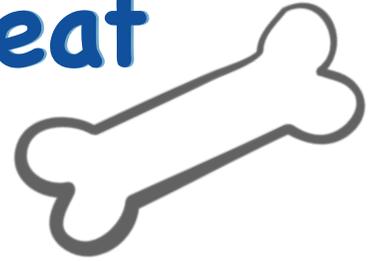




# The Monthly Treat

January 2016



The Latest and Greatest with the D4D Pups in Training

## KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW...

In 2011, Ryan Arter, a senior from Clayton Valley High School contacted D4D Founder, Mark Ruefenacht, regarding a required English Class assignment to write a paper advocating support for a local community group. Since then Ryan has been engaged with our organization as a dedicated volunteer, who has donated his website and graphic skills to D4D. Ryan has a cousin who is a Type 1 Diabetic so he is particularly interested in D4D, and helping others with diabetes through our work and mission.

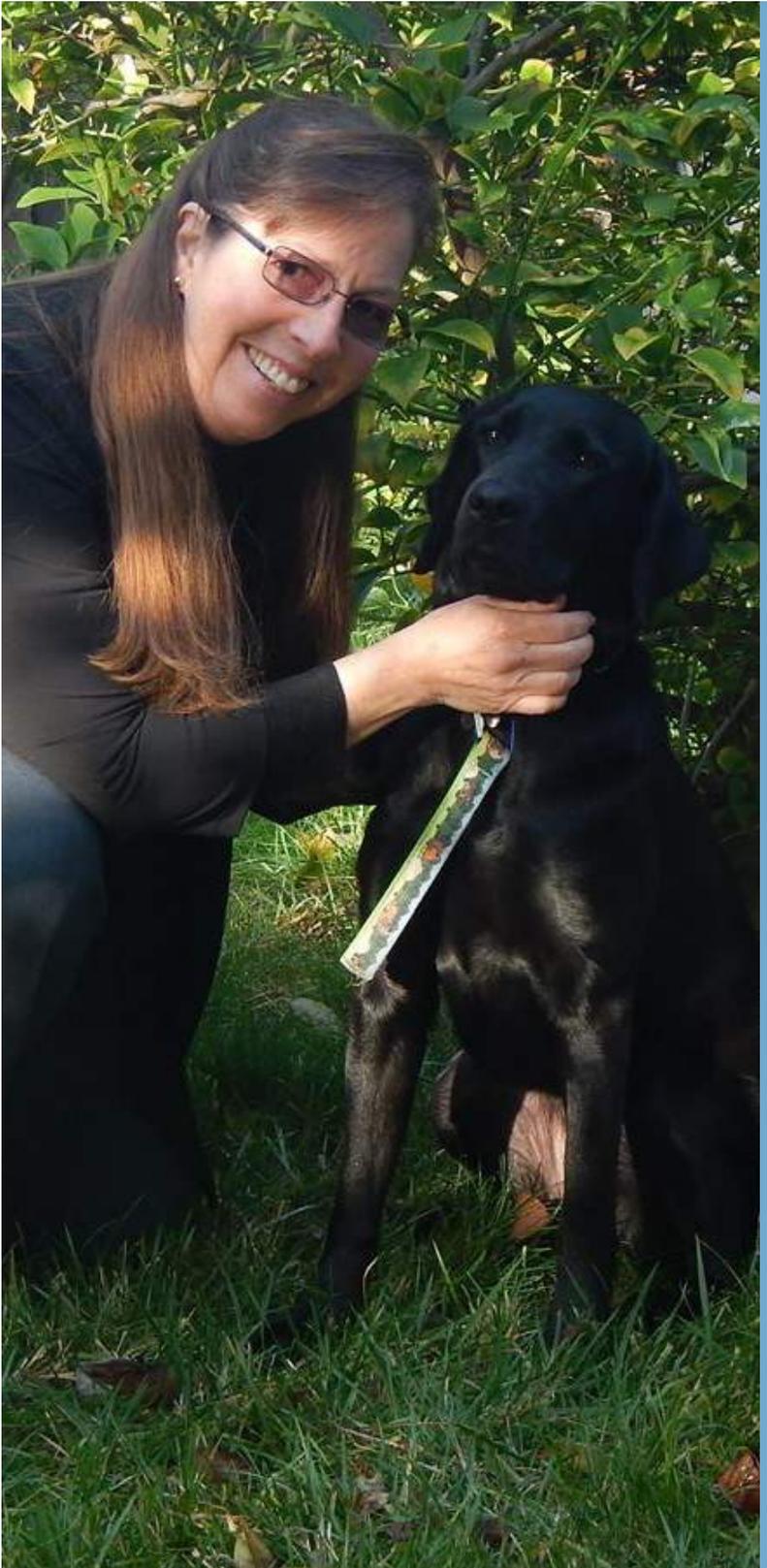
In 2015, Ryan officially joined the D4D team. His first major assignment was to develop a monthly newsletter to support our work with Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, to keep them informed about the status of their dogs that have been provided to D4D for training as Medical-Alert Assistance Dogs. He is our primary editor for The Monthly Treat, and it has become a valued, informative and exciting piece of our program.

Unfortunately, late in December, Ryan learned that 2 of the 4 rods which were inserted to straighten his spine had separated from his backbone, and he needed surgery similar to that which he had in 2011. The surgery was performed January 9 at UCSF and he spent the next 2 weeks in the hospital. He is now home restarting his physical therapy. Fortunately, he is walking with the aid of a walker, using a brace for his back and shoulders. And he is no longer in any pain! Ryan now has 5 rods inserted into his back and is 3 inches taller from the latest surgery.

He is looking forward to returning to school and D4D. His positive outlook, hard work to insure his personal health and well being, as well as his dedication to working with others is a wonderful inspiration to all of us at D4D. We look forward to his return as editor of The Monthly Treat.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...



Lauren, has been a dedicated D4D volunteer and Foster Care Provider for many, many years. We are so fortunate to have Lauren as part of the D4D Team, and want to acknowledge her tremendous support of our organization!

## *Lauren's Story:*

“I love fostering and caring for the D4D Dogs, they are the most well behaved, most fun loving dogs you have ever met! I realized how these dogs give diabetics their lives back by removing the fear of losing consciousness, or even worse, death.

“These dogs give people their freedom to do everyday tasks, everyday joys, and everyday activities. I get to enjoy having a dog when I foster for D4D, but most importantly I get to enjoy saving a persons life!”

Lauren goes on to talk about what it's like to be a Foster Care Provider at D4D.

“I have never had more joy in the actual activity of fostering, and the experience of watching one of the dogs I helped care for and train alert on a diabetic person. It is so rewarding to know I had a hand in this... a little bit of selfishness, a little bit of giving. That is what fostering a dog is all about!”

Lauren thank you for being so amazing and for the positive impact you have had, and continue to have on D4D and our success!

# FOSTER CARE IS EXPANDING...

AND WE NEED YOU!



## January is Foster Care Recruitment Month...

Our program is growing fast and we are putting plans in place to significantly grow our Foster Care Program. One thing that makes our program unique is that our dogs never spend one night in a kennel. They are at the training center during the day and in loving foster homes every night. The number of dogs we can have in our training program is directly related to how many foster homes we have available. While we are always looking for new fosters, we have made a push for recruiting new fosters in the month of January.



A HUGE thank you to D4D Client/Dog Team, **Kim Denton** for writing of the Albany article, organizing the interviews, and helping grow our Foster Care Program.

Dogs4Diabetics is now reaching out of our local area for Foster Care Providers. The idea is to have a group of fosters in a central area creating a “dog pool” in which the Foster Care Providers share the responsibility of transporting the dogs to the training center. The goal is to have four or more fosters in one area so that each foster would only have to drive one day a week to D4D. Our first target area for dog pooling is the Albany area. An article ran in the newspaper soliciting fosters in the Albany area.

We held two informational meetings in the first half of January, and we are happy to announce that we officially have enough fosters to start up our Albany group!

Due to the article, we have also gained six additional fosters in our local area. If you are interested in setting up a “dog pool” in your local area, please contact Stephanie Perkins at: [FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com](mailto:FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com)

If you have thought about fostering for us, or know someone who is interested, **NOW** is the time to get started. Our ten week new foster training classes will begin on **Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** at the D4D Training Center in Concord. **Come Join Us. Foster a Dog, Save a Life!**



Our first Albany Foster Care Group Meeting!

# TRAINERS GETTING TRAINED...

## Carrie, Christina, and Mona...

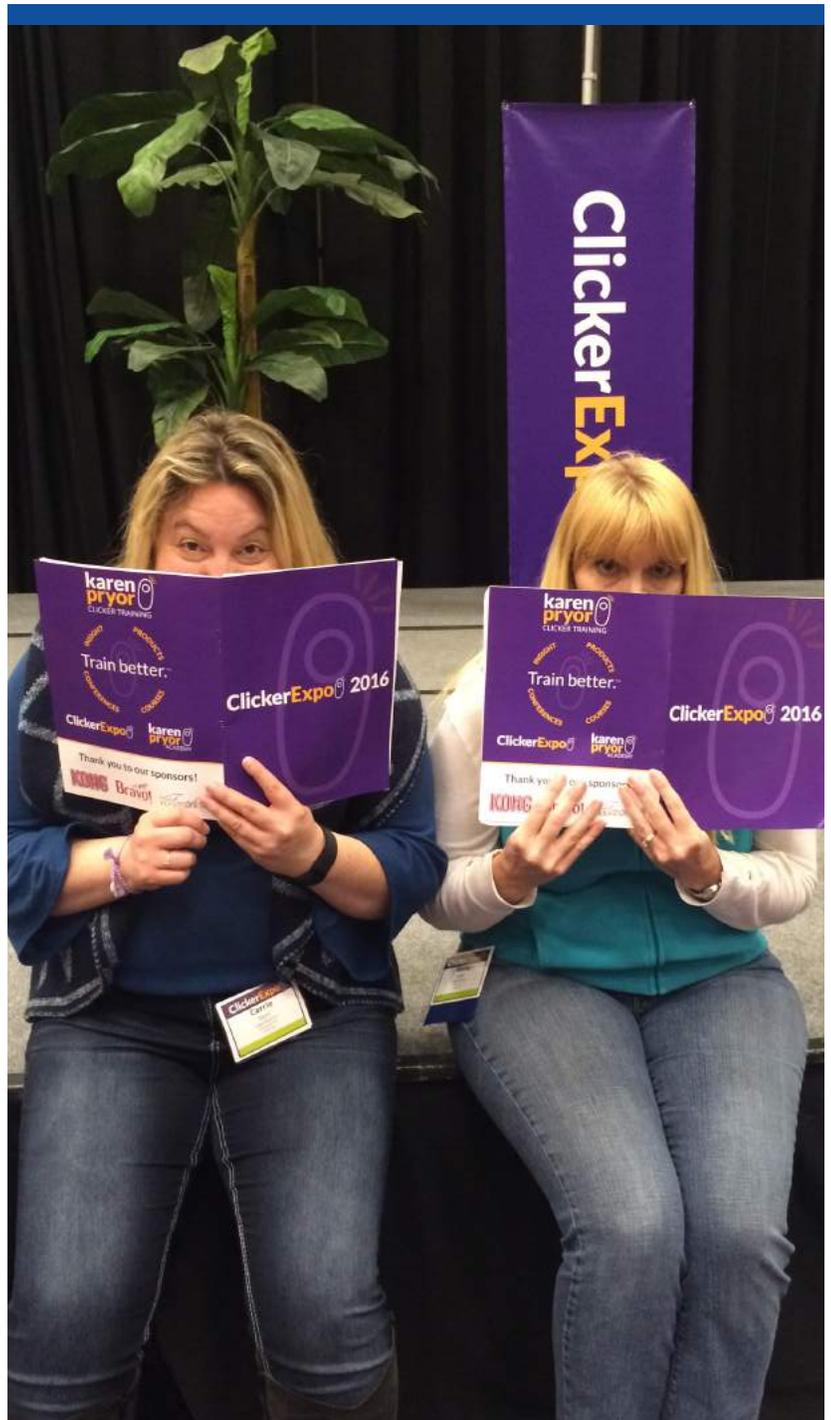
The D4D Trainers attended a 3-day ClickerExpo in Reno, NV to enhance their training skills. The Karen Prior Academy put on this year's ClickerExpo, which was centered on Operant Conditioning.

There was over eighty courses taught by more than twenty world-renown teachers and trainers. The D4D Trainers were able to enhance their skills, learn about the latest training techniques, and had the opportunity to hear from the world's foremost positive reinforcement experts.

Carrie, Christina, and Mona came back from the Expo with tons of new knowledge excited to start implementing all they learned, which will enhance our cutting-edge training at D4D.



The D4D Trainers loved hearing from all the amazing ClickerExpo speakers, especially Michele Pouliot, Ken Ramirez, and Kathy Sdao. "I'm so glad we were able to attend such a great conference." - Christina (middle)



Carrie (left) and Mona (right) studying all they have learned... and maybe having a little fun too!

# Dogs-in-Training

## Arnold...

Arnold, is in Phase A 1 and 2. He is learning engagement, working on obedience, and how to bringsel. Arnold and his buddy Hunter will be starting scent work together.



## Mandela...

Mandela, is in Phase C5. He is learning how to pick-up his bringsel when he smells the hypoglycemic scent.



## Hunter...

Hunter, is also in Phase A 1 and 2. He is learning engagement, working on obedience, and how to bringsel. Hunter is also starting to tackle scent work.



## Quest...

He has made great progress since his last update. He has learned food distraction, engagement, scent work, and now knows how to bringsel!



# Working Towards Graduation

*See what your pups are doing!*



**Brittany and Izumi...** This sweet pair is working hard to meet graduation requirements, and having a blast doing so. "Our little family drove to Washington to visit family for the holidays. Even though we were on the road and sleeping in different places, Zoom Zoom didn't miss a thing. When we went up to the mountains to play in the snow, she stopped playing to bringsel and alert me that my blood sugar was dropping too quickly. Having her by my side allows me to adventure in safety and live my life to the fullest!



**Sandy and Topanga...** This team is doing wonderfully working together, and are a match made perfect. Sandy and Topanga are having all sorts of fun adventures together while working to meet Graduation requirements, however, their favorite is volunteering at the D4D Training Center.



**Yvonne and Ravenna...** This duo is working hard to meet their Graduation requirements, and doing great! They enjoyed the Holidays, and love doing everything together... they enjoy the outdoors, and hanging out in Yvonne's garden.

# Working Towards Graduation

## New Client/Dog Team

### Joyce & Joust

Joyce was placed with her Medical-Alert Assistance Dog, Joust. “He is truly amazing.”

A very special Thank You to our beloved GDB puppy raisers, D4D Foster Care Providers, and to everyone who helps makes these life saving partnerships possible.

*Trial Placement*



## New Client/Dog Team

### Erryn & Pax

Another one of our wonderful D4D clients, Erryn, was placed with her Medical-Alert Assistance Dog, Pax. “I couldn't be happier. Pax is the very best and I am already in love with him!”

A very special Thank You to our beloved GDB puppy raisers, D4D Foster Care Providers, and to everyone who helps makes these life saving partnerships possible.

*Trial Placement*



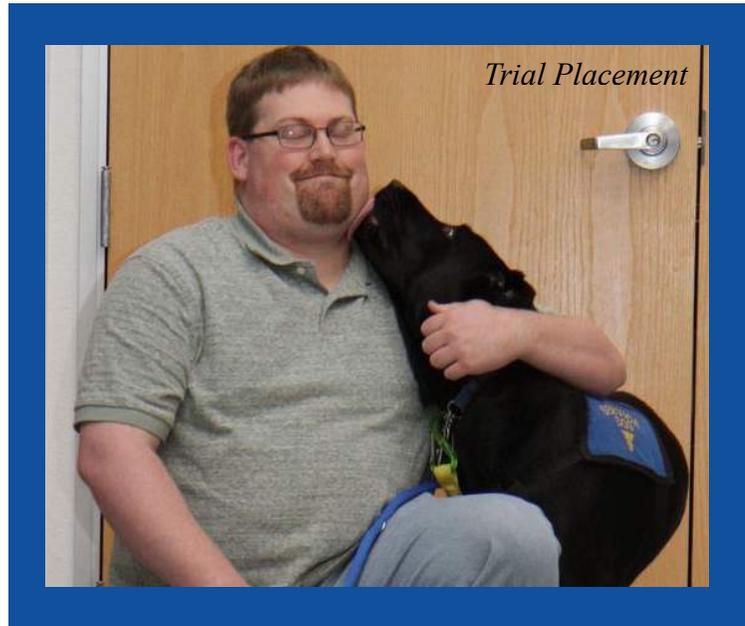
# Working Towards Graduation

## New Client/Dog Team

### Joe & Tobias

Joe was placed with his Medical-Alert Assistance Dog, Tobias. "What an amazing gift, we are perfect for each other!"

A very special Thank You to our beloved GDB puppy raisers, D4D Foster Care Providers, and to everyone who helps makes these life saving partnerships possible.



## New Client/Dog Team

### Madi & Winnie

Madi was placed with her Medical-Alert Assistance Dog, Winnie. "I have only had Winnie for a short time, but she has already saved my life!"

A very special Thank You to our beloved GDB puppy raisers, D4D Foster Care Providers, and to everyone who helps makes these life saving partnerships possible.



# PROGRAM & FOSTER CARE UPDATES...

## Foster Care Class Schedule:

All classes run from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at Dogs4Diabetics Training Center, located at 1400 Willow Pass Court, Concord, CA 94520.

### Thursday Night Classes:

- 1/28
- 2/4 - No Class (Client Support Group)
- 2/11 - NEW Foster Care Provider Classes Begin (10wks)
- 2/18
- 2/25

As a reminder, send all reports (Foster Care and Evaluator to [FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com](mailto:FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com))



**CAREER CHANGED...** Sweet, Nigel has been career changed. We will miss you buddy!

## We Need Foster Care Providers...

Foster care is one of the foundations of Dogs4Diabetics. The number of dogs we can accept into our program is determined by the number of Foster Care Providers available. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity where your service will help save a life, please contact Foster Care Leader, Stephanie Perkins: [FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com](mailto:FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com)

As a foster, not only will you discover the delight of a four-legged, wet-nosed companion, you will join a community all working toward improving the lives of people with diabetes.

***Get involved and really make a difference!***

**Waggin' Wednesdays...** continue to be a great opportunity for Guide Dog Puppy Raisers to learn more about community placement, and our training program. Waggin' Wednesdays is open to all GDB puppy raisers and GDB staff. Contact Carrie Skym to set up your visit!

[cskym@Dogs4Diabetics.com](mailto:cskym@Dogs4Diabetics.com)

Looking to recycle your Aluminum Cans, Plastic & Glass Bottles?

Donate them to Dogs4Diabetics Recycling Program and help us in carrying out our mission in serving the Diabetic community. We are also in need of volunteers to help build the program. For more information, contact Jeannie Hickey: [ghjeannie@aol.com](mailto:ghjeannie@aol.com).

