



SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Creating life-changing partnerships between people and dogs

Twelve New Paws Partnered with Clients in 2020

That equals three highly trained mobility service dogs now helping their partners navigate life together! Meet Summit's graduate teams of 2020:



Jill & Toby

When Jill met Toby at their matching assessment, she "kind of fell in love with him right away." Jill is a recent breast cancer survivor and has a few autoimmune diseases that impact her balance and cause gait changes, dizziness, fatigue and pain. Toby assists her with balance and retrieving items, giving Jill more confidence and safety, while decreasing her fatigue. Jill said that having Toby by her side is really reassuring. "I feel so much better with Toby around. I have more energy in little spurts, since I'm able to save it with Toby doing tasks for me." Jill is an avid crafter and enjoys sewing, knitting and rock painting.

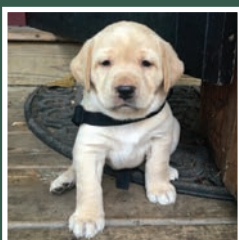
Michelle & Sailor

Michelle was partnered with Sailor in the fall of 2020. Michelle's last service dog, Fritz, greatly enhanced her independence, so she applied for a successor because she knew that a Summit dog could help her with her needs as her Multiple Sclerosis progresses. When Michelle first met Sailor, she knew he was the dog for her. He has already become a great help, especially with retrieving dropped items and tugging doors open and closed.

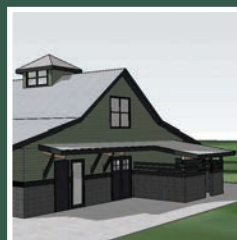


Alex & Cooper

Alex was paired with his second Summit dog, Cooper, in February 2020. Alex, who has Cerebral Palsy, became a Summit client in 2006 when he was partnered with black Lab Fraser. The pair traveled together to South Africa, where Alex worked with the government to help them establish their disability programs. He also served on Summit's board of directors and held a staff position before forming his own non-profit, the Amandla Project, to create travel-abroad opportunities for students with disabilities. That means Cooper will be following in Fraser's international travel pawprints.



Welcome four puppy litters
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Canine Condo construction begins
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Message from the Founder/Executive Director

They say hindsight is 20/20 and this year we can literally say that! What a year 2020 was ... unlike any I've experienced during my 20 years with Summit. A global pandemic, racial inequity, raging wildfires, political upheaval, and so much more, brought incredible challenges.

This past year I've spent a lot of time thinking about the role nonprofit organizations play in our society. Especially during times like we continue to face today, the nonprofits around this country, and indeed the globe, seem to me to be the glue that can hold our fractured world together, continuing to provide essential services and champion change, no matter what. There's never been a time it's felt more important to me to both step up to a new level of leadership for Summit, and to generously support the work of other organizations who are trying to meet the ever-increasing needs of the people and animals they serve. Just like the pandemic, we're all in this together, and it is by working together to lift everyone up that we can heal the pain felt by so many.



I feel so grateful to be part of a community that continues to focus on the important work of caring for others. I couldn't be more proud of the team of staff and board members that I serve alongside, as everyone quickly adapted to our new reality, became creative, and even found silver linings within the new challenges we faced. Our volunteers have been most amazing, stepping up to keep dogs in their care longer than usual, providing homes for the dogs normally residing

in our prison program, and committing themselves to virtual training classes when meeting as a group was unsafe. Our financial supporters have truly been the glue that has held this organization together and allowed us to keep creating life-changing partnerships, for funding is the cornerstone to everything we do.

In the wake of a year like 2020, I have to pinch myself when I walk up to our building site daily and see our Canine Condo under construction. What I've only been able to envision on paper is now a structure I can walk through. It is happening and what an incredible asset this building will be for us!

Thank you so very much for making all this possible. I've missed seeing so many of you in person this past year, yet your outpouring of love and support has been ever present. In closing, I'd like to share one of my favorite quotes. "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust our sails."

You've helped sail this ship through one heck of a storm this past year and we're still on course. Together, I know we can prevail in making the world a better place, one dog at a time!

Sue Meinzinger

Founder/Executive Director





2020 Accomplishments & Highlights

In 2020, Summit welcomed four litters of Labrador puppies. From birth to eight weeks old, the puppies and their moms were cared for by dedicated staff and volunteers. All of the puppies have begun their service dog training journey with our trainers, volunteer foster homes, and partner programs. We look forward to seeing how these pups progress throughout 2021!



The K litter (11 puppies) was born to Stitches on February 9, 2020



The L litter (6 puppies) was born to Kiara on March 18, 2020



The M litter (6 puppies) was born to Tikka on September 7, 2020



The N litter (8 puppies) was born to Maggie on November 15, 2020

In addition to multiple litters of adorable puppies, Summit is proud to share these 2020 accomplishments:

- Created three new service dog teams: Alex & Cooper, Michelle & Sailor, and Jill & Toby.
- Accepted 6 new applicants and provided ongoing support to our 24 current service dog teams.
- Raised and trained 42 puppies and young dogs with the support of 57 active foster homes.
- Conducted more than 39 outreach presentations and volunteer events.
- Pivoted in-person events and fundraisers to virtual formats during the COVID pandemic, increasing our reach and keeping engaged with our community.
- Completed comprehensive training modules for service dog training and to specifically develop the skills of the men in our prison program. This work was funded by a grant from The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.
- Continued raising funds for our service dog training campus and broke ground on the first building, the Canine Condo.





“Paws”itive Progress Made on our Future Campus

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, progress was made in 2020 on Summit’s Unleashing Potential Capital Campaign to raise \$5.3 million to build our permanent service dog training campus. Several large foundation grants and leadership gifts enabled Summit to start construction on phase one of our three-phased campaign. With enough initial funding for phase 1 secured by year-end, our contractors were able to start construction on the first, and most essential building, the Canine Condo.

During the rainy days of November and December, the site was transformed as our water system was installed and the construction crew laid the foundation of the 4,000 square-foot Canine Condo building. There is a lot more to do, and more funds to raise, but the sight of a real building forming by the holidays was a gift indeed!

In addition to generous individual donors in 2020, we received several grant awards to move forward our campus development. The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust awarded

a \$300,000 grant to help complete the Canine Condo. The Employees Community Fund of Boeing awarded a \$35,000 grant to finish the Canine Cantina in the Canine Condo. And the Patterson Foundation awarded a second campaign grant of \$25,000. Additional campus foundation gifts in 2020 included an in-kind lumber donation from Sierra Pacific Foundation and a Whidbey Community Foundation grant to provide resources to prepare for increased on-site volunteer engagement. Summit also hosted volunteers from the Oak Harbor

division of IDEX Health & Sciences for several COVID-safe work parties to clear trails and construct a picnic table.

We anticipate a busy year in 2021 as we complete the Canine Condo and elevate our fundraising campaign to the next level to complete the entire campus, which will enable us to change the lives of many more people through a partnership with a skilled service dog. Visit summitdogs.org/capitalcampaign to learn more about the Unleashing Potential Capital Campaign and our plans for the future.



CANINE CONDO INTERIOR



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Vibrant Young Applicant Sparkles Wherever She Goes

With bright blue wheels and rainbow lights on her wheelchair, it's easy to spot Summit applicant Anya. "I get stared at a lot in public, so I might as well have fun," she said. "I wear bright, fun clothes, and I really enjoy finding new things in thrift stores."

Anya has Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome, POTS for short. "It's a form of dysautonomia that essentially means my body doesn't tolerate being upright very well," she said. "When a healthy person stands up, gravity pulls their blood downward and the veins in their legs constrict to send the blood back up. My blood just stays in my legs, which causes dizziness and fainting." Anya also has hypermobility, which means

her connective tissue is too loose, so her joints don't stay in place like they should. "A dog would help relieve certain symptoms by doing tasks like picking up items, closing doors and elevating my legs," she said. "A dog would also help me keep my balance and get help if needed."

Anya, who is 19 years old, lives in Olympia with her parents, two younger siblings, and Daisy the family dog. She is technically a senior at North Thurston High School but is taking Running Start classes at South Puget Sound Community College. She had to leave high school halfway through her sophomore year when her health declined, but she's hoping to catch up and finish school this year.



SUMMIT APPLICANT ANYA

Whatever It Takes: Profile of a Summit Supporter

Mona Z. of Snohomish, WA first got involved with Summit after she moved to the area in 2009 and was looking for volunteer opportunities where she could meet people with similar interests. Her love of dogs and a web search led her to Summit and we're forever grateful it worked out that way!

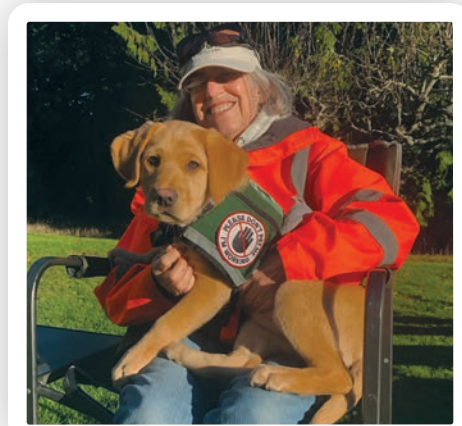
When Mona started volunteering, she jumped right in to help with whatever was needed - poop-scooping, cleaning, and general dog care. As Mona got more engaged with Summit, she began to help with puppy respite care (short-term caretaking) and transporting dogs from our Monroe Prison Program to their veterinary appointments. She has also helped prepare lunches for Team Training and says the opportunity to get to know the clients and see them interacting with their new service dogs really cemented a place in her heart for Summit. Today, Mona continues

to provide respite care, helps with Summit outreach events, and assists with canine testing evaluation days.

Mona has provided care for more dogs than she can count, some staying for just a day and one, Kiara, she puppy-raised for ten months. She has a special place in her heart for Kiara,

who is now a Summit breeder dog and the mama of our "L" litter. She shared a memorable moment for her was when Kiara's "three moms" (three key volunteers who helped raise her through her first two years) watched Kiara go through one of her testing evaluations with flying colors. The "three moms" were just so proud! Mona now lovingly refers to the L litter dogs as her "grand-puppies."

As Mona's involvement with Summit grew, she also began making annual donations with a particular interest in supporting Summit's involvement in the ABC Breeding Cooperative. This past year she also made a special gift through her IRA with a Qualified Charitable Donation. Thank you, Mona, for everything you do to unleash the full potential of Summit's dogs in training and the people they will serve!



MONA AND MONA THE SUMMIT PUPPY



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Summit Foster Homes Keep Us Going!

Summit is so fortunate to have had our foster home community's support throughout the challenges of 2020. Through the ups and downs, our foster home program has continued to thrive. We are overjoyed to report that we had 57 foster homes throughout 2020, helping us to raise and train a total of 42 puppies and dogs. In addition to our dogs in training, we have eight breeder dogs in foster homes who help us provide the next generation of Summit puppies.

Our mission to create life-changing partnerships between people and dogs would not be possible without the support of our amazing puppy raisers, puppy sitters, and breeder caretakers. Our foster home volunteers take responsibility for our dogs at some of their most critical life stages and continually make sacrifices in order to help us accomplish our goals. It truly takes a village to get one dog to graduation day, and our village never lets us down.

Our foster home volunteers give so much and ask for nothing (aside from some puppy kisses) in return. Puppy

raiser Linda C. recounts that, "You raise your child to be a self-sufficient person. It's the same with Summit's puppies, in that you don't want to hold on to the leash forever. It's in their DNA to grow up and do what they're trained to do, and it's our job to give them a great start and then let them go when it's time." Our foster home volunteers agree that handing over the leash is all worth it in the end when they get to see a puppy they've helped raise and train graduate and change the life of a Summit client. Fostering

a puppy who will inevitably move on to a career of service is a labor of love for which we are infinitely grateful. If you would like to find out if you or somebody you know may be a good fit for fostering service dogs in training, please check out our volunteer page at summitdogs.org/volunteer.

We would like to recognize the following foster home volunteers who have provided comfort, safety, training, and lots of fun for our service dogs in training throughout 2020.



2020 Foster Home Volunteers

Analy Otero Diaz
Annette Griffith
Anni Campbell
Anastasia Rotkina
Anita Tom and Patrick Wong
Barbara Karsch
Catherine Johnson
Catherine Troxel
Cheng Hsun Shih
Cheryl Riedeman

Christy and Dennis Giddings
Dave Heller and Norma Ford
Dave Hult
Donna Sellers
Donna Vaquer
Dylan Moline
Erin Shiflett
Geoff Gamsby and Alana Isiguen
Indira Dhingra
Jenny Stapp
Jessemine Fung and family

Jillian Anderson and Brett Page
Jim and Jo Anne Ciecko
Joanne and Will Cady
Jody Fox
Judith Pile
Justin Tolmer
Kate Rowan
Kathleen Cole
Kellee List
Kelly Clancy
Keri Bambach
Lauri Martin
Linda Chapman

Linda Clayton
Lori Sprague
Lynne Jordan and Dennis Clark
Marty Robinson
Mary Jo Andrak
Michelle Peiker and family
Michon Dowling
Mona Zimerman
Monica and Andy Luedke and family
Nancy and Jim Sleeth
Nancy Nicholas and family

Nancy Nielsen
Pam and Justin Wendlandt
Peg and Brad Bodin
Penny Potter
Rebecca Yueh
Rick Anderson
Rita Cooper
Sally and Mike Hughes
Scottie Kuper
Teresa McCoy
Todd Bohle
Warryn and Matt Hill



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Thank You Summit Supporters!

Thank you to our 1,500+ individual supporters and volunteers, as well as the following organizations who supported Summit Assistance Dogs in 2020:

2020 CORPORATE, MATCHING, ORGANIZATION, & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

AHT Insurance
Applied Materials
BECU
BMGI Group
Brighton Jones
Cairncross & Hempelmann
Cascade Centers, Inc.
Chevron

Coldstream Wealth Management
Darwin's Natural Pet Products
Eckerson Group
Electronic Arts (EA)
Employees Community Fund of Boeing
Evolucion Innovations

Google Inc.
Heritage Bank
IDEX Health & Science
Leavitt Capital Companies
Lions Club of Anacortes
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Marathon Petroleum Corporation
Microsoft Corporation
MyDoGood
Northwest Obedience Association Inc.
Nysether Family Foundation
Oak Harbor Lions Club
PacificSource Health Plans
Parsec Financial Management, Inc.
Patterson Foundation
Permobil Foundation
Seattle Foundation

South Everett Mukilteo Rotary Club
Special People in Need
State Farm Companies Foundation
Sterling Realty Organization
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Symetra Financial
The Northern Trust Company
Whidbey Community Foundation

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Rebecca Yueh

Sue Meinzing
Founder/
Executive Director

Mark Bunje
Facilities
Project Manager

Rita Cooper
Administrative Manager
and Dog Adoption
Coordinator

Staff

Lynne Jordan
Director of Philanthropy

Emma Kouguell
Development &
Communications
Associate

Lindy Langum
Trainer

Leanne Repetto
Trainer

Melissa Mitchell
Trainer & Client Support

Mike Powers
Trainer

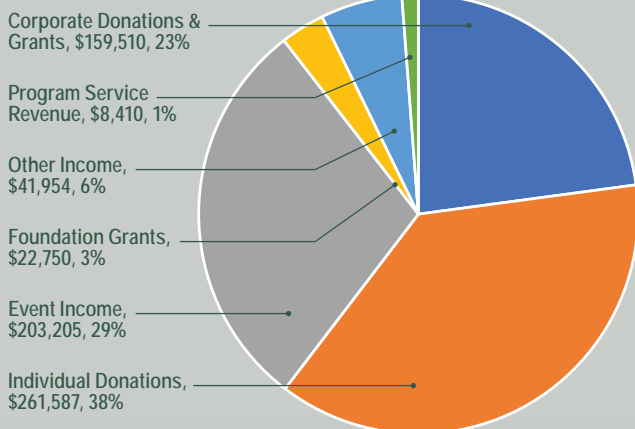
Teresa McCoy
Client Services Manager

Shelby Stiles
Puppy Raising
Program Coordinator

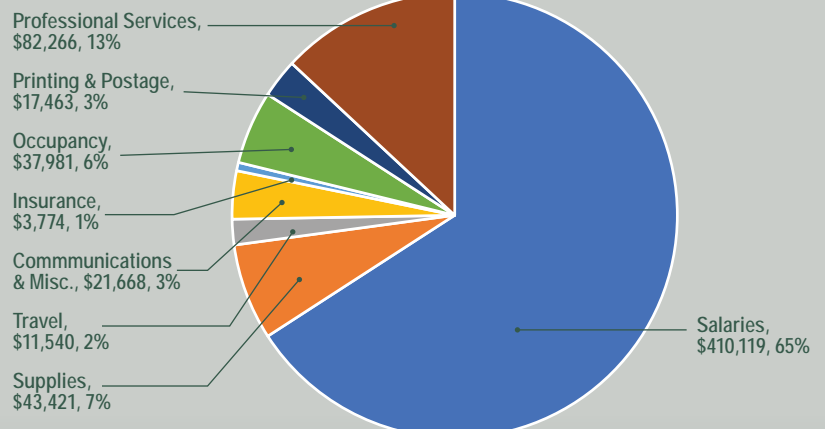
Donna Biringer
Kennel Technician

2020 Financial Results (FY 1/1/20 – 12/31/20)

INCOME: \$697,417



EXPENSES: \$628,232



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.



P.O. Box 699
Anacortes, WA 98221

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Stay Connected with Summit through 2021!

THERE ARE NUMEROUS WAYS TO KEEP CONNECTED WITH SUMMIT, INCLUDING:

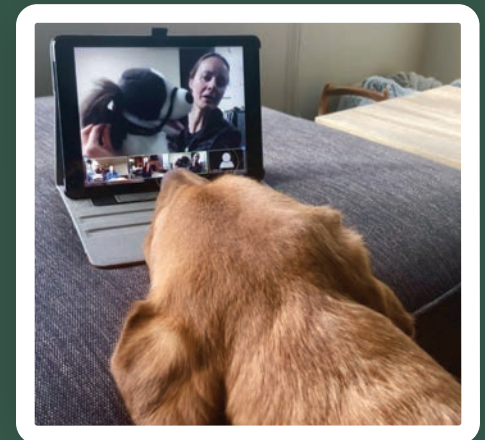
- Our annual Unleash Your Love giving event runs this year from April 6 – May 6, 2021. Join us for a month of interactive virtual activities culminating with a moving finale program on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Interested in playing a key role in creating life-changing service dog partnerships via Unleash Your Love? Visit summitdogs.org/unleashyourlove for more information.



JAMON IN FALL COLORS

- Join the Summit community for our monthly virtual yappy hour series! Meet Summit dogs, trainers, and clients as we dive into a range of topics, from the specifics of service dog training to the realities of a service dog partnership. Visit the Summit website for event information, and sign-up for our newsletter to receive the invitations in your inbox.

- Be sure to follow Summit on social media for updates, client stories, service dog training, cute puppies and more. Visit our Instagram and Facebook @summitassistancedogs!



HUMMEL SKIPPING THE MIDDLE MAN AND LEARNING DIRECTLY DURING PUPPY RAISER CLASS



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