplined working dogs. The dogs give so much love to everyone who works with them. They are superbly intelligent and learn so quickly. It is FUN!!!! I love the impact I have on people's lives and the lives of the dogs. I especially love all the love each dog gives to me each week.

It is always hard to say goodbye to the dogs when they graduate. But it is also wonderful to see how hard they work for their new owners and the joy the dogs bring to these folks. Having a service dog changes the life of a person forever.

This Fall, while playing and socializing with a new group of puppies, I had an immediate connection to one of the dogs. When I held him and looked into his eyes his energy felt like my brother was present. My brother, CJ, passed away last year. He was my only sibling. I decided right then that I wanted to sponsor this puppy and UDS allowed me to name him CJ!!!!. He is currently in the RUFF program at Houztdale but I look forward to when he returns in the Spring. I will be able to work with him on Monday nights until he is placed with his forever person.

This is probably one of the most fulfilling aspects of the program I have participated in yet!

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Welcome to our Team!

Marilea Miller, Program Assistant

How did you get involved with the UDS Service Dogs Program and how long have you been an employee? During my Senior year of high school, I attended CTC, where I was later granted a 2-month Internship with UDS Service Dogs Program. I applied for the evening kennel care person and started in July. I have since transitioned to the Program Assistant, I take care of the kennel dogs in

the morning and provide adminis

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What do you most enjoying so far? *I enjoy the classes we hold on Mondays in our training room. I absolutely adore every single one of our volunteers and it's just a great time to really learn foundational, handling skills with the dogs you work with.*

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



Tell us a little about yourself? *I am 19 years old and graduated from High School last year! When I was younger, I always told everyone I wanted to be a professional dog walker. Fast forward many years and I am the Program Assistant for UDS Service Dogs.*

Is there anything that has been a highlight for you since you started? *Definitely Team Training, I love all our clients and seeing how much the dogs impact them truly is the hallmark of this job for me.*



Kyla Hammond, Evening Kennel Assistant

How did you get involved or hear about our Service dogs Program? *I learned about the Service Dogs Program after seeing a job posting for a Kennel Assistant position.*

What are you enjoying the most so far? *I am most enjoying getting to spend time with the dogs and learning about the training they go*

through.

Tell us a little about yourself? *I am a brand new mom. My husband Matt and I welcomed our little boy Maxx in July. We also have 3 fur babies. Our dog Shammie, our cat Malibu and our ferret Lily. I love spending time with family and friends, doing crafts, doing hair (I have my cosmetology license) and working outdoors and gardening in the summer. Halloween is my absolute favorite time of the year! I work at Spirit Halloween every year as an Assistant Manager and love anything and everything spooky!*

Is there anything that has been a highlight for you since you started? *Spending time with the dogs and being able to be a part of a Monday night class and learning some of the things they do and teach in the classes. Also, getting to do some training with one of our kennel dogs, Lizzie during the class!*

Meet Murphy, Our Dog with Elizabethtown School District

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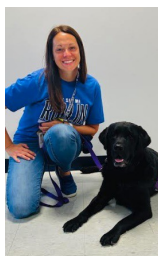


(written by Amy Robinson)

Murphy came into my life during a time when I wasn't ready for a dog, honestly. I had just lost my 15-year old black lab, Elvira, and I wasn't sure my heart was ready. I remember that Brandon had Murphy for a trial weekend and brought him to work one day. Murphy entered our office and I just started petting him and ended up lying on the floor with him holding back tears. Fast forward a few months and Murphy is living with me. He was sooooo patient with me. I remember laying on the couch thinking "I'm not ready for this" and he'd walk over and just lay his head on the couch (but not jump on) and never push for attention. He met me where I was and just waited for the connection to form. Needless to say, I don't get much alone couch time anymore and I wouldn't have it any other way. He's brought joy and consistency into my life. He makes me smile and laugh daily. I mean, if you've ever seen him - you can't help but smile.

Professionally, for well over half of my career I had a dog by my side at work (Elvira) so when I started at Elizabethtown without a dog I always knew I was missing something. There were talks of getting a dog in the district so I managed to wiggle my way into many of those conversations and presentations about how amazing animals are in schools. Having a dog every day puts smiles on so many faces and starts conversations and connections with others that otherwise may never happen. Murphy has allowed us to provide a safe space for so many students. In addition, he's so good for the staff members. He increases morale, he helps us connect and he's truly loved by so many.

Murphy has paved the way for our two other Facility Dogs as well as the two we are waiting on. He's done such an amazing job of breaking down barriers and excels at warming the hearts of our district and community. his calm demeanor has attracted those who may not have been comfortable with dogs and his personality tends to bring a smile to almost everyone's face. I have students who go out of their way each day so that they can see, pet and snuggle with Murphy. I love seeing him brighten the days of others.



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Congratulations to our 2023 Graduating Class!

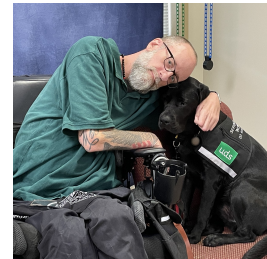
On Monday, October 9th, UDS Service Dogs Program staff and approximately 75 guests gathered at UDS Corporate Office in Lancaster, to celebrate the achievements of 11 dogs graduating this year. Our evening was full of joy, happiness and even some tears as clients shared stories about the impact their Service and Facility Dogs are having in their lives.



UDSSD Petey
Joelle Giordano



UDSSD Moses
Sue Hale



UDSSD Owen
Matthew Seeley



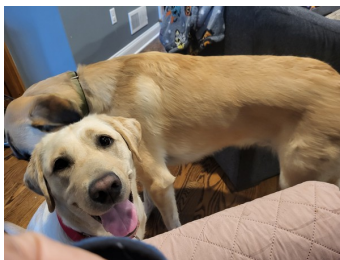
UDSSD Tyler
Leslie Dahl



UDSFD Kinsley
Spring Grove Area H.S.



UDSFD Kolben
Elizabethtown Area M.S.



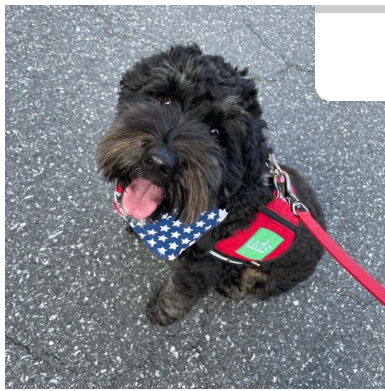
UDSFD Meadow
Shippensburg Area H.S.



UDSFD Coco
Gerald G. Huesken M.S.

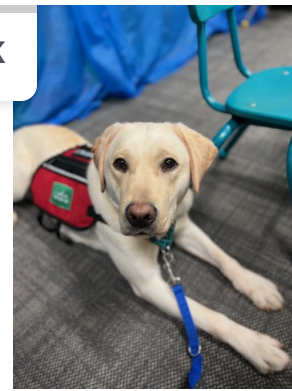


UDSFD Rubee
Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter
Primary School

**UDSFD Elsie**

Conestoga Valley S.D.

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**UDSFD Haaland**

Cumberland Valley H.S.

New Pups begin their 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!

**Arwyn**

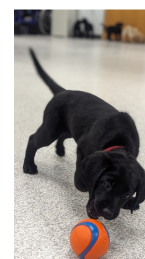
Born April 14, 2023, Arwyn is a female Goldendoodle and was named by and is being sponsored by the Peter G. Schlotterer & Elizabeth Zipf Charitable Trust, Kathleen E. Schroeder, Trustee.

**Kimmy**

Born April 14, 2023, Kimmy, is sister to Arwyn and also a female Goldendoodle, named and being sponsored by Primitives by Kathy.

**Stella**

Born December 6, 2022, Stella is a female Black Labrador Retriever and received sponsor support from Raymond & Jackie Bures.



CJ

Born May 10, 2023, CJ is a male Black Labrador Retriever and was named and is being sponsored by long-time friend and volunteer, Kate Manners (read more about Kate in this edition)

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brother to CJ, Denver is a Black male Labrador Retriever.

Meeka

Born July 25, 2023, Meeka is a female Black Labrador Retriever. She recently traveled to SCI Houtzdale to being her initial training in our RUFF Pups in Prison Program. Meeka received sponsor support from Steve Bell, Personal Wealth Advisory.

**Ford**

Born July 25, 2023, Ford is a male Yellow Labrador Retriever and he also recently traveled to SCI Houtzdale to being his training in our RUFF Pups in Prison Program. Ford received sponsor support from Steve Bell, Personal Wealth Advisory.

**Chevy**

Born September 13, 2023, Chevy is a female Yellow Labrador Retriever.

**Cypress**

Born September 14, 2023, Cypress, is a female Black & White Aussiedoodle.

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
weekends, over holidays and sup

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providing a loving home on

You truly are our volunteer angels!

2024 Hershey Bears & Service Dogs Wall Calendars have arrived!

We are so excited to be back with our fans and offer this amazing collection of the men who make up the Bears hockey team and the pups that are in training to become a Service dog.

Your purchase will make a difference and support our pups!

When hung, the calendar measures 11" wide by 17" tall. The top half of each monthly spread features pictures of the Hershey Bears players and UDS service dogs, and the bottom half is a full-size monthly calendar. (There is a \$5.00 shipping fee to mail the calendar.)

Go BEARS!



Service Dog Donation Store | Support Our Training | UDSF

Shop with UDS and make a positive impact on your community-- proceeds from the UDS service dog store go to fund training for PA service dogs!

udservices.org

Amazon Wish List

"Pick Your Own Prize" B I N G O

Mark your calendars now, SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024. Doors will open at Noon with the first game starting at 1:30. 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.



Your support will make the difference for those with a physical disability or autism or a Veteran who will have their life changed v

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Tickets will go on sale, January 3, 2024. \$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.

If you or someone you know would like to donate a basket for our Bingo event, please contact Lori Breece, at lorib@udservices.org or Jennifer King, at jenniferk@udservices.org

Did you know?

We would love to give you a tour of our facility and talk with you about our program. There are many ways to support our pups in training! Give us a call and let's schedule time to visit and get to know each other. Our Service Dogs Team would love to meet you and share all the wonderful success stories of the lives of people in our community having their life changed through the Power of 4 Paws & a Wet Nose!

Beth Grossman, Development Gift Officer, (717) 397-1841 or via email: elizabethg@udsfoundation.org

Lori Breece

Lori is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters