



Talk to the Paw

Support Dogs, Inc. Volunteer Newsletter
Winter 2016



New Support Dogs President and CEO

Welcome to Anne Klein, our new President and CEO. We all look forward to meeting you and working with you in the weeks and months to come.



Ben and Verdi

Sharon Dozier realized that her son, Ben, would need a service dog at a young age. With his hearing loss, a dog could really help in his everyday life. Sharon started looking for a place to get a service dog, when by chance she met Carol Holmes (a SDI volunteer) at a restaurant. Carol had a puppy with her which sparked a conversation. Sharon liked the organization and submitted an application for Ben. After one and a half years of anticipation, in July of 2011, the day arrived when they got to meet their new companion, Verdi, who was puppy raised by Emily Lemons. Sharon was surprised at the connection between Ben and Verdi, as Ben had never really spent time with any of their personal dogs in the past. During Team Training, they were equally surprised when they found out that Ben and Verdi share a birthday of December 13. Ben loves that!

Since their initial meeting, Ben and Verdi have grown close. Ben says that she gives him comfort and keeps him calm. He just feels better when he is with her. Ben likes to travel and Verdi has gone with him on a few cruises and to Disney World. He also likes to go to the movies or to the Fox Theater with Verdi - she snored during the show Wicked! Ben doesn't like dark places, so Verdi allows him to enjoy these types of activities. Ben participates in therapeutic horsemanship and Verdi tags along, visiting with everyone.

Ben says that Verdi likes squeaky toys at home and she enjoys the companionship of their cat, turtle and other dog, Savannah. He likes to just "hang out" with her and give her love! Verdi not only acts as a hearing dog for Ben, but more recently Ben began using a harness with Verdi so she can help with balance and his diminishing vision.

Since receiving their service dog, the Dozier's have started volunteering with Support Dogs to "give back." Sharon also helps at events, is a whelping helper, does kennel enrichment and recently joined the VAC. They have puppy raised and Ben really likes that because he wants to help others. Ben says Verdi is his "best dog companion" and he looks forward to raising another puppy for SDI.





Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 24

New Volunteer Orientation
6:00 pm

Friday, April 15

Team Training Graduation
6:30 pm

Saturday, April 16

A Fetching Affair
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch
6 – 11 pm

Tuesday, May 24 – New

Volunteer Orientation at 6:30 pm

Please contact the Support Dogs office at 314-997-2325 or info@supportdogs.org for more information and to RSVP for the listed events.



We've Moved!



Our new address is 10955 Linpage Place. Come check out our new home.



The new reception area is nearly ready to receive you!



The kennels are ready for the dogs!

Volunteer Advisory Council Members

- Jo Ann Bane (Vice Chair)
- Jan Boyle
- Debbie Caplin
- Sharon Dozier
- Jim Ellis
- Christine Figge (Chair)
- Barbara Harris
- Candace Metcalf
- Shelley Newman (Secretary)
- Kay Schmidt
- Sue Weick
- Patty Zubal

Contact the Volunteer Advisory Council at the following email if you are interested in joining the team. VAC@supportdogs.org

The goal of the Volunteer Advisory Council is to grow the volunteer team, improve the volunteer experience, and support the staff to be able to provide more services to more people in a professional and safe manner.

Other Ways to Give to SDI

SCHNUCKS eScrips

How it works

1. Pick up a card at any Schnucks Store
2. Register your card by signing up with eScrip
3. Shop at Schnucks and have your card scanned when you check out.

Your purchases create automatic contributions of up to 3% of your purchase prices. Access your personal reports online to see how much you have earned for the organization.

AmazonSmile

When you do your shopping on Amazon, select to support the Support Dogs, Inc. at AmazonSmile. They donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Support Dogs, Inc. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-4741133> and support us every time you shop. It costs you nothing and you do good for the organization you love!

Volunteer Advisory Council Corner

Coming Soon: Volunteer Survey.

Look for an email with a link to a survey asking for your feedback about your volunteer experience and to ask for your suggestions for improvement.

Is there someone with whom you volunteer that you would like us to write about? Or, do you have a photo you would like to share?

Send us an email at VAC@supportdogs.org.



SDI Whelping Program Continues

Support Dogs began whelping litters on site last May. The program is going strong!

We had a single pup born on October 31, 2015. The mother is Savannah and the father is Shoney. Little Junior came into the world as a very small puppy. He progressed well and was placed with Jo Ann Bane as his VPR in December. He was quite the star, being the only pup in the litter, and he got lots of attention from the Whelper Helpers. The “puparazzi” took many a picture of him. He is so photogenic!

Then we had another litter born on December 26, 2015. This was a litter of 11 puppies! Mama Ginger is busy tending to all of them. The father is Preston. The litter was born via C-section and the Whelper Helpers assisted. Christmas names have been chosen for these puppies.

October Pup



December Puppies



Cindi Blanke & Peggy Musen with 6 week old pups

TOUCH Dog Teams - Retired

- Gerry Auger (Trudy)
- Vicki D’Harlingue (Beau)
- Kim Elliott (Jake)
- Vicky McAmis (Rita)
- Erika Gurley (Bodie)
- Greg Raffel (Blaze)
- Lynn Sahrman (Liberty)
- Ellen Smith (Cherry)
- Diana Thomson (Woody)



TOUCH Teams – Rainbow Bridge Dogs

- Marley (Jill Belsky)
- Mimi (Maureen Donnelly)
- Wally (Kathy Howard)
- Brody (Sharon Johnson)
- Bender (Debby Moseley)
- Teddy (Jeanne & Shawn Ryan)
- Bailey (Terry Stocker)
- Parker (Chris & Tammy Smith)
- Daisy (Colleen Walsh-Lang)

New Facilities needing TOUCH Teams

Adult/Senior & Assisted Living

- Visits in common rooms & some room to room visits
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday/3:00 pm
- Creve Coeur
- Cindi Blanke/314-997-2325

Long-Term Care and Skilled Nursing

- Visits in common rooms & some room to room visits
- 1st & 3rd Monday/10:00 am
- Webster Groves
- Cindi Blanke/314-997-2325

• Please contact Cindi Blanke for a comprehensive list of sites needing teams and coordinators.