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**ASSISTANCE
DOGS** OF THE WEST

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www.assisteddogsofthewest.org



ADW Mama dog Honey Pie had a beautiful litter of four puppies born on Oscar night. They grow up so fast!



Handmade in New Mexico by our WCC Veterans

Each 505 Leash Project lead is handcrafted by military veterans as a partnership between Assistance Dogs of the West and the Warrior Canine Connection. Not only are these former soldiers on a new mission to help train service dogs for their communities, fellow vets, and veteran families, but through the 505 Leash Project, they are encouraged to work together toward a common goal while developing new skills, attention to detail and camaraderie.

Purchase your 505 Leash here:

<http://assisteddogsofthewest.org/donate/505-leash-project/>

ENV Photography



Fall 2017 Newsletter



Lupe, Wally, Gio and Dozer at the Las Vegas memorial site. Along with four other ADW teams, the dogs provided solace and relief.

#VegasStrong

In the midst of tragedy, there are beacons of hope. ADW dogs and their able handlers, along with partner teams from British Columbia, Arkansas and Alabama responded to the request from Clark County, Las Vegas to provide trauma relief at the Family Assistance Center, in hospitals and ICUs and for MGM staff and others affected by the shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival. Thank you Gio and Wally, FBI crisis response canines and Courthouse Facility Dogs: Red and Pink, San Francisco, Skippy, Los Angeles, Fortune, Tulare County, Lupe and Dozer, San Bernardino--and to their people. You are heroes in our world making it a kinder, gentler place.

A Fond Farewell to Barb & Jenny

Jenny Reichert started with ADW as a student trainer when she was 10 years old. She quickly advanced to being a teacher's assistant, and was our Youth Board President from 2013-2016. We bid her a sniffly farewell as she went off to college in Maine, but her ADW involvement came full-circle when we invited her back to co-teach this year's summer camp for kids.

Barbara Klein's role with ADW has included whelping-helper and Assistant Puppy Supervisor at our Puppy Enrichment Center at Sunrise Springs Spa Resort. A creative individual skilled in the arts and crafts, Barbara was the perfect other-half of our summer camp leadership. Barbara has recently gone back to school to pursue a master's degree in Colorado.

Both of these women hold a special place at ADW, as they have contributed so much time, love and energy into working with the dogs and kids. We wish them the best in their academic pursuits.



Barb and Jenny: Devoted to ADW dogs and students. Ocean Trail Photography



Perfect match are Caitlin and Sunshine. ENV Photography

Caitlin & Sunshine are Bright Stars

In 2010, my daughter, Bridget, began participating in ADW student training classes in Albuquerque. As we became familiar with ADW, we realized that a service dog would be a great addition to our family. Why? Because I'm living with Multiple Sclerosis. After applying, fundraising, and interviewing, a dog—Sunshine—finally chose me! I will always remember her first sleepover during the Summer 2016 Olympics. I'm beyond happy to report that we graduated as an official team in May of 2017!

She barks at dog commercials. Her demeanor changes when she puts on her ADW vest. Sunshine picks up things I drop – credit cards, cash, and, of course, socks. She deserves an airplane pin for her impeccable behavior on flights to the Washington, DC area (for medical stuff), and to Rochester, NY for a family reunion. And we have fun! Movies, restaurants with friends, play dates with other puppies, and even the New Mexico State Fair. She is my Sunshine.

Heartfelt Thanks To
Our Fundraising Sponsors



Marty's Meals

It is with immense gratitude that we thank Sandy and Juli at Marty's Meals for hosting the First Annual Santa Fe Wags & Chile Festival to benefit ADW on October 21, 2017. It was an afternoon full of raffle prizes, a kissing booth, the Scarf-n-Snarf contest, demonstrations by ADW students and professional trainers, and a canine skills and cues test conducted by the ADW Youth Board for attendees' pets.

A special thank you to Porter Dillon and Cindy Jednak for all their efforts and food preparation! The green chile stew was delicious and the cornbread was a scrumptious compliment.



Photos this page by Ocean Trail

Whole Foods

Thank you to Whole Foods Santa Fe for allowing us to be part of the Your Change Creates Change Bag Donation Program. All reusable bag credits donated by their customers were given to ADW for general operating support. Your change certainly created change for ADW, raising \$7,794.50 at Whole Foods this July - September. We appreciate the community support and an opportunity to share more about all our programs.



Taos Mesa Brewings

Our student trainers in Taos have been working hard at training our dogs. In June, Taos Mesa Brewing opened their Mothership location to ADW for a community event. Our students showcased their handling skills, as well as demonstrated service dog etiquette through a series of comical, educational skits. Thank you to Taos Mesa Brewing for this opportunity and congratulations to our student trainers for their great work on this entertaining day.



ADW Founder Jill Felice @ Taos Mesa.
Photo by Lori Krenc Montgomery



Rowley Farmhouse Ales

Rowley Farmhouse Ales in Santa Fe hosted a Pulls for Pups Fundraising event that took place in the third quarter of this year. They generously donated a portion of the proceeds from specific beers sold for a fun kickoff afternoon of sun and suds. A huge thank you to Upslope for donating a keg! Thanks to the Pulls for Pups fundraising event they were able to raise \$1,204 for ADW, which was a great contribution toward our programs.



Susan Rivenbark is essential to puppy parents and volunteers. She and Nicole are a great ADW team. Ocean Trail Photography

Volunteer Susan Rivenbark Coordinates the Troops

Susan Rivenbark, ADW’s Volunteer Coordinator, impacts all the activities we do. A Washington transplant, Susan moved to Santa Fe with her husband, Don after falling in love with the culture, weather, arts and all that is beautiful in Northern New Mexico.

How did you get involved with ADW? Tell us your story of how you came to be volunteer coordinator.

I attended my first ADW graduation in 2008 and was so impressed with the relationships developed between the trainers, the students, the dogs and the clients. It was clear that a great deal of heart went into the nurturing, training and matching of the dogs with the clients. The professionalism and leadership skills displayed by the student trainers were very impressive. ADW helped them develop these skills.

What do you like best about your job?

I started with ADW in 2016 assisting with Human Resources and began as Volunteer Coordinator when Frannie had her first litter. I love being able to share the ADW story with people interested in volunteering and adding them to our roster. It is delightful to see how much joy volunteers get out of the interaction with our tiniest puppies and our dogs. I also love being a Puppy Parent.

Run by Teenagers for Teenagers

Our Youth Board President Natalie Longmire-Kulis approached ADW Executive Director Linda Milanese with a unique request: To provide a Court-house Dog® to relieve the stress on justice-involved teenagers through an innovative local program.

Santa Fe Teen Court is a nationally recognized restorative justice program for local teenagers between the ages of 12-17. Its impact is twofold: offering youth offenders a second chance through community-centered intervention programs while also providing interested teenagers with the opportunity to learn about the legal system.

Teen Court is run by teenagers for teenagers. With the guidance of local attorneys, judges, and other public service officials, volunteer teenagers learn what it is like to work in the legal system. Every Wednesday, they conduct personal interviews with teenage of-

fenders, prosecute and defend every case that comes through court, preside over the courtroom as the judge, and walk the families through sentencing after trial.

And during these proceedings, Natalie is the handler of a Court-house Dog® in training.

They both are learning together and providing stress relief to those teenagers who are charged. The result is an empowering program, centered around giving teenagers the opportunity to make a difference in both their own lives and those of others.



Natalie Longmire-Kulis pioneered the Teen Court Facility Dog program. Ocean Trail Photography



Agility and coordination are important skills that ADW Warrior Canine Connection trainers practice. Ocean Trail Photography

WCC is Thriving in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Taos

Our Warrior Canine Connection™ program continues to thrive and grow. To date, more than 40 veterans have participated in this therapeutic modality learning to train service dogs. In 2017 we expanded the program to include a class at our headquarters in Santa Fe, New Mexico. We are now serving veteran populations in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Taos. Three of these veterans went on to enter our Client Placement process to be matched with a service dog partner. We continue to be inspired by the amazing benefits produced by the animal-human bond and the commitment of our veteran participants.

After School Tutor Reading Program Makes Progress

10-year-old Neve is a recent addition to our Youth Board who already impresses us with her initiative and creativity. On Monday afternoons, Neve takes Woodstock to Atalaya Elementary School for the After School Tutor Reading Program. This exceptional student trainer developed the reading program on her own accord, creating the proposal and submitting it to ADW and her school principal. Thanks to Neve’s vision, Woodstock is present to serve as a non-judgmental and non-corrective audience for students who need a safe space to practice reading out loud.



Student Trainer Neve and Woodstock are in the After School Tutoring Program. Ocean Trail Photography