



SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

2014 Annual Report

London opens doors in more ways than one

Life changed for Tony Lewendon of Kirkland when London became part of his life as his Summit Assistance Dog. He gained both a “helping paw” and a social door opener.

In the past, Tony felt that people avoided him because of his speech difficulties caused by Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA 6), which affects his balance, coordination and speech. But London has changed that.

“With London, people seek me out, and this has increased my communications with people,” Tony said. “I don’t dwell on the things that I cannot do, but more on how London has enriched my life, whether it is talking with people, grooming him, feeding him or playing together.”

Tony said London has made life easier with the tasks the dog can do for him, but there’s more.



“When I look into his eyes and see the total devotion to me, even if I don’t have treats, it gives me such a positive outlook on life and my future.” And taking care of London has given Tony new responsibilities that have expanded his abilities.

Tony’s wife Milly says that London’s focus when going places with Tony is very impressive and that he takes his “work” seriously. She says they have been amazed at what a difference a service dog makes versus a regular dog.

“We’ve both have had pets since childhood, and we both know London is so very special, and we are so blessed to have him,” she said. Milly also has an important job as London’s “Personal Poop Picker Upper.”

Tony says he thinks his match with London was meant to be, since he is British.

“The name just fits, doesn’t it?”

London came to Summit after being released from Guide Dogs for the Blind and was raised by Kitsap volunteers Sharon Clegg and Anna Harrison.



Meet one of our many applicants

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SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Empowering people living with disabilities to greater heights

Message from the Founder/Executive Director

Wow! What a year it was with two huge milestones – acquiring a piece of property that puts us on the path to a home of our own and achieving accreditation from Assistance Dogs International, the gold standard for service dog organizations. And none of it would have happened without our wonderful donors, foster homes and other volunteers. So first and foremost, thank you all.

After almost 10 years of searching for land to build a quality kennel and training facility, we finally found the perfect place in the spring of 2014 – a lovely, 17-acre parcel on North Whidbey Island, where we will be able to build a home of our own.

Since our founding in 2000, we have been primarily home based, with staff and volunteers housing our puppies and adult dogs, which has limited our ability to increase the number of dogs we can place each year.

Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to purchase the property and begin initial design work. We are now in the process of developing our building and site plans, working with Island County on the necessary permits and approvals and doing initial design work on a facility that will include spaces for kennels and training, administrative offices and short-term temporary housing for our clients when they are learning to work with their service dog partners. Follow our progress at <http://summitdogs.org/watch-us-grow>.

The other milestone was achieving accreditation from Assistance Dogs International. This came after an in-depth review of our organization and our programs. Although we have been providing quality dogs and exceptional service to our clients since the beginning, this gives us an official stamp of approval from our peers around the world who are members



of this coalition committed to improving the training and placement of service dogs, educating people about service dogs, and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities partnered with them.

We have much to feel proud about this year and I hope that every one of you who is involved with Summit in any way will share this pride. Without you, we couldn't achieve any of this. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sue Meininger

Check out our new, updated web site!



We're very excited to have redesigned and updated our web site in 2014. Please check out our new look and content at www.summitdogs.org. We hope you'll find it lighter, brighter and easier to navigate. You can also find us on Facebook. Like us, join us and keep up with our latest postings about puppies, graduates, events and more.

Teenage girl hopes for life-changing partnership



Sarah Backstrom

Sarah Backstrom's world turned upside down when she developed a condition called Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). She is longing for a service dog to help turn her world right side up again.

"If you would have told me five years ago that this is what my life was going to be as a teenager, I would have never believed you," Sarah said. "I dreamed of hanging out with my friends, attending high school, dances, sports and learning to drive."

Now 16-year-old Sarah gets very tired, has multiple health issues and faints at random times. She says she is housebound most of the day and usually able to get out for only a few hours at a time a few days a week. She has anxiety issues and says she feels like her life is slipping away.

"All my dreams for my future are looking impossible," she said, "but if I had a service dog, I could have support with me at all times and could begin to resume a more independent life."

Having a service dog would allow Sarah to attend school part time and would greatly help with her anxiety issues that come with being alone a lot.

"Having a service dog would give me a chance to start living again."

Sarah is just one of more than 25 applicants hoping for a life-changing service dog partner. Please consider donating today to help Sarah and others like her achieve their dreams.

Summit's new home

Summit's new property on North Whidbey Island has a couple of existing buildings, but much of it is undeveloped forest land that we will carefully preserve as our development plans proceed.



In the meantime, volunteer Dick From of Poulsbo helps clear brush, and Summit staff and volunteers enjoy a sunny day during the annual Summit volunteer picnic that was held for the first time at the new property.



SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Empowering people living with disabilities to greater heights

Workplace giving can be fun as well as rewarding

Donating to your favorite charity during your company's annual giving campaign can be a lot more fun than just checking a box. Take a tip from two organizations whose employees are generous Summit supporters.

Microsoft employees have been long-time Summit supporters, and they know how to put some zing in their campaigns – and encourage greater giving.



For example, the X-Box Team persuaded some of their executives to subject themselves to pies in the face in exchange for donations.

Just from that one event they raised more than \$12,000 that was shared with Summit and two other organizations.

They also sponsor an annual Dogs of Microsoft Calendar competition. During their annual fall giving campaign, employees are invited to submit photos of their dogs in exchange for donations. A judging panel selects 12 top dogs to be featured on each month's page, plus the cover photo is auctioned off to the highest bidder.

"The calendar is huge for us," said Alex Stone, Summit's Development Associate. "Another big thing that really helps is when department leads invite us to their all-hands meetings so they can see the work we do. And they get to interact with a Summit dog or two, which really livens up the meetings."

Microsoft employee and primary coordinator for Summit's involvement, Kim Lancaster, says that giving to Summit gives back.

"Being able to work at a great company that is supportive of the employees and the charities they support is an amazing opportunity," she said. "Working with Summit and with supporters of Summit makes my life so much fuller and rewarding."

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Kim also volunteers her time as a Summit board member.

Symetra has invited Summit to be a formal

Leaving a legacy is a lasting way to give.

Maybe your working years are over, so workplace giving isn't for you. But you can still make a significant and lasting impact by designating Summit as a beneficiary in your estate planning. Bequests and planned gifts help us plan for a future in which we can provide more life-changing partnerships for people living with disabilities.

Talk with your attorney or financial planner about including Summit Assistance Dogs in your will. And please be sure to notify us that you are designating us as a beneficiary. It will allow us to thank you from the bottoms of our hearts and help us with our planning for the future.

Contact us at (360) 293-5609
or info@summitdogs.org

part of its employee giving campaign this spring, an invitation extended to only 15 non-profit organizations each year based on past employee giving and volunteer engagement with the organizations.

"Symetra's employee giving has been increasing each year, and we're so glad they have invited us to raise our profile with their employees," Alex said. "During their annual week of service they invited us to bring some of our dogs in so their employees could do volunteer work like grooming and training. They learned some great training tips from our Summit trainers, and it was so popular, they added a second event."

The Symetra volunteers worked with two dogs who became 2014 graduates – London and Narnia.

In another example, employees at each DaVita Dialysis Center location can designate a charity to receive \$1,000. Five centers chose Summit, and one has even put up an information board so their patients can learn about us.

If you want to add some pizzazz to your annual giving campaign with the presence of a furry friend or discuss other creative ways to give, contact Alex at alex@summitdogs.org.

Fostering gives volunteer her “doggie fix”

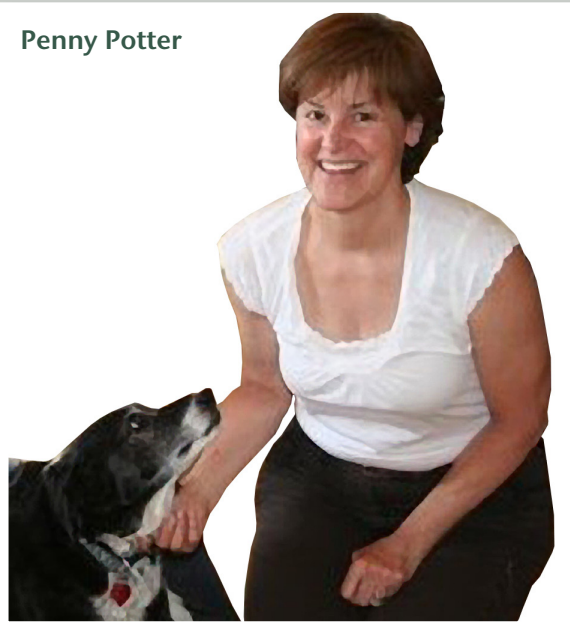
For Penny Potter of Mukilteo, being a foster home for Summit gives her the best of both worlds – a dog in her life for a while, and the freedom to travel when she is between dogs.

Penny and her husband, Richard, both retired recently, and Penny decided volunteering as a Summit foster home was a great way to use some of her new-found free time and to fill the void left by the loss of their two 16-year-old dogs who died within three months of each other.

“We just weren’t ready to bring a new permanent dog into our lives, and we wanted the flexibility to get out and about and do some traveling now that we’re both retired,” Penny said. “I need my doggie fix, so this is just perfect for me.”

She has done respite care, filling in short-term for puppy raisers, and fostering dogs in transition, either into or out of the prison program or released and waiting for adoption. She admits to getting a little attached to the dogs she fosters, but the trade-off is

Penny Potter



the freedom from permanent commitment, at least for now.

Penny said she has loved dogs ever since she was a kid. She once saw a TV show about people training guide dogs and wanted to find a way to do something like that, so Summit became a good fit when she retired.

“I have worked in a lot of volunteer capacities, but this is the most fun. Summit has such good people, and it’s such a good cause. It’s great to be involved,” she said.

Foster homes are the backbone of our organization. We couldn’t do our work without them, and we are greatly in need of more homes this year. In return for your time and energy, we’ll offer training and support. We recently hired Brenda Crispin as a part-time Foster Home Coordinator to provide dedicated support for foster homes.

Contact info@summitdogs.org to learn more about becoming a valued Summit foster home.

2014 Foster Homes

Alice Collingwood
Andrea Crispin
Anni Campbell
Ann Watkins
Bev Simpson
Brenda Crispin
Brenda Walker
Britt Bodin
Christy Lyon
Deborah Darsie
Diana Smith

Dick From
Donna Vaquer
Jane & Terry Dielman
Joy Thompson
Kelly Kosiewicz
Laurie and Denny Quirk
Linda Chapman
Lori Sprague
Mary Lou Vibrans
Mikayla Rolf
Mona Zimmerman

Nancy Johnson
Nancy Nielsen
Nina Mann
Patricia Lokanis
Peg Bodin
Penny Potter
Phillip and Levi Bailey
Scottie Kuper
Shivani & Josh Caplan
Stephanie Cooper
Wendy Lynne

SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Empowering people living with disabilities to greater heights

Shelter dogs – some make service dogs, some make great pets

Many of the dogs in Summit's program have been rescued from various shelters, giving them a potential "new leash on life." Some of them make it as service dogs, but all of them end up in great homes somewhere.



Tara was rescued from a shelter in Eastern Washington and went on to graduate in 2014 as a professional therapy dog. In her new role, she and her owner/handler Britt Bodin, will visit people in nursing homes and other facilities. Tara also does double duty as a Summit

demonstration dog, attending presentations to community groups to demonstrate the various tasks Summit dogs perform for their partners living with disabilities.

"She was understandably a bit fearful when she first came to us," Britt said. "A scar on her side was evidence that life might not have been so safe for Tara at one time."

As Britt worked with her, Tara's confidence grew, and Summit realized she could become a therapy dog. Now she loves to meet and greet people and give generously of her big heart and sunny disposition.

"She is such a sweet, loving dog," Britt said. That's a big turn-around that came with patience, guidance and love from Britt.

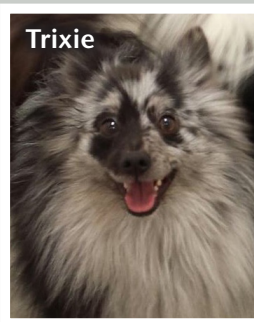
On the opposite end of the spectrum, we have Lola, formerly known as Josie, who was released from our program and adopted by Barb and Randy Murray of Vancouver, B.C. The Murrays renamed her Lola, a name they had already decided on when they were looking for a new furry friend after their beloved Black Lab died.

6 "I just want to give a tip of my hat to the

prisoners who originally trained Josie," Randy said. "They did a wonderful, wonderful job. It was just us who had to do the learning. They gave us a list of the commands she knew, and we took it from there."



Barb said Lola was timid with them at first, but she now feels more secure, trusting and at ease in her surroundings.



"She has a massive heart," Randy said. "She just wants to be good and have fun and greet people."

"We're looking forward to a long life with Lola," Barb said. "She's such a sweetheart."

Trixie is a shelter rescue who is a work in progress. She looks promising, probably as a hearing dog. Trixie was turned in to a shelter because her owner had too many dogs and couldn't care for them all. Summit is hopeful that Trixie will graduate like Tara did, but if not, she will make a lovely companion dog who will bring joy into her new forever home.

SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

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2014 Accomplishments

- Graduated five new assistance dog partnerships
- Provided follow-up training support and recertification for 45 existing partnerships
- Provided a rehabilitative training program for inmates at the Monroe Correctional Complex
- Rescued and provided permanent homes for eight shelter dogs
- Provided numerous educational presentations for various schools and community organizations
- Received accreditation from Assistance Dogs International
- Purchased land for future construction of a new training facility

2014 Financial Results (FY 1/1/14 - 12/31/14)

Income

Corporate Donations	68,900
Employee Giving Campaigns	68,900
Event Income	112,100
Foundation Grants	26,700
Individual Donors	116,200
Investment Income	24,500
Miscellaneous	2,400
Organization Donations	4,500
Program Service Revenue	10,900
Total Income	435,100

Expense

Employee Expenses	229,500
Events	20,900
Insurance	2,100
Meals & Entertainment	3,400
Miscellaneous	700
Occupancy	23,200
Postage & Delivery	2,400
Printing & Copying	10,300
Professional Services	47,200
Supplies	29,900
Telephone/Communication	5,100
Travel	6,500
Vehicle	3,700
Total Expense	384,900

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Staff

Sue Meinzinger

Founder/Executive Director

sue@summitdogs.org

Rita Cooper

Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

rita@summitdogs.org

Lisa Freshour

Trainer/Prison Program Director

lisa@summitdogs.org

Claudia Celano

Trainer

claudia@summitdogs.org

Alex Stone

Development Assistant

alex@summitdogs.org

Brenda Crispin

Foster Home Coordinator

brenda@summitdogs.org

Mark Bunje

Project Facilities Manager

mark.bunje@summitdogs.org

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Contact Information

Phone: (360) 293-5609

Web: www.summitdogs.org

E-mail: Info@summitdogs.org

Mail: P.O. Box 699

Anacortes, WA 98221

SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS
P.O. Box 699
Anacortes, WA 98221

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SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

2014 Graduate Teams



Britt & Tara
Sedro-Woolley, WA
Therapy Dog



Joy & Sailor
Oak Harbor, WA
Therapy Dog



Juliet & Bodhi
Lake Oswego, OR
Therapy Dog



Karen & Narnia
Waupaca, Wisconsin
Service Dog



Tony & London
Kirkland, WA
Service Dog