



Dan O'Brien, Chapter
President

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

The Indiana Chapter continues to be very involved in our quest to help CCI provide highly trained assistance dogs to people with disabilities. Marge Eaton of Highland, IN graduated with Encore, an appropriately named Successor Canine Companion, on May 14. Also graduating were Athena IV, raised by Pam Dallas, who now skillfully assists Adam Sullivan in IL and Raquel, a Skilled Companion raised by Karla Kittle, now living in MN with Christian Adzick. Five Canine Companions raised in Indiana matriculated to begin their advanced training at the North Central Regional Training Center. Congratulations puppy raisers for your hard work to develop future CCI Canine Companions!

In May, CCI was honored by the donation of nearly \$5,000 by the student body from Noblesville High School. They raised money to buy

accessibility equipment needed by a fellow student, Chris Rankin. Unfortunately, Chris passed away prior to the equipment being purchased. Chris' family requested that a portion of the funds be donated to CCI as Chris had been an applicant. Another person will now get to enjoy the benefits that Chris so much wanted, by having a new CCI companion. Thanks very much, Noblesville High School and the Rankin family. Your heartfelt gift is greatly appreciated.

On May 20 and 21 several volunteers met shoppers at Sam's Club in Greenwood to introduce them to CCI and collect donations. Thanks to everyone who spent time at Sam's Club raising awareness and funds .

A total of \$1,000 was raised for CCI.

Our annual Champions Picnic will be Saturday, July 9 at the home of Ginny and Dan O'Brien, 6650 Yellowstone Parkway. Bring your own lawn chair and meat for lunch along with a dish to share with everyone. You can once

again be assured of great fun and outstanding food! Call the O'Brien's at 317-783-4727 for directions or get them on the internet. Graduates, puppy raisers, volunteers and all CCI lovers are invited.

About twenty CCI presentations were given during the last three months by a variety of persons and many more are scheduled for the future. If you make a presentation, please inform Dan O'Brien of the date, place and organization involved so we can include the information on the monthly reports sent to the regional center. Donations collected should be sent to our Chapter Treasurer, Pam Dallas so we can keep track of the funds raised for CCI. Pam deposits the money into the CCI account.

Linda Saunders and Mary Klee represented the chapter at the regional Chapter Conference May 13. Chapter events, concerns, policies and promotions were discussed. We continue to be among the largest chapters and doing very well in providing CCI well-socialized pups for

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Advanced Training in addition to raising community awareness and fund raising. Several great ideas were learned and will be discussed at future chapter meetings. Thank you, Mary and Linda for attending the representing the chapter. Incidentally, Linda has now moved to her new house.... almost got in the way of her CCI involvement!!!

Dan O'Brien

FERGUS

The MOSAICS's Program of Carmel Clay School District welcomed a new member to its staff in September of 2004. Fergus, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever, found a school full of students waiting with open arms. Fergus, who turned 2 years old in November, has found his way into many hearts. I am Carol Lehman and Fergus's facilitator. I have worked at MOSAICS for 4 years and I am an instructional assistant. Our school provides a nurturing and responsive environment for students in the Hamilton-Boone-Madison Special Services Cooperative. We provide opportunities for these students who are not experiencing success in their home school setting. Our goal is to provide students with the chance to experience

success academically and behaviorally. We help students to develop the skills needed to cope with the obstacles that have hindered their educational progress.

Fergus works on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. He arrives to school at 7:45am. If given the freedom, he goes immediately to the Principal's office. Not because he is in trouble, but because here he will find his favorite playmate, Principal Carol Cramer. Fergus and Carol say good morning to each other with some play, fetch the ball and run around the table. Once the energy is released it is time to put on the work face. At 8:00am the students get off the buses. They are greeted by Fergus who is just sitting and waiting for "pats" on the head. Some of the faces are cheery and happy, others are grumpy and silent. Soon, Fergus has a group of kids around him giving him a lot of love. From sitting to lying down (his favorite position) he is pet, used as a pillow, and given good morning kisses. Fergus takes it all in with patience and tolerance. Some mornings it is Ian's job to wag Fergus's tail, just in case he can't do it for himself. He has been covered with winter coats to keep him warm, worn sunglasses and hats and given a massage every day. Some students draw him pictures on

the bus and present them to him. These gifts are stored in his zippered pouch of his blue vest. His next hour is spent in a rambunctious elementary room of seven boys, aged 9-12. Fergus lies on the floor as each student gets a turn to lay with him. They do their morning work or read to Fergus. Carol Renee, the teacher in this particular room, has said that Fergus brings a sense of calm to her room. Students are more productive, less argumentative and the stress level is lowered. This scene is repeated many times during the day in other classrooms.

One staff member who works closely with Fergus is MOSAICS Social Worker, Emily. I have trained Emily on the handling of Fergus. After Fergus was with us for a month Emily asked me "Do you plan on staying at MOSAICS for awhile?" (Turn over of staff in this environment is high, but we seem to have a great and supportive staff that tends to stay) I know I looked at her with a questionable expression. She followed up with a statement "I can't imagine doing my job without Fergus". Seems that sitting on the floor, petting Fergus, made talking easier...even some of the "tough" guys.

Fergus was called to duty when an elementary

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autistic student refused to take his medication. A day of “Johnny” without his medicine is a challenge. We came up with the idea of “Johnny” wanting to take his medicine with a game. Giving Fergus treats isn’t allowed at work. But I do have an emergency supply on hand. I whispered in “Johnny’s” ear “How about I sneak a treat to you and you put it in your pocket. Quick, don’t let Fergus see it. Then we will walk to the nurse’s office. After you have taken your medicine you can give Fergus a treat.” “Johnny’s” eyes light up. Would he actually be allowed to give Fergus a forbidden treat? Sure enough, “Johnny” took his pill, Fergus got a surprise treat and the teachers were especially happy. Fergus got many hugs for his role in this task.

A reading program has been started this year at MOSAICS. For the first time, the school has been given a grant to purchase new books and start a library. Finally, our students would have some books to help excite them about reading. We started a reading club that all are encouraged to join. The name of the club is “RUFF Club”. (**R**eading for **Y**ou and **F**ergus for **F**un.) No judging of reading skills, speed, or mispronounced words. We have a big fluffy pillow to sit against and a rug to lie on.

Fergus and the reader cuddle up and reading begins. Fergus doesn’t seem to care that some kids read below their grade level!! He just sits and listens and listens. Seeing students finish a book so they can read to Fergus is exciting for me. Some days my biggest challenge is coordinate Fergus’s, the students and my schedule so all the reading gets done. All participants will be rewarded with a “RUFF Club” party at the end of the year. Oh and yes I think I will allow Fergus to have another treat that day.

Other things that Fergus does is play on the playground with the students, chases thrown Frisbees, run in the fenced in yard with the kids and collapse from exhaustion, rest, and get up and back at it. He motivates students to try tasks that are a challenge. Once they succeed they are given “Fergus Time”. He has soothed tears on a sad day, given friendship to a lonesome child and plain old unconditional love.

At the end of the day Fergus and I stand to the doors to say good-bye. Again, some happy faces, some angry faces but always more pats for Fergus. I especially love to see the high school boys bend down to gently kiss Fergus good-bye. The next day we start our job

all over. Every day is an adventure, no two are the same. We seem to touch someone’s life each day. He makes us all smile.

Carol Lehman

Annual CCI Picnic

All CCI volunteers, graduate teams, CCI released dogs and puppies in training are invited to the annual CCI picnic for a day of good food, good friends and fun games.

The picnic will be held July 11 starting at 11:00 AM at the home of Dan and Ginny O’Brien. Their home is located on the southside at 6650 Yellowstone Parkway. Yellowstone is located between Banta and Southport, 135 and Bluff Road.

Please bring your own meat for the grill and a dish to share. Paper goods and drinks will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, please call Ginny at 783-4727 or email Dan at dobrien@mcleodusa.net.

**Central Indiana Chapter
CONGRATULATIONS
to the May 14, 2005
North Central Regional
Graduates!!**

**SUCCESSOR SERVICE
DOG TEAMS:**

Marge Eaton and Encore
(Quester x Laurel II)
Highland, IN
Puppy Raiser: Denise Parker
Chillicothe, OH (NCR)

**SKILLED COMPANION
DOG TEAMS:**

**Christian Adzick and
Raquel II**
Facilitator: Lisa Adzick
Minnetonka, MN
Puppy Raiser: Carla Kittle
Plainfield, IN (NCR)

**Adam Sullivan and Athena
IV** (Bobby x Piniella)
Facilitator: Kimberly and
David Sullivan
Carol Stream, IL
Puppy Raiser: Pam Dallas
Indianapolis, IN (NCR)

**CONGRATULATIONS
to the Matriculating
dogs and their Puppy
Raisers!!**

On May 14th, five puppies
in training from our chapter
were turned in to begin
Advanced Training.
Great hopes and best
wishes go with these
puppies:

ASHTON II - Bob and Amy
Kernan (Hemet x Ressa)

BORDER - Maria Valosky

CHASEN - Scott and
Jennifer Fogo

MARINA II - Barb Kindred

RADD - Becky and Peter
Qualy

**Farewell to Amy and
Bob Kernan**

It is with mixed emotions that
we say farewell to Amy and
Bob Kernan. Amy and Bob
and furry companions will
soon be taking up residence in
Utah. Bob recently accepted
a new job in Utah and he has
been working in Utah since
the end of May. Amy
remains in their Indiana
residence until it is sold and
will then pack up and head
west.

Amy and Bob will be greatly
missed, as they have both
have been so active in the
CHAMPIONS chapter. Amy
spent much time in the past
years spearheading the
CHAMPIONS chapter
fundraising at the Indianapolis
Motor Speedway. She spent
many long days working at
the track and she was in
charge of the many volunteers
that worked along side of her.

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Amy, we thank you for all of
your efforts to raise funds to
support the mission of CCI.

In addition to fundraising,
Amy and Bob have raised
three CCI puppies. Their
most recent puppy, Ashton,
was turned in this past May
for Advanced Training. They
plan to continue raising CCI
puppies in Utah once they
find a home and get settled.

Amy could always be counted
on to take on any task that
benefited CCI. She worked at
the track, gave presentations,
wrapped gifts at Border's
Bookstore, participated in the
Sam's Club fundraisers,
attended almost every CCI
graduation, puppy sat CCI
pups and always offered
encouragement and support to
everyone in the CCI family.

Amy and Bob are kind, caring,
generous people and the
world is a better place because
of them. We are all glad to
have had the opportunity to
have Amy and Bob as part of
our CHAMPIONS chapter
and we wish them all the best
in their new adventure in
Utah.

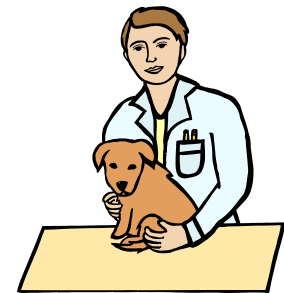
A WARM WELCOME

Two CCI puppies have joined
our chapter. Pam Dallas has
a new puppy named Areo, a
yellow male LGX. Becky and
Peter Qualy have

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volunteered for shifts during these 2 events, but I will be looking for more to make sure we can cover THREE days at this store instead of only two. Remember, for every dollar that we raise up to \$1,000.00, Sam's will match it! Watch for an e-mail regarding opportunities to help us in June, or you can e-mail me at mekhands@yahoo.com to offer your time to this great fund raising event.

Mary Klee



Annual Exams

It is always important to have regular checkups for the CCI dog that you are raising and your graduate dog. Annual exams give you a chance to speak to your veterinarian about any issues you might be concerned with about the CCI dog. These physical exams help your veterinarian to better understand the uniqueness of each individual dog, so that if an emergency were to arise he/she will know

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graciously agreed to finish raising, Tyra, a 10 month old female. We welcome both of these puppies into our chapter family.

Volunteer Chapter Conference

On Friday, May 13th, Linda Saunders and I attended North Central's volunteer chapter conference. This was an opportunity for members of CCI chapters from the North Central region to get together and share information. We discussed different ways to recruit volunteers, retain volunteers, recognize the contributions of volunteers, and shared general fund raising ideas. We picked up some innovative ways to keep our Champions Chapter alive and growing!

Mary Klee

Graduation

The latest CCI graduation was held May 14, 2005. ELEVEN (count 'em, eleven!) Service and Skilled Companion teams graduated in a moving ceremony at the Dublin Community Center. Two dogs raised by Champion Chapter volunteers were matched as Skilled Companion dogs. Nina (a.k.a., Athena IV), raised by Pam Dallas, was matched

with Adam Sullivan of Carol Stream, Illinois. Raquel, who was raised by Carla Kittle, was matched with Christian Adzick of Minnetonka, Minnesota.

A volunteer appreciation picnic was planned to follow the graduation ceremony, but was cancelled due to inclement weather. The picnic has been rescheduled to follow the August graduation ceremony. Be sure to attend!

Mary Klee

Sam's Club

The first Champions Chapter Sam's Club fund raiser was held at the Greenwood Sam's Club on Friday and Saturday, May 20-21. Sam's has a matching program that enabled us to turn \$500 in donations into \$1,000! Thank you, Sam's! My sincere thanks go to Dan and Ginny O'Brien, Linda Saunders and Harlen, Pam Dallas and Aero, Michelle Hykes, Amy Kernan, and Scott and Elliott Fogo and Breta for their help. You guys are awesome!

Our next Sam's Club adventure will be June 24-26 at the Sam's on Indy's northeast side. Another Sam's adventure will be August 26-28 on the southwest side of Indy at Rockville Road. Some people have already

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the medical history of that dog, and maybe prevent a problem from becoming serious.

Veterinarians should check the CCI dog for:

- Changes in weight
- Check eyes for any problems
- Check ears and nose for infection or discharge
- Check breath, teeth, and gums for any abnormalities
- Feel for abnormal lymph nodes and thyroid
- Palpate abdomen for tenderness or masses
- Assess condition of legs, joints, and spine
- Evaluate that the coat is healthy and free of mats
- Check nails
- Check skin for fleas, ticks, tumors, or other problems
- Listen to heart and lung sounds
- Check stool sample for internal parasites
- Etc.

Annual exams provide a fresh set of eyes to discover problems that you may have missed.

This above information was given as a handout at the Graduate Seminar at the North Central Region in May.

Dogs

Dogs, a fast blur of flesh and fur

Dogs, a loving being just itching to chew

Dogs, having one is eternal fun,

Dogs, blue and brown eyed, electrified

Dogs, hyper, covered with tense muscle fiber

Dogs, great companions, greeters, catchers, and fetchers

Dogs, territory marking, all furry and barking

Dogs, running, jumping, playing

Dogs, drooling, whining, howling, growling

Dogs, licking, loving, care free

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Dogs, living things like you and me

Dogs, frightened, scared, comforted

Dogs, squirrel chasing, and rabbit racing

Dogs, majestic, streamlined, sleek

Dogs, best friends

Suzie, my dog

This poem was written by the editor's cousin. Tom Pietzsch is 14 years old. He wrote this poem for a Language Arts Class. According to the Staff at the Suzie Q Foundation Tom is a promising, up coming poet of our time.

.Permission for reprint was given by his father on 5-14-05.

Congratulations to long time puppy raiser Teresa Buchheit!

Teresa graduated from Purdue University as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. T is currently raising Bingo.

Congratulations!

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

Central Indiana Chapter
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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DATES TO REMEMBER: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 24, 25 & 26	Sam's Club Fundraiser at 96 th Street Sam's
July 9	CCI Annual Summer Picnic at O'Brien's
July 23	Canine CHAMPIONS in Training
August?	Annual Ice Cream Social at Women's Prison
August 13	CCI Graduation in Dublin, OH
August 26, 27 & 28	Sam's Club Fundraiser on Rockville Road
September 12	Chapter Meeting at Marriott East at 6:30PM
September 24	Canine CHAMPIONS in Training

For more information on the above events, refer to the chapter website at www.cci-indy.org.