

CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE®



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

Indianapolis, IN -

Winter 2008

www.cci-indy.org

President's Corner

By Linda Saunders, 2007 Chapter President

As president of the chapter, I would like to thank all you for all your hard work and dedication this year to Canine Companions for Independence® (CCI) and the CCI mission of enhancing the lives of children and adults with disabilities by providing highly-trained assistance dogs.

Thanks to all of you who helped in so many ways this past year, whether you raised a puppy, gave a demonstration, helped with the Sam's Club fundraiser, worked at the Carmel Fest booth, worked at the Craft Fair, or gave financial support to CCI. There are so many ways to support CCI and a big thank you for however you chose to show your support.

The following are the chapter officers for 2008:

Co-Presidents: Jeff and Nannette Kinney

Secretary: Cindy Calley

Treasurer: Pam Chelf

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Jo Acree

Special Events committee: Mary Klee, Carol Lehman & Scott Fogo

Communications: Linda Saunders

Let's all show our CCI support again in 2008 and let's welcome our new chapter co-presidents; **Nannette and Jeff Kinney** as they lead our chapter in 2008!!

Check out www.cci-indy.org to keep up to date on chapter activities and our puppies- in-training.

Ruiz Graduates Goes To Work

by **Elizabeth Hague**, the Broad Ripple Gazette

Since Ruiz, the Service Dog trainee, went away to advanced training last August I have been getting monthly reports on his progress. He played rough with other dogs and protected his toys. He also learned his lessons well and was easy for anyone to handle. He was always very adaptable to any given situation or person.

In December I received a report saying six people had been invited to Team Training and that Ruiz was eligible to be there, as well. That means that six applicants for Canine Companion for Independence (CCI) had been invited to Ohio in early February to be teamed with an assistance dog. For the first day and a half the six people, one adult and five children, would interact with nine dogs while CCI staff observed and assessed the strengths and weaknesses of both. On the third day of Team Training each person would be assigned a dog, leaving three dogs to wait until the next Team Training to be paired.

The suspense of wondering whether Ruiz would make it all the way through advanced training was further heightened by the suspense of whether or not he would make a match at Team Training. His trainer told me she felt good about his making a match as he was easily handled by anyone. I would receive a phone call on the second afternoon of Team Training to let me know how it went.

The McDaniel Family with Ruiz

Ruiz made a match! (I was told he was everyone's favorite.) He was paired with seven-year-old Brianna McDaniel who is the Muscular Dystrophy Goodwill Ambassador for Northern Illinois. She is artistic and on the honor roll at school where she's in second grade. She uses a power wheelchair and now has a big, wonderful, golden dog at her side. Brianna and her parents sometimes make public appearances on behalf of MDA and now Ruiz will go with them.

During Team Training the McDaniel family learned the 48 commands that Ruiz knows. They learned a little about natural canine behavior by watching pack play, when all the dogs got/came together. The family also had homework every night. While they learned how to work with Ruiz, he learned how to work with them. For example, he stays on Brianna's left side because a human tends to her from her right side. There are fun times in Team Training in the form of a field trip and relay races. I saw Ruiz receive a raw egg in his mouth to carry without breaking.

On graduation day the puppy raisers are reunited with the dog that they raised and haven't seen for the six months, or more because the dog has been in advanced training. We were given a half hour alone with the dog before we met their new family. Ruiz recognized me and, true to form, expressed his happiness from both ends: first the tail, then the rear end, and then his powerful tail thumped a happy greeting. In the few weeks before Team Training he finally injured his tail by whacking it on a fence. It has been difficult to heal because he's so happy and it's always wagging.

I almost didn't recognize Ruiz despite his size (he's always the biggest). I'd forgotten how really big he is. His nose was no longer black and his fur had darkened. It was wonderful to see him again and I gave him tummy rubs and took pictures. I introduced him to Ruthie, my current puppy-in-training.

We left the dogs and went next door for brunch and to meet the families who received the puppies we raised. Ruiz's trainer introduced me to Brianna and her parents. I gave them an album I made of Ruiz's puppy pictures and an issue of each BR Gazette in which he appeared. They surprised me by giving me a small album of their time at Team Training and pictures of Ruiz in their hotel suite. I've been carrying it around to show people.

The graduation ceremony included recognition of the 29 puppies being turned in for advanced training. Renner and Cash, two puppies from here, were included in that group. The recipients of CCI dogs were introduced one by one. The puppy raiser brings the CCI dog they raised to the stage and turns the leash over to them. It's rather emotional. As Ruiz was reunited with the McDanels his tail started to wag and then his whole rear end started going with it. I was so happy that he was so happy to be back with them.

I have been very fortunate to have the CCI experience as it should be on my first try. Graduation is never a sure thing. At 37%, the CCI graduation rate is worse than Indianapolis Public Schools. In Ruiz's graduating class, only four of the nine dogs offered graduated because two of the people could not complete graduation. The other five dogs will be offered in the next round in May. Brianna's mother spoke for the graduating class and reminded us they get "the best of the best" dogs. She spoke of how the dogs will change their lives: instead of being "the girl with the wheel chair", Brianna will be "the little girl with the big dog". She said that when the kids received their dogs, each mother felt a sense of relief and other feelings they could not put into words.

The question CCI puppy raisers are asked the most is, "Don't you become attached? How can you give the dog up?" The answer is, "How can you *not* give the dog back when you see how it transforms someone else's life?"

This article appeared in the Broad Ripple Gazette
Vol. 4 No.5 on Mar.9 – Mar. 22, 2007. Permission for
Reprint was granted on Sept. 28, 2007

Chapter Puppies-in-Training

The CCI volunteer puppy raisers from the Indiana Chapter had 14 puppies begin advanced training in 2007. In February there were two dogs that began advanced training; Renner who was raised by Becky and Peter Qualy and Cash, who was raised by Linda and Jeff Saunders. **Renner** was later released and is now living the good life with a wonderful family here in the Indianapolis area who have a young boy who loves Renner. **Cash** graduated in August as a Skilled Companion with Jennifer who lives in Owensboro, KY and is a junior in high school.

In May, our puppy raisers from the chapter had six puppies-in-training begin advanced training. The puppies were Hamill, raised by Barb Kindred; Sabriah, raised by Mary and Joel Klee, Destiny, raised by John Simpkins; Dolene, raised by Claudia Fagan and Jack Okon; Leto raised by Samantha McCrary and Durban, raised by the Fogo family.

Of the six puppies, three were released; Hamill, Sabriah and Destiny. **Hamill** and **Destiny** are now living as much loved pets in the homes of their puppy raisers. **Sabriah** has become the beloved pet of a close friend of Mary Klee.

Leto, Dolene and Durban all graduated in the November 2007 class. **Leto** graduated as a Skilled Companion with Lauren, **Dolene** (Dolly) graduated as a Service Dog with Josh and **Durban** graduated as a Skilled Companion for Michael.

In August, four puppies-in-training from Indiana chapter began advanced training. The August matriculating puppies were; Ruthie raised by Elizabeth Hague, Neville, raised by Deb Saks, Maggie raised by Nannette and Jeff Kinney and Nestor, raised by Pam and Mike Chelf.

Ruthie and Neville have both been released. **Ruthie** is now living as the family pet with a family in Ohio and **Neville** is now the pet of a family in Lafayette, IN.

Nestor and **Maggie** are still in advanced training and are scheduled to be a part of the February 2008 Team Training!!

In November, puppy raisers from our chapter had two puppies that began advanced training. The November matriculating puppies were; **Syler** who was raised by Lisa, Grace and Adam Hardy and **Roden** who was raised by Brittany, Liane and Debbie Jokl.

The puppy raisers from our chapter currently have 13 puppies-in-training; **Sobie, Keefe, Dustin, Josh, Tomo, Ocala, Zaida, Linden, Jagger, Zulu, Adali, Orinda** and **Zerrin**.

Our best wishes to all these puppies and their puppy raisers, no matter what their chosen career as they have all been a success story in so many ways. They have all touched the hearts of many and have been the door that has opened a discussion about CCI and Service Dogs, raising awareness and educating the public.

Sam's Club

Once again, the Indiana Chapter of CCI worked together with local Sam's Clubs to raise money! At the northeast store in Fishers, we raised \$631 and Sam's was able to match \$279 of that amount. At the Greenwood store, we raised \$431 which Sam's was able to match entirely! Thank you to all the volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules in the spring to make these two fund-raisers a success. A special thank you to Carol Lehman and Cindy Calley for their assistance in scheduling volunteers at both sites. I look forward to more opportunities to educate the public, while fund raising for CCI in 2008.

Sincerely, Mary Klee

ERMCO Benefits CCI

On Sept 20 over 200 golfers played in the Ermco Charity Benefit Golf Outing at Winding Ridge Golf Course to have fun and provide funding for six well deserving charities, including our own favorite, Canine Companions for Independence. A very generous company, Ermco, Inc pays for the golf, lunch and dinner following the golf. All participants are encouraged to donate prizes and money. The prizes were raffled to participants and \$32,000 was divided up amongst the invited charities. Dan O'Brien represented CCI in the golf outing and introduced Nannette Kinney and CCI puppy-in-training Jagger. Nannette told the group some interesting stories about CCI graduates. Nannette and Dan were presented a check payable to CCI for \$7,500 so more anxiously awaiting applicants can benefit from CCI as has Katrina Gossett, daughter of Darrell Gossett, Ermco's president. Darrell also told several very touching stories about how Canine Companion Duke has made a difference in Katrina's life. Following her graduation with high honors from Notre Dame, Katrina now attends Univ. of Chicago Law School. She plans to specialize in disability law. We look forward to her very beneficial practice!

Dan O'Brien

Indianapolis Chapter participates in Carmel Fest

The Indianapolis Chapter of CCI participated in the 2007 Carmel Fest on July 3, and 4, 2007. Canine Companions for Independence was able to secure booth space for the purpose of educating the public about CCI. Emphasis on the decision made by the Carmel Clay School Administration to remove Facility Dogs from their schools was another focus. The booth provided a display board of pictures, book marks, and information pamphlets to the Carmel Fest visitors. Rugs were on the ground, which was the black-topped street, and fans were running at full speed. The dogs in attendance were greeted warmly by the crowd. All dogs received regular water and shade breaks and time in front of the fans. Many volunteers from the local chapter donated their time to hand out information and speak of the ban on Facility Dogs. Any interested person could sign a petition, asking the School Administration to reverse their decision. Our petition drive collected over 3000 signatures. These petitions were delivered to the Carmel Clay School Board at the September School Board meeting.

Carol Lehman

Carmel Clay Schools Remove Facility Dogs from Their Classrooms

Effective the beginning of the 2007 school year, the Carmel Clay school system officially removed and banned all Facility Dogs from their classrooms. Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) had Facility Dogs in two Carmel Clay school

The decision to remove the dogs was made by Carmel Clay Superintendent Dr. Barbara Underwood and has been argued before the school board by CCI volunteers and parents from the two schools.

According to an article in the Indianapolis Star on April 27, Underwood's decision was not based on complaints or comments by parents, but on her own belief that there are several health and liability issues to having the dogs in the schools, including student allergies.

Facility dogs are provided by CCI at not cost to the schools or taxpayers to assist in special needs classrooms. CCI Dogs are trained to perform over 40 commands designed to motivate and inspire special needs clients and help engage students in schools and special education classes.

At a school board meeting in September, CCI volunteers Linda Saunders, president of the Central Indiana Chapter of CCI and former chapter president, Dan O'Brien spoke in support of the Facility Dogs, describing the benefits the dogs provide and the loss removing these dogs represents.

Saunders read a letter from Canine Companions for Independence Chief Executive Officer, Corey Hudson, asking the board members to reconsider the decision. O'Brien explained that while the dogs are provided free-of-charge to the schools, it costs CCI almost \$50,000 to breed and train them for their work in the schools. Since there were two dogs in the school system, removing them basically represents a nearly \$100,000 loss for CCI.

CCI volunteer and advocate for Facility Dogs in the Carmel Clay Schools, sent email to each board member and Dr. Underwood and received one reply from school board member Jeffrey Carter.

"Over the last year the Board has considered testimony and opinion from a wide cross section of the public," said Cater. "There is a lot of energy on both sides of this highly emotional issue. That said, local residents spoke and were heard. I stand by Dr. Underwood's decision in the matter. I consider the matter closed."

It is not illegal for the Superintendent to remove the Facility Dogs from the school. While Assistance Dogs for persons with disabilities are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Facility Dogs are not protected as defined by the ADA.

Annual Picnic

Members of the chapter enjoyed our annual picnic at Dan and Ginny O'Brien's in July. It is always great to see our graduates Helen Calley, Katrina Gosset, Liane Jokl and Nancy Jo Acree. In addition to seeing many of our current puppy raisers, we also had the opportunity to reconnect with some of our past puppy raisers. We enjoyed good food and fellowship and of course the annual wet-shirt contest. And the photo of all the dogs in a row which is always a challenge to accomplish.

Cindy Calley

NANCY JO and E-ORE RECEIVE AWARD

Nancy Jo and E-ore received the Thomas Schemmel Character Award at the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana Annual Awards Luncheon on March 30, 2007 at the Indianapolis Colts' Pavilion.

This award is granted to an individual whose moral and ethical structure provides a constant reminder of what should motivate service, philanthropy, and charity and whose actions set him/her apart from all others. Nancy Jo has given consistent and valuable contributions to the mission of the agency as a leader within the disability community.

Since 1996, Nancy Jo has been on the board of directors and on the Program Committee. In 2000, E-ore was welcomed into the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana family as Nancy Jo's Canine Companion.

Nancy and E-ore received a nice plaque and E-ore received 2007 "Good Dog" nametag in the shape of a bone.

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 5 Centers. 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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Materials for the next newsletter may be submitted

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We regret any errors or misprints. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is complete and accurate at the time of printing. Any corrections are welcome and will be acknowledge in subsequent newsletters. Due to copyright infringement laws, only attributed articles will be published.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Graduation and Turn-In

Dublin Recreation Center, Dublin, OH
Saturday, February 16th 11:00AM
(Turn-in until 3pm at the NC kennels)

Graduation and Turn-in

Dublin Recreation Center, Dublin, OH
Saturday, May 24th at 11:00AM
(Turn-in until 3pm at the NC Kennels)

Annual CCI Picnic

Dan and Ginny O'Brien's Home
Sunday, July 13, 2008 at 12:00 PM

Annual CCI Pool Party

Becky and Peter Qualy's Home
August, 2008

Graduation and Turn-in

Dublin Recreation Center, Dublin, OH
Saturday, August 16th at 11:00 AM.
(Turn-in until 3:00 at the NCR Kennel)

Graduation and Turn-in

Dublin Recreation Center, Dublin, OH
Saturday, November 15th at 11:00 AM
(Turn-in until 3:00 at the NCR Kennel)

Delta Theta Tau Craft Fair

Southport High School
Saturday, November 29th, 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM

Annual Chapter Christmas Party

Pam and Mike Chelf's Home
Sunday, December 2008

For updated event information, go to www.cci-indy.org