

Wags & Wheels

Annual Report

2007 Spring/Summer Newsletter



Deniro's Story

(as told to Peg Ball)

Hello, my name is Deniro. I'm a tall, black Lab mix. The people at ADAI got me from the Toledo Humane Society. At first, I stayed with a foster mom, Sue Kroyer. I like her a lot. She taught me basic obedience training and got me ready for my advanced education at the ADAI training center. While I was at the training center, I had a lot of fun! I learned so much and made many new friends.

Then one day Marilyn and Kali, who work at ADAI, took me on a trip to visit a lady named "Peg Ball". They said she had a service dog before named "Astarte" or "Star" whom she had loved very much. Star had died, an old and happy dog, a little more than a year earlier. Peg very much wanted another service dog, but her disability had gotten a bit worse, so she was unsure if it would work out. I learned that Peg had waited for more than a month after Star died to even think about getting another dog. She really missed Star and needed some time to grieve. My friends said that now that Peg was ready, she needed a good dog that would listen carefully and be gentle with her. They thought that I might be the right dog for the job.

When we got to Peg's house, I was a little nervous, but I could tell she liked me right away. She talked to me very quietly, and petted me. I liked how it felt, and gave her a little kiss on the hand. Marilyn and Kali had her try a couple commands with me. I really wanted to show her what a good dog I was, so I did exactly as I was asked. There

was also someone else there they called "Brandie". I could tell that Brandie and Peg cared for each other a lot. Brandie was very nice to me, too. After a while we went back to the training center and I continued my education.

Then one day, Peg and Brandie came to the training center to see me! I got to be with Peg that whole day, and much to my surprise, she came again the next day, and I



got to go home with her that night! We continued to come to the training center for a couple weeks, and I've gotten to stay with Peg ever since. Marilyn and Kali decided I would be a great "Successor Dog" for Peg.

As a Successor Dog, I have a very special job to do. Peg tells me that

A New Friend

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. has placed eight "successor" dogs with clients since 2001. Currently three people who had an assistance dog through ADAI are on the waiting list for a successor dog.

"The need for successor dogs will have an even greater impact on ADAI over the next two to three years," explains Chris Diefenthaler, Executive Director of Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. "We've placed more and more dogs since 1999 and that number will continue to increase. That increase means we'll see more people who will eventually need successor dogs."

"Every time a person receives a dog from ADAI, they go through training with the dog," says Chris Diefenthaler. "Each dog is different and we have made some changes to our training over the years."

"One of the challenges with successor dogs is having the client accept a new partner in their lives," says Chris. "The first dog has usually made a huge impact in their lives, so it can take some time to accept a new dog."

ADAI realizes you can't replace a "best" friend. However, with their Successor Dog program, they'll help you find a new friend.

Continued on Back

Our Dogs Wish For:

Kongs-medium and large
Digital bath scale
Nylabones-original/wolf size
Bagged soft treats
such as bacon strips
Molecule balls
Dog brushes-soft bristle
or gentle slicker
Rope toys/Tug toys
Cheerios
Baby shampoo and conditioner
Mini hand-held clippers
Large wire folding crates
(w/ puppy dividers)
IAMS biscuits
Bath towels
2 qt stainless steel dog bowls
Blankets
Dog toys (all types)
Puppy toys (all types)

We Wish For:

Laundry detergent
Toilet bowl cleaner
Dryer sheets
Floor mop cleaner
Antibacterial dish soap
½" thick by 1" long dowel rod
Antibacterial hand soap
½" diameter plastic flexible piping
Paper towels
Air freshners
Tissues
Kitchen brushes
Toilet paper
Two cup measuring cups
Trash bags
Paper plates, cups and napkins
Cotton balls
Plastic silverware
Card table
Window cleaner
35mm film
Pledge furniture polish
Digital camera
Industrial size paper shredder

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.

Get Ready to Deal for Dogs

This summer's Dealin' For Dogs fundraiser promises to be even bigger and better than last year's very successful event. The second annual Dealin' for Dogs will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2007 at the Yoder's home front in Whitehouse, OH.

"We're doubling the amount of gaming tables and the activities will be spread out on the Yoder's beautiful estate," says Karen Bade, chairperson.

Dealin' for Dogs will feature black jack, Texas hold'em poker, roulette, and other big game wheels. Guests can bid on items at a silent auction and enjoy dinner, snacks, and entertainment by a magician and live band. The fundraiser will also feature a 50/50 raffle and chances to win a vacation to Maui.

ADAI invites businesses and individuals to be a Dealin' for Dogs table sponsor. A \$500 sponsorship includes two admission tickets, name recognition on signage and in advertising and publicity in newspaper ads and promotional materials.

Over 400 people attended last year's Dealin' for Dogs event, which raised over \$25,000 for Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.

For tickets or more information on sponsorships and gift donations, contact Karen Bade at 419-874-4202.



A Chance To Wear Jeans...

That's all it took for students at All Saints School in Rossford, OH to donate over \$400 and six boxes of "wish list" items to Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. All Saints' Student Council hosted a "Denim for Dogs" day, with all proceeds benefiting ADAI. For a chance to be out of uniform, the students brought in a monetary donation or something from ADAI's wish list. Roxi, a poodle who is training to be an ADAI assistance dog, pictured above, accepted the donations on behalf of ADAI from All Saints student council members. If your school or organization would like to host a fundraising event for ADAI, please call us and we'll assist in any way we can.



The Ultimate Gift

We receive many generous gifts and donations at Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. and we are grateful for each and every one. Perhaps the most far-reaching gift is a dog itself. ADAI has been extremely fortunate to have many individuals and breeders who



have given us wonderful dogs that we have trained to assist others. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the following people who have donated dogs to Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. over the past year:

Patricia Germain — Jordan
Lisa McCready — Chopper
Dominic Petrarca — Theo
Kathy Peterson — Truman, Belle, Becca, Rudy
Stephanie Hollosy — Wyatt, Willie
Rick Webster — Hank
Shirley Feltt — Dylan
Roy Hayes — Carson, Caleb
Laura McNeilan — Jay
Joliene Thompson — Sasha
Glenda Smith — Ellie
Tip Top Golden Retrievers — Scarlet
Susan Seitz — Jazzy, Jules
Carrie Stevens — Payton

A note about our dogs:

The dogs at Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. come from a variety of sources, including animal shelters, humane societies, pounds, pet owners and breeders. The dogs are generally Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers or mixes thereof and are between the ages of eight weeks and two years of age. We are looking for happy, confident puppies and dogs that are eager to learn and friendly to people and all other animals. If you have a dog that you would like to consider giving to ADAI and would like to know about the temperaments and qualities we are looking for, please call us at 419-825-3622.

Congratulations Graduates!

Here are ADAI's newest graduates and their new friends:

Mariah and Mercedes

Mariah has found a gentle partner in Mercedes, a black Labrador Retriever therapy dog. Mercedes helps Mariah get her daily exercise and to sleep better. Mariah has Agenesia of the corpus callosum, a condition in which the band of tissue connecting the two hemispheres of the brain is completely or partially missing.

Bigelow Hill School (Findlay, OH) and Dixie

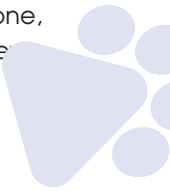
Dixie, a Golden Retriever, has no shortage of friends at Bigelow Hill School in Findlay, OH. Dixie became Bigelow's official school therapy dog, offering a gentle ear to young readers, a quiet presence to troubled children, a focus for school lessons, and a happy smile to every one who comes into the school.

Carol and Murray

"My quality of life is much better in that I feel more independent and secure with my service dog," says Carol of her Newfoundland mix, Murray. Murray is Carol's third service dog. Carol has Ehlers-danlos syndrome, which makes walking difficult.

Rick and Cassidy

Just say the word and Cassidy, a yellow Labrador Retriever, is ready to help Rick, a paraplegic. Cassidy, a service dog, assists Rick by lifting his legs into bed, retrieving the phone, opening doors, helping with laundry and passing money over cashier counters.



And Here's A Closer Look at our other three graduates:



Sandra and Teddy

When Sandra received Teddy, a flat-coated Retriever, she knew he could help open doors. But she was surprised to find that Teddy also opened the eyes of many people.

"When I used to go out in public, it wasn't unusual for people to avoid eye contact with me," says Sandra, who has multiple sclerosis and uses a scooter for mobility. "But now that I have Teddy, he really breaks the ice. People often offer to help me now or to talk about Teddy. That's been a very unexpected and pleasant benefit of having an assistance dog.

In addition to accompanying Sandra on outings, Teddy helps her by lifting her legs, tugging off her socks, pulling open the refrigerator door and retrieving dropped items.

"It's amazing how well Assistance Dogs matches the personality of the dog to the client," says Sandra. "Teddy and I connected and bonded immediately. Now he follows me from room to room and is always checking on me, even when the rest of my family is here." Teddy was donated by the Toledo Humane Society and fostered by Bridget Clay, Gloria Beck and Stephanie Millsap.



Matt and Bree

Matt, who has spina bifida, has a new best friend. Her name is Bree and she's a two-year old black Labrador Retriever.

"Everybody who meets Bree loves her," says fourteen-year old Matt. "She goes everywhere with me."

When Matt first received Bree, she didn't accompany him to school and would cry when Matt left his house. Now she goes to school with Matt, helping to pull his wheelchair, retrieves his pack

from behind his wheelchair, turns lights off and on and picks up dropped items.

When the two first met, there was an instant bond. "I feed her, play with her, and brush her," says Matt. In return, Bree gives Matt unconditional love. "Bree is just always there with me, every second of the day."

Bree was donated by James O'Quinn III and fostered by Leanne Curtis and Jennifer Micham.



Jacob and Sable

When Jacob's doctor, who helps treat him for Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, suggested pet therapy, Jacob's mom, Linda, turned to Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.

"We wanted to give Jacob a friend, someone that wouldn't judge him and would help Jacob convey his feelings, which is hard for him to do," says Linda.

Sable, a Labradoodle, does all of that and more.

"It has been a great experience so

far," says Linda. "Jacob gives Sable hugs and kisses and he lets her touch him."

"Jacob has learned to talk gently when he gives Sable commands," she says. "It's put a lovingness in his voice."

"Asperger's syndrome can isolate Jacob from other children," says Linda. "Sable and Jacob respond very well to each other. We were hoping Sable could be his friend, and she definitely is." Sable was donated by Jane Miller and fostered by Carolyn Huston.

Message from Chris Diefenthaler, Executive Director

Interest in Service and Therapy Dogs Spurs Growth

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. (ADAI) has been steadily growing over the past 10 years. The ADAI board of directors and staff recognized that this growth was an opportunity to expand our programs and services to help more individuals with disabilities. In 2003, we began strategically planning for the future to meet both supply and demand.

Here's just one example of our growth: in 1997 ADAI placed four assistance dogs; in 2006, that increased to 19 new assistance dog teams. This year our goal is 20 new assistance dog teams. Based on our current training areas, kennel capacity and staff levels, we've determined that we can place a maximum of 20 to 22 assistance dogs annually.

During this growth spurt, we've implemented new programs such as Therapy dogs for autistic children and schools and a Prison Puppy Program. All of these programs help

us to meet our growing need for more dogs. Our future goals include adding programs for Service Dogs for Autistic Children and Seizure Response Service Dogs.

In 2005, ADAI conducted a market research study to determine the need for more assistance dogs. Armed with information from the study and our expanding waiting list, we determined that we need to expand our training and kennel facility.

The public's growing awareness about the benefits of the animal-human bond has created more opportunities for dogs to impact someone's life. In the late 1990's, our waiting list was approximately 75% Service dog applicants and 25% Therapy dog applicants. Now there is an almost equal demand for Service and Therapy dogs. The biggest growth we've seen is in the requests for therapy dogs for autistic children. Currently, our waiting list totals 42 applicants; 21 for Service dogs and 9 Facility

Therapy dogs including four schools, and 12 Special Need Therapy dogs for children. Six of the 12 children on our waiting list for a Therapy dog have been diagnosed with autism. This is a nationwide trend that experts predict will continue to grow. We would like to expand our programs and services for autistic children and other disabilities such as seizure disorders. However, we realize our limitations due to the size of our training and kennels areas.

In November, at their annual strategic planning retreat, our board decided to begin the pre-capital campaign phase. They conducted a feasibility study to help them make an informed decision regarding the scope of this project. The results were presented to the board at the April board meeting. Our vision for the future is to place 40 new assistance dogs annually. We know the need is there. We know with your help, ADAI can make this happen.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2006, Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. created new ways to expand our programs and services to meet the increasing demand for assistance dogs. At their annual strategic planning retreat, our board of directors expanded our service area to the tri-state area of Ohio, Indiana and lower peninsula of Michigan.

One of our largest new programs is a unique prison puppy program called PUPPS (Prisoners Uniting Puppies and People in Service). The Toledo Community Foundation and the Stranahan Foundation generously funded the first year. We added six new puppies to the program in January. All of the puppies completed their first successful year with a 100% passing rate and have moved into their second year of training with a local volunteer foster home. This success rate is compared to 65% for our traditional puppy-raising program. Our new furlough volunteer program, in which prison puppies live in a regular home one week per month for socializing, helps boost the success rate.

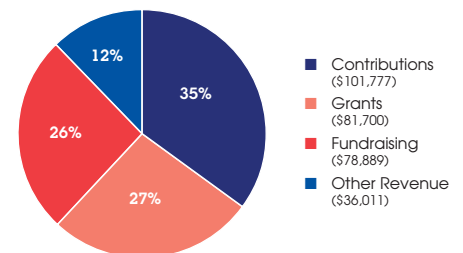
Our dedicated staff and volunteers enable ADAI to continue moving forward to

improve and expand our programs and services. ADAI sees many more opportunities to help more people in the future and we are looking for ways to accomplish those goals. If you would like to help ADAI make a difference in someone's life, please contact us at 419-825-3622.

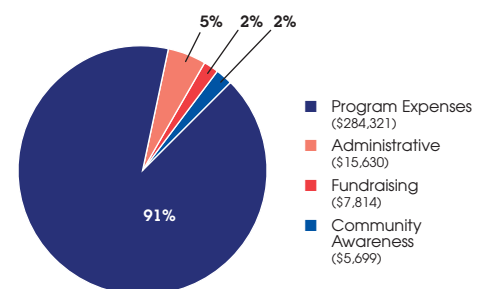
Other accomplishments this year include:

- 19 new assistance dog placements: 13 Service dogs and six Therapy dogs
- 64 dog/puppy evaluations from shelters and pet homes
- Monthly dog inventory averages 40-45 puppies/dogs
- 10 new foster families and puppy raisers
- 35 community presentations
- 21 new client interviews
- Waiting list has grown to 40-45 clients, with a 12 to 24 month waiting time
- 28 graduate certifications/re-certifications
- 20 graduate follow-up visits
- 16 Pet home adoption placements of our "fabulous flunkies."

2006 REVENUE BY SOURCE



2006 EXPENSES BY SOURCE



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Deniro's Story

(Continued from Front Page)

I don't have to take Star's place—which is a good thing because I hear from Pele the cat that she was one terrific dog! Peg also tells me that I have my own special place in her heart and that I'm an "amazing sweet boy"! I like to do my tasks for her and she lets me know that she appreciates my work. I do some of the same things that Star did, but I do some additional tasks as well.

Peg tells me that Star and I are very different, and that is a good thing. I guess it's like Star was the right dog for Peg for a certain part of her life, and I'm the right dog for her now. She says that I

am submissive to her and let her be the "alpha", which is something that Star sometimes had trouble with. It makes me feel safe to know she's in charge, and she says she needs a cooperative dog like me because she doesn't have as much energy as she used to have. Peg also tells me I'm very patient. I think that means I am good at waiting for her to get a treat out of the bag or waiting in the van while she gets out first.

Peg says she's glad she decided to get a Successor Dog, and that she feels lucky to have me in her life. Well, I feel lucky to be her Successor Dog! I know it is how things were meant to be!

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