

DOGS FOR DIGNITY®

Stories of the Journey to Independence

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER



YOU HAVE MY BACK

"I can't imagine my life without her, and everything she's brought to me and my family."





YOU HAVE MY BACK

FOUNDER proudly
helps Kathy live her
best life.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) was slowly making Kathy's world feel smaller and smaller. Everyday tasks – like opening her home's heavy slider door – were physically draining. They left her with little energy for her hobbies and activities with friends and family. But Kathy vowed she wasn't going to let MS steal the joy from the things she loved most in her life. Kathy knew a Paws With A Cause® Assistance Dog could make her life easier. Neither Kathy nor her husband had ever owned a pet and were nervous

about the potential challenges a dog might create.

Despite these worries, Kathy took a leap of faith and applied for a PAWS® Assistance Dog. She welcomed home FOUNDER, a two-year old black Labrador and Golden Retriever mix, in January 2013.

"It wasn't love at first sight because we were scared," shared Kathy. But then she added, "As we grew together, I started to absolutely fall in love with FOUNDER."

Kathy and FOUNDER experienced their first test as a team only two days after meeting: Kathy fell in the shower. Since they had just begun their training together, Kathy was afraid FOUNDER wouldn't know what to do. But FOUNDER's two years of Assistance Dog training kicked in and she acted without hesitation. FOUNDER brought Kathy's

phone into the shower and waited by her side while Kathy called for help.

Recounting this experience, Kathy shared, “Before I had FOUNDER and I would get in the shower, I would call my husband and say, ‘All right, if I don’t call you in a half an hour, send in the reinforcements to come get me because I’m on the shower floor.’ But now that I have FOUNDER, I don’t have to do that.”

With FOUNDER there to help, Kathy says her life is, “easier and happier. The things FOUNDER can do for me gives me such peace of mind and more energy to do the things I really like to do.”

Kathy’s husband and two daughters no longer worry what will happen if she falls, because FOUNDER will bring Kathy her phone. And when Kathy needs to pick up an item or open a door, they can relax because FOUNDER is happy to do these things for her.

I CAN’T IMAGINE MY LIFE WITHOUT HER, AND EVERYTHING SHE’S BROUGHT TO ME AND MY FAMILY.

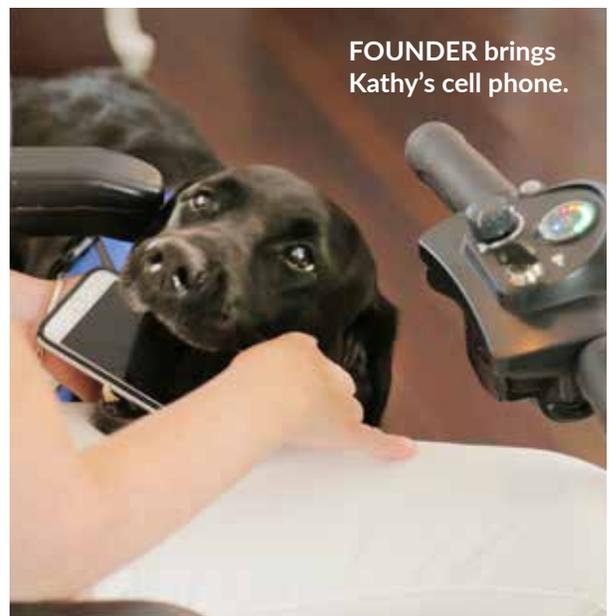
Even today – six years after receiving FOUNDER – a PAWS Field Representative continues to help FOUNDER learn new tasks to help Kathy as her MS progresses. “Having FOUNDER here with me makes my family feel self-assured, comfortable, confident that I’m okay; that FOUNDER has my back and she’s here to help me.”

To Kathy, FOUNDER is more than a Service Dog – she’s part of the family. “These dogs are so valuable and so helpful,” said Kathy. “I can’t imagine my life without her, and everything she’s brought to me and my family.”

Kathy now experiences more independence and security because of your generous support. THANK YOU for making Kathy and FOUNDER’s love story possible!



FOUNDER opens the door for Kathy.



FOUNDER brings Kathy's cell phone.



FOUNDER lifts Kathy's leg onto her scooter.

INVESTING IN INDEPENDENCE

When Wayne Van Nostrand discovered Paws With A Cause, he instantly found himself compelled by the stories he read and pictures he saw of PAWS Client-Dog Teams. “Some of the stories talk about how now people can get out of the house and now do things that they couldn’t before. It’s a heartwarming story, the things that PAWS does,” said Wayne.

Inspired by the impact of PAWS Assistance Dogs, Wayne made his first gift to PAWS via a Donor Advised Fund (also known as a Charitable Investment Fund). Through this fund,

Wayne contributes assets and takes an immediate tax deduction. Then, he can grant that money to a charitable organization of his choosing when it is convenient for him. “I would highly recommend using a Donor Advised Fund to anyone,” shared Wayne. **“To me, it’s the absolute smartest way to support, and it’s also incredibly simple.”**

Wayne continues to support PAWS annually as a charter member of the Golden Paw Society, which recognizes donors who make cumulative gifts totaling \$10,000 or more.

“There are so many success stories,” said Wayne. “Forty years in service speaks for itself, and the ability to see the end result of the trained dog and their person getting together...it’s totally heartwarming.”

When an individual invests in Paws With A Cause, they invest in the independence of a person with a disability. We thank Wayne for his commitment to the life-changing work of PAWS!

HELP FURTHER OUR MISSION



Contribute irrevocable assets—such as cash, bonds, mutual funds, or real estate—and take an immediate tax deduction.



Recommend grants from your Donor Advised Fund to PAWS at any time. Your assets will continue to grow, tax-free.



Your support helps PAWS custom-train Assistance Dogs to increase the independence of people with disabilities.

If you have questions about making a gift through a Donor Advised Fund, please contact our Development Director, Colette Beighley, at (616) 877-7297 ext. 213 or cbeighley@pawswithacause.org.

A PAWS PROMISE

Michele Suchovsky joined the Paws With A Cause staff nearly one year ago as Chief Executive Officer. And this past May, Michele joined another team at PAWS as a Foster Puppy Raiser!

Michele and her husband, John, are raising a sweet and spunky yellow Labrador Retriever puppy named PROMISE. PROMISE will live in their home for the next 12-14 months while Michele and John help build her foundation for future Assistance Dog training.

"We love dogs and see the impact PAWS Dogs make in the community," Michele shared about their decision to become Foster Puppy Raisers. "Opening up our home and raising a Foster Puppy is something that we can do together with joy and fun."

Michele and PROMISE have had many exciting adventures together over the past few months. From meeting her foster brother Freddy (Michele and John's forever dog), to her first public access trip to the grocery store, PROMISE is learning important life lessons every day.

"PROMISE is an adorable little puppy and so fun to have around," Michele said. "It's an honor raising PROMISE, knowing someday she'll transform the life of someone in need."

A typical week in PROMISE's paws includes practicing obedience at Puppy Kindergarten, attending work meetings with Michele, traveling to events in the community as a PAWS ambassador, and bringing a smile to everyone she meets with her playful, quizzical nature.

Michele is one of nine PAWS employees currently raising a Foster Puppy, with

many more housing Mama and Papa Dogs. You can keep up with Michele and PROMISE's journey on the PAWS Blog at pawswithacause.org/blog.

Our Foster Puppy Raisers and Breeding Host Homes dedicate countless hours to raising and training future PAWS Assistance Dogs. We thank them for sharing their time and love so people with disabilities can experience increased independence.

If you, or someone you know, would like more information on becoming a PAWS Dog Volunteer, visit pawswithacause.org/volunteer.



Michele and PROMISE are the future of PAWS.



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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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YOU CONTINUE CHANGING LIVES



PAWS BEST FRIENDS™ MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Continue changing lives through our monthly giving program. Visit pawswithacause.org/bestfriends to learn more.