



The Companion

the Southeast Region Newsletter of Canine Companions for Independence



Fall 2008 issue: *PAWcasso VIP Event, Volunteers Making A Difference, Tales & Tails Gala, Regional Events.*

The Pieces That Shape Our Region

With Your Help, Providing Exceptional Dogs for Exceptional People Is No Puzzle

No puzzle is complete until all of the pieces have been put into place. The Southeast region grows and builds upon the many pieces that our volunteers and supporters add to our organization.

There are the volunteer Puppy Raisers, whose piece is to raise, teach and care for the puppies that will one day bring greater independence to a person with a disability. Another piece is made up of the volunteers who help out in the office answering telephones, the ones who help us run our Tales and Tails Gala and the many volunteers in all eight of the states in our region who bring awareness of our mission to those who don't yet know we are here for them.

There are the pieces you see, like our highly trained assistance dogs and the pieces you don't often see, like our dedicated trainers. There are the pieces you can learn more about, like

the one wonderful dog lover, John K. Bastien who inspired his widow, Jo Ann Guise, to honor him at our campus. It was Jo Ann who inspired Darden Restaurants to match her leadership challenge gift to help build the campus we are in today. Jo Ann found a way to help fill in many of the pieces that make up our organization, and you can learn more about her in the Donor Spotlight in this issue.

There are the pieces that you can create through your own unique talents. Luis Sotttil, world renowned artist and the PAWcasso event originator, uses his artistic gifts to raise funds and awareness for our region.

Facility dogs and their facilitator fill in the gaps for children and adults requiring assistance in health care and educational settings. One highly trained Canine Companions for Independence Facility dog make a



Pictured: Luis Sotttil, Marline, Jack and Allison Sellers,

Photo by Peter Burg/Burg Photographix

Continued on Page 3

Reserve Your 2009 Calendar Today...



And Make A Miracle Happen.

Your Contribution of \$50 or more...

will go a long way to help make a miracle happen in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. Canine Companions for Independence dogs are free to deserving applicants. By supporting Canine Companions for Independence, you can make a dramatic difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

As a thank you for your generosity, we will send you our 2009 Canine Companions for Independence calendar free of charge.

This years calendar is full of inspirational stories about our Graduates and Volunteers, including Graduates, Jeffrey Adams and Allison Sellers.

Make a contribution today, and your 2009 calendar is on its way.

Southeast Directions

Margaret S. Ager, Executive Director



Photo by Michael Livera

On August 16, 2008, we welcomed

8 new Teams into our Circle of Love. Those teams, along with the teams that graduated in our North Central and Northwest Regions, helped Canine Companions for Independence reach a milestone of over 3000 placements. The significance is not in the number of placements we have made but that lives have been enhanced

through each of these placements.

We often measure our successes through numbers. How many dogs are in our puppy program, how many dogs did we graduate this year, how much money did we raise, how many people attended one of our events, but I would like for you to reflect on the **Power of One**.

It was one puppy raiser that recruited others to begin the foundation of our Southeast Region.

It was **one** puppy raiser that made a call to SeaWorld to ask if she could bring her puppy to the park for an outing. Lucky for us, that phone call was received by **Fonda Cerenzio** and was the beginning of a relationship that grew so that we have the Anheuser-Busch/ SeaWorld campus today. Fonda has served our Region as President of the Board and in many other capacities over the last 15 years.

It was **one** volunteer that began stuffing envelopes in a small office in a warehouse district north of Orlando that became one our biggest supporters. Little did any of us realize at the time how much **Nancy Baumann** would contribute—through her enthusiasm and advocacy. It is difficult to count the number of supporters (donors, puppy raisers, graduates and board members) that have been introduced to our organization directly or indirectly through her.

Together Fonda and Nancy cofounded the Tales and Tails gala. This year will be our 12th year for the event that has raised over 3 million dollars.

In recognition of Nancy's dedication, we named a dog "Baumann." Baumann was selected as a breeder and has turned

out to be one of the the most successful sires the organization has ever had. To illustrate that point, the dogs that graduated on August 16th were from litters A to Z and all of them were sired by Baumann—talk about the power of **one**!!

Nancy currently serves as President of our Board. She never imagined that the **one** decision she made to take the **one step** to volunteer would have touched so many lives Nancy took that one step anyway.

The challenge is for all of us to take that one step, to make that one decision based only on faith and the desire to do the right thing and help. As you read the stories on the following pages, and you see a place where you feel you can help, please don't hesitate and call us to make that **one first step** where you will make a difference.

Please feel free to call me personally if you have any questions about our organization at 407-522-3309 or email me at mager@cci.org. You can also visit our new website at:

www.cci.org to view our latest news and more information about Canine Companions for Independence and our upcoming events.

Margaret

Mark your calendars:

November 8, 2008

Join us for our

12th Annual Tales and Tails Gala

at SeaWorld

The Pieces That Shape Our Region from cover

difference to an average of 32 people whose lives they it will touch.

Every piece you bring to our organization, no matter how large or small, brings us all closer together and creates an even brighter picture for the children and adults with disabilities that will benefit from being matched with a Canine Companions for Independence assistance dog.

Puppy Raising *Raise a puppy, change a life*

I thought I could never raise a puppy because I couldn't give them up. Now I'm raising my 14th puppy for CCI.
—Peggy Jensen, volunteer puppy raiser



Peggy Jensen and Fawn III Photo by Val Becker

What Volunteer Puppy Raisers Do:

Provide a safe environment for a puppy who will be the only dog under 1-year old in the house.

Work closely with CCI monitoring the puppy's progress and submit monthly reports.

Attend CCI approved obedience classes.

Teach the puppy manners and basic commands.

Provide financially for the puppy's food, medical and transportation expenses.

Feed the puppy a diet recommended by CCI.

Provide a kennel or crate for sleeping indoors.

Provide the puppy with age-appropriate socialization opportunities such as public outings and medical appointments.

Keep the puppy on a leash at all times unless in a securely fenced area.

Supervise the young puppy throughout the day.

Agree to return the puppy upon request.

Assistance dogs aren't just born, they're raised.

Volunteer puppy raisers provide these specially-bred puppies a safe home, take them to obedience classes, serve up a healthy diet, provide socialization opportunities and give lots of love.

Each hour spent caring for a CCI puppy is vital to its development as a future assistance dog. The puppy raising program provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to assist CCI with its very important mission.

Contact Ed Burger, SER Puppy Program Manager to learn more:
407-522-3304 or email him at
eburger@cci.org

Your employer may be a Canine Companions for Independence supporter!

Many companies have corporate contribution policies in which they provide an array of support to non-profit organizations like Canine Companions for Independence. Your involvement as a graduate, volunteer or donor could lead to increased support for CCI. Ask your Human Resources Representative how they could become involved or contact Development Associate, Ben Damerow, for more information at 407-522-3324.

Leading The Way - *Jim Dekle Joins The SER Board of Directors*



The Southeast Region of Canine Companions for Independence is proud to announce the appointment of long-time supporter and volunteer puppy raiser Jim Dekle to the Southeast Board of Directors.

Jim Dekle is Chief Information Officer of ABC Fine Wine & Spirits in Orlando and has been with the company for 28 years. He began his career at ABC, while attending Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Jim continued his career at ABC, and was promoted to Director of Information Systems. Today, Jim celebrates 28 years of service with ABC and 28 years of happiness with his wife Barbara.

Jim and Barbara have been volunteer puppy raisers for Canine Companions for Independence since 2000. Their first puppy, Sonnet, was placed with a graduate, and Jim and Barbara are now raising their eighth puppy, Mucha. Jim says he has two favorite parts of puppy raising. "One is going out to eat with Barbara and the puppy and meeting people who want to know about the puppy and CCI. It happens every time we go out in public with the puppy. The second favorite part is when the dog graduates and is teamed up with someone that needs what the dog can provide."

Despite their busy schedule, Jim says Barbara helps him keep the importance of puppy raising high on his list of priorities. One incident in particular keeps the sometimes arduous task of puppy raising in perspective:

"It was a Saturday Morning and Barbara and I were busy cleaning the house and doing the normal Saturday stuff. I don't remember what I was doing exactly, but I do remember that I was walking from the kitchen to the outside and I noticed that the new CCI puppy had just had a potty accident (hard as you may try, it will happen). Since we were in a cleaning mode, this was going in the wrong direction, and honestly it made me mad. So I blurted out to Barbara about the accident and I said something like "How many times do we have to put up with this, haven't we done enough?" Barbara never even looked up; she just started cleaning up the accident and calmly said, "When is it ever enough for a child in a wheelchair". Needless to say, I didn't say a word; I just went back to what I was doing. I never said anything about it to Barbara, but it made me realize that being a puppy raiser you are not just raising a puppy, but you are the first step in creating a miracle for someone who needs it. That is a huge responsibility and privilege. How lucky can you be, to be able to do this year after year? A miracle is a big thing. You can work at a job for 40 years and not really accomplish much, but having the opportunity to raise a miracle, that is a miracle"

Jim's involvement with Canine Companions for Independence goes beyond volunteer puppy raising. Jim is a steadfast Tales & Tails Gala volunteer and has helped introduce our organization to many people in the community. ABC Fine Wine and Spirits is a 2008 Tales & Tales Gala Sponsor. We are very happy to welcome Jim Dekle to our Board.

Mucha-, currently being raised by Jim and Barbara Dekle



Touching Many Lives With Facility Dogs

-Written by Dan Galloway and Jenny Myers, Facility dog facilitators

Is it possible to have two Facility dogs at one location? As of February this is exactly what has happened at Dale Cassens Educational Center in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Dan Galloway is an art teacher at Dale Cassens and has been for 11 years. A few years ago Jenny Myers joined the staff and became very interested with Dan's style of teaching. Just what was so special for Dan that no one else had? Well, her name is Olivet. Olivet is now retired, but she was a Canine Companions for Independence trained Facility dog, that worked with Dan at Dale Cassens for 8 years. After a year of many questions, Jenny applied for her own Facility dog. At that same time, Dan was applying for his successor dog, a dog that he would train with and be able to use in his school setting after Olivet retired from working. A short year later, Jenny and Dan both graduated, within months of one another, with St. Lucie Countys most loved employees...Acron and Abigail III.

Jenny is a Special Education teacher teamed with Facility dog Acron. Jenny brought her skills and knowledge to Dale Cassens a few years ago. "Not only did she bring positive changes to her classroom but she added greatly to the entire school community", says Larry Brashear, Principal at Dale Cassens. Since Acron joined Jenny last February things have only improved for Jenny's students. Acron has become a dynamic educational asset, acting as a powerful re-enforcer as Jenny instructs her children in social skills and academics. Jenny says that the kids work hard to earn special "Acron" privileges. Jenny also feels that due to Acron's presence in the classroom, her

children are attempting tasks and doing things physically that they never would do without him. "My students are all doing so much better academically and behaviorally than before I graduated with Acron. Since Acron has started coming to work with me, the students try harder. It seems like I am seeing the very best from my students every day just so they get that extra ten minutes with Acron. Facility dogs help teach students with disabilities responsibility, listening skills, sequencing, measuring, fine and gross motor skills and many other skills.

Dan and Jenny both think that having an animal in their classroom really enhances the lives of many children. The dogs seem to make the children more motivated and they actually want to come to school, especially the children who do not have pets at home. Acron and Abigail may be the only "pet" some children ever know and Dan and Jenny are happy to facilitate that relationship.

This past May Abigail III, who the students know as just Abigail, graduated with Dan as his successor dog. Dan has been at Dale Cassens for 11 years and of that, the last eight years he spent working with Olivet, who recently retired. Dan and Olivet were a special part of many children's lives, and Olivet even showed the children that reading could be fun. Olivet was known around the school district as "the dog that could read and paint with her paws." Like it was with Dan and Olivet, now Dan and Abigail impact the lives of many students as they teach at Dale Cassens and travel to other schools in Saint Lucie County.

Dan likes to use his dog's "special skills" to lift up and

FACILITY DOGS

Facility Dogs are expertly trained dogs who partner with a facilitator working in a health care, visitation or education setting.

CCI Facility Dogs are trustworthy in professional environments and can perform over 40 commands designed to motivate and inspire clients with special needs.

Facilitators are working professionals responsible for handling and caring for the Facility Dog. Additionally, facilitators are committed to long-term employment where they directly serve clients with special needs a minimum of twenty hours per week.

One of the most valued qualities of the Facility Dog is the unconditional love and attention it gives to the clients

and patients with whom it interacts.

In an educational setting, a Facility Dog helps engage students in schools and special education classes.

In a health care environment, activities such as grooming, feeding and playing fetch with a Facility Dog can aid patients in medical rehabilitation and psychiatric programs.

A well-mannered and highly trained Facility Dog encourages feelings of calm and security for clients in a visitation setting such as a courtroom.

To learn more on how to apply for a Facility Dog from Canine Companions for Independence go to: www.cci.org.

empower his students. Joanne Yurillo, a Special Education teacher at Northport K-8, says "On the day and time Mr. Dan is to arrive in my class, my student's self-initiate clean-up and preparation for him and the companion dog. My students are looking out the window awaiting his arrival". Ms Yurillo goes on to specifically site examples of how Dan's program has made a measurable difference with the verbal skills of her students as well as positively impacting their social development.

At first Dan was understandably worried about what life would be like without Olivet. Now, after bonding with his new dog Abigail, he realizes that it is not about an individual dog (all CCI dogs are highly skilled), it is about CCI, dogs and kids. "Magic it is!", Dan says "Because of CCI and my special dog, I have the best teaching job in the state of Florida, if not the entire country."

Dan and Jenny wish to express their deepest gratitude to the many people that made all this possible, including the many people behind the scenes that support them and their dogs as they serve the needs of their students. With Jenny and Acron and Abigail and Dan the future looks bright for the students in Saint Lucie County Public Schools.

Learn more about what Dan and Jenny do at: <http://www.onesmartdog.org>, and: <http://www.artdog.org/>



Dan Galloway and Canine Companions for Independence facility dog, Abigail read with a student.

Taking Steps to Apply...

To receive a Facility Dog:

Obtain approval for the use of a Facility dog from your employer.

Request an application.

Complete the three step application process.

If the application is accepted, attend a two-week Team Training class at a CCI training center.

After graduation, CCI provides on-going support and follow-up services.

CCI Facility dogs and follow-up services are free of charge.

The Power Of One...

In the Southeast Region of Canine Companions for Independence, 23 Facility dog placements have been made.

It is estimated that every Facility dog touches the lives of an average of 32 people who need their assistance. In the Southeast Region, that translates to an over 736 people whose lives have been touched by our highly trained Facility dogs and their facilitators.

Artist Luis Sottit Uses Art to Make Miracles Happen

World-renowned artist, Canine Companions for Independence supporter and Advisory Council member Luis Sottit, spent an evening with three of our graduates to create some very special works of art. Luis fell in love with Canine Companions for Independence when he first heard about the organization and wanted to find a way to convey the emotional connection between the Graduates and their dogs through art. It was from this desire that PAWcasso originated as a unique art event in 2004. Since then, Luis has donated countless hours working with our graduate teams to create these very special paintings as well as making several donations of his other artwork to our Tales & Tails Gala and other events to be auctioned off.

At the 2008 PAWcasso VIP event, Luis greeted guests and told the story of his involvement and how much the organization means to him. Guests had the opportunity to watch as Luis worked with the Graduates to create their own unique paintings. The Canine Companions had a very special role in the artwork as well. It was their paws that Luis traced onto paper to become the outline of the eyes on a smiling face that the Graduates painted in colors they chose to represent the special bond they have with their assistance dog. Luis then took the paintings back to his studio in Tampico, Mexico to create an original hand painted border to frame the paintings.

The evening was sponsored by Rosen Shingle Creek and organized by CCI Board Members Frank Santos and Fonda Cerenzio and volunteer Beverly Shine, and over \$16,000 was raised to support CCI.

The evening ended with an exciting live auction of the art created by six-year-old George Wood, part of a Skilled Companion Team that includes his parents Monika and Damon Wood and his assistance dog Lanier. George's work was so popular that four were auctioned off that night. The paintings by the other graduate teams, Allison Sellers, Skilled Companion Russell and facilitators Jack and Marline Sellers and Morgan Champion, Skilled Companion Gara and facilitator AnnaMarie Champion will be auctioned off at the Tales & Tails Gala on



PAWCASSO VIP Event Raises Over \$16,000

November 8, 2008. The idea of the PAWcasso paintings was originated in 2005 to augment the Tales & Tails Gala. Luis has a long history of helping children with disabilities through The Luis Sottit Foundation. In Luis' own words: "If a work of art is one that evokes emotion then these paintings are exceptionally unique in that they represent a fragile child's enduring legacy of admirable courage and hope." Since PAWcasso began, 14 Graduates have participated and over \$50,000 has been raised from the auction of the paintings. Please take a moment to learn more about our graduate team participants..

Morgan Champion and Skilled Companion dog, Gara- Cumming, GA

Morgan has a sense of compassion and generosity well beyond her eight years. Always putting others first, Morgan asked for money for her sixth birthday so she could donate it to her hometown's Bell Center, where babies with Cerebral Palsy learn to walk.

Morgan knows the challenges those little ones face because she battles them every day. Although her Cerebral Palsy means Morgan needs a walker or wheelchair, she doesn't let that slow her down. She's an excellent student, with lots of friends with whom she loves to chat and play – even if that means redefining the playground. And her Skilled Companion Dog, Gara, has helped her do just that.

Before receiving Gara in November of 2007, Morgan had

Do you know someone like Morgan, Allison or George?

Is there someone you know that might benefit from being matched with a Canine Companions for Independence assistance dog? There is one way to find out...

Call Melinda Sowers at 407-522-3313 or e-mail her at msowers@cci.org, for more information.

been talking and dreaming about such a dog for years. Morgan wrote a story about the Skilled Companion she wished for when she was in kindergarten. And now, with Gara by her side, Morgan is living proof that dreams can come true.

Gara II was raised by volunteer puppy raisers Heather and David Pahl.

Allison Sellers and Skilled Companion dog Russell II- Florence, AL

According to Allison's mother Marline, there have been two major life-changing events in Allison's life. The first left Allison challenged with a traumatic brain injury when she was four years old. The second gave Allison, now 33 years old a loving friend and helper, Skilled Companion dog, Russell II.

At home, Russell is by Allison's side, giving her comfort and help with things like picking up a dropped remote control. Out and about, having Russell by her side gives Allison experiences she treasures.

"Everyone is fascinated with Russell, and they can't wait to ask Allison about him. This makes her feel special, and she loves telling about all Russell does for her," explains Marline.

"I love to brag about how Russell knows so many commands. People always laugh when I say that he's even smarter than me," jokes Allison.

The Sellers family treasures their Team Training experience at the Southeast Regional Center in 2004.

"At CCI we felt understood, loved and appreciated. There are no words to explain the joy that CCI has brought into our lives," says Marline.

Russell was raised by volunteer puppy raisers, John and Ginger Gosling.



PAWcasso photographs courtesy of Peter Burg/ Burg Photographix



George Wood and Skilled Companion dog Lanier- Baton Rouge, LA

George is an amazing child. Like most six-year-olds, he's smart and funny, and enjoys fishing and hunting with his father, and he loves the Power Rangers. In fact, George wants to be the Red Ranger when he grows up. He also loves animals. So shortly after he was diagnosed in 2006 with Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy, his family knew that having a Skilled Companion dog would make a huge difference in George's life.

Before attending Team Training in February, George often relied on his power chair to get around. Now with his Skilled Companion dog Lanier, by his side, George is walking more.

George and his family had hoped Canine Companions could make George's life more manageable. But Lanier has done so much more than that: He's George's "very best friend."

Lanier was raised by volunteer puppy raiser Debbie Press.

Skilled Companion Teams Defined

One category of assistance dog offered by Canine Companions for Independence is the Skilled Companion Team. Skilled Companion dogs are trained to work with a child or adult with a disability under the guidance of a facilitator. The facilitator is typically a caregiver, spouse, or parent, who handles and cares for the assistance dog and facilitates the success of the primary human-canine partnership. Both the recipient and the facilitator attend Canine Companions for Independence's two-week Team Training to learn dog handling skills and how to work as a team.

One of the most powerful benefits of Skilled Companion dogs is the non-judgemental, unconditional love and companionship it provides to its partner.

The Power of One...*Meet Jo Ann Giuse, A Southeast Region Supporter*

Like so many things at Canine Companions for Independence, our Southeast Regional Center is rooted in love, commitment and the desire to honor and help others. Much of that springs from the philanthropy of Jo Ann Giuse.

The Canine Companions for Independence Southeast Regional Center in Orlando, Florida might not be the flourishing resource that it is today if not for the generosity of this modest woman who wanted to honor her late husband. She is someone who selflessly gives the gifts of her love, time and resources to help make a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

Jo Ann first discovered Canine Companions for Independence in the mid 1990's, and by decade's end she was becoming more involved with Southeast Region. This was a critical time in the Southeast Region's development, when it was looking for a variety of resources for building a campus in Orlando. Until then, the Southeast Regional Center operated out of warehouse space in Orlando, and served mainly as an administrative center for applicants and regional puppy raisers at that time. All of the advanced training and placement of the dogs took place at one of the existing centers located in California, Ohio or New York. A new campus would allow the organization to perform all of its functions (puppy raising, advanced training, placement and follow-up services) at one location for applicants and clients who live in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Before plans for building an Orlando campus were officially



announced, Jo Ann noticed an item on the organization's "wish list" that was printed in the quarterly newsletter: Property to build the center. That listing prompted Jo Ann to pick up the phone and call the Southeast Region's Executive Director, Margaret Ager, to find out how much land was needed. As the conversation progressed, Jo Ann realized this was the perfect opportunity to honor her late husband, John K. Bastien, a generous and caring man with a passion for dogs. "How much would it be to put a name on a building?" she asked Margaret.

Through the foundation that bears her late husband's name, Jo Ann made an initial gift that help secure the eight acre site in northwest Orange County. Jo Ann was inspired by the Southeast Region's potential. But she knew that Canine Companions for Independence would need many partners in order to reach

Continued on page 14

Places Where Your Donation Will Help...

\$50,000 is the cost to cover all expenses, including breeding, training and 8-10 year follow-up for one Team.

\$25,000 is the cost to sponsor a two-week Team Training at the Southeast Regional Center.

\$15,000 will pay for all of the dog food for the Southeast Regional Kennel for one year.

\$5,000 Will provide flea and tick prevention for one year for the Southeast Regional Kennel.

\$500 Provides a complete well-ness check- up for a Southeast Region Puppy.

\$100 Provides a new graduate team with a bag full of the essentials for their new Canine Companions for Independence Assistance Dog.

Canine Companions for Independence dogs are free to deserving applicants. Your support will make a dramatic difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

Events Around The Region



Athens Run for the Dogs Athens, GA

September 23, 2008

The Georgia Volunteer Chapter for Canine Companions for Independence hosted their sixth annual fundraiser, Athens Run for the Dogs, in Athens, Georgia on September 13, 2008.

The event includes a 5K race for runners and a 1-mile fun run and walk for people and their dogs. To learn more about events happening in Georgia, visit www.cci.org and visit the Southeast Regions "Events & Workshops" page.



Photo by Michael Livera

Tour The Southeast Regional Campus Thursdays

Orlando, FL

Thursday is tour day at the Southeast Regional Campus. Did You Know that you are invited to tour the Southeast Regional Center on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please call us at 407-522-3300 to reserve a space. (Please contact the center one month in advance to insure that space is available for your group).

www.cci.org

Visit us on-line at the same address, but with a new look and easier access. To find out what is happening in your area, just click on our Southeast Regional Page and chose "Events & Workshops" from the menu. There is always something new happening in the Southeast Region and our website has the up to date information about what is happening near you.

Making Miracles Happen Breakfast October 3, 2008

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about Canine Companions for Independence while helping to make a miracle happen for a child or adult with a disability.

Help the Southeast region grow and introduce your friends and associates to the organization in a fun and informative atmosphere. The program will include a special presentation by a Graduate, from the South Florida area and a request for the attendees support. This support will help us continue to change the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs at no cost to the recipient.

If you would like to attend or learn more about this event, please contact Lybbi Kienzle at 954-767-6371 or zhoneybears@bellsouth.net.

Bloomington's Shopping Benefit October 23, 2008

All Florida locations

Canine Companions for Independence will participate in a unique event, The Shopping Benefit on October 23, 2008 from 10 am to 10 pm at Bloomington's five Florida stores. The locations are the Town Center in Boca Raton, The Gardens in Palm Beach Gardens, Aventura Mall in Aventura, The Falls in Miami and The Mall at Millenia in Orlando.

The Shopping benefit will feature storewide entertainment, fashion events and special discounts. Tickets are on sale for \$10.00 each and 100 percent of these proceeds benefiting Canine Companions for Independence. Ticket holders will receive a certificate for 15-20 percent savings off Bloomington's regular and sale priced merchandise on the day of the event (with limited exclusions.)

Tickets to The Shopping Benefit may be purchased in advance by contacting Violette Kanner at 561-989-8975 or email her at VLadyDeco@aol.com.

May Graduates 2008



Carol Montiel

Facility Dog, Stimpson
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Jim & Carol Fain
Stone Mountain, GA



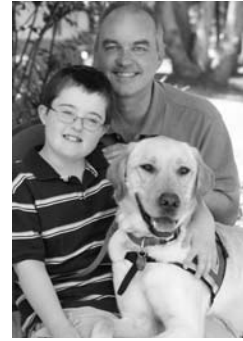
Dan Galloway

Successor Facility Dog, Abigail III
Fort Pierce, FL
Ty & Bob Kirkpatrick
Clermont, FL



Hailee Albury

Skilled Companion, Rane
Becky Albury
Okahumpka, FL
Dixie & Sam Bennett
Tampa, FL



Matthew Leachman

Skilled Companion, Koebbe II
Jack Leachman
Asheville, NC
Bonnie & Barry Fly
College Grove, TN



Matthew Leachman

Skilled Companion, Koebbe II
Vickie Leachman
Asheville, NC
Bonnie & Barry Fly
College Grove, TN

May Graduates 2008



Michael Sayih

Skilled Companion, Roo II
Jim Sayih
Pembroke Pines, FL
Delta Correctional Facility
Greenwood, MS



Rafael Lopez

Skilled Companion, Rhodes
Humberto & Suzi Lopez
Miami, FL
Gadsden Correctional
Quincy, FL



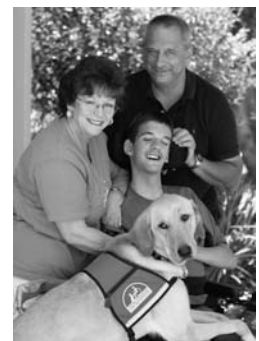
Savannah Miller

Skilled Companion,
Zambique
Renee Miller
Franklin, TN
Laura & Justin Beck
Mount Dora, FL



Thor Spencer

Successor Assisted Service
Team, Fred II
Cheryl Spencer
Louisville, TN
Gadsden Correctional
Quincy, FL



Matthew LeCompte

Successor Skilled
Companion, Runner
Mike & Carlene LeCompte
Knoxville, TN
Sharon & Bob Kidd
Maitland, FL

August Graduates 2008



Auburn Smith

Skilled Companion, Alpine II
Jimmy Smith
Port Orange, FL
Gadsden Correctional Facility
Quincy, FL



Andy Arnette

Service Dog, Solis
Huntersville, NC
Palm Beach Sheriff's Drug Farm
West Palm Beach, FL



Jackson Riggs

Skilled Companion, Farah II
Chip & Emily Riggs
Buford, GA
Leigh & John Harlan
Salisbury, NC



Jose Jimenez

Facility Dog, Zorro II
Flintstone, GA
Bay Correctional Facility
Panama City, FL



Mary Doyle

Skilled Companion,
Athlon,
Stephen Doyle
Mobile AL
Gadsden Correctional

2008 TEAM TRAINING YEARBOOK

August Graduates 2008



Quinten Moore

Skilled Companion, Argon II
Gary & Karen Moore
Lebanon, TN
Gadsden Correctional
Quincy, FL



Robbie Curry

Successor Assisted Service
Companion, Alister
Ruthanne Curry
Gainesville, FL
Gadsden Correctional
Quincy, FL



Victoria Wynne

Skilled Companion, *Shiloh V*
Faith Christie
Deland, FL
Andrea Batchelor
Orlando, FL

IN MEMORY OF

Vance II & Cairo Lindsay
by Mary Kaup and Elizabeth Deslauriers

In memory of our clients' beloved
pets
by Jackson Animal Clinic

In memory of our clients' beloved
pets
by North Madison Animal Hospital

In memory of our clients' beloved
pets
by Camelot Animal Hospital

John Carter
by Ann & Glen Southerton
by The Fetzer Institute
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IN HONOR OF

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Connie Carleton & Penela
by Jessica Rigouard

Harv
by Harv's Friends at Freedom Middle
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Klli and Lola
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Linda Mucha
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Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Flynn
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The Lewis Family
by Michael Gaich

Tork King
by Edward & Sandra King

In Memory of Continued

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Jackson
by Kerry Sheehan

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by Robin & Paul Sanchez

Mathias
by Rosemary B. Gerty

Jam
by Ruthmary Williams

Marie Bloxsom
by Susan Kessel

Did you know?...
Canine Companions for Independence
dogs are free to deserving applicants.
By supporting Canine Companions
for Independence, you can make a
dramatic difference in the lives of
children and adults with disabilities.

Our 12th Annual Tales & Tails Gala

We are busy preparing for this year's Tails N' Tales Gala with event sponsor SeaWorld and Jack Hanna, of Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures.

We are so appreciative of SeaWorld and Jack Hanna's incredible support over the past 12 years. Their gift of hospitality and enriching entertainment has surpassed anything we could have imagined. The entertainment, food service, and operations staff ~ and many others too numerous to name here ~ have worked tirelessly to help us brand this event and provide a memorable evening year after year.

The Gala remains our most successful fund-raising event all year and we are grateful to SeaWorld, Jack Hanna and our many sponsors who remain committed to helping us provide highly trained assistance dogs for those in need.

We also are looking forward to 2009 when our Gala will take on a new theme and location filled with many exciting surprises including Jack Hanna's animal adventures. Please look for special announcements regarding our 2009 Gala ~ you will not want to miss this exciting new location and theme!

For tickets to this year's event, call 407-522-3308 or log onto: www.cci.org/talesandtailsgala

continued from page 8

its goals; so she made a second, personal gift that was also a challenge for others to give generously to the organization she had grown to love.

The challenge gift had an enormous effect on the outcome of the Capital Campaign. Jo Ann's challenge encouraged and motivated Darden Restaurants to make a financial commitment to the campaign by fully matching her gift. In turn, Darden Restaurants was instrumental in securing the commitment of Anheuser Busch to make the largest gift to the capital campaign. This series of gifts all lead back to Jo Ann and her commitment to the mission and growth of Canine Companions for Independence's Southeast Region. These gifts helped Canine Companions for Independence realize the dream of having a campus in Orlando, which in turn has meant more time and resources for staff to administer programs and train and place dogs. The impact of Jo Ann's philanthropy resonates throughout the Southeast and the more than 210 people with disabilities there, who are currently benefitting from a Canine Companions for Independence assistance dog.

Jo Ann's support of Canine Companions for Independence has continued to grow over the years. In 2003, the organization decided to hold its first event based on the Raising More Money model. This fundraising approach was something new and innovative for the organization, and would help Canine Companions for Independence grow by securing multi-year gifts and exposing them to a larger audience.

*Not able to attend?
There are still plenty of ways to get involved...*

Volunteer...

Join in the fun and volunteer for this great event. Volunteers are needed from now up until the night of the event, so there is still plenty of time to get involved.

Volunteers can help in many different ways including, securing donations, picking up auction items or setting up the day of the event. To learn more about how you can help, call 407-522-3300 or log onto: www.cci.org/talesandtailsgala.

Become a sponsor...

There are sponsorship levels that offer tickets for two and others that include a table of ten. Which ever level you chose, becoming a sponsor is a great way to let our supporters know that you are helping make exceptional dogs available to exceptional people.



Jo Ann understood that this new type of event could help begin a new era of growth for the organization and again stepped up. She followed this by helping to organize similar events in South Florida and Cashiers, North Carolina, both areas where she lives half of the year.

Jo Ann's giving to Canine Companions for Independence is not limited to financial gifts. She is also generous with her time. Jo Ann is currently raising her third puppy, which is a 24/7 volunteer job. As a puppy raiser, she is responsible for caring for the dog from about 8 weeks of age to 18 months. This is a commitment of both time and love. Jo Ann is also a member of the Southeast Region Board of Advisors, and actively participates in all Board meetings and events. She is a quiet force and motivation to many of the other Board members, and a spokesperson for our volunteers and donors at all levels.

The exceptional generosity that Jo Ann has demonstrated to Canine Companions for Independence over the past 13 years has had a tremendous impact on the organization and the people it serves. Her outstanding commitment to our goals has touched the lives of hundreds of people, and inspired countless others to share their own gifts of time, talent and financial resources, while discovering that the gratitude they receive in return –whether a smile or a wag – is priceless.

Don't Miss This...

Join Jack Hanna and his amazing animals at the 2008 Tales & Tails Gala



Tickets sell out fast-reserve yours today!

If your plans keep you closer to home, you can make a party of it because you and nine of your guests can attend an exclusive cooking class by a celebrity chef hosted at a private Orlando home. There truly is something for everyone to bid on at this year's Tales and Tails Gala.

Whatever item you bid on, large or small, exotic or tame, you know that you are helping make a miracle happen in the life of a child or adult with a disability.

If you can't make it to the gala, you can still bid on all of the great auction items. Send us your email address and we will let you know when our auction is available on line.

Do you have an item to donate to our auction?

We are still accepting donations for our live and silent auction through October 31, 2008. Contact Patrice Shields at 407-522-3305 or email her at pshields@cci.org to learn more.

Special guest appearance by Service Team graduate and Iraqi war veteran, Jeffrey Adams.

On Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., the 12th Annual Tales & Tails Gala will feature Jack Hanna, world famous animal behaviorist and television personality, and some of his exotic animal friends for an evening of 'fun-raising' with silent and live auctions, dinner and entertainment.

Our live and silent auction has something for everyone. Would an African Safari put a charge in your vacation plans or would dinner with Jack Hanna and his wife Suzi be your type of adventure? Before you plan your next vacation, check out the amazing trips that can be yours for the bidding at this year's gala. You can cool off with a week skiing in Vail Colorado, take a trolley ride to San Francisco's best address or get away to a private cabin in the Georgia mountains.

*To reserve your tickets:
call: 407-522-3308
or log on to
www.cci.org/talesandtailsgala*



Photo by Michael Livera

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**National Headquarters
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2965 Dutton Avenue, PO Box 446
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446
(707) 577-1700 Voice (707) 577-1756 TTY

Northeast Regional Center
286 Middle Island Road, Medford, NY 11763
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PO Box 4568, Oceanside, CA 92052-4568
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Colorado Satellite Office
1045 P Garden of the Gods Rd,
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(719) 260-6151 Voice

Email: info@cci.org

Web Site: www.cci.org

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Southeast Regional Center
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Before receiving Gara in November of 2007, Morgan had been dreaming about such a dog for years. Morgan wrote a story about the Skilled Companion she wished for when she was in kindergarten. And now, with Gara by her side, Morgan is living proof that dreams can come true. Learn about Morgan and Gara in this issue of *The Companion*.



Drawing by Morgan Champion of the Service Dog she dreamed about before receiving CCI dog, Gara