

# Creating Extraordinary Bonds Between People and Dogs



Dear friends,

We are grateful to everyone who took part in the March 2nd, 2024 Duo Fetching Affair,

Paws for Mental Health. What a night! Over

425 people attended resulting in over

\$375,000 for Duo. We are also grateful to

those who could not attend but still

financially contributed to the event, and of course ALL the Duo Volunteers who made the evening possible.

There is nothing like the Duo Fetching Affair. Being greeted by talented Duo Touch Therapy teams, meeting the Duo team and fabulous Duo supporters, seeing and hearing real-life Duo Dog stories first-hand, what a fun gala experience. Be sure to see the photos later in this newsletter. Did you notice the Duo Fetching Affair community board sponsored by Kevin Dulle of Wonder Mint Studio capturing your favorite things about Duo that night? Here is a [link](#) to view the piece online. You'll want to zoom in to see it. Look closely, you might see yourself! Anyone who contributed that evening will receive a print version in the mail.

I would like to especially thank the Duo Fetching Affair Gala Committee and Co-Chairs Patricia Manhart and Dan Horner. We're already planning for next year so if you'd like to participate on the committee let us know!

Thank you to all our friends and supporters who help bring the mission at Duo to life every day!

Most sincerely,

Dawn



# Nae's Authors Litter



On Wednesday, January 17th Duo Dog Nae gave birth to her second litter of puppies, 3 males and 3 females. All six puppies were black in color. These future Assistance dogs spent 8 weeks in Duo's newly redesigned whelping rooms under the watchful care of our Canine Team, and our wonderful Whelper Helpers before starting their journey with their Volunteer Puppy Raisers on March 13th. Duo extends a special thank you to Lauren and Tony Davidson for serving as Nae's caretakers and our Volunteer Puppy Raisers for opening their homes to our dogs.



# Our Newest Teams

## Assistance Dog Graduations

We are pleased to celebrate the newest graduates of Duo's Assistance Dog Program:

**Sandy S. + Duo Dog Gus February 9, 2024**



YOU CAN SEE SANDY + GUS'  
GRADUATION SLIDESHOW  
[HERE.](#)

**Sandy is a successor client of Duo Dogs, and she recently received her second dog, Gus. Duo Dog Gus is from the Gellman Litter, also known as the "G Litter."**

**Duo would like to express their gratitude to Susan Parker England and Lora Carroll for their help in breeding the litter, Bob and Nancy Gellman for naming the litter, and Leah and Brooke Williams for serving as Gus' volunteer puppy raisers. Gus is the third dog from the litter to be placed. Gidget works in Orlando, FL, and Gizmo works locally in St. Louis County.**



# Our Newest Teams

## Assistance Dog Graduations

We are pleased to celebrate the newest graduates of Duo's Assistance Dog Program:

Premier Charter School + Duo Dog Mario February 16, 2024



[YOU CAN VIEW THE GRADUATION SLIDESHOW OF PCS AND MARIO HERE.](#)

Premier Charter School has welcomed Duo Dog Mario as their second facility dog, joining Duo Dog Sabrina who was placed with the school in May 2021. Mario, who is from the "Race Car Drivers Litter", was raised by volunteer puppy raisers Denny Hoffman and the Greenville Women's Prison.





# duo dogs in The News

Duo currently has 87 Facility and Assistance Dogs actively working across the United States, Canada, and the UK. Two of them have recently been featured in local publications for their work.

## Duo Dog Link + MU Children's Hospital



Duo Dog Woody has been with Saint Louis University since January and is already making waves on campus. Recently, Woody helped Saint Louis University's President, Fred P. Pestello, celebrate President's Day on campus. You can watch the video here.

## Duo Dog Woody + Saint Louis University



Duo Dog Link has been a member of the Child Life program at MU Children's Hospital since 2018. Link can primarily be found in the pediatrics unit and the pediatric intensive care unit visiting with kids during their hospital stay to help them feel better. Helping them get up and walk after surgery or being sick for a while. He also enjoys hanging out with parents, siblings and staff. You can watch the video on Link here.



## Assistance and Facility Dog Retirements

**DUO RECOGNIZES THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE AND FACILITY DOGS THAT HAVE RECENTLY RETIRED AND THANKS THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE:**

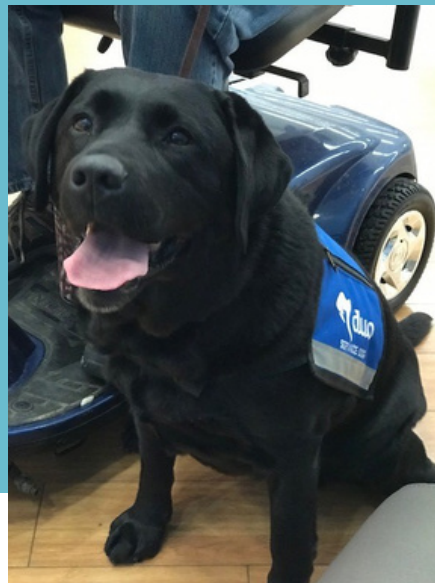
**DUO DOG MAC + CHICAGO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
DUO DOG SNICKERS + BOYS HOPE GIRLS HOPE OF SAINT LOUIS  
DUO DOG NANA + RONALD R.**



**Duo Dog Mac +  
Chicago Children's Advocacy Center**



**Duo Dog Snickers +  
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Saint Louis**



**Duo Dog Nana +  
Ronald R.**





## In Memory of Duo Dog Red from the St. Louis Cardinals Litter

**RECENTLY, DUO WAS NOTIFIED BY A FORMER CLIENT OF THEIR RETIRED ASSISTANCE DOG'S PASSING. WE SEND OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO MARSHA S. AND HER FAMILY ON THE LOSS OF RED THE DAY AFTER HIS 11TH BIRTHDAY AND ONE YEAR INTO HIS RETIREMENT. MARSHA IS KEEPING RED'S MEMORY ALIVE WITH A GARDEN FLAG.**

**MARSHA SHARED THE FOLLOWING SENTIMENTS ON RED:**

**"MY BEAUTIFUL, SMART AND LOYAL SERVICE DOG RED RECENTLY PASSED AWAY. I LOVED AND DEPENDED ON HIM MORE THAN I CAN PUT INTO WORDS. RED WAS THE TRUE DEFINITION OF AN ASSISTANCE DOG. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED RAISE AND TRAIN THIS TRULY REMARKABLE DOG. WAIT AT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE BUDDY."**



**Duo Dog Red**





**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST TOUCH THERAPY TEAMS THAT GRADUATED IN OUR WINTER TOUCH THERAPY CLASSES LAST WEEK! DUO NOW HAS A RECORD NUMBER OF TOUCH THERAPY TEAMS VISITING THE SAINT LOUIS COMMUNITY, WITH 300 TEAMS.**

**PEGGY M. + APOLLO  
RENEE W. + AUGGIE  
LAUREL B. + BAILEY  
MEGAN D. + BEAU  
BILLIE R. + BENJI  
SUE K. + GRAM  
ADRIENE AND BRANDON B. + HOLLIE  
HILLARY S. + JUNE  
KARI M. + KELLOGG  
BROOKS K. + LADY  
CINDY U. + LEXIE  
CONNIE L. + LOLA  
MATT F. + LUKA  
HEATHER M. + MAGGIE  
DEB AND JORDAN S. + OLIVE  
SARAH AND MATT H. + PENELOPE  
MICHELE P. + REMI  
MATTHEW B. AND CHRIS C. + ROSE BEEF  
JESSICA S. + ROSIE  
BETH F. + RUMI  
MICHELLE K. + SADIE  
ROSE K. + SMOKEY  
CHRISTIE E. + SOPHIE  
LUKE R. + TEVA  
ANGELA L. + TUCK  
SUSAN P. + TUCKER  
KATHLEEN N. + VIOLET**

**YOU CAN VIEW THEIR GRADUATION SLIDESHOW [HERE](#).**



# Upcoming Duo Touch Therapy + Obedience Classes

**Duo Touch Therapy and Obedience Schedules**

**Duo Touch Therapy Training Sessions**

**SPRING 2024: April 9 - June 29, 2024**

**FALL 2024: September 3 - November 23, 2024**

**Contact Tracy Gellman Liebe, [tliche@duodogs.org](mailto:tliche@duodogs.org) for more information**

## **Obedience Sessions**

**SESSION 16: April 8 – May 20, 2024**

**SESSION 17: May 28 – July 13, 2024**

**(Monday classes start one week later - June 3)**

**[Click here for more info](#)**



## Recent Duo Touch Therapy Team Retirements

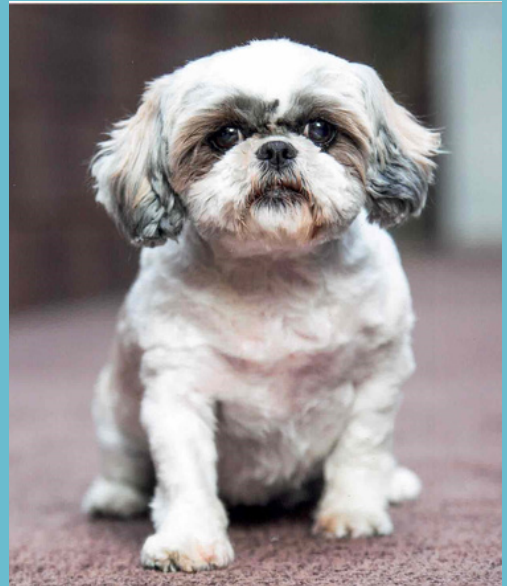
Duo recognizes the following Touch Therapy teams that have recently retired and thanks them for their service:

**Erin V. + Auggie**

**Alicia M. + Lulu**

**Christina C. and Kevin M. + Molly**

**Janet H. + Lacy**







## **Recent Duo Touch Therapy Dog Passings**

**Duo recognizes the following Duo Touch Therapy Dogs that have recently passed and offer condolences to their families:**

**Charlie Chan (Alan + Jo Anne T.)**

**If your Duo Touch Therapy dog has recently retired or passed, please contact Stephanie Mach [smach@duodogs.org](mailto:smach@duodogs.org) so that we can recognize and thank you for your dog's service and update our records**



# Volunteer Update

Duo Dogs is actively recruiting new volunteers to assist with raising and training future Assistance dogs. We also have opportunities for volunteers and children of registered volunteers to assist our Touch Therapy Instructors during training classes. The Duo Team is extremely grateful for its versatile group of volunteers. Their time and contributions are valuable and make a positive impact in the St. Louis community and beyond.

If you are interested in registering as a new Duo Volunteer, please click [here](#) to fill out an online application. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email invitation to attend a New Volunteer Orientation, where you will learn more about Duo's mission and explore the different options that fit your skills and talents best!

## Upcoming New Volunteer Orientations:

Tuesday April 16

Monday May 20

Thursday June 13

[Click Here to Sign Up for New Volunteer Orientation](#)

Contact Erin Manning, Community Relations Manager, with any questions  
[emanning@duodogs.org](mailto:emanning@duodogs.org)



## **DUO TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DUO'S CHIEF CANINE OFFICER CRISSY SMITH**

**Crissy Smith is a pillar within the Duo community. Starting as a puppy raiser in 2005, being asked to become a staff trainer in 2012, and now as the Chief Canine Officer, Crissy has helped pave the way for the programs we have today. As the CCO, Crissy is responsible for all aspects of the Assistance dog program including the health and welfare of the dogs from breeding through retirement, enrichment and training for program dogs during the first two years of their life, and providing guidance and training to the volunteer puppy raisers, staff, and clients. Training for the humans is just as important to the program as training for the dogs and Crissy takes the time to answer questions day-in and day-out from all of us! Crissy's favorite parts of her work include training with the dogs and teaching people how to work with the dogs but even more so getting to see the "it" moments – that excitement from the dogs when they achieve a new skill or the joy when a client sees just how much the dogs can do. While her days bring different situations, challenges, and interactions, Crissy loves that Duo has always felt like a community, coming together both personally and professionally to help and support each other.**



**During Crissy's time away from the office she loves hanging out at home and spending time with her animals: Duo Dog Evie (Duo's Ambassador dog), Ginger (a retired Duo breeding dog), and her cat Willie. Her hobbies include painting, creating and making jewelry, collecting beads, and gardening. And don't forget dancing, if you haven't seen a Crissy dance, make sure to ask her for one next time you see her!**



## DUO TEAM MEMBER UPDATE



**Melanie Brady, MSW, LCSW has joined Duo as the Program Social Worker supporting Client Services. Melanie graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and received a Masters in Social Work from the University of Arkansas. She brings years of clinical experience providing therapy to adult and adolescent clients with a variety of mental health diagnoses. The next time you're in Duo, stop by and say hello.**

# 2024 Fetching Affair Recap

Over 425 people and 23 Touch Therapy Teams attended our March 2nd Fetching Affair Gala, titled, Paws for Mental Health at the Chase Park Plaza Royal Sonesta. Event co-chairs, Patricia Manhart and Dan Horner, led the gala effort and ensured a successful event. Purina was honored for its ongoing commitment to utilizing the Power of Pets to help alleviate mental health issues in our community and beyond. The event emcee, Randy Karraker, interviewed local student Zane R., Duo Board Member, Rob Verbarg + Duo Touch Therapy Dog Ozark and Zane's teacher, Liz Alexander, who all appeared in a commercial that was nationally televised this past Thanksgiving during the National Dog Show on NBC. You can watch the clip [here](#), and get his teacher, Liz's perspective, which was shown at the gala [here](#). Zane shared how Ozark helped him overcome his fear of dogs, reduces stress and comforts students when they are having an overwhelming day. You can view our Ladue News photos [here](#) and our professional photos by Mirage Photo [here](#). Thank you to all of our gala committee volunteers, event volunteers and sponsors who helped make this night a very successful evening!





# Mark your calendars for upcoming Duo events

You're Invited  
 duo dogs

PANEL DISCUSSION  
**Duo Dogs + Mental Health: An Educational Discussion on the Benefit of Duo Touch Therapy + Facility Dogs.**

Hosted by



**Featured Panelists:**

**Ashley Komorowski, SSM Rehabilitation Hospital- Duo Dog Kia**

**Lisa Jones, Saint Louis Prosecuting Attorney, Victim Service Division- Duo Dog Levi**

**Kathleen Houston, St. Louis Children's Hospital Child Protection Program- Duo Dog Opal**

**Holly Skubiz, Duo Touch Therapy + Response Dog Volunteer, Barron + Oliver**

**Wednesday April 10th 2024**

**Check-in: 7:30AM Panel Discussion begins: 8:00AM**

**1832 Schuetz Rd, St. Louis, MO 63146**

**[rsvpewelch@duodogs.org](mailto:rsvpewelch@duodogs.org)**

**A virtual viewing link will be available for interested parties**

We are pleased to partner with long-time supporter Safety National to present our first panel discussion on the benefits Duo Facility and Touch Therapy Programs provide. Three of our local Facility dog teams will be joining to speak about how they utilize their Duo dog in their professional setting. We will also be joined by Duo Touch Therapy + Response Dog Volunteer Holly Skubiz. The discussion will be facilitated by Duo Team members Tracy Gellman Liebe and Melanie Brady.



**Give STL Day is just over a month away. Be sure to follow our social media channels for more information on how to give.**



# duo dogs TRIVIA NIGHT

The best doggone trivia night

## SATURDAY

## JUNE 8, 2024

**Jewish Community Center**  
**2 Millstone Campus Drive**  
**Doors open at: 6:00PM**  
**Trivia starts at 7:00PM**

**Table of 8 guests \$250**  
**Admission includes beverages**  
**Bring Your own food**

contact Sean McCaffrey [smccaffrey@duodogs.org](mailto:smccaffrey@duodogs.org)  
to purchase tables or for sponsorship.

*50/50 raffle  
games  
prizes for  
best decorated table  
+ first place*



We still have tables available for our annual trivia night, but they are going quickly! Call us today at 314-997-2325 and reserve yours before they're all gone.

Registration for our Third Annual Duo Dash 5K Run + 1 Mile Dog Walk opens on March 30th. Don't miss the lowest pricing offered and sign up soon! Click [here](#) to register.

**5K Run + 1 Mile Dog Walk**

**Sunday September 8th 2024**  
**Tower Grove Park**  
**5k 8AM**  
**1 Mile Dog Walk 8:15AM**

