



Northeast Companion

The Northeast Region of Canine Companions for Independence



Autumn 2010 issue: Director's Corner, NER PR on US Open, Sails & Tails, DogFest, Graduate Stories, Recent Puppy Placements, KFAC, Wellness Center.

Celebrating 35 Years of Independence...

Thanks to the dedication and support of thousands of volunteers like yourself. You have helped build CCI into the largest assistance dog organization in the world.

Since its founding in Santa Rosa, CA in 1975, CCI has placed almost 3,500 assistance dogs. CCI has grown into five regional training centers to fulfill its goal of enhancing the lives of people with disabilities across the country live a more independent life. The North Central Training Center (NCR-Delaware, OH) was established in the summer of 1987, followed by Southwest (SW-Oceanside, CA) in 1987; Southeast (SE-Orlando, FL) in 1988 and the Northeast (NER-Medford, NY) in 1989. In June 1976, the first Service Dog, Abdul was placed and so

began Canine Companions mission of training "exceptional dogs for exceptional people".

The Northeast Regional Training Center created its second mark on the CCI Timeline with the opening of the Miller Family Campus in 2008. The 39,000 square foot facility has dramatically increased placements in the Northeast - by 60% - and has provided students with a home away from home during their two-weeks of Team Training and follow-up visits. The campus is a perfect venue and showcases the work that we do to outside organizations, such as: Lions Clubs International, General Federation of Women's Club and Rotary International.

This year, "home is where the hearts

& heroes are". We invite you to join us in celebrating CCI's 35th Birthday at the 9th annual Hearts & Heroes event on Thursday, November 18th from 6-9pm. We are excited to host this year's event at the Northeast Regional Training Center, Miller Family Campus in Medford, NY. The Campus is the perfect venue and showcases the commitment and support that individuals, corporations and foundations have provided to the organization.

The evening will honor 12 year-old Kyle Orent of Kyle's Lemonade along with all of the Northeast Graduate Teams. Since age 7, Kyle's dedication and commitment to raising awareness and support has motivated companies and individuals to help him in his fundraising efforts. To date, Kyle has helped to raise more than \$125,000 for CCI. His story has inspired children and adults and has proven that "you are never too little to make a difference."

Don't miss out on this amazing evening! Please join with us in celebrating CCI's 35th Birthday. To find out more on how you can join CCI in the celebration and become part of its history go to www.cci.org/heartsandheroes2010.



Pictured: May Graduating Class 2010

Director's Chair



I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. As we move toward fall and turn our attention back to school and the upcoming holiday season, we have successfully completed our third Team Training and graduation of 2010. Thus far, we have made 34 placements against a goal of 40 with one more Team Training and graduation to go in November! Once again, we are poised to surpass our placement goal.

None of this would be possible without each of you—donors, puppy raisers, volunteers and graduates. Thank you for all that you do for us! And let's not forget the superb Program staff who play an important role in making all we do possible.

In a still fragile economy, we closely monitor our expenditures and continue to strive to meet our budgetary goals. Our chapters are growing stronger and are playing an increasingly important role in raising awareness and support of the organization through outreach and fundraising events. The Capital Chapter held its 2nd annual Sails & Tails event in Annapolis, bigger and better than last year!

In addition, we have myriad events scheduled for the fall months. The NJ Chapter will host its fun bi-annual Wine & Noses event on October 24th at the Basking Ridge Country Club.

DogFest is back! Held on the grounds of our first home at Farmingdale State University on Saturday, October 16th. Snoopy will join us, there will be food, vendors and of course, the best dog Halloween costume contest! It is a great family event and all dogs are welcome, not just CCI dogs!

As we wind down the 35th Birthday celebration around the November graduations and galas, we will be celebrating 3500 placements of CCI—a tremendous milestone!!! The NER will be holding a 35th Birthday party at the Miller Family Campus on Thursday evening November 18th. We will be honoring all of the Region's graduate teams as well as 11-year old philanthropist Kyle of Kyle's Lemonade who has raised \$125k for us. If you are a NER graduate, or know someone who is, please send us your story so that we may include it in the evening's program.

We know these are challenging times for us all, however, we continue to rely upon your generosity which enables us to fulfill our mission. If you have had the good fortune of attending a graduation, you have witnessed first hand the ways in which Canine Companions assistance dogs enhance the lives of adults & children with disabilities.

Thank you. I hope you enjoy reading the stories in the newsletter and please be sure to check the website for additional information.

Warmest regards,
Debra Dougherty,
Executive Director, NER



Set, Match, Point

On September 9th, puppy raisers from NJ and NY along with CCI Instructor Lauren Makria attended the US Open. Thanks to the United States Tennis Association for arranging passes in an effort to raise awareness for CCI. Those attended enjoyed wheelchair tennis, junior tournament tennis and the Retired Champion Invitational on the outer courts of the Billy Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, NY.



Picture L to R: Jen Pottheiser w/ Onora; Caryl Swain w/ Forest; Anthony Kozberg w/Nathaniel; Deborah Alexander w/Mina; May Sikora; John Sikora; Lauren Sikora w/Bright; Jean Earle; Morgan Earle w/Tomba and Lauren Makria with Bayou.

The New Jersey Chapter of
Canine Companions for Independence

Invites You To
An Afternoon of
Wine & Noses



Sunday, October 24, 2010

2:00 - 5:00 PM

Basking Ridge Country Club

Please join us for a
spectacular event of Unique Wine and Chocolate Tastings
Tickets \$100 per person

Mingle with Canine Companion teams and the puppies
that will one day become assistance dogs.
The event will also include: Elegant hors d'oeuvres,
Silent auction and Composer Joseph Turrin

To purchase tickets or to obtain sponsorship opportunities visit www.cci.org/wn2010

Canine Companions DogFest is BACK!

Canine Companions for Independence 17th Annual DogFest featuring Snoopy & Friends is a walk-a-thon and pet educational fair! The event will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 from 11:00am to 3:00pm (rain or shine) at the SUNY Farmingdale Campus, Farmingdale, NY. Event includes: walk-a-thon, vendors, human/canine costume parade and contest, scavenger hunt, trick or treat stops and auction. Fun for the whole family...even the dog. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities, journal advertisements available.

To register and collect pledges visit www.cci.org/dogfest2010

**Canine Companions
DogFest 2010**
Featuring Snoopy & Friends!



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The Capital Chapter of Canine Companions for Independence Sails & Tails Event

On April 25th, more than 125 guests attended the 2nd Annual Sails & Tails event held by the Capital Chapter in Annapolis, MD. Special thanks to everyone who helped make this year a huge success!

STARBOARD

Emma & Company, Woodstock, VA
Laverne M. Reedy, Topeka, KS
Margaret & Roy Wells, Sarasota, FL
Michele & Jeff Kauffman, Clarksville, MD
Mark & Debbie Strickenburg, Gambrills, MD

STERN

Art & Cindy Patterson, Columbia, MD
Bruce & Catherine Burnett, Leesburg, VA
England Run Veterinary Clinic, Fredericksburg, VA
George W. Holdefer, Towson, MD
Scott Whittington-Raising K-9 Companions, Pasadena, MD

STERN Con't

Harris Corporation, Annapolis Junction, MD
Jim & Michele Purton, Fredericksburg, VA
Maria Boroja & Joseph Skorupa, Hyattsville, MD
Nancy Patterson & John Michelli, Davidsonville, MD
Thomas & Mary Flynn, Gambrills MD
Wegman's, Leesburg, VA



Please mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Sails & Tails event taking place on Sunday, April 10, 2011 in Annapolis, MD.

Forever, In My Heart. A tribute to Marvelous Mercer.



My dear CCI family,

Here is one of those letters I thought I wouldn't be writing until years from now.

As many of you know, my sweet Mercer, born February 15th, 2:10 AM, 15 perfect ounces, died of cancer on a weekday in June. I was overseas in Europe. - My hero protected me, from the pain of seeing him so ill, until the day he died.

After Mercer wasn't there to greet me off the plane, I was told in the parking lot of JFK that he was gone. It was the first time in my entire life where I wanted my world to fade to black. I put my head against the car seat and broke down. "He was my world," I cried. "My entire world."

*Come stop your crying,
It'll be alright.
Just take my hand; hold it tight.
I will protect you from all around you.
I will be here don't you cry."*

And like a dear friend would soon tell me, "He still is."

I did then the only thing I could think to do. I started to sing.

Phil Collins - You'll be in my Heart. Our song. The same song I would sing to him during thunderstorms, or while he was gently falling asleep in his kennel.

"I know you can hear me," I cried.

And he did.

A week later, on my way to visit a special friend of Mercer's, I turned the channel of the radio. It was as if the song switched on the exact moment I landed on it.

Disney songs? Never on the radio.

And now, I still see him forming a little black circle on my bed, watching me with those infinitely knowing eyes. I know now what he would say to me from heaven.

"Why are you crying?" he'd look at me in bewilderment. "I'm here. And my job is never done. Not even now."

Not even now - I've already met my guardian angel. And once again Merc, you know so much more than I do.

But you've taught me, Mercer. Life is about pulling our head back up from the car seat, and watching the headlights go by you. It's about feeling your heart beating, and wondering if that was a second beat you might have felt with you somehow.

And it's about holding on. Holding on to your collar; holding on to you with all I am.

*Don't think I'm letting go.
I love you, my sweet boy.*

by Shea Megale



With Heart.

One Puppy Raisers CCI Journey.



I didn't know it at the time, but my journey into puppy-raising started while I was volunteering in the CCI offices... stuffing envelopes, mailing applications, answering phones and occasionally holding puppies. Over time, I spoke with so many applicants who faced unimaginable challenges every day. Still, I thought, I could never raise a puppy and give it back. I continued answering phones.

This all changed however when I attended my first CCI graduation. I went from how I could give a dog back to how could I not.

Soon enough I had an eight week old puppy, Tyak in my house. We worked together daily and I kept telling myself he is not my dog, don't get attached. Then, one night I said to my husband, "It's happening..." He said, "It is??" To which I replied, "No, not that, I am hooked on Tyak. His response, "He's just a rental". I continued to teach Tyak his commands, socializing him and having a great time. We also met so many wonderful people - another bonus of puppy-raising. Throughout this journey, and like every other puppy-raiser, I would regularly encounter people saying they could never raise a dog for someone else because they didn't have the heart to be able to give the dog back. I started to feel terrible about myself, as if they were saying that I didn't have a heart. The truth is I do have a heart and I was volunteering to get it broken.

Yes, it's hard to give the dog back and when the time got closer to return Tyak to CCI for advanced training, part of me wished he would not pass. This all changed though when I received the phone call from CCI informing me that Tyak was matched up with Bryan, a 9 year old boy with cerebral palsy and autism. Sitting at my desk, hearing the news, I could not stand up. I was so overwhelmed with joy. My emotions were indescribable. It's as if all the dots were now connected and it was clear there was something bigger than my feelings to consider. I was elated to hear he succeeded.

As a puppy-raiser the focus needs to be on the end-game and whether or not your dog is placed, you know in your heart that you have done a great thing. It is fulfilling, rewarding and a privilege to be a part of the CCI journey and to know you have the opportunity to make someone else's life more independent.

If you are considering being a puppy-raiser and you don't think you have the heart to give the dog away. Let me say, "You do have a heart, it is just bigger than most."

Judy Carey
Puppy-raiser for Tyak



Your Story Here

We know that the best person to tell your story is you. And we want to know the story of your Canine Companions for Independence experience. Tell us about it by visiting cci.org/mygreatstory.

Graduate Anniversaries

RECOGNITION NAME	DOG NAME	Active Date
JOSHUA, HARRY AND JENNIFER TRAMONTANO	AGER	17-Jun-06
DEBRA & ANTHONY CAVALIERI	ALEXANDRA III	6-Sep-08
ERIC & BILL NIVISON	ANELA II	15-May-04
MICHAEL & LAURIE ST. JEANOS	ANTON II	18-Aug-07
ILENE DEGREGORIO	ASHER	14-May-05
CONNIE PALUMBO	AUSSIE II	18-May-02
HANA KIERSTAD CAROL & CASSANDRA	BARDOT	18-Aug-07
FRANCIS SCIARETTA	BASTIEN II	17-May-08
ANTHONY & CARLA YANNOTTI	BATCHELOR	15-Aug-09
MIKAEL & MICHELLE MILLER	BEVERS	17-May-08
AMBER ERHARD & DONNA DERENTHAL	BLAIR III	14-Aug-04
TAYLOR & KIMBERLY BENTON	BODIE	18-Aug-07
SARA YOUNG	BOOMER IV	16-May-09
TIM SCHULTZ	BRIGGS	21-Jul-01
RICK ADAMS	BUFF	7-Sep-06
BETH & SUE DETATA	CAMPOS II	16-Aug-03
JAMES BAHAMONDE	CARLISLE	14-Aug-99
THOMAS BENANTE	CHEYENNE II	15-May-04
MICHAEL & SUSAN SCHIAVO BARBARA SILVERBERG	CONAN	18-Aug-07
DANIEL & JERI LICHT	COPPER II	21-Jul-01
MELANIE KOROGHLIAN	CRAIGIE	18-Aug-07
MARC EGGIMAN WIFE SHELIA	DERRY	16-May-09
JANETTE RAY	DEXTER	18-Aug-07
ROBIN CRICKMORE	DIRK	17-Jun-06
MAUREEN LOVETRO	DRAKE IV	16-May-09
JAMES KISTNER	DUBECKY	17-Jun-06
LAURA QUIBELL	ECHO III	14-May-05
BERNARD MURO III (KAREN)	EIDEL	17-May-08
MATT & STEVE LINDBLAD	EISEN	21-Jul-01
JESSICA SHONE	EUGENE II	15-Aug-05
PAULA BOLLEN	EUSTON	17-Aug-02
MARK JOHNSON	FAIZAH	14-Aug-09
KAREN E. STERNFELD	FARIS	6-Sep-08
TRAVIS & ALISON LURIA	FRAN II	19-Aug-00
MARY ANN BOCHEY	FREEMAN II	16-Aug-03
MEGAN & CORLISS COLLIGAN	GABRI II	18-May-02
DONOVAN EVANS	GANEY	24-May-03
KEVIN & PAT HEALY	GARVEY	17-May-03
MICHAEL SACK	GIVEN	17-May-03
CHYANNE ALLEN	GWINA	16-Aug-03
LAUREN HEMMERLY	HAINES II	15-May-04
MS. BUDDY C. HAYES	HELICE	15-Aug-05
DAVID & BARBARA GERBASI	IAN IV	15-May-04
LAURA & DOREEN OLSON	IMBER II	14-May-05
DEBORAH JAWOR	ISAAC III	14-Aug-04
PATRICIA J. COALE	JAEGER	15-May-04
JAVIER ROBLES	JANUS	21-Jul-01
JESSICA YAEGER	JEFFERSON III	14-Aug-09
ETHAN & KIM MESSINGER	JETTIS	14-Aug-04
LAURA MICKLUS	JOHN II	21-Jul-01
RYAN & TRACY JONES	JOSEPHINE II	16-Aug-03

RECOGNITION NAME	DOG NAME	Active Date
ROSALYN STANLEY	JUNO IV	6-Sep-08
HALEY & JILL SULAHIAN	KARINE	15-Aug-05
STEWART ALTMAN	KIEN	14-Aug-04
PAIGE & SANDRA LIBRANDI	KIM III	14-Aug-04
DEBRA BARTGIS	KIMALA	17-Aug-02
RACHEL & PHYLLIS BASS	KING III	15-May-99
ROBYN SCHULER	KIPP	14-Aug-04
TIM & SHEILA BARRY	KIRSTY	18-May-02
JOSEPH & JULIANNE LEONARD	KITRY	14-Aug-04
ALLEN RANDLOV	LAHTI	17-May-03
MAX & ROY GOLD	LANGLEY II	17-Aug-02
PATRICIA MOSER	LEON	18-May-02
STEVEN MUCK VALERIE	LEONARD IV	14-Aug-04
TOM & VIRGINIA CLARK	LEX III	17-May-03
JODY C. WATKINS	LINC II	17-Aug-02
JACKIE GUFROVICH	LINCOLN IV	25-Feb-06
DAVID OTT	LINGO	18-Aug-07
ELAINE KIELMAN	LONN	19-May-07
KATHI GEISLER	LUCAH II	14-Aug-09
MICHAEL PLUNSKA	LUKE III	13-May-00
JO-ANNE PLUNSKA	LUKE III	15-May-04
KATHY HOCTOR	LUZON	21-Jul-01
ANNIE KRAMER-GOLINKOFF & LIZA KRAMER	LYTTON	16-Aug-03
CHERYL CARDILLO	MACAN	21-Jul-01
SHARON GREENBAUM	MACLEOD	19-May-07
DYLAN & GLORIA THOMPSON	MALLIE	14-May-05
JADEN KUSHLEFSKY	MARTY IV	17-Jun-06
MARK CUMMINS (LINDA MOM)	MEESHA II	17-May-08
KATHRYN AZEEZ	MELL	17-Jun-06
CHRISTIAN & DEBRA ZIZZO	MERL	15-Aug-05
ROBIN EMANUEL-SMITH	MICHELLE II	15-Jul-05
STEVEN ANTONINO	MINGUS	14-Aug-04
JULIE ANN SCHILL	MISSY	18-May-02
ANDREA NEUMANN-MASCIS	ML	18-May-02
ELIZABETH ALISON	MORROW II	19-May-07
ANDREA GOTTESMAN	NAUTICA	15-May-04
MARIA HEALTH CARE CENTER	NEWARK	19-May-07
DOROTHY ELLIOT	OASIS II	6-Sep-08
MAY & KARLA MANCUSO	OBRIAN	12-May-05
JOHN MILANO	OCTAVIA III	16-May-09
SIOBHAN C. RODDY	OLLIE III	14-Aug-04
DAVID & LOU CALCAGNO	OPE	17-May-03
KIMBERLY , DENNIS & LOUISE BRATNIK	ORSON III	6-Sep-08
LISA FISCHER	ORTEGA III	14-May-05
DUSTIN PRUSISZ JENNY MOM	OSAKA II	16-May-09
MATTHEW MONTALBANO	OSWEGO II	16-May-09
MATTHEW , SHARON & KEN ROZANSKY	PACKARD III	6-Sep-08
ALICE HOOD	PAVEL	17-May-08
KESSLER INSTITUTE FOR REHABILITATION	PETE II	18-Aug-07
MELANIE LUEBS MOM NANCY	PHOEBE III	14-Aug-09
NANCIE SPECTOR	RAND	14-May-08

Graduate Anniversaries (cont)

RECOGNITION NAME	DOG NAME	Active Date
LILY, STEVEN, & ITA BERKOW	RAWLEY	6-Sep-08
JANE SCHLAU	REMICK	15-Jul-05
KAREN CARBONELLO	ROSCOE III	17-May-03
TERRANCE & PAT THOMPSON	RUSTY III	19-Aug-00
TUCKER SALOVAARA & CAROL MATTHEWS	SAILOR III	15-Aug-05
CHRISTOPHER WESCHLER WIFE CATHY	SAMSON IV	16-May-09
ANGELO COLONNA	SANBORN	17-Jun-06
BRIAN EVANITSKY	SANTOS	17-Jun-06
NICHOLAS/MATHEW LEO (STEPHEN & ANNETTE)	SAWYER II	17-May-08
ANNE FRAIM	SELBY	17-May-03
CAROL RICE	TAINN	14-Aug-09
BARBARA SCHWARTZ	TEMBO	18-Aug-07
MATT RAIBLE	TENNEY	17-May-03
SAMUEL CORDELL (DAVID)	THEDA	17-May-08
NICHOLAS & JO-ANN TYLER	TITUS	19-Aug-00

RECOGNITION NAME	DOG NAME	Active Date
CAROL MARCUS	TOM	21-Jul-01
MORGAN EARLE	TOMBA	17-Jun-06
RALPH AND MARY MELINO	TONIO	17-Aug-02
KYLE & KELLY MEATH	TORRES	17-May-03
SIMONE HILL	TRINI	16-Aug-03
PAM MARTINSEN	VERNEY	14-Aug-04
JOHN THOMPSON	WEXLER	14-Aug-09
TARA MARTINEZ	WINNIE IV	10-Sep-04
LORE WAEGERLE	ZALMAN	17-May-08
ERIN CONNELLY CATHERINE AND JIM	ZEEDA	16-May-09
GRACE MARIANI (NANCY & JOHN)	ZELDA III	14-May-08
PATRICK ANNELLO	ZELIC	14-Aug-09
CAMERON SHAW-DORAN	ZILLAH	6-Sep-08
ANTHONY ZACCARIA MOM SUE	ZOLO	14-Aug-09

Recent Puppy Placements

PUPPY RAISER	DOG NAME
Cherie Phipps	ARIES II
Cheryl And Bill Lewis	BEULA
Colleen Hayduk & Richard Roberts	BRANDIE II
Caryn & Josh Liss	BRONX
Janice Vega Latker & Alexandra Vega Pollack	BUGSY
Wendy Luterek	CARSON III
Carol Levy	DIMAURO
Kerinne Levy	DIMAURO
Matthew Parody	DONAHUE II
Patricia Ann Redden	ELVIS IV
Cindy & Scott Morrison & Family	EMMETT III
Eva Stanard	FARINA II
Danielle Drazen	FERGENSEN II
Jan Gurtner	FERMER
Dan Wright & Kie Kuwabara	FIANNA
Samantha Marder	FIORE II
Caryl Swain	FOREST IV
Terri & Robert Laundon	GEOFF II
Cheryl Cardillo	GREG III
Shoemaker Family	HANS II
Ellen And Jason Winch	HEDWIG
Donna Martin	HERITAGE III
Mark & Debra Strickenburg	HOPPER
Mike, Michele & Austin Hartsly	HOWARD IV

PUPPY RAISER	DOG NAME
Roger Roberts	HUNTLEY
The Maddox Family	JAN III
Julie, Frank & Meghan Furey	JODY V
Leigh Marion	JOHNNY
Sue Cadwell	JOPLIN
Barbara Hoopes & Stefanie Mutter	KC II
Deborah Lubeski	KOUZ
Lily Bruch	KRILL
Alexis Gutierrez	KRILL
Patricia Plunk	KRISTY
The Oleszko Family	LATCH
The Gupta Family	LELDON
Bridgit Sandford	LEROY III
Michele & Jeff Kauffman	LIZ V
Emily Bracken	LOCHLIN
Paige Patterson & Daniel Gonzales	MACRAY
Lisa Mccall	MORRISON II
Patricia Barter	NASAR
Julie Knitter & Karen Van Den Heuvel	NINJA II
Lisa Lackner & Gabor Kishegyi	NORWOOD III
Anna Cila	NUMA
George And Joyce Kelleher	OBI II
Debbie Fry & Suzannah Little	OLYMPIA IV
Margaret Peterson	ORBIT III
Maria Boroja	ORCHID II

PUPPY RAISER	DOG NAME
Kim & Alex Levin	ORCHID II
Jill & Amelia Whaley	OTTER II
Diana & Pete Adamson	PACIFICA
Donald & Jeanne Houser	PACKER III
Andrea Kalmanek	PADDY III
Anna Sansevere & Joseph Gianella	PERCY II
Gail Griffith & Gary Begeman	PING
Joanne Greening	SENTURY
Judy Carey	SERGIO II
Nancy Kidwell	SHEILA IV
Olivia & Bart Howe	SIMONDS
Dyan Latini	SLICK
Steve And Denise Ruscio	SUSIE II
Carol Levy	TONY III
Kerinne Levy	TONY III
Susan Austin	TRAVELER III
Maureen & Bradley Kass	TROTTER
Jane & Janie McGraw	WATHEN
Matt, Bruce & Chris Alt	WHITNEY V
Tobi Oakes	WILLOW V
The Fernan Family	WRIGHT II
Karen Czekanski	WYCECH
Michele & Jim Purton	WYCECH
Susan & Stuart Sommers	YING II
Judi And Danny Weinberger	YONKERS III

May 2010 Graduates



Emma Banner

Bud II

Facilitator: Cara Banner
Puppy Raisers: Kyle &
Kelly Meath



Donald Barbieri

Halki

Puppy Raiser: Michele
Kauffman



Alex Bode

Rochelle IV

Puppy Raisers: Addie, Grace,
Mary, Phil & Tracy Heifetz



Dylan Brown

Dodie

Facilitator: Jamie Brown
Puppy Raisers: Lisa & Jay Cote



Leslie Cohen

Nardo

Puppy Raisers: Sharon &
Chrissy Nichols

May 2010 Graduates



Jared Fierro

India III

Facilitator: Suzanne Fierro
Puppy Raisers: Regina &
Dave Benjamin



Molly Jimerson

Nico IV

Facilitators: Jennifer Peers
Puppy Raiser: MaryAngela
Benthal



Mathew Kuchinos

Anza II

Puppy Raiser: Mary Giroux



Emily Mangione

Keilus III

Facilitator: Kim Mangione
Puppy Raisers: Mark &
Debbie Strickenburg

Mark Your Calendars!

DogFest - Saturday, October 16th

Wine & Noses - Sunday, October 24th

Fall Graduation - Friday, November 12th

35th Birthday Celebration - Thursday, November 18

Winter Graduation 2011 - Saturday, February 12th, 2011

Sails & Tails 2011 - Sunday, April 10, 2011

Spring Graduation 2011 - Friday, May 13th, 2011

Summer Graduation 2011 - Friday, August 12th, 2011

Fall Graduation 2011 - Saturday, November 12th, 2011

August 2010 Graduates



Christine Bales

Ronny
Facilitator: Sharon Bales
Puppy Raisers: Karen Jeffries
& Mike Turner



Jana Brown

Ellis III
Facilitator: Bonnie Brown
Puppy Raisers: Jim &
Janice Curry



Corey Greenbaum

Dooley
Puppy Raiser: Silke Psula



Victoria O'Brien

Tucker IV
Facilitator: Jannet Bozza
Puppy Raisers: The Fernan
Family



Lori Patria

Dayne
Kernan Orthopedics &
Rehabilitation
Puppy Raisers: Annie
Sansevere & Joseph Gianella

August 2010 Graduates



Jo-Anne Plunске

Theo V
Puppy Raiser: Roger Roberts



Bryan Rebimbas

Tyak
Facilitators: Marissa &
Anthony Rebimbas
Puppy Raiser: Judy Carey



Christopher Romano

Danby
Puppy Raiser: Jane Nagy



Cathy Slotwinski

Colbert
Puppy Raiser: Erika
Abrahamsson



Ilana Unger

Rex IV
Kessler Institute for
Rehabilitation
Puppy Raiser: Karen Hancock

August 2010 Graduates



Ean Williams

Kobe
Facilitator: Nancy Williams
Puppy Raisers: Laura Haas &
Sergio Gatell



Celebrating 35 Years of Independence

Join Us

As we celebrate our 35th Birthday

Thursday, November 18, 2010

6 - 9PM

Miller Family Campus

286 Middle Island Road

Medford, NY 11763

To purchase tickets or obtain information
on sponsorship opportunities

visit: www.cci.org/heartsandheroes2010

Kayak for a Cause (KFAC) benefits Canine Companions for Independence



On July 24th, hundreds of paddlers joined together to raise money for charity. The 12.4 mile trip across the Long Island Sound started on Long Island and landed in Norwalk, CT for a fun-filled evening with a lobster bake and music festival. Throughout the years, KFAC has lead 1,600 people across the sound, and has received over \$1.5 million in donations. Special thanks to everyone from KFAC for all their hard work and dedication in raising over \$250K for charity this year.



John Thompson and Wexler, Pam Lohr and Martha, and Junior and I all represented CCI at a wonderful event at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA Saturday, June 12, 2010. The event was called Dog Day at the Carle and featured authors and illustrators whose books are on the theme of dogs.



The Capital Chapter of CCI was well represented at the recent Celebrate Communications event held at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Every year Cheryl Heppner, the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, and her CCI Hearing Dog Galaxy sponsor CCI's participation in this event. More than 50 exhibitors are present by invitation only. The newest communications technologies are showcased, as well as products and services from other agencies and businesses focused on the deaf and hard of hearing community. More than 750 people attend this expo yearly.

Marty & Gene Erickson Canine Wellness Center

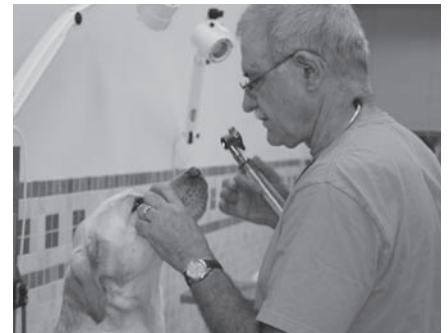


Pictured: Marty & Gene Erickson with Katie

For the readers who have been with us prior to our relocation to the Miller Family Campus, you surely know that the Northeast region of CCI functioned for many years under less than ideal circumstances. Our kennel was our grooming room, our training room, our health clinic, meeting space, kitchen and food storage... It took a lot of creativity and complex scheduling to make all of its varied functions work, allowing the NER to produce quality assistance dog teams. The space and multi-functionality of our Farmingdale kennel challenged operations on a regular basis, and made it either impossible or impractical for certain activities to take place at our center.

With the move to the Miller Family campus, and the construction of the Wellness center, dedicated solely to the care of our dogs, those restrictions were lifted and ever since, the NER has seen a huge shift in the quality and quantity of services that can be offered to our dogs on site.

One constant throughout all our 20 plus years of operation at Northeast, has been the tireless dedication and enthusiasm of Dr. Anthony Cuccaro. When the Northeast first opened its doors in Farmingdale, Dr. Cuccaro was the first veterinarian to offer us his time and services for both the dogs in training, graduates and puppy raisers. He would travel from his practice in Amityville to come give our dogs Rabies vaccinations, and check that they were in good health and consulted with us over the more obscure cases. But the space in which he had to work was overcrowded, over run with activity and often quite loud from the excited barking of the dogs viewing a visitor. Dr. Kramer, our cardiologist had the task of checking dogs' hearts in our trailer, which offered a cramped space in which to move the dogs to test for post exercise murmurs. Dr. Sapienza, our ophthalmologist had to perform eye exams on our grooming table.



Pictured: Dr. Cuccaro

The Erickson sponsored Wellness Center at the Miller Family Campus is equipped to provide a sanitary and spacious area dedicated solely to the care of dogs at CCI. It functions as a laboratory so that our staff can perform in-house tests and receive results on dogs immediately without waiting for lab results. It offers a hydraulic lift table to facilitate eye exams and medical checks when dogs are turned in and prior to entering classes. Vaccinations, medications and simple treatments are performed efficiently and hygienically in a quiet space dedicated to this purpose alone. Most impressive are the recovery kennels, which can be viewed directly from the Wellness Center. These kennels are designed to house dogs who are recovering from surgeries, are in heat, or who simply require a little time out to rest a twisted ankle or are under medical observation.



Pictured: Dr. Cuccaro

From the veterinarians who come to the campus to offer services to our dogs, to the staff who work directly with our dogs, to those who tour the facility, the Wellness Center stands out as one of the most impressive elements of the center. As we move forward to place more assistance dogs, the Wellness Center will continue to serve as the heart of our caring for these magnificent animals and CCI's mission.

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Newsletter

Editors: Debra Dougherty
and Debra Mackenzie
Graphic Designer: Beth Pokriefke

In Memoriam

In honor of the special members of the CCI family we have lost:

Daynes - Deceased Retired Grad Dog
Ec - Deceased Retired Grad Dog
Luke III - Deceased Grad Dog
Meg - Deceased Retired Grad Dog
Mercer - Deceased Grad Dog

What Legacy Will You Leave?

We all desire significance – to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends. And for many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference – to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the world in which we live.

The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many people to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you.

For information on how to include Canine Companions for Independence in your estate plans, contact Dave Bonfilio at pinfo@cci.org or at 1-866-224-3647

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