

ADAI Volunteer Newsletter

April 5, 2011



National Assistance Dogs Week

ADAI would like to participate in the 2nd Annual National Assistance Dogs Week, August 7- 13. To do so, we need volunteers and clients to organize a community event that will increase awareness about the service dog industry. Two nine-year-olds, Noah and Olivia, suggested a "Bike-a-Thon" one evening during this week where people participate in their own neighborhoods riding their bikes for a determined number of miles.

Such as other events like the "Relay for Life" or Red Cross "Jump-a-Thon", we could collect pledges to ADAI and another charity of choice to celebrate National Assistance Dogs week. We would also need small flyers explaining how assistance dogs assist their owners. PLEASE - we know everyone is busy but there must be someone who would find this project a passion. We need to share our wonderful stories with the good people of Toledo and surrounding area! Contact Rhonda at rdekoninck@adai.org

Night Owls and Dogs?

Are you a night owl? Do you like wandering around meeting people and showing off your ADAI foster dog? As many of you know, Walgreens' Distribution Center chose ADAI as their charity for 2011. They will be raising funds that will come directly to us through many 2011 events.

In order for the employees to get to know us better, Walgreens would like volunteers and their foster dogs to visit the distribution center several times a month on both the day and night shifts (this is where the night owls come in). Margaret and Kali will be discussing these outing opportunities in training class but if you have a moment and want to go over to the building on 795 in Perrysburg, please contact Rhonda at 4dekoninck@adai.org. She will call the distribution center manager to make arrangements for your visits.

Staff Recognition

Several ADAI staff members, nominated by ADAI volunteers, were recognized at the February staff meeting. Kudos to:
The kennel staff, Tim, Jannette and Kelly
Kali Makula
Karen Swartz-Dowling
Margaret Katona
Thanks for all your nominations and keep them coming!
April staff recognitions will be in the next newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Apr. 11 - 22	Service dog team training
Apr. 13	Service dog potluck, noon
Apr. 21	Spring Graduation
May 7	Walgreens charity motorcycle ride
May 30	Memorial Day, office closed
June 14	School therapy dog workshop
July 4	Independence Day, office closed
July 11 - 15	Therapy dog team training
July 25 - Aug. 5	Service dog team training
Aug. 4	Graduation
Aug. 17	Off-site staff meeting, office closed
Sep. 5	Labor Day, office Closed
Sep. 10	Dealin' for Dogs
Oct. 17 - 21	Therapy dog team training
Oct. 22	Bryan Eagle Reverse Raffle
Nov. 7 - 18	Service dog team training
Nov. 17	Graduation
Nov. 24 & 25	thanksgiving, office closed
Dec. 12	Office closed for staff meeting
Dec. 25-Jan. 1	Christmas break, office closed

Foster Classes

April 9	9 a.m. puppy
April 12	6 p.m. puppy
May 14	9a.m. puppy
May 17	6 p.m. puppy
June 11	9a.m. puppy
June 14	6 p.m. puppy

Beginner class times will be determined.

Please contact Margaret at mkatona@adai.org if you are interested in attending this class

Furlough Classes

Apr. 16	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
May 21	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
June 18	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Anyone interested in these classes should contact Vera at varnold@adai.org

Kroger

It is time to re-enroll in the [Kroger Community Rewards](#) program. Simply go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to activate your Kroger card in order to donate to Assistance Dogs of America. It is an easy way for ADAI to make money and there is NO COST TO YOU! By registering your card and selecting ADAI, we get a percentage of your Kroger purchases.

It's a Fact

Graduates in 2010 - 16
 Service Dogs - 8
 Adults - 6
 Children - 2
 Therapy Dogs - 8
 Adults - 3
 Children - 2
 Schools - 3
 Pet Home Adoptions in 2010 - 32



Service Dog Team Training

Service dog team training begins Monday, April 11 and ends Friday, April 22. Once again your help is needed in providing lunches for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week (except the 11th which has already been filled). You may either prepare the lunch or give money to help defray expenses. (I'm retired so preparing the lunches is no problem.) The first Thursday is pizza day so maybe you would like to donate money for that. Please contact Helen athlguilford@embarqmail.com or 419-335-3503. THANKS!



Saturday, April 16, 2011
 Toledo Zoo

Celebrate Mother Earth and learn how to "go green" through educational displays and activities. Lucas County Solid Waste, Toledo Zoo Green Team, Lott Industries, Allied Waste, Aluminum Cans for Burned Children, and Goodwill Industries are helping the Toledo Zoo collect your recyclable items. The following items will be accepted:

- Aluminum cans, cardboard
 - Computer peripherals, printers
 - Desktop and laptop computers
 - VHS, DVDs and CDs, DVD and VHS players
 - Microwave ovens, small household appliances
 - MP3 players, cell phones
 - Printers, working electronics
 - TVs, vacuum cleaners
 - Shoes & clothes
 - Books, print cartridges
 - Batteries (please tape ends of batteries)
 - car batteries
 - Paper/secure documents for shredding
 - Phone books, newspapers
 - Plastic bags and bottles
 - Mercury-containing items
 - Old pharmaceuticals, old/used Christmas lights
- NO LARGE APPLIANCES OR AC UNITS

Descriptions of Dogs We Train

Service Dogs

Service dogs are trained to assist clients with everyday tasks, such as opening doors and carrying items. These dogs give a tremendous boost to self-confidence and independence. Here are some other tasks they might be trained to do:

- Open cupboards, refrigerators, dryers, etc.
- Retrieve cordless phones
- Activate adaptive switches
- Aid in dressing
- Carry items, pick up dropped items
- Pull a wheelchair
- Assist clients up from a fall
- Help in climbing stairs
- Provide balance for walking

Therapy Dogs

ADAI provides highly trained therapy dogs for individuals and facilities. Therapy dogs are trained to be extremely patient, loving companions. They are often placed in nursing homes, hospice centers, or in homes with individuals who could benefit from their presence.

School Therapy Dogs

In this program therapy dogs help students in counseling settings, help improve student motivation and social skills, and even provide an audience to encourage students to read! Dogs are treated as a member the faculty and create a sense of family in the school environment.

Facility Therapy Dogs

A "resident" dog offers tremendous benefits to persons in institutionalized settings such as hospice centers, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes. Highly skilled in obedience commands, these dogs provide companionship and can invoke pleasant memories among the residents. Facility therapy dogs help to temporarily remove some of the worries and concerns of the people they spend time with and quickly become their lasting friends.

Special Needs Therapy Dogs

There are times when the simple presence and loving nature of a dog can help persons with special needs to open up to the world around them. Special needs therapy dogs have been particularly beneficial for persons with Autism, developmental disabilities, Down's Syndrome and those who have suffered a stroke. With the presence of these dogs, persons can work on therapies that help improve speech, coordination and social skills. For some special needs persons, a therapy dog gives a renewed sense of purpose.