

Golf Classic Scores an Ace

There was dog chow (dinner), doggie bags (lunch), dog bowls (beverages) and lucky dogs (raffle winners). At Assistance Dogs of America's 8th Annual Golf Classic, everyone came out a winner. This year's event honored therapy dogs at Bigelow Hill Intermediate School, Bryan Middle School and Tiffin City Schools. ADAI raised \$39,921 at the May 21 event at Stone Ridge Golf Course in Bowling Green, OH.

"We received a wonderful surprise gift in addition to the monies raised at this event," says Chris Diefenthaler, Executive Director, ADAI. "The Fraternal Order of Eagles in Bryan, OH honored the work of Allie, a therapy dog at Bryan Middle School, with a check for \$15,000. We will use their very generous donation to train future school therapy dogs."

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Golf Classic a success, especially the planning committee: Greg Bakies, Patti Jo Fantozz, Marcia Stager, Jenni Yoder, Patty



MEMBERS OF THE BRYAN FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES TEAM THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ADAI GOLF TOURNAMENT IN BOWLING GREEN, LEFT TO RIGHT, KEVIN MCDUGALL, WILLIAM MADAKER, JIM MOORE AND PAUL DEGRYLE JOINED BY ALLIE

Gelb and Karen Swartz-Dowling. And an extra special note of thanks to Jenni and Tim Yoder for securing a generous matching donation and for sponsoring many of the items.

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Dino Brownson

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ADAI is a voting member of
Assistance Dogs International.



ADAI is a member of
Community Shares.



Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. helps children and adults with disabilities achieve greater independence by training and placing service and therapy dogs to assist with the individual's daily needs.

Wags & Wheels

Fall 2007 Newsletter



Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind Donates Six Puppies to ADAI

This summer Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. received six new puppies and expanded its prison puppy program.

The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind in Smithtown, NY donated six puppies to ADAI's program. The Foundation has its own breeding program, which had an excess of puppies this year. CEO, Wells Jones met ADAI's Executive Director Chris Diefenthaler and Board Member Kim Hanson halfway to pick up the puppies. There are two litter mates from three different litters; male black lab litter mates, Morrie and Myles, male black lab and golden retriever mix litter mates, Champ and Charger and female black lab litter mates, Misty and Mia.

One puppy from each litter was placed in our newest prison training program at Cleveland's Northeast Pre-release Center. In February, the two volunteers, Cathy Christopher and Dr. Alice Schottenstein of Ohio Wags, approached ADAI for direction. In need of training and support Ohio Wags merged with ADAI. The Northeast Pre-release center program will operate similar to our Prison Puppy Program at the Toledo Correctional Institute. Women at this minimum security prison are currently training six puppies for ADAI. Once the puppies complete their 1st year of training at the prison, they will return to ADAI to be placed in a local foster home.

The other three puppies donated to ADAI from Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind are being raised by Karen Bade, Judy Eckel and Amanda Murray.



WELCOME TO OHIO

ADAI Receives National Accreditation

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. recently received full accreditation from Assistance Dogs International (ADI). ADI is an international coalition group with members that represent assistance dog training programs with the mission to: establish and promote standards of excellence in all areas of Assistance Dog acquisition, training and partnership. And to facilitate communication and learning among member organizations. ADAI's accreditation remains in effect for five years.

"We have always held our organization to the highest standards," says Chris

Diefenthaler, Executive Director of Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. "We're proud to be recognized for maintaining Assistance Dogs International's standards of excellence in all of our areas."

ADI accreditation assessors conducted an on-site survey of Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. on April 23, which included interviews of ADAI staff, volunteers, applicants, and recent graduates. The international group evaluated ADAI's programs, administration, facility and community activities.

"The standards that ADI sets are essential to the entire assistance dog industry," says

Chris. "Professional standards help ensure that dogs are treated humanely, clients are treated with respect and dignity, and that the training is professional."

"Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. has seen a steady growth in the need and interest of service and therapy dogs," adds Chris. "We want to make sure everything we do, whether it's in the training of our dogs, the safety of our facility, or compliance with legal regulations, meets or exceeds the highest standards."

Our Dogs Wish For:

- Kongs-medium and large
- Nylabones-original/wolf size
- Molecule balls
- Rope toys/Tug toys
- Baby shampoo and conditioner
- Puppy toys (all types)
- Eukanuba biscuits
- 2 qt Stainless steel dog bowls
- Dog toys (all types)
- Digital bath scale
- Bagged soft treats such as bacon strips
- Dog brushes-soft bristle or gentle slicker
- Cheerios
- Mini hand-held clippers
- Large wire folding crates with puppy dividers
- Towels
- Blankets
- No Rawhides, Please!

We Wish For:

- Laundry detergent (no bleach)
- Dryer sheets
- Antibacterial dish soap
- Antibacterial hand soap
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Toilet paper
- Trash bags
- Cotton balls
- Card table
- Digital camera
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Floor mop cleaner
- ½ inch thick by 1 foot long dowel rod
- ½ inch diameter plastic flexible piping
- Glade Plug-ins – lavender scented refills
- Kitchen brushes
- Two cup measuring cups
- Paper plates, cups and napkins
- Roundup Concentrated
- Window cleaner
- Pledge furniture polish

You may drop off donations at our facility, 8806 State Route 64, Swanton, OH or call the office at 419-825-3622 to arrange pick-up.

Hoots, Chuckles and Laughs

A great time was had by all at Comedy for Canines, a fundraising event held on November 7th at Connxtions Comedy Club in Toledo, Ohio. The "Around the Bend Players," one of Toledo's premiere improvisational troupes, performed side-splitting comedy and skits to everyone's delight! Guests that attended enjoyed the comedy,

camaraderie, a 50/50 raffle, and of course the dogs who attended!

Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to ADAI. Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. would like to thank The Around the Bend Players for performing and giving everyone such a good time and Connxtions Comedy Club for hosting the event!

Fundraiser Deals a Winner

"Dealin' for Dogs" proved to be a waggin' good time for adults and dogs alike on August 25. Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. held the second annual Dealin' for Dogs at Hanson, Inc. in Arrowhead Park. The "gambling for fun" event raised over \$30,000 for ADAI.

Based on last year's Dealin' for Dogs' success, ADAI was betting on an even greater event and that's exactly what they got, with over 400 guests joining the festivities. In addition to rousing games of poker, roulette, and blackjack, guests enjoyed bidding wars for vacations to Maui, the Grand Cayman, along with Ohio State/Michigan football tickets.

City-Q-BBQ provided plenty of pulled pork, beef brisket and corn pudding for the guests to feast on while they enjoyed the lively tunes of the Homewreckers and the skills of Patrick the Magician.

David Kosch won the grand door prize for two airline tickets to Tampa, including hotel accommodations, car rental and tickets to Busch Gardens. Ann O'Shea was the lucky winner of the grand raffle prize, a diamond necklace from J. Foster Jewelers.

Naturally, ADAI dogs attended as well — Jett, Tucker, and Brady, along



with their owners, made the rounds, enjoying all of the attention and questions from the guests. Susan Maziarz spoke to the attendees on how Cody, her service dog, has impacted her life.

Many thanks to the many sponsors of Dealin' for Dogs, including American Rent All, The Bhumbra Family, Bill and Patti Jo Fantozz, Fifth Third Bank, Fire Tech Sprinkler, Inc., The Gelb Family, IET, Inc., Invisible Fencing, ISCG, J. Foster Jewelers, The McKeage Family, Meyer, Bates and Associates, Pepsi Americas, Rudolph/Libbe, Inc., Sam's Club, Saneholtz & Assoc, Shelley and Roger Wannier, Welch Publishing, Yoder Machinery, and Rich and Lee Zegar.

Also, a heartfelt thanks to nearly 50 volunteers who so graciously assisted with the event. And finally, many, many thanks and kudos to Karen Bade, chairperson of Dealin' for Dogs 2007.

New Board Members

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Bob Monard and Kimberlie England to ADAI's Board of Directors.

"Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. is a very well organized and passionate group of people," says Bob, Assistant Controller, Agency Operations for the Hylant Group. "Among other things, I plan to help ADAI to look at its financial forecasts so that the

organization continues to grow and thrive. I also plan to assist with community networking and making the organization even more visible to businesses and individuals."

Likewise, Kimberlie, Principal, Communications Solutions Practice leader at Findley Davies, Inc., plans to use her human resources expertise to assist ADAI in its staffing and volunteer needs as it expands.

"I've been very impressed by the people who work and volunteer at ADAI," says Kimberlie, who has observed several training sessions among ADAI dogs and clients. "Watching the clients work with the dogs helps you to put things in perspective in your own life and all that you take for granted."

BOB MONARD



KIMBERLIE ENGLAND



Congratulations to Our Newest Graduates!

It's been a busy Spring and Summer for a number of assistance dogs and their new best friends.

Jack Brentlinger received **Autumn**, a yellow Labrador Retriever, who is happy to be a loyal companion and therapy dog to Jack.

Benjamin Nickell, who has autism, now has **Betty**, a Labrador Retriever/Boxer mix to help overcome his challenges with autism and daily migraines. Betty was donated by the Fulton County Dog Pound and was fostered by Judy and Doug Holdridge.

Dr. Jill Fox, a psychiatrist, joyfully welcomed **Caleb**, a Golden Retriever, as a therapy dog into her private practice, Key Life Directions. Caleb was donated by Roy Hayes and fostered by Bridget Clay, Nathalie and Clyde Givens and Jill and Roger Fox.

Continued on Next Page

CONGRATULATIONS Continued from Previous Page

Cooper, a Yellow Labrador Retriever, has joined **Susan Pence** as a service dog. Cooper is a successor dog to Susan's first therapy dog, Jaz. Jaz recently passed away after providing 10 years of service to Susan who suffers from muscle and nerve damage to her back and neck from a motor vehicle accident. Cooper was donated by Heather Michael and fostered by Karen and Rick Gallaway.

Chad Dowell received **Lilly**, a Golden Retriever. Lilly will help Chad, who is a quadriplegic as a result of a diving accident, to be more independent. Lilly was donated by Vickie Vincent and fostered by the Kinsel family.

Sasha, a black Labrador Retriever mix, is the new service dog for **Dustin Sullivan**, who has Muscular Dystrophy. Sasha was donated by Jolene Thompson and fostered by the Pickering family.

And here is a little more detail on more of our recent graduates:

Tyler Yoder and Tucker



Tyler's first service dog, Duke, who served Tyler faithfully for 7 years, passed away in December. Tyler was diagnosed

with a brain tumor at age 8 and lost his equilibrium. Tyler received Tucker, a Golden Retriever as his new service dog.

"I think Tucker is going to help me be more social and independent," says Tyler, who works part time and enjoys going to Toledo Mudhens and Detroit Tiger games. "He'll help me balance as I walk and be my good friend and companion.

Tucker was donated by Roy Hayes and fostered by the Eagle family.

Emma and Mercedes



"ADAI has given our daughter a best friend," say Denise and Tom Zorn of Taylor, MI, whose daughter Emma received Mercedes, a black Labrador Retriever. Mercedes is helping Emma, a second grader who has autism, to socialize more and stay more physically active. In addition, Mercedes will simply be the unquestioning friend with whom Emma can sit and laugh.

Mercedes was donated by Larry Lowry of Wauseon, Ohio and fostered by The Lowry's and Frank and Brenda Cody of Maumee.

Zac and Zane



It's all in the family of "Z's" for Zac Zies (Perrysburg, OH). Zac's new service dog, Zane, shares Zac's middle name, just one of the many connections the 11 year old and the black Labrador Retriever mix have formed.

Zac, who enjoys swimming and playing with friends, has Zane to turn to when he needs help walking or retrieving dropped items. Zac has Friedreich's Ataxia, a slowly progressive disorder of the nervous system and muscles.

Zane came to ADAI from Lagrange County Animal Shelter in Howe, IN and was fostered by Sue Kroyer of Toledo, OH.

Susan Maziarz and Cody



Susan Maziarz of Toledo, OH says her new service dog, Cody, a Golden Retriever, offers many benefits. Cody will help Susan, who has Multiple Sclerosis, to pick up pens, keys, and the telephone, as well as help open doors. Most of all, Susan, who is a part-time college tutor and an active community volunteer, says Cody offers hope...hope for a better life now and in the future.

Cody was donated by Sandra McCartney of Liepsic, Ohio and was fostered by Sue and Alicia Rakes of Napoleon, OH.

POSITIONING OUR OPERATIONS FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

Message from Chris Diefenthaler, Executive Director

As the demand for assistance dogs continues to grow, Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. is meeting that demand head on. One of our strategic goals this year was to increase our internal capacity to ensure that ADAI will be positioned to expand our operations in the near future.

Over the past 10 years, ADAI has grown from a small operation that placed four new assistance dogs in 1997 to a professional organization placing 19 new assistance dogs in 2007! Our staff has grown from two full-time employees to 8 full-time and 4 part-time employees in the same period. Our waiting list has exploded from 10 individuals and facilities to over 50 individuals and facilities with a variety of needs. The public's awareness of how dogs impact the lives of many types of people has created long waiting lists of individuals with a wide range of disabilities lining up to improve their quality of life with an assistance dog.

To meet these demands, over the past four years, ADAI improved its operations focusing on dog training and enhancing the ways it meets the needs of our clients. In 2004, ADAI created the new staff position of client services director to help focus on this strategy. This year ADAI is focused on increasing our internal capacity to prepare the organization for our planned future expansion. The new positions were created to meet the increased demand on all our types of resources: staff, volunteers, dogs and funding.

In April, ADAI hired a new development director who assists ADAI in building our fundraising capacity so we can place more assistance dogs. In addition, our new part-time dog intake coordinator is focused on networking and building new relationships with area shelters, pet homeowners and breeders to meet our demand for more puppies and dogs in our training program. Our new volunteer coordinator is responsible for recruiting, training and communicating with all of our volunteers. To increase

our puppy training capacity, ADAI partnered with an existing puppy prison program in Cleveland called Ohio Wags. In 2008, Ohio Wags will officially become a training program funded by and under the direction of Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.

One of our never-ending needs is for more volunteer foster families and puppy raisers. ADAI's operation was built on the essential concept of wanting our dogs and puppies raised in a home environment for a majority of their training program. Puppies and dogs learn and develop better in this environment. Anyone with a desire to help someone and love a puppy can become a volunteer foster home or puppy raiser. Our volunteers vary: from teenagers to seniors; from experienced dog trainers to novice beginners; from students to business professionals! Please consider joining our volunteer program as a puppy raiser, foster family, facility volunteer, or as a community event volunteer and help ADAI grow to help even more individuals realize their dream of independence!

Leonard "Dino" Brownson and Penny

In April, the board of directors awarded Dino the honorary title of executive director emeritus to recognize his contributions to the organization during his tenure as executive director from 1991 to 2002. Dino's leadership help bring the organization from its early infancy stage when ADAI moved to Toledo in the early 1990s to a reputable, sustainable organization as it is today. Dino is planning on returning to the Toledo area soon and will be assisting the capital campaign committee in generating support for our new facility.

LEONARD "DINO" BROWN



Click on
www.adai.org!

While you are surfing the web, be sure to click on the new website for Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. The new and improved site is a wonderful example of the many ways volunteers make a difference at ADAI. Hanson, Inc., a web development agency based in Maumee, OH, generously donated the design, development and hosting.

Now when you go to www.adai.org, you can check out the most up-to-date news and photos under the "What's Happening" feature. And thanks to Hanson's technical prowess, our ADAI staff can easily update the site to keep it current and timely.

The site makes it easy to donate securely online, find out how to foster a dog, apply for a dog, or adopt one



of our "fabulous flunkies." Plus, our wish list is front and center, allowing everyone to see what ADAI currently needs.

Photos tell a story as well as words, and Hanson did a superb job of letting visitors "see" what a difference an ADAI dog makes in the lives of our clients through outstanding pictures and words.

Our special thanks to Kim and Steve Hanson, Erik Porter, Craig Salisbury, Josh Jacob and Kristi Everts for the considerable time and effort they contributed to renovating the website. It's the perfect way in our high "tech" world to help spread the word about ADAI. Visit us at www.adai.org!

The Heart and Soul of ADAI

Great atmosphere. Great food. And most importantly, great people. Volunteers are truly the heart and soul of Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. On September 16, we honored them and their extraordinary efforts at the ADAI annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. The event was held at Tim and Jenni Yoder's home.

In addition to dinner and outdoor activities, the guests honored:

Karen Bade, **ADAI's 2007 Volunteer of the Year**

Over the past seven years, Karen has fostered five assistance dogs. She just completed fostering Jewels, a school therapy dog that was just recently placed with Jefferson Primary and Chamberlin Hill schools in Findlay, Ohio. She is currently fostering Misty, a black lab puppy donated by the Guide Dog

Foundation for the Blind. Karen also chaired the fundraising event "Dealin' for Dogs" in 2006 and 2007 and attends many ADAI community events.

Judy Eckel, **Agility Class Leader Award**

Judy has fostered dogs for ADAI for nearly ten years and hosts weekly agility classes at our Swanton facility. She is currently fostering a black lab puppy, Myles.

Deke Ludwig, **Facility Volunteer of the Year**

If there is a task that needs taken care of at the ADAI facility, Deke is the on-the-spot volunteer: weeding, planting flowers, cleaning kennels, and bathing and training dogs.

Karen Gallaway, **Community Event Volunteer of the Year**

In addition to fostering dogs for ADAI for the past three years, Karen helps

promote ADAI at our many community events.

Sue Rakes, **Public Relations Speaker of the Year**

Sue helps spread the word about ADAI through public speaking engagements throughout the area. Like many of our volunteers, she also has fostered dogs for ADAI since 2004.

Dawn Tyndall-Sheater, **Foster of the Year**

Caring and fostering requires patience and a true devotion to the work of ADAI. Dawn attends ADAI's monthly foster classes, fosters dogs, and assists ADAI staff with training. She is currently fostering her third dog for ADAI.

Thanks to all of our volunteers! We couldn't do it without you.

Leaving a Lifetime Gift

When they first began donating to Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. about 10 years ago, Dr. Roland (Roc) and Charlotte Troike knew they were getting involved in a worthwhile project. However, it was when they attended their first ADAI graduation ceremony that the life-changing impact an assistance dog has on a person really hit home with them.

Since then Charlotte and Roc have met a lot of good, generous, and dedicated people who work and volunteer for Assistance Dogs. "We are especially impressed with the skilled training staff and the fostering parents who willingly spend hours and hours socializing and preparing the dogs to enter the next important step of training," say the Troikes, "and also hold a deep respect for all the volunteers involved in the remarkable success of this program."

The Troikes feel so strongly about the work of ADAI that they have included the organization in their estate planning and will. They love dogs and think highly of the concept of placing professionally trained service dogs where they can make a difference and provide independence to a child or adult in need. "Supporting ADAI is a fun part of our want and need to help others," say Charlotte and Roc. "God has blessed our lives and we want to be a blessing to others, like ADAI, who also have a



DR. ROLAND AND CHARLOTTE TROIKE AND FOSTER DOG, BENNY

deep need to be a blessing and help to people."

In addition to their financial support, Charlotte and Roc are also currently assisting in the fostering of a dog, Benny. They are helping Benny become more comfortable in different settings, and also experiencing firsthand how much it takes to prepare these dogs to become lifetime helpers to someone else.

Charlotte and Roc Troike are looking forward to ADAI finding an area for a new facility to help meet the growing demand for assistance dogs. They know there are many, many people waiting for a dog and ADAI unquestionably needs a larger and up-to-date facility to meet this demand.

Where There's a Will...

It's true. Where there's a will, there's a way, especially if you have included Assistance Dogs of America in your will and estate planning. Choosing ADAI as a benefactor of your estate will allow us to train more dogs, and ultimately, help more and more people who are waiting for an assistance dog to make a difference in their lives. Your gift will mean greater independence to a child who must rely upon a wheelchair for mobility. Your gift will provide more comfort to an adult who suffers from a degenerative muscular disease, more joy to a child with autism who is often misunderstood by others.

Yes, where there is a will there is a way. Why not contact your attorney to include Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. in your will. For more information, please call ADAI at 419-825-3622. Thank you!