

CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE

PO Box 55095, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Spring 2006

www.cci-indy.org

President's Column

Another great year is underway! I am excited to serve as president of the champions chapter in central Indiana. It is certainly my hope you will feel comfortable approaching me with any specific needs or ideas for our chapter. I hope we will be able to encourage the participation of all puppy raisers, graduates and volunteers committed to the mission of CCI.

We have established the following goals for 2006:

1. To increase CCI community awareness.

- Conduct at least 12 demonstrations in 2006 to schools, service groups, and other interested organizations.

- Participate in at least four health, pet, and/or community volunteer fairs.

2. To recruit qualified volunteers for CCI.

- Recruit volunteers through all activities and events.

- Create a "task - specific" volunteer sign-up sheet.

3. To raise money for CCI.

- Conduct/participate in events that promote community awareness and the recruitment of volunteers.

- Coordinate at least three fundraising activities at Sam's Club.

4. Other Areas

- Create opportunities to nurture the social relationships of chapter members, volunteers, and friends.

Wow! We have a lot to do – but we have a lot of great people to make it possible. If you would like to become actively involved with any of these goals, please contact me.

I can most easily be contacted at sjfogo@aol.com or by calling 317.752.4907.

Here's to a great 2006!

Scott Fogo
President and Graduate Facility
Team (Breta)

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

By Dan O'Brien, Immediate Past
President

The objectives for Canine Companions for Independence volunteer chapters cover several areas: increasing public awareness, raising puppies, raising funds, and supporting the overall mission of CCI. The Indiana chapter was very successful in each of these areas during 2005 and has pledged to continue its support during the coming years.

Several model volunteers were recently recognized for their ongoing achievements over several years in helping our chapter continuously reach its goals. Receiving awards at the year end celebration were: **Linda Saunders**, communication director and puppy raiser coordinator, for her excellent abilities in effectively communicating our plans and needs to chapter members and the public while raising puppies for CCI and

arranging training and fun sessions for all puppy raisers who chose to participate.

Pam (Dallas) Chelf, chapter treasurer, was recognized for her many years of superb leadership as an officer and maintaining the chapter's financial records. Pam is a multiple time puppy raiser with several graduate Canine Companions she periodically hears from.

Mary Klee was recognized for her leadership role in fund raising as well as puppy raising. Mary arranged for new venues of raising money and awareness through Sam's Club events, which greatly reduced the number of volunteer hours required when compared to volunteering at the racetrack.

Cindy Calley, chapter secretary, received an award for her continual involvement as an officer and awareness educator. Cindy is also a CCI graduate being the facilitator for daughter Helen's Canine Companion, Ecu.

Nancy Jo Acree was recognized for her outstanding efforts as editor of the chapter newsletter as well as for her superb public relations in exemplifying the independence gained through the addition of a Canine Companion. Nancy Jo and her Canine Companion E-ore can be found most anywhere around Indianapolis usually at work for a non-profit organization, including CCI. Together always, they keep very busy!

The efforts of these highly effective volunteers are greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the chapter and helped CCI fulfill its mission. Your support helped generate \$27,150 for Canine Companions for Independence. Thank you all!!



CCI Volunteer Spotlight

A new column has been added to the newsletter for spotlighting our wonderful CCI volunteers. We are starting off with spotlighting the Kinney family who have given many volunteers hours to CCI. Our thanks to the Kinney's for their commitment to the mission of CCI.

Tell us about your family.

There are just three humans who make up our family. Jeff, the dad, Nannette the mom and Nathan the 14-year-old son.

When and how did you get involved with CCI?

The summer before Nathan went to kindergarten we got our first CCI puppy, Walton. That was in '97 (that sounds like a long time ago). We were attending classes at First Friends and there were a couple of "yellow capes" in our class. I started talking to them and thought that it was something I would love to do someday. A couple of years later we were presented with the news that our family was not going to grow by number of humans. So...when one door closes another one opens. If I couldn't have babies, I could have puppies. The rest is history.

What is it about puppy raising for CCI that is fulfilling for you?

I tell people all of the time that there are very few opportunities presented in this life where you can make a huge difference, this is one of them. I love the puppies with all my heart, but I know they don't mean much to me compared to what they will mean to someone who needs them. I get to be part of that bond and I consider that an honor.

How long have you been involved with CCI and how many puppies have you raised?

We have been raising puppies for almost 9 years and are currently raising puppy number

What is one thing about you that probably no one knows?

I don't know.... I'm pretty much an open book with a really big mouth. If there is something someone doesn't know about me it's because they were lulled to sleep by me droning on and on and on and missed it.

What are your other interests in life besides CCI?

I am an official for Indiana swimming and work lots of Nathan's swim meets. I am active in our church, currently serving as an Elder. Ella (our retired CCI dog) and I go to a local grade school every week and work with a delayed readers group.

Scott and Breta attended Team Training

Scott Fogo and his Graduate Facility Dog, Breta, visited Team Training February 15, 2006. Scott and Breta shared their experiences with the facility teams who graduated February 18. The Central Indiana Champions Chapter decided to provide lunch for the participants in Team Training during Scott and Breta's visit. The following Chapter Members made contributions for the lunch:

Nancy Jo Acree, Cindy Calley
LeeAnn Wischmeyer Linda
Saunders, Scott Fogo, Elizabeth
Hague, Nannette
Kinney, Ginny and Dan O'Brien,
Pam Chelf, Mary
Klee and Marcia Pearson

The donations covered the cost of lunch and also allowed us to purchase over \$100.00 worth of supplies for the North Central regional center! AWESOME!

Thank you so much!!

February Graduation

Saturday, February 18 was another wonderful and emotional CCI graduation. The graduation was held at 11:00 am at the Dublin Recreational Center in Dublin, OH. Nine teams graduated including four Facility Dog teams, one Successor Skilled Companion team and four new Skilled Companion teams. The next graduation will be held May 13 at 11:00 am at the Dublin Recreational Center in Dublin, OH.

One of the graduated teams is Patty Bryant and Facility Dog, Larkin II, who will be working in Indianapolis at the Riverview Hospital in Noblesville, IN. Our

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congratulations to Patty!!

One of the new Skilled Companion teams includes Radd, a black LGX raised in Indianapolis by Becky and Peter Qualy. Radd was matched with a most delightful young man who will certainly enjoy having Radd at his side. Our congratulations to this new team and to the Qualys!

Prior to the presentation of the new CCI teams, the matriculating dogs and their puppy raisers were recognized. The three Indiana puppy raisers who were recognized were; **Deb Saks** and puppy Koufax, **Claudia Fagan** and **Jack Okon** with puppy Plymouth and **Becky and Peter Qualy** with puppy Tyra. Our best wishes to these three dogs as they begin their Advanced Training.

The North Central Region 2006 Graduate Follow-Up (Tentative) is schedule for September 9 in Indianapolis.

Welcome to four new CCI puppies

Our chapter has expanded with the addition of four new CCI puppies in training!!

Our new little chapter puppies are: **Renner**, a male black Labrador Retriever, is being raised by Becky and Peter Qualy. Renner makes the 10th puppy raised by Becky and Peter.

Durban, a yellow male LGX, is being raised by Scott, Jennifer, Spencer, Elliott and Hannah Fogo. Durban is the second puppy for the Fogo family.

Leto, a yellow male LGX, is being raised by first time puppy raiser, Samantha (Sam) McCrary. Sam's sister, Tara, has a CCI Skilled Companion named Conti. The McCrary family has hosted the

annual CCI Poker Run to benefit CCI the past two years.

Sabriah, a black female Labrador Retriever, is being raised by Mary and Joel Klee. This is the third CCI puppy for Mary and Joel.

In early March, two yellow female LGX littermates from the "D" litter will be arriving from California. One will be raised by Claudia Fagan and Jack Oken and the other one will be raised by John Simpkins.

In addition to these new puppies, we wish to recognize a new puppy raiser family, Diane and Dan Shoufler along with sons, Zach and Jake who are raising **Nordsen**, a black male LGX.

Thank you to all the puppy raisers for their hard work and commitment to CCI.

SAM'S CLUB

The Sam's Club community awareness/fundraising event in Greenwood is tentatively scheduled for July 15 and 16.

The North West Sam's Club event is scheduled for September. We are planning a weekend in June at the North East Sam's Club.

Please check the chapter website for future event information.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Brandon Scott was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship at the 31st annual Abe Lincoln Awards at the Murat Theater sponsored by the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis.

Brandon is a senior at Lawrence North High School. The service club awarded a total of \$37,500 in scholarships to 4 students. Brandon was the 2nd place winner. He

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accepted the award with, Elaine, his CCI Service Dog at his side.

Brandon was a member of Lawrence North's wrestling team, which won a state championship. Brandon received a championship ring, which he proudly wears on a chain around his neck. Brandon has been a part of the Lawrence North's swimming team. This year he is the team manager. Brandon loves swimming. He hopes to swim in the 2008 paraolympics in Beijing, China.

Brandon plans to attend Purdue University in the fall and study Communications. **Congratulations Brandon!** We are very proud of you and Elaine.

2006 PROFESSIONAL DOG OF THE YEAR.

Dawn Ramsey's CCI Service Dog Nero was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame January 21. **Nero is the 2006 Professional Dog of the year.** Congratulations Dawn and Nero!

Thank You

Thank you to all the CCI volunteers who offered to help us with Sabriah recently. I had an unexpected medial issue arise and several people volunteered to puppy-sit this tiny girl for us for a few days. It is such generosity and thoughtfulness that makes us proud

IF I DIDN'T HAVE DOGS:

I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.

My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.

All flat surfaces, clothing,

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furniture, and cars would be free of dog hair.

When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like the kennels. When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through dog bodies that beat me there.

I could sit on the couch the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.

I would not have strange presents under my Christmas tree -- dog bones, stuffed animals - nor would I have to answer to people why I wrap them.

I would not be on a first-name basis with three veterinarians.

The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: "out," "sit," "down," "come," "no," "stay," and "leave him/her/it ALONE."

My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.

My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, dog treats and an extra leash.

I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L-, F-R-I-S-B-E-E, C-A-R, L-E-A-S-H, R-I-D-E, or W-A-L-K.

I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.

I would not look strangely at people who think having

ONE dog ties them down too much.

I'd look forward to spring and the melting of snow instead of dreading "mud season."

I would not have to answer the question "Why do you have so many dogs?" from people who will never have the joy in their lives of knowing they are loved unconditionally by something as close to an angel as they will ever get.

How very empty my life would be.

Author Unknown

The article "**Beyond Friendship**" in **Dog Fancy** March 2006 Issue. It is worth reading.

What is CCI?

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and by providing ongoing support to ensure the quality partnership.

Who are Chapter Volunteers?

Chapter volunteers support CCI with their time, talent, energy, and dedication. Volunteer chapters exist across the U.S and work together to develop ideas and projects that support their CCI regional training center. Chapter members include puppy raisers, CCI graduates, breeders/caretakers and all other individuals willing to give their time, talent and energy to this great mission.

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Central Indiana Chapter

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DATES TO REMEMBER: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 12 6:30 pm Chapter Meeting at Easter Seals Crossroads

May 13 11:00 am CCI Graduation at Dublin Recreational Center, Dublin, OH

June 14 6:30 pm Chapter Meeting at Glendale Public Library, Glendale Mall

June 17 "Meet the Graduates" at Nancy Jo Acree's

July 23 Noon CCI annual picnic at the O'Briens

For more information about these events, check out the chapter website at www.cci-indy.org or contact one of the chapter officers listed on page 7.