



Summit Assistance Dogs

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Congratulations 2007 Grads



Maggie Peterson—Alki

Peggy Overby—Apollo

Kristin Rice— Annie

Kendra Kowal — Sassy

Louise Zimmerman — Bailey

Anne Hensley — Scout

Bill Holtz — Ari

Joanne Newman— Wiley

2007 Graduate Profile and Partner:



Louise Zimmerman & Bailey

It was during Louise Zimmerman's second assessment that a potential match was obvious. A long-legged, nearly white Labrador Retriever won her heart, and vice versa. Just one look into Bailey's kind face and eyes and then feeling his wiggly happy body leaning into her slightly was all it took. From the sidelines, I could tell this was going to be an excellent match. Louise, also tall, elegant and sporting white hair, has MS and needs a little help with her balance while walking. Their personalities matched as well as their looks, and we knew Bailey would help Louise in many ways. At times Bailey's eagerness might have to be reined in for such things as "getting the phone". He thinks it is the best game on the planet! It was soon apparent that this sweet boy was going to, not only help Louise with balance, but would be alerting her husband, Seth when necessary along with picking up dropped items, opening and closing doors and dozens of other tasks to help Louise in her daily life. If she keeps up the training, Bailey may even help her with the laundry although he has not yet learned how to fold clothes!

As Bailey's trainer, I was very lucky. I gained a new special friend, Louise. I love to visit during the monthly follow-ups to see how this team is getting along. Louise is always prepared with her lists of questions or training issues. She is very conscientious about handling Bailey and making this team be the best it can be. It is obvious that Louise is a teacher and she soaks up any and all information. I miss Bailey, but when I leave the Zimmerman's doorstep, I feel a warmth in my heart that these two were brought together. I also may have a little grin on my face as I think of Louise and Bailey perhaps doing a yoga/doga position together during morning routine.

By: Sarah Broderick

WANTED:

New Home for Summit

Summit Assistance Dogs is seeking to move into a new place to call home. The location needs to offer space available for office, training, and kennel space. The ideal country property would be a house and barn, or other outbuilding for rent or lease to buy, outside the city limits of Anacortes. Please help us find a facility by spreading the word around! We can continue to grow and carry out our mission of "Empowering People With Disabilities To Greater Heights" with our highly skilled canine helpmates.

Volunteer Corner

It was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet some of you at the Volunteer Appreciation party. I hope that more of you will be able to go to next year's party. No matter how active you are with Summit, we know that Summit Assistance Dogs continues to provide highly trained service dogs to people, only through the work and financial support of our Volunteers.

Thanks!
Michelle
michelle@summitdogs.org

Our Featured Volunteer: Donna Vacquer



Donna learned about Summit Assistance Dogs in 2004, after the assistance dog organization she was with had to close. She was a volunteer puppy raiser and came with Eddie, her SDIT. "Anything about dogs helping people turns me on big time. To enable a person to participate more fully in society and find fulfillment thanks to a canine partner, well, what could be better?"

Donna has had three poodle puppies to train for Summit, and two before. She expected the first dog to graduate, but learned this isn't always the case.

She says the most challenging part of volunteering is giving up the wonderful dogs after 16 months, after falling in love with them. Fortunately, getting to know some of the people with disabilities who are partnered with Summit dogs makes it a little easier.

She and "Dogs On Call" are working on children's books about Summit dogs. "Eddie Goes to Kindergarten" debuted a few years ago. Now she's working on one about Maya and another about Chloe (search for Deborah J. Hall/Books on www.LULU.com). She really enjoys photographing dogs doing things, so this has been a great project for her.

Donna found an additional focus at a Summit booth at the Puyallup Fair. She created the Summit South Sound booth. She set up several booths at art festivals, which proved to introduce a different crowd than at dog shows. She really loves telling people about Summit and what the marvelous dogs do. "They can't believe that dogs can do such things as zippers or light switches."

Thank you Donna, you are an incredible asset to Summit!

Holiday Cards

Now Available

10 for \$15.00



Our Office Has Moved

Our office location has moved. For now the new office offers more space for staff and all of our great volunteers.

Stop by and see us at:
6060 Sands Way Suite B
Anacortes, WA.

(Skyline Marina Area)

We will continue to seek our dream property for the organization to be all under one roof.

"Love Unleashed" Presentation

Please join us for this "pawsitively" inspirational presentation about Summit Assistance Dogs Skyline Club House Date to be announced for January 2008 Further information

A special Thank You for all of our luncheon sponsors

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Volunteer Needs

Baked Summit Snacks
Helping office staff