



A NEWSLETTER
FOR OUR FRIENDS



One of the highlights of our year was graduating these four dogs from our B Litter. See page 4 to learn where they are today.

2008 — A Big Year for Summit

One new office/training space, two litters of pups, several staff changes, eight graduate pairs and a whole new level of support by our generous donors and volunteers. Those are our highlights from 2008.

We actually made two moves in 2008. In January, we moved into an office in Skyline that allowed us considerably more office space than we had been in for a couple of years at the Fidalgo Care Center. Then in the spring, we moved to our current space where we are finally able to have office and training space under one roof. This latest move brings us a step closer to our ultimate goal of a facility where we can also have kennel space so we can increase the number of dogs we train and place each year. That facility search continues.

We were blessed with two wonderful litters of puppies in 2008 – our C Litter, born in June, and our D litter, born in October. All are now with their volunteer puppy raisers. See page 5 for more about these pups and volunteers.

Fall was a time of big staff changes for us. Three employees left for other ventures, and three new people joined us. Lisa Freshour is a new trainer, Rita

Cooper is our new administrative assistant and volunteer coordinator, and Alice Collingwood is in a new position of Associate Director, managing day-to-day operations, development and outreach.

Eight new people were paired with assistance dogs in 2008, bringing our graduate count since 2000 to 42. Our October graduation ceremony was a highlight for us, a moving salute to puppy raisers, trainers and hard-working graduate pairs. Please watch for the announcement and join us for our 2009 graduation. See page 4 for more about our 2008 grads.

We continued to have remarkable support from generous donors, who drove our income above the \$300,000 mark for the first time. We are so very grateful for their generosity, particularly in these difficult economic times. See the list of donors starting on page 9 and our annual report on page 7.

Volunteers continue to be incredibly important to us. They do everything from raising puppies to staffing outreach events to baking dog treats – and much more. And they want to do even more, so in 2009, we're going to work on ways to involve them more and recognize and thank them better.

Founder/Executive Director's Report



As we begin our 10th year of operation, I look back in amazement at all that has happened and the progress we have made since I founded this organization in March of 2000. I knew what I wanted to accomplish, and it has been so exciting and rewarding to see it come to fruition. Founding a non-profit organization has been likened to giving birth to a child and then watching it go through its various stages of growth.

2008 was particularly exciting, since we finally were able to rent a facility where we can have offices and training in the same space. We also were incredibly fortunate to receive a very generous bequest from the estate of Anna J. Miller, an Anacortes resident who was a strong supporter of animal welfare. Her legacy has allowed us to start looking for property to purchase for a facility of our own.

Our greatest roadblock to continued growth has been a lack of space to keep enough dogs so we can increase the number we place each year. In our current situation, we are only able to keep a few dogs in our three trainers' homes and in a small rented kennel space. Our long-term goal is to be placing 20 – 25 dogs per year by 2012. This will require an adequate facility, including kennel space for up to 50 dogs, plus office and training space at

one location. It also will require more continued support of dedicated volunteers and the generous financial support of our donors who make it all possible.

At this point in our organizational growth, I have decided that I want to realign myself more directly with the core mission of Summit Assistance Dogs. I will be doing more training and working to enhance our dog selection, breeding and retention to ensure we can meet our long-term annual placement goal. I am pleased to be able to turn over my administrative duties to Alice Collingwood, our new Associate Director, so I can have the time to do this other very important work.

I will, however, stay closely engaged with our wonderful donors, volunteers and staff, those people who make our work possible. Through my work, I come in contact with the most amazing people and amazing dogs. Each relationship, whether human or animal, enriches my life greatly and brings sunshine into a world where only bad news seems to be making headlines.

Our healing dogs are healing people and changing lives four paws at a time. I extend my sincerest gratitude to all of you who help ensure the continued success of this organization.

Sue Meinzingler
Founder/Executive Director

The Conquest is a publication of Summit Assistance Dogs, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to training and placing assistance dogs with people who have disabilities.

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www.SummitDogs.org

Board President's Report

It's hard for me to believe it's 2009. Due to my disability, I had to quit working in 2003 and was afraid I'd hole up and "never be seen again." Thanks to Summit Assistance Dogs, that hasn't happened!

After I became ill, I faced increasing losses – abilities, good health, etc. – and isolation due to my inability to safely venture out on my own. When Summit partnered me with Hayden, in September of 2006, my life opened up to new opportunities and joys. For the first time in five years I experienced expansion in my life, instead of contraction. The first time Hayden and I set out for a day of exploring around Seattle was scary but quickly became exhilarating and confidence building. My disease is progressive and unpredictable, but through it all, Hayden has been able to learn new tasks to assist me, with ongoing training and support from the Summit staff.

Due to my visual impairment, I fell down the basement stairs at home a few weeks back. I landed hard on the steps and the concrete floor. Before I could say anything to him, Hayden ran upstairs and brought the phone to me. I used it to call for help, but he went upstairs while I was dialing. This was strange, as even in my normal routine, he is always in the same room, not liking to be separate from me. When my neighbor came to help, she said even before I called, she was on her way over as Hayden was outside barking, which she's never heard him do. She knew something must be wrong.

Hayden did all of this without being told. Yes, he was trained to get the phone upon command. Yes, he's been trained to go get someone in the house when I tell him. But, because of the fall and injury, I wasn't able to speak right away, and he took action on his own. When I have Hayden by my side, I know he's able to help me with many things he's been trained to do. Hayden is keenly tuned in to how I am, what I need and the fact that I rely on him. All of these combined in that moment with



his ability to problem solve, which is the way Summit trains their dogs. They encourage the dogs to figure things out, not just repeat tasks in a routine way.

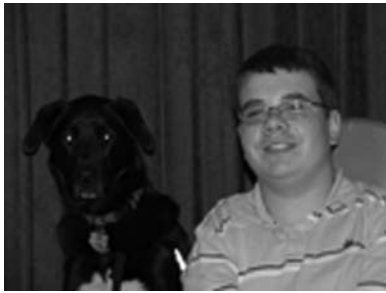
I joined Summit's board of directors at the end of 2007. My experiences as a Summit graduate and previous management in non-profits combine to provide a unique perspective that is useful. In the last quarter of 2008, I was honored to be elected Board President. I love joining with all of you to assist Summit in creating these life changing partnerships.

The support from our donors and volunteers made it possible for Hayden to transform my life. I remember how hard it was to wait the year and a half after applying before I held his leash for the first time. You make it possible to create matches between applicants and the dogs that will expand their lives in ways never imagined.

With gratitude,

Michelle Munro
Board President and
2006 recipient of Hayden

Meet Our 2008 Graduate Pairs



**Garrett Lathrop and
Mobility Assistance Dog Bergy**

Ferndale, Washington
Puppy Raiser: Wendy McDougal
Breeder: Summit



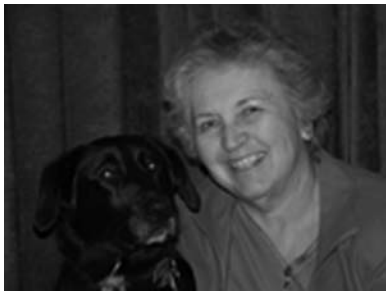
**Brighton Hunter and
Therapy Dog Heather**

Edmonds, Washington
Adopted from Anacortes Animal Control



**Deborah Morgan and
Hearing Dog Murray**

Sumas, Washington
Puppy Raiser: Jan Hemme
Breeder: James and Sheila Daut



**Sheila Howard and
Mobility Assistance Dog Beauty**

Post Falls, Idaho
Raisers: Marina Mulka and Scottie Kuper
Breeder: Summit



**Vicki DeCant Corliss and
Therapy Dog Daisy**

Lopez Island, Washington
Donated by Chelcy Beatty



**Macy Westrick and
Mobility Assistance Dog Brooklyn**

Federal Way, Washington
Puppy Raiser: Jeanette Hayes
Breeder: Summit



**Becky Novelli and
Mobility Assistance Dog Bridget**

Bellevue, Washington
Puppy Raiser: Britton Rogers
Breeder: Summit



**Melissa Mitchell and
Mobility Assistance Dog Shilo**

Eugene, Oregon
Adopted from Tacoma Humane Society

Hats Off to Our 2008 Foster Families

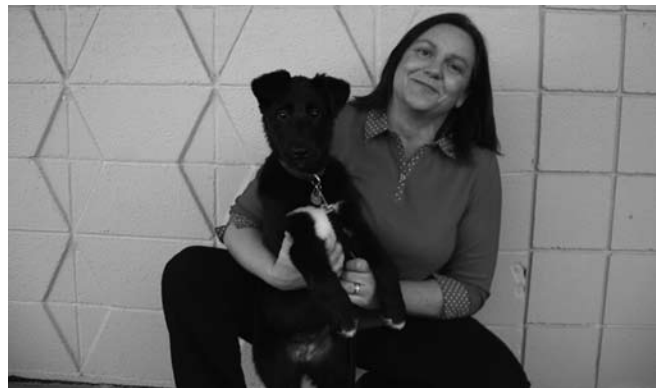
These wonderful people take little balls of fluff, nurture them through house breaking, chewing and other puppy behaviors, socialize them, provide basic obedience training and then have the strength to give them up after more than a year of love and bonding. That's when they come back to Summit for advanced training before they are matched with an applicant.

We had two litters of puppies in 2008 -- seven C Litter pups born in June, and three D Litter pups born in October. Volunteer Barb Clark of Bow whelped the C Litter pups until they were old enough to be placed with puppy raisers. The D Litter pups were whelped by Sue Meinzinger. Two more puppies were donated to us. Our wonderful foster families are:

Andrea Baer, Snohomish
 Andrea Crispin, Seabeck
 Tami Lester Dame, Port Orchard
 Deborah Darsie, Kent
 Christy Durham, Sedro-Woolley
 Lisa Freshour, Stanwood
 Caryl Greenwood, Mount Vernon
 Jan Hemme, Anacortes
 Scottie Kuper, Issaquah
 Ginger Lowell, Lopez Island
 Christy Lyon, Sedro-Woolley
 Elaine Montgomery, Kirkland
 Jeanne Richardson, Bellevue
 Diana Smith, Anacortes
 Donna Vaquer, Port Orchard
 Adinah Wyle, Bellevue



Scottie Kuper and Denali



Christy Durham and Dixie



Adinah Wyle and Cypress

Applicants Awaiting Their Turns to be Grads

More than 25 applicants are waiting for Summit Assistance Dogs. Some of them have been waiting as long as four years, because we are limited in how many dogs we can train each year. Finding the right facility and growing the number of dogs in training will help applicants like Louise Edgerton of Seattle and Lynne Kovacich of Spokane Valley get their dogs sooner rather than later.

Louise, whose leg was amputated above the knee because of an infection, has been waiting since December 2007. Lynne is a teacher who applied in June 2008 for a therapy dog for her special students who are developmentally disabled and medically fragile.



Louise Edgerton



Lynne Kovacich

Summit Statistics

Since our founding in March 2000, Summit Assistance Dogs has:

- Graduated 42 assistance dog partnerships
- Rescued more than 150 dogs from various animal shelters
- Provided a vocational training program for at-risk youth at the Oak Harbor Middle School from 2001-2003
- Provided a reading-to-dogs program for three elementary schools and one library from 2004-2007
- Provided more than 200 educational presentations for various clubs, schools and churches
- Been featured in many media venues, including Channel 7 Eyewitness News, KOMO-TV and The Seattle Post Intelligencer
- Received the Red Cross Heroes Award in 2002 for our work in rehabilitating shelter dogs and training them as assistance animals
- Received the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2005 from the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association

Board of Directors

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Office Manager
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Elizabeth Landrum**
Applications Administrator
elizabeth@summitdogs.org

*Part-time

**Volunteer

2008 Annual Report

2008 Accomplishments

- Provided eight new assistance dogs for people with disabilities
- Improved efficiency with combined office/training space.
- Provided continuing support to 42 service dog teams
- Rescued 20 dogs from shelters
- Provided educational presentations about service dogs to 20 organizations

2008 Financial Results (Fiscal Year 1/1/08 – 12/31/08)

Income

Bequests	181,171.89
Corporate Donations and Grants	2,822.57
Employee Giving Campaigns	125,761.32
Event Income	706.50
Foundation Grants	17,134.00
Individual Donors	95,333.60
Investment Income	2,428.70
Organization Donations	6,623.17
Program Service Revenue	4,800.00
Sale of Merchandise	489.18
Uncollected Pledges	-21,091.80
Total Income	\$416,179.30

Expenses

Advertising/Marketing	201.12
Employee Expenses	172,222.87
Equipment	8,202.34
Fundraising Events	8,163.20
Insurance	2,438.66
Interest & Bank Charges	1,072.44
Licenses & Permits	120.00
Meals & Entertainment	1,702.84
Occupancy	17,542.13
Outreach Events	2,479.81
Postage & Delivery	3,022.72
Printing & Copying	12,709.52
Professional Services	55,828.92
Supplies	17,539.69
Telephone/Communication	5,645.23
Training	709.88
Travel	6,200.31
Vehicle	6,417.37
Total Expenses	\$322,219.05

2009 Goals & Objectives

- Train and place 12 new assistance dogs.
- Provide on-going follow-up support for our current graduates to assure success of the team.
- Acquire kennel space that will house 20-30 dogs in training.
- Recruit and train approximately 20 new volunteer foster homes and puppy raisers to care for dogs in basic training.
- Increase emergency reserve fund to cover approximately four months operating expenses.

We Rely On Our Donors

It is only through the generous support of our donors that we are able to continue to do our important work to help change the lives of people living with disabilities.

It costs about \$25,000 to fund one service dog partnership, including the continuing follow-up care we provide, but donations of any size are greatly appreciated. For instance, \$10,000 pays our vet bills for a year, \$2,500 buys food for 10 dogs for a year, \$500 covers adoption fees for five shelter dogs, and \$25 buys food for one dog for a month.

If you would like to make a donation, please use the envelope included in this newsletter. Or you can donate on-line at www.summitdogs.org.

Payroll deduction makes giving easy. Please consider designating Summit Assistance dogs through

your workplace giving campaign. A small gift taken from each paycheck can amount to a significant contribution to our organization.

Summit also welcomes stocks, bonds and mutual funds, as well as vehicle donations.

You might also consider naming Summit in your will. Your bequest can help us continue making a difference in the lives of others for years to come.

Please contact us for details.

info@summitdogs.org
(360) 293-5609

Mailing address:

18204 Dunbar Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Thanks to Our Generous 2008 Donors

If somehow we missed your contribution, be it financial or in-kind, please let us know and we will recognize you in our next newsletter.

In-Kind Donations

Ehren & Jackie Boatman
Betty Carteret & Eric Shen
Lindy Christopherson
Barbara Clark
Alice Collingwood
Michelle Constanti
Rita Cooper
Julie de Rouch'e
Jim Eberhardt
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Anne Wickstrand

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