

DOGS FOR DIGNITY®

Stories of the Journey to Independence

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER



MY HARDEST GOODBYE

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MY HARDEST GOODBYE

No matter how she tried to fight it, Janey's life changed when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. But the one thing she was unwilling to compromise on was her independence. Janey shared, "When you have a chronic illness or disability, you don't want to give up that one last thing you can do for yourself."

Then Janey met COLONEL, a PAWS Assistance Dog. "MS took my confidence and independence, but COLONEL has let me reclaim them," said Janey. COLONEL kept her steady as she walked and helped her stand up if she fell. He opened doors and pushed elevator buttons. "With him at my side, I'm not afraid to go out by myself." Then came the moment when Janey had to say goodbye after her best friend and Service Dog of eight years COLONEL passed away.

My days will never be the same without COLONEL. When he passed away on April 23, he left a hole in my heart. Describing COLONEL is almost impossible because, as I think of him, almost every accolade falls sadly short of who he was and the impact he made in my life.

Loving? COLONEL was such a loving, caring boy. I remember many a day when my legs weren't very good and walking was even more difficult. On those days, it seemed like COLONEL was extra vigilant and kept an extra close eye on me. He had an innate sense of when things weren't quite right. He always had my back and provided my confidence on the end of a leash.

Smart? COLONEL was what I call scary smart. He had a lot of friends who bought him a large



COLONEL helps Janey pick up a pen in her home.

collection of toys over the years. I could never get rid of any because he played with them all. When our doorbell rang, he would go to the door to see who was there; he always assumed the visitor was there to see him. He would then run over to his toy box, root around, and find the exact toy the person at the door gave him. He would then take the toy to the door and show them. That earned him the nickname of Toy Savant.

Friendly? To the max. COLONEL never met anyone he didn't like. When he wasn't working, he would go out of his way to engage people. He was particularly drawn to people he sensed were in need. If we were with someone grieving a loss, or someone in a wheelchair, he gravitated to them. He'd lay his head in their lap, as if to offer a measure of comfort. His sensitivity level was off the chart.

Funny? COLONEL had a wicked, highly developed sense of humor. I remember one day I was weeding and he was lying in the shade. He had apparently decided he had enough lying around and ran as fast as he could from one end of the yard to the other.

On one of his passes by me, without losing a stride, he scooped up my cane and ran away with it. He dropped the cane and looked at me, grinning and panting. I gave him my stern mom look and said "bring." He scooped it up and ran back to me, placing it in my hand. Then he looked at me with anticipation of getting a treat for a job well done. I stared back at him and said, "Umm, I don't think so, Buddy." He just looked at me mischievously, as if to say, "Well, I had to try."

Beautiful? Oh, most certainly! His big, blocky head, soulful face, expressive brown eyes and luxurious coat that seemed to flow and float when he moved made him a joy to watch. I met an AKC Judge in an airport once that told me if COLONEL wasn't my Service Dog he would have done well in the show ring.

"MY DAYS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME WITHOUT COLONEL."

COLONEL was just shy of his ninth coming home day and eleventh birthday when he died. It somehow doesn't seem long enough. But I know he'll be waiting for me at the Rainbow Bridge. Quite simply, he was my favorite hello and my hardest goodbye.



COLONEL Ladd: RIP, Bud-Bud 6/12/2006 - 4/23/2017

When a PAWS Client loses their Assistance Dog, their independence is also impacted. They may not be able to pick up items they drop. If they have a seizure, there's no one to get help.

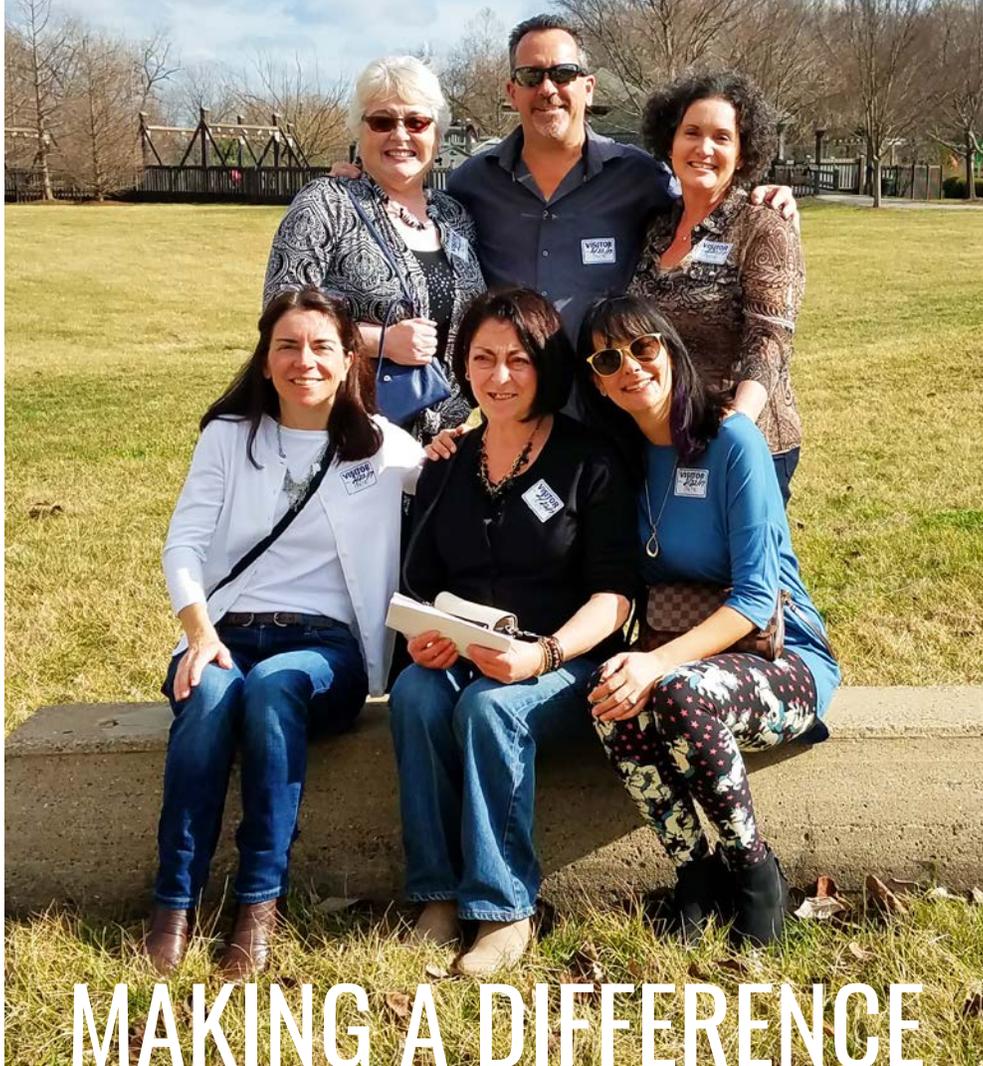
If a fire alarm goes off, no one will alert them. The challenges may seem insurmountable.

And just like Janey, the majority of PAWS Clients will experience this loss.

As a PAWS supporter, you are a part of this team. You stand beside PAWS Clients when they experience the loss of their Assistance Dog, and you grieve with them. While you can't prevent this loss, YOU can help ensure that their loss of independence isn't permanent.

We estimate that over the next year nearly 50% of the Assistance Dogs that we place will be Successor Dogs for clients.

Give today and help others reclaim their independence.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE TWO DOGS AT A TIME

The Clark Family Foundation of Naples, Florida recently granted PAWS \$60,000 for the sponsorship of two Service Dogs for Children with Autism (SDA). This funding is powerful in many ways. It provides vet care for the dogs as foster puppies, food and vet care for the dogs when in the PAWS Prison Partners program, and customized training for them when they are at PAWS National Headquarters. It also supports transportation costs when the dogs go on public access experiences with their trainers to teach the dogs to navigate the world around them while focusing on their client.

The Clark Family Foundation was established in 2007 by David M. Clark. The Clark Family Foundation's mission is to facilitate, empower and support endeavors that help children lead healthier lives. Laura Clark recently visited PAWS and was given a custom tour, watched a dog demonstration, met a foster puppy, and had many questions answered. Mike Sapp, CEO, and Cat Rogg, Development Director, facilitated the tour. Laura's comments afterward were, "I thoroughly enjoyed the tour of PAWS. You all have thought of everything - from breeding, to raising, to training, to placement.

I was very impressed with the facility and operations."

With the Clark Family Foundation grant, two families received Service Dogs at the May SDA team training and are on track for certification in September, according to their Field Representatives.

PAWS employees love the work we do, but we can't do it without the support of people like the Clarks and people like you! Thank you to the Clark Family Foundation for their tremendous generosity and appreciation of the work we do for children with autism and people with disabilities.

NAME A LITTER AFTER WHAT INSPIRES YOU

“We are so grateful knowing this gift will be life changing for PAWS Clients and their loved ones!”

Elizabeth and Peter have been long-time supporters of Paws With A Cause®. While visiting PAWS®, they made the decision to roll over their IRA and make a contribution.

This donation will live on through the names they selected for a litter of puppies. Elizabeth and Peter are the first to have the privilege of naming a litter of PAWS puppies. As soon as they learned a litter of six puppies would be arriving at PAWS, Elizabeth, who is a poet, was inspired to choose names of famous poets and authors. Known as the Literary Litter, the puppies' names are Maya, Brontë, Lottie (for Charlotte Brontë), Keats, Saki and Chaucer. Elizabeth hopes that they

will all adapt readily to being trained as Assistance Dogs.

Naming a litter of future Assistance Dogs is a distinctive way to honor something you value, a special friend, family member, pet, or occasion while supporting the work of PAWS. With a gift of \$5,000 or more, you can name a PAWS Litter! You can choose a theme for the litter, like the Literary Litter, and create an accompanying set of names for our Foster Puppy Raisers to choose from; or you will be given a letter of the alphabet and by using that letter, you can create a list of names from which our Raisers may select.

To learn more about naming a PAWS Litter or making an IRA rollover gift, please contact our Special Gifts Officer, Colette Beighley, at 800-253-7297, ext. 213 or cbeighley@pawswithacause.org.





Paws With A Cause®
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 pawswithacause.org



OUR MISSION
 Paws With A Cause® enhances the independence and quality of life for people with disabilities nationally through custom-trained Assistance Dogs. PAWS® increases awareness of the rights and roles of Assistance Dog Teams through education and advocacy.




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WILL YOU BE A PAWS DOG VOLUNTEER?

We need 30 PAWS Dog Volunteers by November

Visit pawswithacause.org/volunteer to learn more



“She brings joy and laughter, and helps us focus on others.”
 PETER, DANITA AND NICK WITH MAMA DOG JUNE BUG BREEDING HOST HOME