

# SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Creating life-changing partnerships between people and dogs

## Five graduate pairs welcomed in 2019

Five black Labrador Retrievers and their human partners joined the ranks of Summit graduates in 2019. One is a new partnership, and the other four are successor dogs for earlier graduates.



### Marvin Heater & Freedom

Marvin wins the prize for traveling the farthest for various assessments and training, becoming one of our new matches for 2019. Marvin lives in Colville, WA, north of Spokane and frequently traveled to western Washington to make his dream of a partnership with a service dog come true. Marvin was just a week short of his 22nd birthday in June 1997 when he dove into water in the Columbia River that turned out to be too shallow. He broke his neck, leaving him a quadriplegic. Along with helping Marvin at his work as a bookkeeper, Freedom also accompanies him in his recreational pursuits – fishing, hunting and camping.

*Puppy raiser: Brenda Crispin*

### Michelle Munro & Theo

Theo is Michelle's second canine partner. With a dog by her side once again, Michelle's confidence has greatly increased. She finds herself engaging more in the community, knowing that Theo can help brace her against falls and will retrieve her medicine and other items if needed.

*Puppy raiser: Kasey Chapman*

### Lacey Woods & Charlie

Charlie is Lacey's second Summit service dog. Lacey is so grateful that she was able to get Charlie soon after her first dog, Isabelle, died. Lacey's condition, Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Type 2I and Relapsing Polychondritis, has progressed but her needs from her new dog are the same.

*Puppy raiser: Indira Dhingra*

### Deb Morgan & Ilo

Ilo is the second Summit hearing assistance dog for Deb, who lives in Sumas and has been hard of hearing since birth. Ilo alerts her to smoke alarms, the telephone ringing, her name being called and other important sounds.

*Puppy raisers: Brenda Crispin, Penny Potter*

### Linda Fleming & Irene

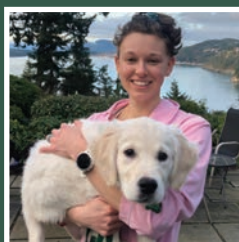
Irene is the welcome new partner for Linda Fleming, who received her first Summit dog, Phoenix, in 2011. Linda has Multiple Sclerosis and uses a walker or a scooter to get around with Irene as her new loving helpmate.

*Puppy raisers: Mikayla Rolfs, Penny Potter*



Training campus plans update

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Puppy raisers are awesome!

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## Reflecting on 20 amazing years

Looking back, I felt so alone in the beginning. I knew how to train dogs and I had a strong vision for how they could partner with people and change lives, but beyond that I had no idea where this journey of founding a nonprofit organization would take me. What I soon learned was that I wouldn't feel alone for long. Little did I know how many people share this vision of changing lives through dogs. If you're reading this now, you're very likely one of them. Every success story that Summit has, and there are many, is a result of this shared vision and your generous support.

After receiving an education at the Bergin Institute of Canine Studies in Santa Rosa, I returned home with a lovely Golden Retriever named Eddy. Eddy became my right-hand dog, acting as Summit's ambassador at outreach events, charming people, and demonstrating her service dog skills. I credit her as my co-founder, and when she passed away at the ripe old age of 15, Summit lost a true friend, but had gained so many new friends along the way because of Eddy's winsome personality. I still miss her so much today.



SUE MEINZINGER

When I received our first \$25 donation for Summit from a neighbor, I was over the moon with excitement. Those earliest supporters will always have a special place in my heart because they believed in this vision, not knowing if it would ever come to fruition. Today we have more than 1,500 current supporters who believe in and support this vision. I'm so grateful to every one of you!

Currently, we are in the midst of raising the funds needed to build a training campus for Summit on beautiful Whidbey Island. As I write this message, our property is being prepared for the construction of our first building, the Canine Condo, where our dogs in training will reside and be cared for. As I look toward the next 20 years for Summit, I'm so excited for all the many possibilities our new training campus will open up. With space to house and care for more dogs we'll be able to triple the number of service dogs we can place, expand our prison program, and develop new high-impact programs within our community.

Looking back over the years is nostalgic for me. I've collected so many wonderful memories, made so many new friends, both human and canine, and engaged in work that has given my life incredible purpose and meaning. As Summit celebrates it's 20th anniversary, I hope you too share the wonderful feelings that come with serving others and creating life-changing partnerships between people and dogs. Eddy and I thank you for believing that together we truly can make a difference!

*Sue Meinzinger*





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## 2019 Accomplishments

- Created five new service dog teams: Lacey & Charlie, Marvin & Freedom, Michelle & Theo, Linda & Irene, and Deb & Ilo.
- Raised and trained 35 puppies and young dogs with the support of 51 active puppy raiser households and 45 participants in our Monroe Prison Program partnership.
- Began development of a comprehensive curriculum to guide all levels of dog training and specifically develop the skills of the men in our prison program. This work is funded by a grant from The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.
- Accepted five new applicants and provided ongoing support to 31 current service dog teams.
- Conducted more than 80 presentations and volunteer events with community organizations and businesses across western Washington.
- Made significant progress on raising funds for our training campus and began site preparation for future construction (see page 4 for full story).

## Summit receives reaccreditation by Assistance Dogs International

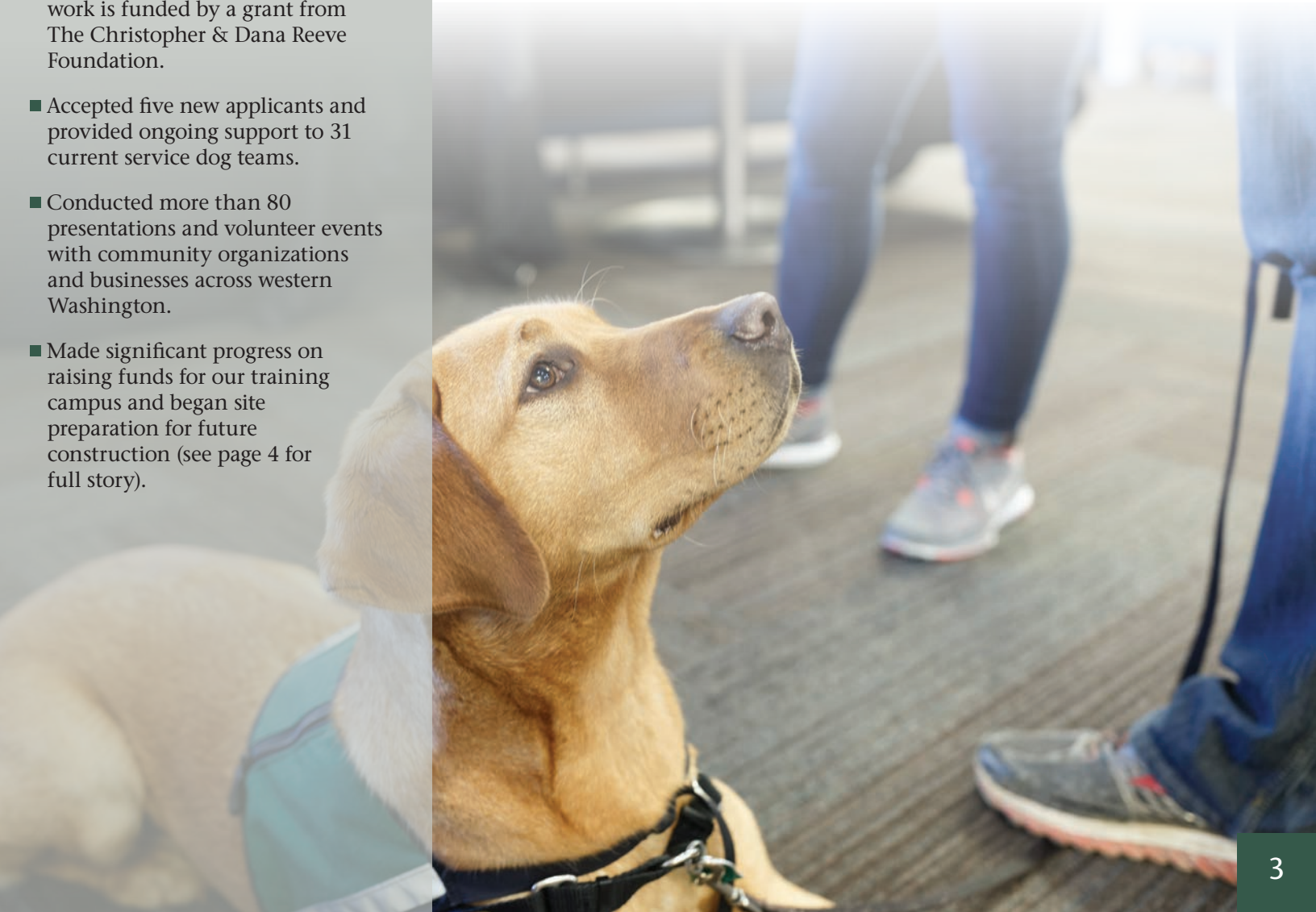
Summit Assistance Dogs is pleased to announce that we achieved reaccreditation by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) in December 2019. ADI is the leading authority in the assistance dogs field. It establishes and promotes standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training and partnership.

Member programs must complete reaccreditation every five years to comply with ADI's Standards



of Practice. ADI accreditation is a peer-review process conducted by trained ADI assessors over a period of two-four days. Currently

there are 136 ADI accredited service dog programs in the world. We are so proud of our staff, board members, clients, and volunteers who are dedicated to excellence and adhere to the highest standards of the international assistance dogs community.





## Site preparation begins for future training campus

2019 was busy behind the scenes in our multi-year Unleashing Potential Capital Campaign to raise \$5 million to complete our training campus on Whidbey Island. Several leading donors and foundations granted significant gifts that enabled us to begin site preparation and essential design work in 2019, with a goal to start construction of our first building, the Canine Condo, in 2020. As of December 2019, \$2.1 million in gifts and pledges were confirmed.

Much of the site prep done in 2019 involved building and system design work, as well as electrical, septic, and water systems engineering and installation. By the end of the year, the Canine Condo architectural plans were also ready for building permit submittal.

In spring 2019, Summit planted several hundred trees to establish a native tree grove at the entrance to the campus thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Tulalip Tribe Charitable



### TULALIP GROVE

Contributions Fund. Volunteers helped us plant these trees and also assisted with the care and maintenance of this beautiful tree grove.

Other early campaign grants received for construction of the Canine Condo included a \$50,000 grant from the Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation, a \$25,000 grant from the Patterson Foundation, and a \$5,000 grant from the Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation.

2020 promises to be an exciting year as we begin construction and launch our public capital campaign to raise the remaining \$2.5 million to build our training campus. Stay tuned for property tour invitations and more information as we build our campus that will unleash the full potential of people and dogs. Thank you!



### PATTERSON FOUNDATION GIFT



## Service dog London to the rescue!

Tony Lewendon never expected his service dog London to save someone else's life, but that's exactly what London did in 2019.

Marco, a longtime family friend was staying with Tony and his wife, Milly while recovering from knee surgery. Tony and Milly went out for the evening and left Marco home with London. Marco collapsed while they were gone, and Milly said London licked Marco's face until he woke up. Marco managed to call an ambulance, and intuitive London stayed right by his side until the ambulance arrived. Marco had a life-threatening blood clot, but the good news is, he has fully recovered.

Obviously, Tony is very proud of London, who changed Tony's life when they were partnered in 2014. In the past, Tony felt that people avoided



TONY & LONDON

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, it gives me such a positive outlook on life and my future." Taking care of London has given Tony new responsibilities that have expanded his abilities.

Milly happily shares that she has an important job too as London's "Personal Poop Picker Upper."

Tony says he thinks his match with London was meant to be, since Tony is British. "The name just fits, doesn't it?"

## 8-year-old dynamo waiting for a service dog

Jana was born with Spina Bifida, a neurological condition that limits her mobility. A service dog would be a helpful companion for this blossoming young athlete. She loves being active and enjoys sit-skiing, rock climbing, t-ball, swimming, bike riding and driving the quad around her family's property.

Children born with Spina Bifida have a neural tube defect where the vertebrae around the spinal cord does not close properly, so nerves are exposed causing damage which often impacts movement in the lower torso, legs and feet.

Jana wears leg braces in order to walk, has difficulty with balance and falls often. A service dog could help her walk more easily and confidently, acting as a moving handrail accompanying her wherever she goes.

She also loves music and enjoys singing and playing her drum set to entertain her family. "She's often belting out a song," her mother Amy said.

Amy said she and husband Matt are always looking for more adaptive-sports opportunities for this young

dynamo who wants to try everything even with her disability. She's bubbly and outgoing and talks to neighbors and everyone she meets, even in places like elevators and waiting rooms where people usually don't chat much.

"She's making friends wherever we go," Amy said.

Jana has attended the same school since pre-school, where she also has occupational and physical therapy. Amy said a great team is working with Jana at school, and now in the third grade, her fellow students are very supportive of her.

Jana is very comfortable talking about her condition. When students ask why Jana "walks that way," Amy and Matt work with the school to arrange classroom presentations to explain Jana's condition and how it affects her.



JANA



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## Summit puppy raisers are awesome!

Summit's fabulous puppy raiser volunteers are the backbone of our program. We couldn't do what we do without them. They take our puppies into their homes at about eight weeks of age and provide love, care, socialization and basic training for them, launching them on their life-changing careers.

Puppies typically stay with their foster home volunteers for about a year until they are ready to move on to their next level of training, usually with our partners at the Monroe Correctional Complex. Even when we have built our training campus on Whidbey Island, puppy raisers will still be a vital part of our program.

Some people ask how these volunteers can bear to invest time and love in a cute, cuddly puppy they have to give back later. They have various reasons but for many, it's the warm and rewarding feelings they get working with these little bundles of joy, love and possibility to ensure they reach their full potential.

Justin Tolmer of Seattle explained it this way: "Since I'm retired, puppy raising is now my productive activity. The beauty of being a puppy raiser instead of having my own dog is all



the training and support Summit provides – and I get a Lab!"

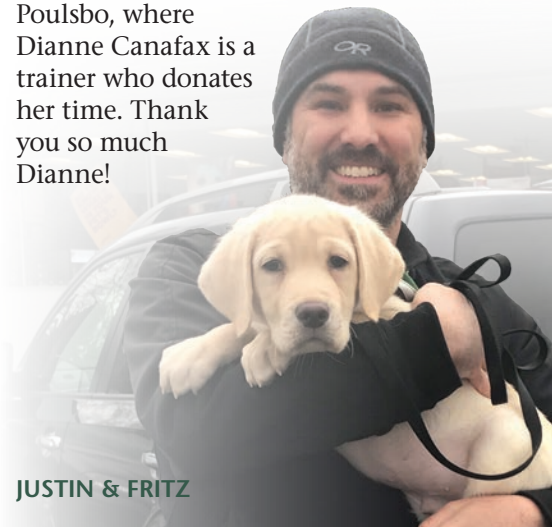
Rebecca Yueh of Anacortes says, "Puppy raising is ideal for military families who, like me, may not want to commit to a long-term dog but want the fun of having one in their homes."

Some puppy raisers keep coming back for more, like Donna Vaquer of Port Orchard. This vibrant 80-year-old, who received her 19th Summit puppy in 2019, says, "I'll do this as long as I physically can, as long as I can get down on the floor and up again. It's so fun and rewarding to see all the training come to fruition as the puppy matures."

If you would like to join our valued puppy raiser community, you can learn more at [summitdogs.org/volunteer](http://summitdogs.org/volunteer). We'll give you lots of training and support to help you turn a little furball into a life-changing companion for someone living with a disability.

Many thanks to the organizations who make our training possible by providing space for our weekly classes: Aegis of Queen Anne, Seattle; KARE facility, Poulsbo; Northwest Church & Community Center, Lynnwood; The Arts Depot, Anacortes; Microsoft Campus, Redmond. All classes are taught by Summit staff, except for Poulsbo, where

Dianne Canafax is a trainer who donates her time. Thank you so much Dianne!



## 2019 Foster Homes

Alex Stone  
Anni Campbell  
Anastasia Rotkina  
Asif & Adila Esbhani  
Brenda Crispin  
Brenda Walker  
Cheng Hsun Shih  
Cheryl Riedeman  
Debra Venhaus  
Diana Smith  
Donna Biringner

Donna Sellers  
Donna Shuman  
Donna Vaquer  
Edward Dardis  
Erin Shiflett  
Geoff Gamsby  
Indira Dhingra  
Jane Dielman  
Jessemine Fung (and family Matt, Lucas, and Tessa)  
Joan Beilfuss  
Jody Fox  
Joy & Dave Thompson

Justin Tolmer  
Julie Mustain  
Kathleen Cole  
Keri Bambach  
Kristen Rieb  
Lauri Martin  
Linda Chapman  
Lori Sprague  
Lynne Jordan & Dennis Clark  
Lynne Proctor  
Michelle, Greg & Audrey Peiker  
Michon Dowling

Mikayla Rolfs  
Mike & Mary Powers  
Mona Zimmerman  
Monica & Andy Luedke (and family)  
Nancy & Jim Sleeth  
Nancy Nielsen  
Neeti & Aswin Natarajan  
Pam & Justin Wendlandt  
Penny Potter  
Rachel Silver  
Rebecca Yueh

Rick Anderson  
Rita Cooper  
Ronit & Zivi Ben-Sheffer (and family)  
Sally & Mike Hughes  
Sarah Broderick  
Scottie Kuper  
Shivani Caplan  
Todd Bohle  
Echo Glen Children's Center  
Vonie, Tom & Isabella Bright  
Warryn & Matt Hill



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## Thank You Summit Supporters!

Summit would not be able to create life-changing service dog partnerships without the annual support of more than 1,500 household, organization, corporate and foundation donors. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talent and treasure to help our amazing dogs on their journey to become loving, skilled assistance dogs.

### 2019 CORPORATE, MATCHING, FOUNDATION & ORGANIZATION DONORS

AHT Insurance  
AIG Insurance  
Ann Jackson Family Foundation  
Arbutus Family Foundation  
Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation  
BECU  
Boeing Employee Community Fund  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Matching Gift Program

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Cambia Health Solutions  
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Elsa and Company Charity Outlet  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Friends of the Coupeville Library  
Guemes Island Community Church  
I've Pet That Dog, LLC  
Kroger/Fred Meyer  
KSH Advisors  
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Lynden Lions Club  
Marathon Petroleum Corporation  
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Mount Baker Rotary Foundation  
North Bend Montessori Inc.  
Northwest Cellars LLC  
Numotion  
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Oak Harbor Lions Club  
Parker Smith & Feek, Inc.  
Patterson Foundation  
Popping for Puppies  
Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers  
Ramsey Shirk Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County  
Richard & Lois Worthington Foundation

Seattle Bank  
Seattle Foundation  
Sierra Pacific Foundation  
Soroptimist International of Anacortes  
Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
Sterling Realty Organization  
Summit Park Memorial Fund  
Suquamish Foundation  
Symetra Financial  
The Brewmaster's Bakery, LLC  
The Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation  
The Northern Trust Company  
The San Juanderers  
USI Insurance Services LLC

## 2019 Financial Results

(FY 1/1/19 – 12/31/19)

### INCOME

Corporate Donations & Grants	182,000
Employee Giving Campaigns	137,000
Event Income	189,000
Foundation Grants	23,000
Individual Donors	148,000
Investment Income	30,000
Miscellaneous	2,000
Organization Donations	7,000
Program service revenue	9,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$727,000</b>

### EXPENSE

Communication	4,000
Events	67,000
Insurance	5,000
Miscellaneous	19,000
Occupancy	10,000
Printing & Postage	17,000
Professional Services	69,000
Salaries	403,000
Supplies	37,000
Travel	31,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$662,000</b>

**NOTE:** This represents preliminary financial data that excludes depreciation expense and is subject to further audit adjustments. Does not include capital campaign income and expenditures.

## 2019 Board of Directors

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# Welcome 2019 puppies!



*Puppy Raiser*  
Cheryl Riedeman



*Puppy Raiser*  
Rebecca Yueh



*Puppy Raiser*  
Justin Tolmer

## Contact Information

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