



North Central Companion

The Official Newsletter for the North Central Region of Canine Companions for Independence®



Fall 2007 issue: News, Volunteer Spotlight, Regional Roundup, and Team Training Yearbook

Making Schools a Better Place

Teacher, therapist, reading tutor, counselor, nurse, motivator, friend and dog... All of these terms describe CCI Facility Dog Shirra, a 2-year old Labrador/Golden Retriever cross who was specially placed at New Albany Elementary School's K/1 building to enhance the quality of life and education of children with disabilities or special needs. But Shirra is so much more.

Each morning Shirra reports for bus duty with her facilitator, Guidance Counselor Kelly Schubert, and greets students as they arrive. Throughout any given day, you might find Shirra listening to a student read a story; comforting a student during a visit to the nurse, providing a distraction to curb a child's undesired behavior or enjoying her favorite activity — a nice belly rub.

At Maryland Elementary School in Bexley, Ohio, Facility Dog Glazier is a calming companion to the school's special needs population. "Even a minor distraction can disrupt the entire day for some special needs students," said Principal Jon Hood. "Glazier helps calm them again, by offering a gentle distraction on which to focus their attention."

Facility Dogs often help special needs students by providing unconditional love, support and even friendship to students who have unique challenges in making friends. These dogs often serve as a social bridge for other students who are sometimes more comfortable starting dialogue when the dog is present.

A 2002 study by Hergovich, Monshi, Semmier and Zieglmayer on the effects of the presence of a dog in the classroom found that dogs can positively affect the social and cognitive development of children and demonstrated that dogs in the classroom can improve behavior of children with or without disabilities.

This study showed that

New Albany School students discuss "wise choices" with Guidance Counselor Kelly Schubert and Facility Dog Shirra





(Left) A New Albany Elementary 1st grader is comforted by Facility Dog Shirra, under the guidance of Mrs. Schubert, while Facility Dog Glazier provides a calming distraction for Maryland Elementary students (middle; right)

students with dogs in the classroom developed more empathy with other dogs and animals of all kinds, developed more sensitivity toward the needs of other children and were less aggressive than the students who had no dog in the classroom.

For schools that use Facility Dogs, the list of learning opportunities is vast. Awarding students special time with the dogs or assigning jobs to do for the dogs helps children develop self-esteem, responsibility, motivation and communication skills. This approach is especially beneficial when used as a reward for good behavior or for making wise choices. These jobs might include petting, walking, brushing, feeding/watering or reading a story.

Students who struggle with reading find a non-judgmental, supportive listener in Facility Dogs. "Shirra doesn't care how fast you read, or if you don't get the words exactly right, or if you stutter a little as you sound it all out," shared Schubert. "She just listens and sometimes rolls over for a belly rub."

For students dealing with social anxiety issues and other students having difficulty adjusting to school, a Facility Dog provides a distraction from their anxieties. One Maryland Elementary School student who was upset about

being at school felt better once given the opportunity to interact with Glazier. "Human intervention wasn't able to calm the student," Hood said, "but when Glazier entered the room everything deescalated. The student began to pet him and was able to talk calmly again."

New Albany Elementary school nurse, Mary Rowland, R.N. utilizes Shirra in the clinic to help students relax by providing a distraction from uncomfortable medical procedures or the anxiety over taking medication. Students in Rowland's clinic have the opportunity to give Shirra "her meds" — dog treats in reality. Rowland said by seeing Shirra take her medicine, the students feel like "if Shirra can do it, so can I."

Of course, Shirra and Glazier make mistakes too and may sometimes need a correction. This is a learning experience as well. Schubert explained, "It teaches students that everyone makes mistakes. Even a highly trained assistance dog sometimes has trouble following the rules but after a brief correction, she moves on and continues to do her job without dwelling on the mistake."

Canine Companions for Independence has placed approximately 20 Facility Dogs in schools throughout the North Central Region. All Facility Dog schools must fit CCI's Facility Dog

placement criteria and must demonstrate a legitimate and sincere intention that is in the spirit of the CCI mission to enhance the lives of individuals who are disabled, seriously injured, or clearly marginalized from general society in some way. Each Facility Dog must have one handler (facilitator) to provide for the dog's basic needs including food, grooming and shelter.

Hood, Glazier's facilitator, calls Glazier the "special needs whisperer" comparing his keen ability to communicate and influence students with renowned dog trainer Cesar Millan, "The Dog Whisperer." Glazier has accomplished more with our students over these past few months than our human intervention has accomplished in 5 years," Hood said.

Schubert said it is difficult to quantify what Shirra means to the school because "she has made such a difference in so many ways. Shirra literally has changed the lives of some students and has made our school a better place." Shirra lives with Schubert and her family, including two pet Golden Retrievers.

If you are interested in learning more about the Canine Companions for Independence Facility Dog program, please call our office at (740) 548-4447.



North Central Rivalry to Benefit Canine Companions for Independence

November 16 marks the eve of a powerful rivalry in the North Central region—the Ohio State Buckeyes vs. the University of Michigan Wolverines—but no matter which team is victorious, Canine Companions for Independence wins.

CCI has been chosen as the beneficiary of the “2007 Earle Bruce’s Beat Michigan Tailgate” party which takes place Friday, November 16 from 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the Ohio State University French Field House.

This “upscale” tailgate/pep rally will be hosted by former OSU Coach Earle Bruce himself, while current OSU Coach Jim Tressel and several former OSU players will be in attendance.

Tickets are \$75 each with table sponsorships ranging from \$750-\$10,000. In addition, the tailgate will feature a raffle offering chances to win a trip to this year’s bowl game, tickets to the OSU/Michigan game and a television. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100.

Last year’s event raised approximately \$65,000 for charity and had nearly 1,000 attendees. For more information on the Earle Bruce Tailgate the North Central Regional Center at (740) 548-4447.

Charitable Gifts from IRA

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows IRA owners age 70 ½ or older to distribute up to \$100,000 in 2007 to qualified charitable organizations like CCI. These gifts can qualify as your required minimum distribution and you will not have to declare the gift as income.

Unless the law is approved again, this is the last year to take advantage of the IRA rollover. The deadline to complete the rollover is December 31, 2007. Remember to always consult your advisors for legal and tax advice.

What special skills do spaniels have? How did boxers get their name?

Introducing DogSmarts by SmartsCo, a new question and answer card game that makes learning about dogs easy and fun. Edited by CCI’s very own Paul Mundell, director of canine programs, DogSmarts proceeds benefit Canine Companions for Independence. DogSmarts is a colorfully designed game with 60 question and answer cards testing your knowledge of breeds, dog behavior, dogs around the world and more. Look for it at retailers near you or visit www.smartsco.com for details.



August Graduates



Jennifer Franey

Facilitator: Cathy Franey
 Skilled Companion Dog Cash
 Owensboro, KY
 Linda and Jeff Saunders
 Indianapolis, IN



Jon Hood

Maryland Elementary School
 Facility Dog Glazier
 Bexley, OH
 Ross Correctional Institution
 Chillicothe, OH



Zakkary Johnson

Facilitator: Jeri Johnson
 Skilled Companion Dog Buckley
 Plymouth, MN
 Katherine, Jeannine and Diane Schulz
 Antioch, IL



Jim Perkaus

Successor Service Dog Cola
 Boca Raton, FL
 Ross Correctional Institution
 Chillicothe, OH



Brad Rowe

Successor Service Dog Steed
 Antioch, TN
 Mary Beth Kopechek
 Blacklick, OH



Pauline Siegel

Service Dog Kazu
 Powell, OH
 Ross Correctional Institution
 Chillicothe, OH



Barb Stieg

Grizzell Middle School
 Facility Dog Rosa IV
 Dublin, OH
 Jeanette and Terra Jurrens
 Onawa, IA



Amanda Stover

Successor Service Dog Soren
 Columbus, OH
 Fran and Peter Vlasses
 Glen Ellyn, IL



Cindy Thompson

Hospice of Knox County
 Successor Facility Dog Pawnee III
 Mount Vernon, OH
 Carole Gillham
 Huntley, IL



Carolyn Yett

Service Dog Rigo
 Dayton, OH
 Laurie and Kenzie Danis
 Columbus, OH

August Side Placements



Mandy Danuski

Successor Service Dog Parson II
 York, PA
 Karen and Kelsey Tyler
 Overland Park, KS



Elena Desserich

Facilitator: Brooke Desserich
 Skilled Companion Dog Pueblo III
 Cincinnati, OH
 Christine Guth
 Carol Stream, IL



David Harrison

Facilitator: Joanne Harrison
 Successor Skilled Companion Dog Luigi
 Ada, MI
 Pam and Dennis Collins and Family
 Powell, OH



Chris Olson

Facilitator: Linda Olson
 Successor Skilled Companion Dog Garek
 Columbus, OH
 Ross Correctional Institution
 Chillicothe, OH

Ambulatory Skilled Companion Team Training Focuses on Children with Autism, Developmental Delays and Down's Syndrome

This past June, the North Central Regional Training Center played host to a trial Ambulatory Skilled Companion Team Training class. Working in conjunction with the Southeast Region, North Central Regional staff developed this special training program to focus on the unique needs of families of children with autism, developmental delays and Down syndrome.

Before implementing a modified Team Training curriculum, CCI staff surveyed active graduate teams fitting the criteria and researched how the assistance dog industry as a whole services this specific population. This research, combined with CCI values, canine skill sets and the established Team Training curriculum, helped form the Ambulatory Skilled Companion trial class.

Program Manager Gwen Daugstrup said the class itself modeled much of a traditional Team Training class, with a few notable exceptions. For example, the first two-thirds of each day were tightly structured while the primary facilitator worked intensely with the dog and Team Training instructor. With guidance from the instructors, the recipients participated during the last one-third of each day, allowing the parents to facilitate interaction between the children and the dogs.

Like all CCI assistance dogs, the Ambulatory Skilled Companion Dogs were trained to retrieve, tug and push, however, they were also trained

to perform a unique command termed "nudge." The nudge command directs the dog to use its nose to provide a gentle push or nudge on their human partner disrupting undesired behavior such as repetitive, self-stimulating behaviors and toe walking, and cueing the child to perform a mental checklist to determine if they were performing socially unacceptable behaviors.

"We learn much from each Team Training class we teach," Daugstrup stated, "and this was no exception. We could see the impact a crowded, noisy classroom had on the behavior of some of the students, in contrast to the quiet "meet and greet" behaviors the night prior to the class."

Daugstrup said the staff also learned how the visible presence of sweet or salty foods can be "an almost insurmountable distraction" for children with food obsessions.

Parents of participants expressed relief and excitement that their Skilled Companion Dog will help with issues such as focus, acceptance, over-stimulation, fear of being alone, even repetitive behaviors.

Eight families participated and were matched with Skilled Companion Dogs during the June 2007 Ambulatory Skilled Companion class. They were honored June 22, during a private graduation ceremony.

Team Training Lunch Providers

August 2007

Marty Carvour
Jacqui Fatka
Betsy Jones
Kansas City Chapter
Powell Sew and Sow 4-H Club
Melissa Roberts
Bob and Connie Runk
Cheri Turner
Skip Walzak

Veterinary and Professional Support

Best Friends Animal Clinic

Rex Riggs, D.V.M.

Green Meadows

Veterinary Hospital

Robert Cape, D.V.M.
Jo Ann Buehner, D.V.M.
Matt Frost, D.V.M.
Leslie Parker, D.V.M.
Danielle Badamine, D.V.M.

MedVet

Matthew Barnhart, D.V.M.
Milton Wyman, D.V.M.

Thank You for Your Donations

Jackie, Kenny, and April Blankenship (and "Promise")

Collapsible water bowls and plastic food bowls

The Kansas City Chapter

Shampoo, leashes, and cotton balls

Carol Lehman and Fergus

Kong toys and Nylabones

Elizabeth Hague

Nylabones

Riverside Home Reach

Kong toys, Nylabones, bowl, and toys

Upcoming Graduation Dates

November 17, 2007

February 16, 2008

All graduation ceremonies begin at 11:00 a.m. and typically last one hour.

Location:

DUBLIN COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
Abbey Theater
5600 Post Road
Dublin, OH 43017

Fall 2007 Wish List

Nylabones (L or XL size)
Galileo by Nylabones (L or XL size)
Kong toys (L or XL size)
Colored copy paper
Three, four, and six-foot thin leather leashes
Paper plates, disposable cups, and plastic utensils
Paper napkins
Laundry detergent
Plush dog toys
Airline-approved Vari-Kennels (200 and 500 size)

Supplies for New Graduates:

Grooming combs
Nylabones (XL size)
Dental kits for dogs
Dog shampoo (12-oz. or 1-gal bottles)
Miller Forge nail trimmers (large size)
Slicker brushes
2 Cup measuring cups

CCI Bits

■ Kelly Galindo joins CCI as development associate. Kelly will be responsible for CCI North Central Region marketing and public relations and for planning larger fundraising events.

■ Jean Henry recently came on board as the new volunteer coordinator. Jean will coordinate the efforts of CCI local volunteers and regional volunteer chapters. She will also plan and coordinate volunteer-driven events and projects.

■ New kennel technicians—welcome Tera Jurrens, Michael King and Carlos Wolfe, and welcome back Mary Beth Kopechek.

MARTY AND DAVE CARVOUR

126 years... *That's how long CCI volunteers Marty and Dave Carvour have been raising puppies – in dog years, of course.*

When the Carvour's daughter Christie was 9, as part of her 4-H project, she was assigned a puppy to raise for Pilot Dogs, Inc., an Ohio-based, non-profit provider of guide dogs for the blind.

After the family raised two more Pilot Dogs, Marty saw a newspaper article about Canine Companions for Independence. Intrigued by CCI's mission, she called for more information and immediately signed up to be a CCI puppy raiser.

"The staff was great," Marty says, "I felt like they truly cared about their volunteers and now more than 18 years and 28 dogs later, I still feel that way."

The Carvour's first CCI puppy did not graduate, but their second effort was a success. "After meeting the puppy's recipient and understanding what an amazing impact the puppy would make, we were hooked," explained Marty.

Currently, Marty and Dave are raising CCI puppies, Cliff and Rocky, who are learning from the successes and obstacles of their foster siblings, CCI release dogs Rieger, Acree and E.T.

"People ask how we can stand to give up the puppies," says Marty. "Although it's difficult, instead of being sad I just think about meeting the recipient and start looking forward to building that relationship."

So far the Carvours have had 13 dogs graduate, a 50% success rate, which is 10% above CCI's national average. The dogs they have raised have been placed throughout the Midwest, and the Carvours have had an opportunity to meet each one of their recipients.

Marty and Dave say each puppy comes with unique challenges. Learning new schedules, behaviors, strengths, weaknesses and personalities is always a process, but to Dave and Marty the benefits and rewards far outweigh the challenges.

In addition to their extraordinary service as puppy raisers, the Carvours regularly donate food for Team Trainings and have participated in almost every CCI fundraiser and event. They

have spoken on behalf of CCI at schools, nursing homes, and businesses and represent CCI in the community. Dave even helped build CCI's kennels.

Marty is the leader and one of the founders of "Diamonds in the Ruff," a Central Ohio volunteer group who, with input from CCI trainers, offers monthly training workshops for local CCI puppy raisers.

CCI wishes to thank the Carvours and all CCI volunteers. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in becoming a puppy raiser, call CCI at (740) 548-4447 or visit www.cci.org.



Central Ohio

Hollyfest– Once again, CCI will participate in the Hilliard Chamber of Commerce Hollyfest, Saturday, December 1. Volunteers are needed prior to Hollyfest to make and assemble items to be sold at the event and during Hollyfest to sell CCI products, assist with photos with Santa and help at the coat/package check area.

Holiday Gift Wrapping– Get in the holiday spirit by wrapping gifts for CCI. Plans are underway to schedule CCI volunteers to wrap gifts for donations at local Barnes & Noble bookstores. Many volunteers are needed.

Information Request– CCI volunteer coordinator Jean Henry is in the process of updating volunteer information for the new CCI centralized volunteer database. Currently, Jean is working on the Central Ohio database. Be on the lookout for a questionnaire.

Next meeting– The next meeting of the Central Ohio volunteers will be Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Central Regional Center.

For more details on any of the above information or to volunteer for CCI, please contact Jean Henry at (740) 548-4447 or jhenry@cci.org.

Chicago

CCI Graduate and Skilled Companion Dog to appear on popular TLC program – Stay tuned this Fall for the national television debut of CCI Graduate Grace Ligon and Skilled Companion Dog Giselle. Ligon and Giselle will be featured on the hit show “Home Made Simple” on The Learning Channel (TLC). Grace and her family were chosen out of 1300

Chicago area families to appear on the show, which sent three “mavens” into their home to make improvements to the house, to cook new foods and to make fun crafts. The show is scheduled to air in late October or early November.

CCI Chicago Wins Big at the Races– Congratulations and thank you to the volunteers, sponsors, staff and participants at the Chicago Satellite office for their amazing success with the fifteenth annual CCI Day at the Races.

This sold out event, which was held Saturday, August 4 at the Arlington Park Race Course in Arlington Heights, IL, proved to be the most successful Day at the Races yet, raising more than \$50,000, a \$16,000 increase over 2006.

The Sixteenth Annual Day at the Races will be held Saturday, August 2, 2008. Tickets go on sale at 9:00 a.m. May 1. Invitations will be mailed in mid-June, but call early as this event will sell-out.

Holiday Gift Wrapping– Volunteers are needed to help wrap customer purchases in exchange for donations at local bookstores throughout the Chicagoland area from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve. Please call 847-816-7360 or email Corrine Hlinsky at chlinsky@sbcglobal.net to help.

Kansas City

Central Veterinary Conference– The Kansas City chapter participated in the Central Veterinary Conference which is held during the month of September in Kansas City each year. Volunteers were able to speak with conference attendees including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and various

vendors of veterinary products and share the CCI story.

Challenge Air– October 6 marked the second year the chapter participated with Challenge Air in Kansas City. Challenge Air is a unique event at which a group of pilots fly into the city and provide free airplane rides to children with disabilities. The event provided CCI volunteers a wonderful opportunity to speak with families and friends of these children and to provide them with valuable information about the CCI organization.

Holiday Gift Wrapping– One of the chapter’s biggest fundraising events is the holiday gift wrapping project at various bookstores in the Kansas City area. Many volunteers are needed to, once again, make this a huge success. Please contact the Kansas City Chapter at kcchapter@puppyraisers.us to volunteer.

Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Meetings are casual and offer a time for socialization for humans and CCI dogs. Please e-mail Charon Fisher or Penny Wright at kcchapter@puppyraisers.us if you plan to attend or are interested in learning more about the Kansas City Chapter of CCI. Volunteers and puppy raisers are always welcome and appreciated.

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(740) 363-0555 Fax

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(847) 816-7360 Voice
(847) 574-7512 Fax

Email: info@cci.org Web Site: www.cci.org

North Central Regional Chapters

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6650 Yellowstone Parkway
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(317) 251-8813

Kansas City Chapter
Charon Fisher and/or Pam Wright
kcchapter@puppyraisers.us

Wisconsin Chapter
Dawn Vollbrecht
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wisconsincci-dogs@yahoo.com

North Central Regional Groups

Central Ohio Volunteer Group
Jean Henry, Volunteer Coordinator
4989 State Route 37 East
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(740) 548-4447

Cleveland Volunteer Group
Patty Marsh
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Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223
(330) 926-0720
pattymarsh@sbcglobal.net

Michigan Volunteer Group
Fay Johnson
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lilly321002@yahoo.com

Minneapolis/St. Paul Volunteer Group
Mark and Jodi Laubersheimer
12921 Overlook Road
Dayton, MN 55327
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Penn-Ohio Volunteer Group
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Credits

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Holiday Gift Ideas...

Featuring North Central graduates Jackie Wall and Jerry Lyons and volunteer puppy raiser Betsy Jones, the CCI 2008 Calendar demonstrates 12-months of "Life Unleashed" stories and a bonus pull-out poster—\$12.50. Say "Happy Holidays" with CCI holiday card variety pack: 10 cards, 3 designs and 11 envelopes—\$15.00.

Call CCI at (740)548-4447 to place your order, and for other great gift ideas visit www.cci.org/giftshop.

