duo® Impact Report

DEAR DUO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

It is my honor to share with you the Duo Dogs 2024–2025 Impact Report. This past year has been one of remarkable growth, reflection, and renewed commitment to our mission. The demand for Duo Assistance Dogs, Facility Dogs, and Touch Therapy Teams continues to rise, affirming what we see every day—the life changing impact a Duo Dog has on the individuals and communities we serve.

To meet this growing need, we welcomed new staff and volunteers who brought fresh energy, expertise, and heart to our organization. At the same time, our Board of Directors engaged in thoughtful strategic planning, adding new voices to leadership while preparing for the next chapter of Duo's future. With our facility reaching its 10-year milestone, we also began assessing infrastructure and capital improvements necessary to sustain our work for years to come.

None of this progress would be possible without you—our dedicated community of supporters, volunteers, and partners. As we look ahead to 2026, the need for Duo Dogs remains urgent and inspiring. Together, we have the opportunity to transform even more lives through the extraordinary bond between people and dogs. Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Your compassion and generosity are the foundation of every success we celebrate.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Van Houten

Dawn Van Houten
Chief Executive Officer

MISSION + PURPOSE

Duo Dogs is a nonprofit who builds extraordinary bonds between people and dogs cultivating positive mental health and physical well-being for individuals, families and communities.

Accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Duo Dogs opens the door to independence by providing Assistance Dogs to individuals with physical challenges, Facility Dogs to those in need of emotional assurance, and Touch Therapy Dogs to facilities that bring a sense of serenity and well-being to patients, along with reading assistance to students in school classrooms and libraries. From our breeding programs, through puppy socialization and training, to our exacting client-and-dog matching process, Duo Dogs is committed to improving the lives of our clients through its integrated programs and processes.

DUO DOGS MAKING AN IMPACT

306,843 TOUCHES REPORTED BY DUO TOUCH THERAPY TEAMS

249 COMMUNITY EVENTS ATTENDED

35 INQUIRIES FROM ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN ADDING A DUO FACILITY DOG TO THEIR TEAM

208,945 VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED

150 DUO TOUCH THERAPY PARTNER FACILITIES

38 NEW DUO TOUCH THERAPY TEAMS GRADUATED

16 NEW DUO ASSISTANCE AND FACILITY DOGS PLACED

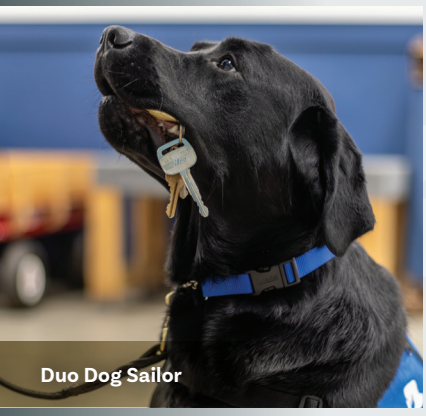
153 NEW VOLUNTEERS ON-BOARDED

89 ACTIVE DUO ASSISTANCE DOGS ON ASSIGNMENT HELPING PEOPLE WITH HEARING AND MOBILITY CHALLENGES, VETERANS WITH PTSD, AND FACILITY DOGS IN HOSPITALS, COURTROOMS, SCHOOLS, AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

All numbers recorded between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Duo Dog Red

Duo Dog Captain

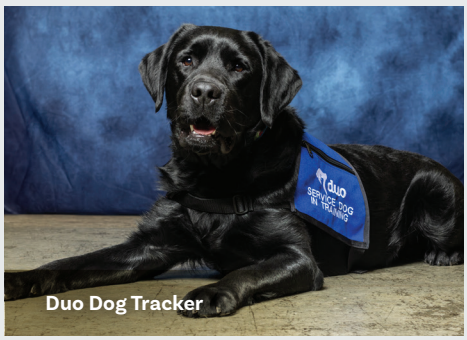

Duo Dog Sailor

Duo Dog Harbor

ASSISTANCE AND FACILITY DOG PLACEMENTS

During fiscal year 2024–2025, Duo Dogs proudly placed **16 new Assistance and Facility Dogs**, each one ready to make a life-changing impact in their new role. This incredible achievement was made possible thanks to the unwavering dedication of our **Volunteer Puppy Raisers, Volunteer Puppy Sitters, Kennel Enrichment Volunteers**, and our exceptional **Assistance Dog Training Team**. Your care, time, and commitment shape the journey of every Duo Dog, from puppyhood to partnership, and we are profoundly grateful for the hearts and hands that make these life-transforming connections possible.

- The Auberry Family + Duo Dog Koa
- Frank M. + Duo Dog Gussie
- St. Clair County CAC + Duo Dog Ralston
- St. Louis Priory School + Duo Dog Red
- James D. + Duo Dog Lou
- Donna C. + Duo Dog Busy
- DuPage County State's Attorney's + Office Duo Dog Crew
- Kane County Child Advocacy Center + Duo Dog Captain
- Kelley G. + Duo Dog Skipper
- Ava S. + Duo Dog Sailor
- Lily O. + Duo Dog Harbor
- Alexis H. + Duo Dog River
- Advocate Children's Hospital + Duo Dog Drake
- Cor Jesu Academy + Duo Dog Tracker
- Bill H. + Duo Dog Sitka
- Mark B. + Duo Dog Eeyore


Duo Dog Tracker

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

We are deeply grateful to the many individuals who made financial contributions to Duo Dogs in honor or in memory of a beloved person or dog. These thoughtful gifts are a meaningful way to celebrate the lives and legacies of those who hold a special place in our hearts while also supporting the life-changing work of Duo Dogs. Whether given as a holiday or special occasion tribute, or requested in lieu of flowers, each gift represents a beautiful act of kindness and compassion that helps us continue transforming lives. The following tributes were made between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

IN HONOR OF

Alan + Joann Travis - Lisa Ring

Amy V. + Duo Dog Bobby - Thomas Vertacnik

Ann Rayfield + Duo Dog Pickle - Kathleen Rayfield

Athena Willett - Jennifer Willett

Avery Adam's 9th birthday - Janet Welch

Barbara Harris - Elizabeth Struckhoff

Barley + Reese - Tammy Skrivan

Betty Grable - Gloria Gorss

Bino - Louise Chauvin

Bob R. + Duo Dog Cody - Nancy Reinagel

Bud Hibbard - Sherry Hibbard

Carol + Erik Sall - Matter Family Office

Carol Costigan - The Guth Foundation

Carol Froesel - Jeanne Clark, Tracey Ortstadt, Marilyn Kirkham, Peggy Dangos, Jim and Megan Schmidt, Charles Milligan, Alex Nyquist, Nancy Karpowicz, Tammy Yazdi, Mike Basile, and Lisa Lounsbury

Caroline Close Stuart Chapter, NSDAR - Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign and Ann Wilson

Carolyn + Bill Sorrell - Susan Powell

Connie + Lola Lohr - Diane Linsin, Steve Goggin and Susan Zuckerman

Curry - Ann Gettinger

Daisy - Paul Moffett

Dan Horner - Merrill R. Buettner, The Ed and Karen Hempstead Fund, and Clark Morrison

Dan Horner + Duo Dog Belle - Tina Kempin

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"Tributes" continued from page 2

Dani - Colleen T. Courts

Dr. David Caplin, MD - Emily Adams

Dawn Van Houten - Michael Horner

Debbie Eisenbeis, Jeff Kovalik, Donna Maul, & Kirk Kudelka - Michelle Brooks

Debbie Haenchen + Gem - Amy Ruffus-Doerr

Doug + Christine Mars - Eugene C. Thumm Jr.

Dr. John Pletz, DVM - Elizabeth Harry

Dr. Madison Naes, DVM - Elizabeth Harry

Duo Dog Captain's graduation - Paul Moffett

Duo Dog Gracie and her new puppies - Leah and Brooke Williams

Duo Dog William - Chris Derauf

Duo Dog Willow - John Schaeffer

Duo Dogs Tigger - Patti Long

Duo Touch Therapy Dog Taxi - Gregory Beck

Duo trainers James, Meghan, and Jim - Dean L. Vazis

Ella - Susan Burney

Ellie, Bill Wilson, and Scout - Connie Lohr

Fane Harry - Elizabeth Harry

Finn - Lisa Wohlschlaeger

Frank M. + Duo Dog Gussie - Mona Goin

Gracie and her first litter of puppies - Patricia Manhart

Henry Dalgleish - Justin Dalgleish

Crissy Smith - Jim Reeves

Jack and Gloria - Sarah Houck

James and Tally - Kenneth Jerina

James Seger - Steven Schwartz

Jean Lopez - Norma Vangent

Jennifer McGrath + Tackle - Therese Cross

Jenny Carrier - Bill Carrier

Jenny Manganaro, Luke, and Annie - Barbara Pratter

Jessica B. and Duo Dog Spider - Michael Long

Joe Z. - Donna Crowder

Judy Kouchoukos - Carol Carlson

Karen Bellville + Princess Leah - Patricia L. Hunn

Kevin, the Touch Therapy dog - Rebecca Presson

Kim and Gary Tappana - Jim and MaryAnn Lemonds

Laura H. + Duo Dog Odin - Maria Sanchez

Lisa Wohlschlaeger's birthday - Katrina Marlowe

Margot Monsor + Regis - Alison Duffy

Mary Ann Virant & Dan Horner - Susan Heitner Horner

Matt Yancy - James Long

Melanie Brady - Janis Dashner

Mina Brandsetter's birthday - Holly Nylander

Miri, Elliott, and Kit Kat - Barbara Harris

Mr. Brewster - Gerald Broska

Mrs. Linda Wilson - Home Chapter No. 313 OES

Nestle, Disco, Brooks, and Sarge - Robert Wunderlich

Nicole Arnold and Trace - Timothy Arnold

Pamela Renshaw and Ken Javor - Jen & Les Javor

Parker and Finn Kittner - Victoria Dill

Peggy Libera and Hazel - Peggy Libera

Pinnacle Pointe Hospital - Courtney Bishop

Sally and Joe Coleman's 60th wedding anniversary - Carol Costigan

Shelley Newman - Janet Gardner

Sue & Dan Landis - Laura Ayers

Sunny Girl's Graduation - Tricia Phillipe

Suzanne Roth - Chris and Annie Roth

Tina and Thunder - Timothy C. Croghan

Tony Dorn's work and efforts - David Hollows

Touch Dog Leah - Karen Bellville

Wendy Knudsen Farrell's Birthday - Jorie O'Malley

Her past and present dogs - Karen Bellville

IN MEMORY OF

Alan Travis - Arlene Sagan, Susan McPherson, Barbara Newmark, Patricia Burns, John Gerst, Lupe Brill, and Marjorie Marks

Andie Goldford - dANDIElion Wishes

Ann Mandelstamm - Bill Wilson

Anne Wright - Alicia Tessler

Bailey Bassman - Stephanie Samuels

Baily - Suzzi Harper

Bandit - Kip Seely

Bargus - Michelle Williams

Ben - Bill Wilson

Bogey + Birdie - Bob Gellman

Brandi - Julie Rosenfeld

Bud - Roberta Suellentrop

Carl Bernard "CB" Will - Sigrid Sheehan

Carol Froesel - Gale Reed

Charlie Caplin - Hillard R. Lewis and Stephanie Samuels

Delma Eva Fuhring BeShore - Sigrid Sheehan

Destiny - Mike Smith, Christina D. Smith, and Dawn Van Houten

Duo Touch Therapy Dog Trudy - Karen Bellville

Elise and Sabrina - Bob Bierer

Ellie - Gail Schamel

Elsie Hofstetler - Karen Cotter

Erin O'Neal Fiehler - Linda Fiehler and David Robinson

Frank Chuffo - Alex Saccavino, Colleen Schlittler, Tammy Casperson, and Mary Dobbins

Frank Stringer - Connie McKee

Frankie Craft - Alicia Tessler

Frazier - Sandie McCarty

Gary Chasteen - Paula Chasteen and Charityvest Inc.

Glitter - Louise B. Franks

Haley, Hilary and Lucy - Alicia L. Flamm

Heidi - Ann Tucker

Henry - Suzzi Harper

Holly - Louise Chauvin

Janice Brennan - Sallie Serkes

Jeannette Erwin - Bill Wilson

Jenny Wagner - Patricia Alberts

John Wagenknecht - Sigrid Sheehan

Katie Tarwater - Aimin Shen, Kelly Boisvert, Ann Viklund, Lois Simpson, Kathy Bruce, Allison Creighton, and Carolyn Takeuchi

Laverne Nolting - Joan Schmiermeier

Leann Phillips and Donna Canada - Susan Canada

Lolo Jackson - Elizabeth Graff

Lucy - Susie Rubin

Lucy, Sophie and Grace - Nanci Martin

Lulu - Alice Flamm

Mable - Sally Sears

Maggie - Louise Chauvin

Maggie Kristine Miller's birthday - Maggie Miller Memorial Fund

Marie McCormick - Sheila Snodgrass

Martha McMahon - Amy Rush, Connie Lohr, Chaney Pools Troy, Linda O'Hara, Kay Kirkland Schmidt, Crystal Thomas, George and Mary Vournas, Sara Bosco, Carol Costigan, Mary Ann Virant, Mary Noel George, Joseph Gutknecht, John Mathews, Judy Pass, John Gerst, and Dawn Van Houten

Matthew Brock - Cindy Ellebracht, Cheri Sauer, and Rebecca Gaddis

Max - David Weiss

Meka McHugh - Patricia Hanks

Mica Pisciotta (aka "the BEAST") - Katie Hagerty Young

Michael Gasparovic - Linda L. Gasparovic

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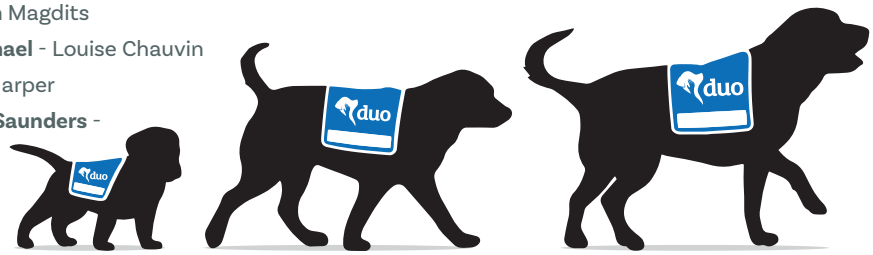
"Tributes" continued from page 3

Mimi - Katie Banark
Monster - Elizabeth Gerard
Murphy Patritti - Dianne Pecha
Nelly - Elizabeth Solomon
Noodles - Rickie Swink
Nyx - Ray Schwartzman and Kristen Burger
Oskar Lammers - Bonnie Veron
Otis B. - Cheryl Erman
Patricia Muehlrath - Linda Newberry
Paul J. Kelly - Bill Wilson
Pearl - Carla Dawson
Peggy Cornwell - Steinkamp Family Charitable Account
Raina - Robert Verbarg
Ralph Marty - Jessica Woolbright
Reilly - Stephanie Samuels
Robbie Robertson - Rekowski Charity Fund
Rufus - Sue Guzek
Savanah - Ray Schwartzman
Shirley Londe - Rickie Swink
Stanley C. - Ian Magdits
Storie Carmichael - Louise Chauvin
Sugar - Suzzi Harper
Sydney Marie Saunders - Sally Scott, Gerda Kugler, and Scott Saunders
Terry L. Strahan - Jana Buske
Toby - Sigrid Sheehan
Torre - Carla Goacher
Trudy Barnard - Linda Glickman
Tucker - Suzzi Harper
Willie Glickert - Wilma Elizabeth Marx
Zeus - Rickie Swink



Duo Touch Therapy Dog Tim

Duo Dog Finley

WAYS TO GIVE

Contact Sara Newton, Chief Development Officer, at (314) 997-2325 or at snewton@duodogs.org with any questions about how to give.

- **Individual Giving**
- **Planned Giving**
- **Corporate Matching**
- **Corporate Partnerships**
- **Event Sponsorship**
- **Volunteer**
- **Amazon Wish List**

DUO DOGS TEAM

Dawn Van Houten, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Sara Newton
Chief Development Officer
Beth Biondo
Chief Operating Officer
Tracy Gellman Liebe
Chief Program Officer
Crissy Smith, KPA CTP
Chief Canine Officer

Tony Alaimo, CPDT
Assistance Dog Trainer
Julie Hibbard
Assistance Dog Program Coordinator
James Seger, KPA CTP
Touch Therapy + Obedience Training Specialist
Michelle Charboneau, CPDT-KA
Touch Therapy + Obedience Training Specialist

Cierra Bird
Duo Touch Therapy + Obedience Program Coordinator
Erin Welch
Engagement Manager
Melanie Brady, MSW, LCSW
Program Social Worker
Veronica McDonnell
Senior Grant Manager

Jim Hart
Volunteer Grant Writer
Shelbye Renfroe
Data Specialist
Laura Chappell
Office Administrator
Gary Barnes
Kennel Manager

Jennifer Engle
Kennel Team
Kathryn Lieven
Kennel Team
Sharon Dozier
Breeding Team
Jane Corpora
Breeding Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair
Jason Frei
Edward Jones
Vice Chair
Michael Boyle
Stanley, Black & Decker
Treasurer
Bob Eike
Community Volunteer
Secretary
Andrea Lampert
Stanley, Black & Decker

Wayne Boilatt
Pacific Animal Hospital
Debbie Caplin
Community Volunteer
Darleen Harmon
Huntleigh Golden Retrievers
Dan Horner
Community Volunteer
Ken Johnson
Community Volunteer

Mark Kodner
Community Volunteer
Judy Kouchoukos
Community Volunteer
Elyse Manterfield
Edward Jones
Jennifer McGrath
Community Volunteer
Libby Nolan
iHeart Media

Sally Schoeneker
Community Volunteer
Jon Serkes
Bentley Management Group
Molly Studer
Gershman Commercial Real Estate
Rob Verbarg
Community Volunteer
Ty Witten
Bayer

Carol Yauch
Spire
Beatrice Zdrodowski
Gardner Capital

duo dogs just you+me

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