

## SUMMIT ASSISTANCE D

Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

## 2012 Annual Report



### Chris and Griffin - 2012 Graduates

When you have limited mobility in your extremities, losing a service dog is like being isolated on an island with no bridges and no way to connect to the outside world. That's how Chris Blanchard felt when Ben, his first Summit Assistance Dog, died suddenly in February of 2012 from a pancreatic tumor.

Chris beat himself up for a while, wondering "how could I let this happen to him? He stood by and did everything for me, always, and I was supposed to be there for him!" We know Chris would have done anything to help Ben, if possible. That did not change the fact that Chris was now alone again, trapped in his own world, limited to what he could achieve from his chair. Summit worked quickly to find the right dog for Chris, one that could take the place of such a devoted companion and help Chris to regain his independence.

Then Chris met Griffin. After spending a little time with Griffin, Chris knew that this was the dog for him. Chris visited the Summit facility several times and worked with Griffin and the trainers on special tasks Griffin would need to perform for him. Even before attending team training and officially taking Griffin home, Chris said it felt like the "bridges are under construction, and I can see that I will soon have a way off of this deserted island."

## Applicant: Jeremiah

### **Empower Me!**



Jeremiah Gibbs-Jones is a lighthearted, exceptional 3-year-old boy who was born with Thrombocytopenia-Absent Radius (TAR) syndrome, so he is missing all long bones of both arms. He also has bilateral deformities of both knees and ankles, so he is unable to walk on his feet. Jeremiah is waiting for a service dog to help him better access his environment (including helping him into his new power wheelchair) and to help calm him during his many doctors' visits. Jeremiah's family knows him to be a differently-abled boy who will accomplish big things in his life. He is eager to take on new challenges and desires his independence.

### Sue's Message

Relationships are the heart of any charitable organization, and as 2012 comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on the myriad of wonderful relationships I've been blessed with since founding Summit. Our clients who receive our dogs have inspired me time and time again.

Each has an incredible story to share about their journey through life. Some were born facing low odds of survival. Some were injured, and in an instant, life was no longer as they knew it. Some faced a slow decline through illness. All of them have experienced loss at some level, and each has a compelling need for the companionship and independence that a dog can provide.

Relationships with our clients at Summit form the foundation for all that we do and are. When we hear from them that their new service dog has opened doors for them and expanded their world, we experience great joy in knowing we've helped change a life.



Sue Meinzinger Founder and Executive Director

Many other relationships are at the heart of our work. Without our generous donors and volunteers, there would be no lives changed. It takes a community of caring and giving people to raise and place a service dog. One of the best parts of my job is getting to know the people who support us. I've found people who give to organizations like ours to be truly great people to spend time with. If I haven't met you yet, I hope 2013 will be the year.

Then there are the relationships we've built with other community organizations. Who would have thought our work could be so much more effective using inmates in a prison to train our dogs, or that homeless dogs found in animal shelters could make superb service animals? I love the win-win relationships we've created with other organizations over the years.

Last but not least, there are the relationships we share with our dogs. I've shared my home with at least 200 Summit dogs. Some have stayed for a night, some for many months. Each one confirms its individuality for me and makes me realize why the client matching process is so exciting. In a world where much has become mechanized, a service dog can never be replaced by modern technology. Mechanical devices can pick up dropped items, open doors, or turn on lights, but they can't provide relationships. And, it is the relationships our dogs provide that our clients value above all else.

As we enter 2013, I look forward to forging more relationships. These will sustain our organization into the future and assure that our many waiting clients will receive a dog. Most of you reading our annual report are accustomed to being asked for your money, your time, your talents. We continue to need all these things, but this time I'd like to encourage your support in a way you may never have thought about. Please introduce us to people you know — friends, family, co-workers—for out of these relationships, wonderful things happen in the lives of the people and animals we serve.

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## Prison training program changes lives behind bars too

There's no doubt service dogs change lives for their partners, but they also change lives behind bars. Seven of the nine dogs Summit graduated in 2012 spent time behind bars, being trained by carefully screened and selected inmates at the Monroe Correctional Complex.

"We were thrilled that seven graduates came through our program," said Susan Biller, Administrative Assistant. "It was my proudest moment, and for the offenders too, to know that we have touched so many lives."

She said Summit's trainers, who work with the inmates twice a week, are wonderful role models, helping them learn social skills, communication, responsibility and job skills.



The inmates are not paid and do the training on top of other responsibilities, because it means so much to them.

"It's wonderful when Summit's graduates come and share their stories," Susan said. "It's a source of pride and accomplishment for the inmates to hear directly how people's lives have changed."

The program, started in May 2010, has been so successful that they are considering expanding the program to give more inmates the chance to learn and give back to the community.

"This has been a huge benefit for us too," said Summit Executive Director Sue Meinzinger. "Having inmates do initial training frees up countless hours of time our trainers can spend on advanced training after the dogs come back to us. That lets us graduate more dogs to pair with anxiously waiting applicants."



Excerpt from a letter from Inmate Handler Michael to Campbell, his dog in training

"We want you to know how extremely proud of you we are and you should also be proud of the progress you've made in your training. Working with you has given Bryce and me an opportunity to communicate in an open and constructive way and to express concerns on challenges or needs that most people in this environment don't get an opportunity to excel in. Doing so has provided us both an unexpected benefit in personal growth, so thank you, Campbell. Working as a team of three has required constant thought to your needs, how we could do right by you, your exercise and training and ultimately, how you can be most successful in your long-term endeavors of being someone's valued service dog."

### Therapy dogs soothe, support and motivate

#### Freddie

Summit's therapy dog graduates are special for many people, not just for those they graduate with. Freddie, a professional therapy dog who graduated from Summit in 2011, is a prime example.

"He just seems to know when someone needs to be comforted. That's just Freddie's way," said Gail Petri, who shares Freddie in her work with grieving mothers who have lost children, as she did 16 years ago. But don't just take Gail's word for it. Here's what two of those moms have said about Freddie.

Donna: "I really do appreciate that Gail has this ability to work with grieving mothers like me and that Freddie is part of that process. What a blessing they have both been to my life since I lost my son, Alex. Freddie is gracious, loving and very kind to my heart. He lies at my feet and seems to know just when I need a little snuggle. What a gem of an animal."



Dianne: "Freddie is a wonderful dog! He loves to play, but he can put all the playfulness and silliness aside when he is needed. Freddie seems to sense the emptiness that is breaking inside me from the loss of my beloved son, Scott. He gives all the peace and comfort he can possibly give, totally and unconditionally. He actually looks you in the eyes as though he can see if you are feeling better or worse. It is good to be near such a gentle creature."

Gail agrees that Freddie is a wonderful part of therapy for her moms, but he is also a beloved companion for her. "He is a blessing in my life," she said.



#### Seamus

Summit's newest therapy dog graduate is Seamus, who was paired with Laurie and Denny Quirk in 2012. Seamus works through Dogs on Call, based in Anacortes, to visit schools and facilities. He helps motivate children in a reading program and works with special-education students at a middle school.

"He's kind of a motivational tool for the special-education students," Laurie said. "He engages with them and helps them focus, and they get to do things like take him for walks as rewards for completing assignments. The teacher is very enthusiastic about what he does with them."

Seamus also helps students with Down Syndrome and autism learn to articulate their words clearly.

"They give him a command and repeat it until they say it clearly enough so he understands and responds. Then they get to give him a treat, and they're all smiles," she said.

He also visits an adult day care for people with dementia and brings them smiles just by wagging his tail and sharing his sunny disposition.

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## Dilly is all ears for Barb



"What a gift Dilly is," says Barb, who was paired with Dylan, a hearing dog she affectionately calls Dilly. "I so appreciate him alerting me when I need it."

Barb, who waited many years for the appropriate dog, was thrilled when Dilly was formally handed to her at Summit's 2012 graduation ceremony last December. Dilly was a rescue dog adopted by Summit from Barks R Us Animal Rescue in Yakima and trained by volunteer Jan Hemme of Anacortes.

"Often I think of what kind of a life Dilly might have had if he had not been rescued, trained and given a good home," Barb said. "We want to provide the best home we can for him, making sure his needs are met, along with some of his wants."

There were some adjustments for her and husband, Jim, bringing Dilly into their home and learning to work with him so he can

best assist her, but they are all happily adjusting. Dilly not only alerts Barb to sounds, but provides a special kind of companionship.

"Dilly and I talk about things. Well, I talk, and he either listens – or doesn't. I ask him if he realizes what kind of poor life he might have had if he had not been rescued, but he never answers."

Except with a wag of his tail and his perked-up ears.

## Smiles all around!



Summit is excited to announce our new partnership with Edmonds-based Smiley Dog, a great business providing home delivery of top quality pet food and supplies. Smiley Dog's owner, Craig Weindling, is generously donating 5 percent of all sales made to supporters of Summit Assistance Dogs. Supporters include our donors, volunteers, grad-uates, and even folks who have adopted a career-change dog from us.

Smiley Dog provides free delivery of dog and cat food to homes in the greater Seattle area, including Everett and other parts of south Snohomish county. An added benefit to becoming a Smiley Dog customer is the introductions you'll receive to the most innovative toys, treats, and training supplies on the market.

To learn more or to sign up for delivery, contact Smiley Dog at 206-903-9631 or smiley@smileydog.com or www. smileydog.com. Please consider supporting both a wonderful local business and Summit Assistance Dogs by placing your order today and letting Smiley know you are one of our supporters.

Summit wants to thank these foundations that made gifts in 2012 for changing the lives of those we serve.

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Melissa Greene	In Honor of	Emma Smiddy	Eric Augino	In Memory of	Ben
Mary Louise Halm	In Honor of	Carlene & David Schmelke	Jaime Avila	In Memory of	Bella
Julie Handy	In Honor of	Emma Smiddy	Philip & Shelley Bailey	In Memory of	Ben
Margo Hasselman	In Honor of	Frank & Freddy Paine	Debdatta Banerjee	In Memory of	Rocky
Louise Craig Haynes	In Honor of	Nina Mann	Clay Bernichon	In Memory of	Clay & Marion Bernichon
Lily Jung Henson	In Honor of	Linda Fleming	Linda & Victor Bertucci	In Memory of	Mary Kathleen Hetterle
Alison Howard	In Honor of	Monty	Barry & Grace Blanchard	In Memory of	Ben
Sheila Howard	In Honor of	Sandie & Steve Pigott	Susan Bradley	In Memory of	Buddy, the Springer Spaniel
Gina Johnson	In Honor of	Glen Edward Johnson	Rose Marie & Fred Branson	In Memory of	Heidi
Trish Johnson	In Honor of	Alice Collingwood	Alice Collingwood	In Memory of	Indiana (Jonesy) Jones
John & Nancy Killingsworth	In Honor of	My Angel Charlotte	Rita Doherty	In Memory of	Aspen
Ethel & Al Kovach	In Honor of	J.R. Rector	Anne Elkins	In Memory of	Bo Browder
Loral Krutsinger	In Honor of	Emma Smiddy	Michael & Leslyn Fitch	In Memory of	Bennett & Rosie
Ashley Lambert	In Honor of	Emma Smiddy	Judy Foss	In Memory of	Echo, passed away on 3/5/12
Robin Leavitt & Terry Friedlander	In Honor of	Wendy Hardman	Rebecca Stackhouse Heck	In Memory of	Ben Blanchard
Lindsay Lee	In Honor of	Scott Mickelson	Patty Homer	In Memory of	Scout Barran-Hartline
Kacy Fitch & Kristine Lindberg	In Honor of	Eric & Janet Fitch	Timothy Kraska	In Memory of	Bodhi
Kacy Fitch & Kristine Lindberg	In Honor of	Linda Fitch	Scottie M. E. Kuper	In Memory of	Pat Jones Jr.
Kacy Fitch & Kristine Lindberg	In Honor of	The Fitch Family	Kari & Victor Lundquist	In Memory of	Donna & Buck
Debbie Lindbo	In Honor of	Emma Smiddy	Twyla McFarlane	In Memory of	Ben
Renee Marcous-Devine	In Honor of	Ben & Chris	Al & Diana Millikan		Sam, our wonderful Golden Yellov
Robert & Holiday Matchett	In Honor of	Matthew & Alisa Rodman & new		memory of	Lab mix
		canine adoptee	Corinne & Warren Odegard	In Memory of	Dr. Barbara Fry
Robert & Holiday Matchett	In Honor of	Luther Schutz Family & Deenie	Sandra Redick	In Memory of	Ted & Missy
Robert & Holiday Matchett	In Honor of	Mark & Sandy Newton	Sandra Redick	In Memory of	Ted, Missy & Tiffany
Cathy Melby	In Honor of	Robin Grannell	Hallie E. Robertson	In Memory of	Karen McRaney
Denise & Cesar Motta	In Honor of	Katie Chambers	Ken & Alberta Weinberg	In Memory of	Lucy and Penny
Kelly Phillips	In Honor of	Thunder	Chantal Younis	In Memory of	Bennett
Myrna & Robert Pickens	In Honor of	Emma Smiddy	Julie & Stephen Zweck-Bronner	In Memory of	
Sandia & Stova Pigott	In Honor of	Sheila Howard	Sale a Stephen Zweck biofilier	in memory of	ben bianchaid

#### Chris Abbott Britt Bodin Peg Bodin Ioana Butoi Anni Campbell Dianne Canafax Josh Caplan Shivani Caplan Linda Chapman Andrea Crispin

Sandie & Steve Pigott

### 2012 Foster Families

Brenda Crispin Deb Darsie Dick From Jan Hemme Nancy Johnson Jenn Kapinos Jill Kirshner Scottie Kuper Christy Lyon Nina Mann

Sheila Howard

In Honor of

Michelle McDarmont Alexandre Moura Ginger Nocera Denny Quirk Laurie Quirk Pat Rock Mikayla Rolf Tanya Rolf Diana Smith Greg Spooner Tina Starks Deirdre Staudt Jack Staudt Dave Thompson Joy Thompson Donna Vaquer Brenda Walker Alberta Weinberg Adinah Wyle Mona Zimmerman

www.summitdogs.org

# SUMMIT ASSISTANCE D\GS Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

## 2012 Financial Results (FY 1/1/12-12/31/12)

#### Income

Corporate Donations and Grants	\$64,000
Employee Giving Campaigns	\$82,500
Event Income	\$74,000
Foundation Grants	\$29,000
Individual Donors	\$101,000
In Kind Donation	\$4,500
Investment Income	\$23,500
Organization Donations	\$2,500
Program Service Revenue	\$10,000
Sale of Merchandise	\$4,000
Temporarily Restricted Activity	\$91,000
Total Income	\$486,000
xpense	
Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,500
Employee Expenses	\$250,500
Fundraising Events	\$19,500
Insurance - Liability	\$2,500
Meals & Entertainment	\$3,500
Occupancy	\$32,000
Outreach Events	\$6,500
Postage & Delivery	\$3,500
Printing & Copying	\$9,500
Professional Services	\$44,000

Ex

Dues & Subscriptions
Employee Expenses
Fundraising Events
Insurance - Liability
Meals & Entertainment
Occupancy
Outreach Events
Postage & Delivery
Printing & Copying
Professional Services
Supplies
Telephone/Communication
Training
Travel
Vehicle

**Total Expense** 

## 2012 Accomplishments

- Placed nine new service dog teams
- Launched Veterans' Program
- Provided follow-up support to 45 graduate teams
- Rescued 18 homeless dogs
- Monroe Service Dog Partnership featured on KOMO 4, KING 5 and KCPQ 13 News

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MICHELLE MUNRO, PRESIDENT SEATTLE, WA

ALEX STONE, VICE PRESIDENT **BOTHELL, WA** 

KIM LANCASTER, SECRETARY **REDMOND, WA** 

**RICK GREAVES, TREASURER** SEATTLE, WA

SCOTTIE KUPER PALM DESERT, CA

MATT HOBBS **BELLEVUE, WA** 

**BRAD CLURE BURLINGTON, WA** 

#### STAFF

\$33,000

\$5,000

\$1000 \$5,500

\$5,000

\$422,500

Sue Meinzinger, Founder/Executive Director sue@summitdogs.org

Erik Mann, Development Associate erik@summitdogs.org

Rita Cooper, Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator rita@summitdogs.org

Kim Bertrand, *Client Services Manager* kim@summitdogs.org

Hallie McGee, *Trainer/Foster Home Director* hallie@summitdogs.org

Lisa Freshour, Prison Program Director/Trainer lisa@summitdogs.org

Kristi Morris, Kennel Manager kristi@summitdogs.org

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### SUMMIT ASSISTANCE D♥GS P.O. Box 699 Anacortes, WA 98221

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# SUMMIT ASSISTANCE D**@**GS

Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

Chris & Griffin Seattle, WA Griffin was raised by Mary Ballentine.



Linda & Phoenix Auburn, WA Phoenix was raised by Andrea Baer.



Lisa & Togo University Place, WA Togo was raised by Scottie Kuper.



info@summitdogs.org

## 2012 Graduate Teams

Gretchen & Cricket Seattle, WA Cricket was raised by Andrea Crispin and Deborah Darsie.



Dee & Smokey Tacoma, WA Smokey was raised by Peg Bodin.



Laurie, Denny & Seamus Anacortes, WA Seamus was raised by Scottie Kuper.



Changing lives four paws at a time!

Emma & Anya Snohomish, WA Anya was raised by Diana Smith.



Barbara & Dylan Anacortes, WA Dylan was raised by Jan Hemme.



Margaret, Dave & Wejo Puyallup, WA Wejo was raised by Summit Staff.



(360) 293-5609