

Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

2011 Annual Report

## 2009 graduates inspired 2011 graduate to apply

When Daniel Gray, one of Summit's 2011 graduates, was visited in the hospital by 2009 graduates Eric Rea and Titus, he knew he wanted a service dog too.

Daniel broke his neck in a diving accident at Green Lake in 2009, when he was 18. He spent a few months in the hospital, and during that time, Eric and Titus visited him through the Peer Mentors Program, in which survivors of similar accidents visit newly injured patients to help them learn that life can go on.



"Eric came in with Titus, and I knew that I wanted a dog," Daniel said. "I was immediately struck by the lightheartedness and the warmth of their connection."

Daniel said he wasn't sure that he had the independence to care for a dog, but after being released from the hospital and doing months of rehabilitation, he decided to apply to Summit. He was paired with Finnegan, whom he calls Finn.

Daniel is a student at Shoreline Community College, where Finn is his constant companion and helpmate, retrieving items he drops and opening and closing doors so he doesn't have to rely on his schoolmates. He lives with his parents, his younger brother and a cat who doesn't really like Finnegan.

"But Finnegan is so mellow, it really doesn't matter," Daniel said. "He's the best."

## Our thanks to the Reeve Foundation

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation provided a significant grant to us to support our training program for people like 2011 graduate Daniel Gray and his canine partner Finnegan. The foundation, established by the late actor Christopher Reeve after he was paralyzed in equestrian competition in 1995, is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis. We are grateful for the foundation's generous grant.

## Applicant wants to join Summit graduates roll

Alex Leavitt hopes to be among the graduates featured in next year's newsletter.

The 26-year-old Seattleite was born with Noonan's Syndrome, which affects fine motor control, muscle development and vision. He walks a bit unsteadily, his voice breaks when he talks, and daily tasks take more effort.

"I just have to work that much harder than everyone else," he said. "I can't drive, and writing and typing are difficult."

When Alex's syndrome was diagnosed, his family thought he might need special schooling, but he graduated from the prestigious Seattle Academy and earned a history degree from the University of Puget Sound. It wasn't easy, but he persevered.

"As a kid, I went through intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy. It was harder to learn to do everything."

He wants a Summit dog to help with balance, stairs, companionship and daily tasks. That will give him more confidence, including in his job, where he distributes all medical supplies at a health care facility and nursing home.



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## **Message from the Founder/Executive Director**

Another year has come and gone, and I continue to be inspired and uplifted by the life-changing partnerships that surround

me each day. In my desk is a file full of cards and letters from people who have received dogs from us, and if I'm feeling a bit discouraged, I need only to read the appreciative words from our clients to be reminded of the valuable work we are doing at Summit.

2011 has been a year full of great successes, but it's also been a year filled with many challenges. Challenges, if we allow them to, present us with an opportunity for growth and I'm very proud of the way our staff, our volunteers, our donors, and our clients, have pulled together this past year to create an even stronger organization.

As with most nonprofits, the continued depressed economy has affected our organization, but rather than letting this discourage us, we are busy finding

ways to maximize our resources so that we can maintain or even expand our level of service to the community. 2011 has been a year of great change. We've made changes in the way we select, raise and train our dogs. These changes will hopefully increase the number of successful placements we are able to make. We've found creative ways to utilize our many

dedicated volunteers in an effort to reduce expenses. And of course, our new Prius, won through a national Toyota Face-

book competition (thank you to all who voted for us!), has decreased our fuel expenditure dramatically.

In the face of many challenges, we've still been able to increase our level of service and launch our new veteran's program. Summit is now providing dogs for war veterans who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and need a canine partner to assist them through recovery.

In today's world, where dogs are being asked more than ever to assist mankind, the need for Summit's services continues to be great. I want to thank you all for your generous support, whether it be the gift of your finances, the gift of your time, or perhaps equally important, the gift of your moral support and encourage-

ment. As you read in this newsletter about the lives you've helped changed, I believe you will find an incredibly rich return on your investment. I know I sure have.



Drew and Feather, 2011 graduates, thanks to the generosity of our donors listed on pages 6-10.



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## Summit is now serving those who have served

On Veteran's Day 2011, Summit Assistance Dogs announced its new Service Dogs for Veterans Program and is welcoming applicants who may benefit from the companionship of an assistance dog.

Men and women who have served in the military can really struggle adjusting to the civilian world. The traumas they have faced can lead to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), making it difficult for them to function day-to-day and maintain relationships with family and friends. Symptoms of PTSD can include night terrors, flashbacks and anxiety in large, crowded or enclosed spaces

Summit believes the canine-human connection can leap over the barriers these veterans face and enrich their lives. If you, a friend or a relative could benefit from an assistance dog, please send an e-mail to info@summitdogs.org to begin the application process.

## Summit wins Pepsi Challenge Grant for veterans program

In September, Summit staff and graduates attended a live radio broadcast where they learned that Summit had won a \$4,000 grant to kick off our veterans program. The broadcast was the culmination of a month-long, on-line voting competition in the Local Pepsi Refresh Project. Many thanks to the Summit supporters who helped us win this competition. We placed third out of 36 local non-profits. Walton Beverage and the Whatcom Community Foundation partnered on the local project.

## Veteran who helped other vets is first applicant for Summit's new program

Army Staff Sergeant Jason Haack was the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the service dog program at Joint Base Lewis-McChord when he learned about Summit Assistance Dogs. He was doing research about service dog organizations to help his people get them, and that's when he decided a service dog would be right for him.

"I got selfish," he said. "I wanted one too."

Jason applied to Summit in November 2011 and was accepted in early 2012. He is the first veteran approved for our new program.

Jason is currently assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at the base and will be medically retired. He spent 44 months in war zones in Kenya and Iraq. While in Iraq, he was "blown up" while on an escort mission as the turret gunner in a Humvee.

"The vehicle in front of us was blown up, and the concussion blast blew me out of my turret, landing me on the ground," he said.



He suffered multiple injuries, including an injured back, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). He has had two back surgeries and "everything but replacement" done to his right shoulder. His injuries have left him with limited muscle strength, so he says he could use a dog that can retrieve things.

"But mostly, I want a dog who can basically be my courage," Jason said.

Because of his war-zone experiences, he suffers from hyper-vigilance and anxiety and struggles in crowds. He says he needs a dog that can "create a buffer around me." He also wants to be awakened from nightmares and "kept in the here and now" when he suffers from déjà vu.

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## Seven puppies, countless baths, piles of poop and still going strong

Mega-volunteer Kristi Morris has that and more to her credit. She is just one of the many people who provide foster care for puppies, dogs in transition and more to help Summit achieve its mission. We couldn't do it without them.

Kristi has been a Summit volunteer since the organization began, when she raised Golden Retriever Sage, who was paired with Julie French in our third graduating class in 2003. She is a bit disappointed that five more didn't make the program (they went on to be great family pets!), but she is hopeful for Harper, who is still in the program.

In addition to puppy raising, Kristi is a regular volunteer at Summit, coming in twice a week to clean kennels and feed and care for dogs housed at Summit, transport dogs to vet appointments and bathe them.

"I do puppy baths before they go to their puppy raisers," she said. "I love to get them all fluffy, hold them like babies, rock them to sleep."



Kristi also loves helping the trainers at Summit because they work so hard. She says volunteering at Summit is one of the best parts of her life. She has even recruited her husband, Michael, to help out.

"I love volunteering there. It has changed my life," she said. "I love the people there. I love doing it. It's my favorite thing."

### **Our 2011 foster families**

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## **Summit scores big with new Prius**

Thanks to all of our supporters who helped us win our new car in Toyota's 100 Cars for Good competition. Since October, we have saved more than \$4,600 in employee mileage reimbursements for our trips to the Monroe prison twice a week and other travels in support of our mission. Toyota Financial donated service coverage for six years, bringing the value of their donation to more than \$25,000. Whidbey Island Bank and Foothills Toyota sponsored \$5,000 each for ads on the side of the car, giving us money in the bank. Thanks so much for everyone's generosity.



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## Two happy partnerships for Jenna - Crystal 2005, Everest 2011



Jenna Clark of Bainbridge Island has the distinction of doing two firsts for Summit Assistance Dogs – receiving our first successor dog for an earlier graduate and having the first graduate of our prison training program at the Monroe Correctional Facility.

Jenna was paired with Crystal, her first service dog, in 2004. They were an inseparable pair, with Crystal providing lots of support for Jenna and being her partner in doing disability awareness programs in schools. Crystal is something of a star as well, being the featured dog on the Summit brochure and our web site banner.

"I'd never have enough words to express all the ways Crystal has impacted my life, but first and foremost is the companion-

ship -- she is my partner and best friend," Jenna said. "She loves to work almost as much as she loves to cuddle - she hogs the bed."

But time marches on, so when it was time for Crystal to retire, Jenna was matched with Everest, who was housed and trained at the Monroe Correctional Complex.

Everest has been with Jenna since early 2012, and she says he is settling in well. But it is hard for Crystal to give up her service-dog duties.

"Even retired, she'll wait for me. When I get in the door, she'll want to tug off gloves or grab whatever I'm carrying. I think she loves retirement because she loves to lie down, but she hates it because her favorite tasks are now performed by my successor service dog, Everest."

Jenna says it has been a bit of an adjustment for her as well to learn to work with Everest.

"Like people, all dogs have their own personality and style of learning -- a personality and style it's my responsibility to learn and adapt to," Jenna said. "It has taken time to get accustomed to each other, but our bond gets stronger every day."

## Our new professional therapy dog

Gail Petri and her husband, Fred, lost their son, Freddie, in an avalanche 15 years ago. Now there's another Freddie in their lives – a professional therapy dog from Summit Assistance Dogs.

Freddie was placed with Gail, who works with other grieving mothers, in 2011. So far, he's working with Gail one-on-one with the mothers who come to her, but she hopes to use him in group sessions in partnership with a therapist soon.

"Losing a child is like losing an arm or a leg," Gail said. "It's not a visible disability, but you do have to learn to walk again."

"In that respect," she said, "a therapy dog is like a service dog. People want to try to 'fix' that you've lost your child, but dogs just give unconditionally and let you deal with what you have to deal with."

"Freddie just sits and comforts," Gail says. "He just lies at their feet and seems to sense what to do and when to do it. He's a blessing to us, and he's a blessing to the mothers who come in."

## "Special dog" request filled



"Wanted: Special Dog" was the headline on a "want ad" written by our featured 2010 applicant Drew, who was nine years old at the time. Today, she is a 2011 graduate with Feather.

Asked what it has meant to her, Drew said, "Well, it's simple. I love Feather."

Drew has become more outgoing and is taking responsibility for Feather's care and needs.

"Feather has made her happier and given her companionship that goes beyond the people she's around every day," Drew's mom Keri said. "We are so grateful to Summit for this wonderful dog."

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### We love our donors!

Summit Assistance Dogs relies on the generosity of our donors to do our work of changing lives four paws at a time. We are so grateful for their support in 2011 and are pleased to honor them on these pages. If we inadvertently missed you, please let us know so we can acknowledge you in our next newsletter.

We welcome donations of any size. You might consider a memorial or tribute donation for a beloved pet, family member or friend. Or sign up for payroll deduction at work. We also welcome stocks, bonds, mutual funds and vehicle donations. Consider naming Summit in your will, providing a gift that will make a difference for years to come. Contact us for details at (360) 293-5609 or info@summitdogs.org.

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Elizabeth Thorson Kendall Tieck Ross Tinti

Terry Tirrell & James Jellison Carrie Tisinger & Matt McKay

**Dmitry Titoy** Goldie & Stan Tobin Terence & Donna Todd Julie Tokashiki

Peter Berry & Chris Tolfree

Ying Tong

Erik Torgerson Patricia Torode Dale Townsend Susan & John Tracey

Kim Tran Jami Tribby Catherine Troxel Judy Tse

Robert & Marie Turner Jimison Turpin Cara Tyler Noriko Uehara Kahly Ulmer Gina Van Hess M. C. Van Horn Paul Van Lierop Mary Vanzyl Amy Vargo Ben & Julie Varon

Subalakshmi Venugopal Stella Vera & Nick Fediay

Anaid Villanueva Carla Villar Kerri Villeneuve Robert J. Visse Denys Vnukov Eric Voetberg

**Brad Vea** 

Donald & Charlene Vollmer

Victor Vuong Linda Wagner Sandy Wagnon Barb Walczak Brenda & Tim Walker Sally & Dale Walker Carol M. Wallace Elavne Wallace

David Walsh & Nicola Thornton Heather Warncke & Rose Hill

Katherine Warren Toby & Linda Warson Lvnn Wartnik **Heather Watts Christian Webber** Walter Weber

Helen Weeks & Camelia Chatfield

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Ken & Alberta Weinberg David Weinstein

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Jean Wenzel Joel West Anne Westby Brian Westra Joel Wetzel

Julie & Garrett Wheadon Kenneth & Carol Whitaker Ana & Bradley White Paul & Jennifer Whittier

Dana Wikstrom Heather Wilde

Peggy & Robert Wilkerson

Daz Wilkin **Annette Wilkins** Janet Williams Hepler **Gary Williams** 

Debi Willner Marie Willsey

Lynda Ardern & Bill Wilson

Marcus Wilson William Wilson Rill Winkler

Anna Winguist & Art Griffin

Angie Witte Jennifer Wolcott Connie Wong Elli Shen Woo Chester "Chet" Wood David & Dianne Wood **Anthony Woodruff** John & Jody Woodruff Robyn Woolston

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### **Organization Donations**

Anacortes Aktion Club **Bell Vernon Kennel Association Christ Episcopal Church** Fidalgo Island Rotary Club Soroptimist International of

Anacortes

West Seattle Kiwanis Club

#### **Corporate Donors**

Andelcare Avidex

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### Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

#### **Foundation Grants**

Assistance Dog United Campaign
Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Henry W. Bull Foundation
Nysether Family Foundation
The Ann Jackson Family Foundation
The Seattle Foundation
Whatcom Community Foundation



Two of our 2011 H Litter pups.

#### **Memorials and Honorariums**

Sarah Andersen Dana Anderson

Anonymous John Bates & Carolyn Corvi Karen Beck Lou Berg John Bradin

Rose Marie & Fred Branson **Shelley Bridges Shelley Bridges** Susan Bullard Lisa Burns Pamela & John Caper Julie Carkin Patricia Carpenter Kathy Cleary Alice Collingwood Joe & Kathleen Corvi Laura Corvi Lisa Cowen Margarette Curnutt Margo Day Kent & Gail DeHoog **Kerry Dunbar** Lynette Emery Louise Eusterman Collene & Brad Gaolach Joann & Ernie Garcia Rochelle Goffe Cappy & Dave Goodell Herb Goodman & Mel Lee **Brigid Greenway** Steve & Bev Grueber Laura & Mark Hamilton Laura & Mark Hamilton

Wendy & John Hardman Peter Haynes Sheila Howard Damien Huang Joan Hutmacher Gina Johnson Joan G. Johnson Trish Johnson Catherine Kirkwood Maggie Kite

Wendy & John Hardman

In Honor of Sabrina Powers & Jeff Bash In Memory of Sonoma Americana Run "Candace"

In Honor of Sherry Vinson
In Memory of Joe Prpich

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Memory of Joseph Prpich

In Honor of Daisy 8/13/06, she is a great friend

In Memory of Heidi

In Memory of Patrick Spahn

In Memory of Mary Spahn

In Honor of Alice Collingwood

In Honor of Jani Gruber

In Memory of Sulu

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Memory of Karen McRaney

In Memory of Judi From

In Honor of Trish Johnson & Carl Adler

In Memory of Joe Prpich

In Memory of Joe Prpich

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Honor of Jani Gruber

In Honor of Taysen Langstraat

In Honor of Drew Sato & Feather

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Memory of Teri Rasmussen

In Memory of Donna Lundquist & Buck

In Honor of Alberta Weinberg

In Memory of Joe Prpich

In Honor of Alex Leavitt

In Honor of Bill Greenway

In Memory of Joe Prpich

In Memory of Scarlett Spaeth

In Honor of Nancy Hamilton

In Honor of Robin Leavitt & Terry Friedlander

In Honor of Rick & Jeannine Greaves

In Memory of Tom Phillips

In Honor of Sandie & Steve Pigott

In Memory of Cooper

In Honor of Brad & Collene Gaolach

In Honor of Glen "Ed" Johnson

In Honor of Trish Johnson & Carl Adler

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Memory of Kibo

In Honor of Alex Leavitt

Ethel & Al Kovach Wallis Landrum

Marianne Langenbach Robin Leavitt & Terry Friedlander Robin Leavitt & Terry Friedlander Kacy Fitch & Kristine Lindberg Kacy Fitch & Kristine Lindberg Kacy Fitch & Kristine Lindberg Kari & Victor Lundquist Linda Macbeth

Robert & Holiday Matchett Robert & Holiday Matchett Robert & Holiday Matchett

Nancy McHale Sue Meinzinger Sue Meinzinger

Sue Meinzinger Al & Diana Millikan

Sylvia Monsen Cecil & Inga Nielsen Bruce & Regina Notson

Ron Perry

Sandie & Steve Pigott Sandra Redick Robert Riley, Jr. Scott Ritchie Kathleen Rockwell Mary & David Rytand Mary & David Rytand Heidi Saville Barry I Shain

Barry L Shain Barry L Shain

Kory Slaatthaug & Mickey Bambrick Angela Small

Maureen Spalding Amy & Dan Stafford Kelly A. Straight

William & Gladys Toman Brenda & Tim Walker

Pat Ware & Jerry Harkins Ken & Alberta Weinberg Debi Willner In Memory of Rose Levy In Honor of Elizabeth Landrum & Val Green

In Memory of Skymo In Honor of Alex Leavitt In Honor of Wendy Hardman

In Honor of Eric & Janet Fitch In Honor of Larry & Eileen Fitch

In Honor of Linda Fitch

In Memory of Donna Lundquist

In Memory of Maggie Grannell

In Honor of Rob & Gail Yelland

In Honor of Matthew & Alisa Rodman

In Honor of The Luther Schutz Family

In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Julian Foreman

In Memory of Maggie

In Memory of George In Memory of Krypton

In Memory of Connie Edwins

In Memory of Donna Lundquist

In Memory of Joe Prpich

In Memory of Pat Meyer

In Honor of Sharon Edwards, Barb Neff,

Prudy LaBar, Linda Byers,

Curt Rogers

In Honor of Sheila Howard

In Memory of Tiffany

In Honor of Marilyn Missimer

In Honor of Sherry Vinson

In Honor of Jeannie Luchtel

In Memory of Baker

In Honor of Debbie Exley

In Honor of Drew Sato

In Memory of Joe Prpich

In Honor of Michelle Munro

In Honor of Kaleb Slaatthaug

In Memory of Donna Lundquist

In Honor of William Greenway

In Memory of John Christopherson

In Memory of Skye, treasured canine friend of Victoria Mulholland

In Memory of Donna Lundquist In Honor of Unit PAARNG JTG-HQ,

PAARNG 131st Transportation Group

In Honor of Sherry Vinson In Memory of Max In Memory of Joe Prpich

Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

### 2011 Financial Results (FY 1/1/10 – 12/31/10)

#### Income

Corporate Donations and Grants	10,627.87
Employee Giving Campaigns	136,688.92
Event Income	74,391.50
Foundation Grants	7,000.00
In-Kind Donations	30,933.86
Individual Donors	109,068.55
Investment Income	21,641.42
Organization Donations	2,828.54
Other Income	9.00
Program Service Revenue	9,800.00
Sale of Merchandise	624.77
Temporarily Restricted Activity	26,250.00
Uncollected Pledges	-6,143.52
Total Income	\$423,720.91

#### Exp

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penses	
Dues & Subscriptions	1,414.61
Employee Expenses	250,398.51
Equipment	1,080.92
Fundraising Events	15,590.76
Insurance - Liability	1,814.94
Meals & Entertainment	3,015.41
Miscellaneous	386.82
Occupancy	32,803.97
Outreach Events	489.27
Postage & Delivery	4,636.53
Printing & Copying	12,446.58
Professional Services	92,480.71
Supplies	35,078.03
Telephone/Communication	4,913.81
Training	325.75
Travel	7,114.09
Vehicle	8,671.31
Total Expenses	\$472,662.02

### 2011 Accomplishments

- Graduated four new teams, including our first successor dog and Monroe Prison partnership graduate, bringing our total to 56. See our 2011 grads on the back cover.
- Launched our new Service Dogs for Veterans Program and received our first application.
- Welcomed our H Litter, nine yellow labs who are the offspring of Misty and Zeus of

Misty Mountain Labradors in Woodinville. Misty was donated to us by owners Toni Leitao and Lorraine Yu.

- Won a new Toyota Prius and received a grant from Walton Beverage and the Whatcom Community Foundation, thanks to votes from our supporters in two on-line competitions.
- Built partnerships with local businesses to significantly reduce our dog-care costs.



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Anacortes, WA 98221

Special thanks to 2007 graduate Peggy Overbey (with Apollo) for donating design time for this publication.



## **2011 Graduate Teams**



**Daniel & Finnegan** Seattle, Washington



**Gail & Freddie** Snohomish, Washington



**Drew & Feather**Woodinville, Washington



**Jenna & Everest**Bainbridge Island,
Washington