



(Top counter clockwise) Annual Howl-O-Ween pawrade: October 20, 2018, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Mark Poziomek with his DFL certified service dog Labrador Retriever Ranger, Kathi G. Schumann with her beloved Schnauzer Prinz; Perry J. Martin with his DFL certified Golden Retriever Sassy.

VETERANS 4 New programs made possible by donations
TRAINING 6 ADI sets standards for service dogs
EVENTS 9 Dog Days of Summer; Join us for our Annual DFL Halloween "Pawrade"

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NEWSPRINTS

Vol. XVII / Issue 2 / 2018

What's New?

We have some new and some older established programs that further DFL's mission. We have been able to expand our programs thanks to your donations, the generosity of our sponsors and of course the love and devotion of our volunteers who provide the backbone of all our endeavours. Come and join us as we sprinkle a little joy around campus!

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Tribute/Memorials. *Thanking veterans for their service*



Halloween veterans on duty, Halloween Pawrade October 20, 2018 and all dogs win a prize!

From the President

Dear Teams and Friends,

Our Veterans Training Veterans Program has proven to be instrumental in helping our veterans become integrated into our non-profit organization. We knew we needed their help and that they needed ours too.

Last year 14 people, 10 of whom were veterans, attended the first workshop. In May of this year, 18 people, 11 of whom were veterans, attended the second workshop. From these groups, 13 have become volunteers, 10 assistant trainers, 5 receptionists, 2 foster homes and a part-time employee. Currently there are 70 people, 44 of whom are veterans,



President Kathi G. Schumann and Prinz

Mission:

A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for veterans and non-veterans, through training service & hearing dogs, and owning an off-leash dog park.

slated for the next workshop.

As long as veterans in Vero Beach continue to reach out to Dogs For Life Inc., we will supply puppies and training at no cost to our honorable military men and women. To meet this need, we are expanding training and providing a Foster Dog Program to those willing to foster a puppy by taking them into their home and bringing them once a week to class at our training center. Foster Home trainees will be taught how to train and condition puppies for tasks that will make them future service dogs.

I am also happy to report that health insurance coverage is secured for our foster puppies and service dogs. We know how much a service dog means to a veteran and want to protect them as much as possible. I am proud of all of you for all you have accomplished and are doing. □

Founder and CEO

According to the Veteran's Administration, the news is grim for our Iraq/ Afghanistan veterans:

- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability
- 20+ % will suffer from the effects of post-traumatic stress
- 50% of those with post-traumatic stress will not seek treatment
- 19% will report post-traumatic stress symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"
- Treatment via medication - 50% effective¹
- Talk therapy - 50% effective¹
- Service Dogs - 84.5% effective¹

¹- Operation Wolfhound

As the DFL Client base grows, so does our Board of Directors and Staff. In the past few months, Perry J. Martin, a DFL Volunteer, Client and Veteran joins Michelle Dale, also a DFL Volunteer on the DFL Board of Directors.

Since our client base has tripled in the past three years, the administrative needs have overwhelmed our small staff. With help from Pat Geyer, Consultant/HR/Grants for the Veterans Council of Indian River County, Shirley Bell joined the DFL team as Office Manager.

Shirley joins Administrative Assistant Joan Freeman and Assistant Trainer Cassie Ford.

Rose Vitale, a DFL Volunteer, has joined DFL as Volunteer Coordinator

organizing and scheduling volunteers for all DFL's Training Programs. At DFL our volunteers, time and talents are valuable to us and we couldn't produce our fine programs, dogs and special events without this work force. □



Founder & CEO Shelly Ferger and her beloved pup Sunny who was a rescue dog highly trained and has become Shelly's shadow!

Veterans

By Michelle Dale,
Vice President, Indian River and St. Lucie County
Chapter Gold Star Mothers

Veterans Training Veterans PROGRAM

*“It always amazes me how dogs can read us
and know how and when to help us”*

In the last DFL Newsletter, I reported that the second Veterans Training Veterans Program was scheduled for May 9, 2018. This six-week course was attended by many veterans and others who are interested in becoming a client or volunteer. The workshop prepares each participant with the knowledge of all DFL Programs, the laws associated with service dogs and how to become a trainer at DFL.

From this workshop, the following volunteer programs are cultivated: Reception Desk, Veteran Dog Training Committee, Trainers, Foster Training, Transition Training, Dog Park Ambassadors, and Special Events & Fundraisers.

As a Gold Star Mother and active member of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, helping veterans is very important; therefore, Dogs

For Life is a natural fit for me. It warms my heart to be able to assist our young men and women, who are reaching out for help through a furry life-time friend. Owning dogs myself, I understand the

unconditional love of a dog. I know first-hand how this love helps with the stress in our lives. It always amazes me how dogs can read us and know how and when to help us. I look forward to getting to know DFL clients and their dogs as a part of the DFL family. ☐



(Above) Michelle Dale and her dog Shelley. (Insert) Class of 2018 Veterans Training Veterans.

By Perry J. Martin

How a Service Dog Impacted One Veteran's

Life

“I was forced to learn a new life with injuries that would be with me forever”

forced to learn a new life with injuries that would be with me forever. Little did I know a golden girl named Sassy would help me start a new life.

However, there was a lot to learn! As an experienced K-9 handler with my German Shepherd Dogs, I took down the bad guys. I was given a beautiful Golden Retriever named Sassy that wouldn't hurt a fly. As you can imagine, I had to learn how to soften my approach.

Now, I want to give back to the organization that gave me a new life. At first, I attended an orientation and qualified to answer the phone to give veterans information on DFL programs. Then after attending the Veterans Training Veterans Program, I joined the Board of Directors and co-chair the Veteran Dog Program. With my golden girl “Sassy”, I look forward to a new future and helping other veterans get a life! □



Perry J. Martin with his DFL Certified Service Dog, Golden Retriever Sassy.

In 2017 my friend and fellow veteran Bob told me of how he trained his service dog Bo at Dogs For Life, and I thought “what a great place to volunteer”. I signed up right away and in one short year my life has begun again. You see, my life was over. I knew it.

My life as a K-9 handler for 17 years, with the Fort Pierce Police Department, ended abruptly when my patrol vehicle was hit in a car crash. I was

Teams & Training

By Mark Poziomek

ADI CONFERENCE



Assistance Dogs International (ADI) is a worldwide coalition of non-profit programs that train and place assistance dogs. ADI has become the leading world-wide authority in the assistance dog industry and is the accrediting agency for Dogs for Life (DFL). Only four (4) other service dog organizations in Florida have earned ADI accreditation.

In August, ADI held their biennial conference and board meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Dogs for Life was proud to be a presenting sponsor for this vital gathering where 173 ADI accredited or candidate training organizations from

around the world converged for meetings, networking and workshops. Board Members Shelly Ferger, Mark Poziomek (with Ranger), Perry J. Martin (with Sassy), and DFL Assistant Trainer Cassie Ford attended the four day conference and returned with a wealth of information.

In addition to the conference sessions, the DFL representatives had the opportunity to tour a Minneapolis service dog training organization to see how they conduct business and learn about challenges they experienced as they grew.

Part of our DFL mission is to make the disabled handlers' world as large as possible. Attending this conference allowed DFL trainers the rare opportunity to see the results of their hard work and dedication as they observed DFL teams in action while they navigated planes, trains, automobiles and hotels over the course of the week while traveling nearly 3,000 miles. □

HERE ARE SOME TOPICS:

- Service Dog Identification
- The ADI Breeding Cooperative
- The Best Practices Utilizing Prison Dog Training Programs
- Training Demonstration and Tips
- Finding and Retaining Puppy Raisers
- Service Dog Tasks to Mitigate Military-Related PTSD
- Major Gifts Fundraising and Planned Giving
- Autism Program around the World
- Professionally Guided Owner Service Dog Training
- Veterans Admin Service Dogs Benefits
- PTSD, What Programs Need to Know
- Creating a Sustainable Organization
- Courthouse Facility Dogs
- The Right Dog for the Right Job
- Equipment Exchange
- Training Games for Your Dog
- Exercises for Service Dogs
- Leadership Succession Plan
- Learning from Natural Disasters
- Fly the Friendly Skies
- Crisis Communications
- Glycemia Alert Dogs

(Above left to right) DFL CEO Shelly Ferger, Director Perry J. Martin with Sassy, Director Mark Poziomek with Ranger; and Assistant Trainer Cassie Ford.

DFL Celebrates *International Assistance Dog Week* Aug 5th–11th

Dogs For Life, Inc. recognized the hard working service dogs, their trainers and foster dog programs during International Assistance Dog Week (IADW). IADW was created to recognize the hardworking assistance dogs as they transform the lives of their human partners. IADW was established by Marcie Davis, the CEO of Davis Innovations. She has over

twenty years of experience working in local, state, federal, and tribal program design, strategic planning, project management, research and evaluation, specializing in public health and other human service issues. Ms. Davis is the co-author of the award-winning *Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook*. □

Foster Dog Program



(Left to right) Foster Home Volunteers Harry Taylor with Sassy, Tyler Drinnon with Rufus, Sheri Taylor, Richie Keller with Gigi, Joe Taylor with St. Lucie and Kristen Drinnon with St. Cloud.

And two more makes six. Meet the newest additions to the DFL Service Dog Puppy Program. With the service dog litter theme names being Florida Cities, it didn't take us too long to choose St. Cloud and St. Lucie for the most recent little boy and girl currently being trained in our program. Numbers five and six, join Big Sis, aka Kathi's Golden GiGi, Lil Sis, aka Sassy, Good Boy aka Rufus and Good Girl all placed with clients in our service and hearing dog programs.

Between the Foster homes, Training Center, Transition House and the Off-Leash Dog Park, all of these puppies have been raised with consistency, total veterinary care, love and toys, toys, toys! We are grateful to our Board President Kathi G. Schumann for recognizing the difficulty we were having finding dog candidates in rescue and having the foresight to purchase these service dog puppies for our clients. □

Dog Park Update

On September 8th, Dogs For Life, Inc. joined forces with United Way to celebrate their Day of Caring. Volunteers from Publix came out to assist DFL in park re-beautification. They worked tirelessly to repaint fences, posts, and agility equipment. We thank them for their hard work!

The DFL memorial garden is under renovation as

over the past fifteen years, memorial stones have begun to weather, and the fencing needs to be replaced. We are pleased that Founding Member Bob Bowman chose to place dogs Robbie Bowman and Coco Downey ashes in the garden.

Thank you to DFL Dog Park Maintenance Director, Eli Osborn for keeping our memorial garden well groomed. Others may join the Memorial Garden Circle for \$300, a stone will be placed, and a plaque engraved with your pet's name. A pet's ashes may be placed under the stone in the garden. □

Indian River Community Foundation Site Visit

DFL was pleasantly surprised and our teams were eager to be interviewed by the Indian River Community Foundation Director, Jeff Pickering. Jeff asked our team to share with the Foundation what they liked most about Dogs For Life, Inc. and to provide examples of the impact DFL and their service dogs have on their lives. “Without the service dog DFL provided to me, I would have remained isolated. DFL’s Veterans Training Veterans Program has given me an opportunity to serve the community and other veterans training their service dogs”, said Judy Schmidt, USAF Veteran to Jeff on how



(Left to right) Perry J. Martin with Sassy, Shelby Ferger, Cassie Ford, Kimberly Mehl, Joan Freeman with Daisy (Seated) Judy with Bentley, Eric with Maggie, and Michael with Good Girl.

DFL has become like a family to her. “When I took a spill, DFL kept my dog, Bentley, for three weeks, allowing him to maintain his specialized training until I was back on my feet again.” DFL client Richie Keller explained how the support from the Indian River Community Foundation has allowed DFL and the Veterans Training Veterans Program to

provide more support for veterans in Indian River County with specialized task-trained Service Dogs. “DFL is the real deal”, Keller told Mr. Pickering. □

17th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade, October 20, 2018

For the seventeenth year, DFL will host its annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume & Pawrade on October 20, 2018. Registration begins at 2 PM, followed by a K-9 demonstration from the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office K-9 Unit. Hobo Jim will entertain the crowd until the parade at 4pm.

This **FREE** event is attended by over 300 people who register over 100 dogs in the Pawrade. Come join the fun. Doggie Baskets will be raffled at the end of the event.



2017 Pawrade participants enjoy the festivities.

You must be present to win.

A special thank you to Sassy Martin for being the Pawrade Sponsor for this signature fundraising event. We are also grateful to Dale Sorensen Real Estate, Luminaries, Publix and Mr. Hamilton for their sponsorship. □

Bridge Tournament Feb. 25th, 2019



DFL Vice President Eleanor Bengyak with Prinz and DFL President Kathi G. Schumann

Save the Date for DFL's Annual Bridge Tournament to be held February 25th at the Vero Beach Country Club. This event is chaired by DFL Vice-President and Bridge Director, Eleanor Bengyak and Co-Chaired by DFL Board President, Kathi G. Schumann. Beautiful orchids are reserved for the winners, lunch and a silent auction that you don't want to miss are all a part of this popular event. □



(Left to right) St. Lucie Battery & Tire (SLB&T) Corporate Brand Manager Lindsey Concannon, DFL President Kathi G. Schumann, SLB&T President Doug Miller & SLB&T General Manager Jeff Deans and DFL Client and Volunteer Richie Keller with Gigi.

St. Lucie Battery Fundraiser

St. Lucie Battery located in Vero Beach and St. Lucie County, chose DFL as their charity of the month in July of this year. Through their dedication and efforts, their employees delivered a check for \$2,709 to DFL on August 31st, to our Board President, Mrs. Kathi G. Schumann.

They were treated to a tour of our facility and no visit is complete without some puppy time. □

Dog Days of Summer

What a better way to celebrate our DFL President of the Board, Kathi G. Schumann's birthday than to hold a Dog Days of Summer Pool Party! On August 4th, Mrs. Schumann sponsored a party that included a giant slip and slide for dogs, wading pools and a "dive for a duck" pool, where every dog was a winner!

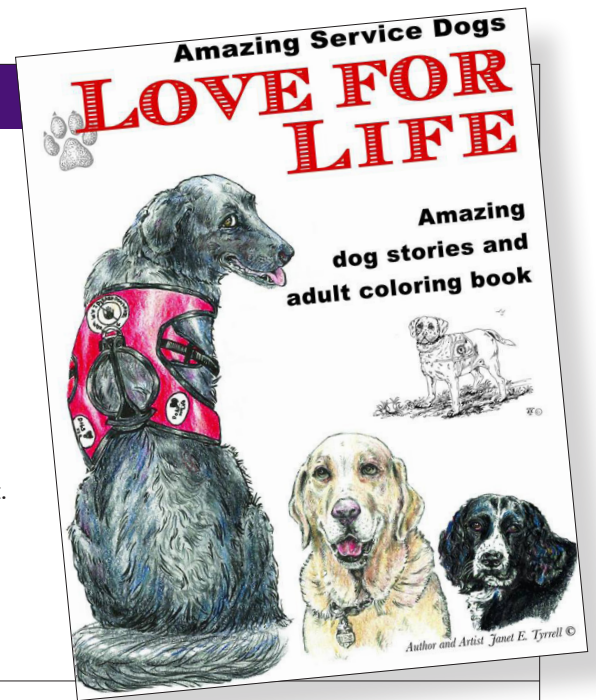
DFL t-shirts, sun glasses, raffle prizes and six grand prize gift certificates to PetSmart wrapped up the well-attended fun event. DFL is grateful to the Veterans Council of Indian River County, as well as Mrs. Schumann's family and friends who donated to DFL in honor of Mrs. Schumann's birthday. □



Kimberly Mehl and Veteran Voice Staff Writer Mary Kemper with Pixy have fun at the duck pool at the fundraising event.

DFL Service Dog Notecards and **Coloring Book**

With help from her service dog Sydney, artist Janice Tyrrell has done it again! She has, for the fourth time, created a masterpiece by consolidating the first two series of DFL Service Dog note cards into a newly packaged set. Also, Jan's "Amazing Service Dogs Love for Life" Amazing Dog Stories and Adult Coloring Book with illustrations of DFL Service Dog Teams and their short stories is available on AMAZON, with a portion of sales benefiting DFL. □



Legacy Society

In 2014, Shelly Ferger was contacted by a longtime friend named 'Bobbi' Miller asking if she could donate some of her husband's things to DFL veterans. Shelly first met Bobbi who volunteered over twenty years ago at the Humane Society of Vero Beach. Shelly was delighted to have Bobbi visit DFL and learn that she was an Air Force Veteran. Bobbi was a patriot and a champion for homeless dogs.

DFL would like to recognize Roberta "Bobbi" Miller for having remembered DFL in her last will and testament and helping to further the cause of service dogs for veterans by joining the DFL Legacy Giving Society. □

Mitzi Bengyak travels over the **Rainbow**

Bridge



DFL Vice President Eleanor Bengyak, with her service dog Rufus.

Mitzi Bengyak, a Dog Park founding member travelled over the Rainbow Bridge in August of this year. She was 12 years old. Mitzi was rescued by Eleanor and Victor Bengyak when she was a pup. Victor joked after hip and heart valve surgery, that she cost more in surgeries than his new hip. Mitzi was also trained as a service dog for Victor and then later for Eleanor, DFL Founding Member, Vice President, and Founder of the DFL Legacy Giving Society. Mitzi will be missed dearly by all of us at DFL.

The first of September, Mitzi's paws were filled by a Golden Boy named Rufus who is being trained to tap a K-9 emergency phone in case of an emergency and has been trained to pick up dropped items. □

Sponsorship

Vero Beach Veterans Next Generation **Ruck March**

On September 22nd, Dogs For Life, Inc. sponsored the Ruck March, put on by Next Generation Veterans, Inc. Next Gen's Ruck March raised funds for "Words from War", an Iraq/Afghanistan monument being planned for Veterans Memorial Island and for the Veterans Council

of Indian River County Upward American Veterans Program, all while collecting food for the Indian River Charitable Association. Participants showed up to carry 15-30 pounds of non-perishable food in packs/ruck sacks, and completed a six mile beachside walk. □

Sponsorship Veteran Council **Golf Tournament**

On June 16, 2018, DFL sponsored for the second year at the Sandridge Golf club, The Veterans Council of Indian River County Annual Golf Tournament. This annual fundraiser helps to fund programs at the Council such as their transport bus that takes veterans on a daily basis to the West Palm VA hospital and Upward American Veterans that help local veterans in need with financial or other services. □



Members of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, Kathy Allston, Michelle Dale, President Colonel Sam Kouns, and Pat Geyer.

Sponsorship **Deaf and Hard of Hearing** Golf Tournament

On October 20th, DFL will sponsor the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Treasure Coast 11th Annual Golf Tournament. The event will be held at

the Sandpiper Bay Golf Course at Club Med in Port St. Lucie, FL. The DHHTC is a charitable organization that offers many services to the deaf and hard of hearing community. □

In Memorium



Dogs For Life, Inc. was saddened to learn of the passing of **Maxine Burke**. Maxine enjoyed DFL's

Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade and dressing up her beloved Zoey and participating as pictured here. We will all miss seeing Maxine at the park. Many of our large dog park members knew Maxine as Zoey, a Standard Poodle's mom. Zoey is now in the loving care of Maxine's daughter, Linda, and continues to come to the dog park with her trusted caregiver, Patti. □

Gratitude

Dogs For Life, Inc. would like to offer a sincere thank you to Alma Phipps for donating her many talents toward the bright new look to our Newsletter. Alma is a Graphic Designer and former Professor at Parsons School of Design in New York City. Alma loves to attend events at Dogs For Life with her service dog Mr. Hamilton and recently designed and donated our 2017 Howl Memory Book. □





Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Vero Beach, FL 32960 (772) 567-8969

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Tribute/Memorial Gift Listing

June Jubilee
In Honor of Shelly Ferger
In Honor of Tracey Higginbotham
In Honor of Mark Poziomeck
Eleanor Bengyak
Sue Bergmann
Ellie Clinton
Michelle Dale
Marge Desmery
Cassie Ford
Joan Freeman
Wanda Haaland
Mary Margaret Hatch
Tracey Higginbotham
Larry & Sherry Ingham
Richie Keller
Karen Lind
Toddy McKeown
Mark Poziomek
Judy Schmidt
Kathi G. Schumann
Suzanne Shea
Devon Williams &
Tina, Quilts of Valor

In Honor of Cassie Ford
Michelle Dale
Shelly Ferger
Larry & Sherry Ingham
Richie Keller
Toddy McKeown
Eli Osborn
Mark Poziomek
Judy Ricard
Kathi G. Schumann
Joseph Sperry

Dog Days of Summer
In Honor of Kathi G. Schumann
Marcia Adache
Paul Bartoszewrck
Michelle Dale
Shelly Ferger
Joan Freeman
Frances Garrett
Barbara Gormas
Richie Keller
Jim & Patsy Lindley
Benedicta McGrath
Toddy McKeown
Mark Poziomek
Judy Schmidt

Gene & Martha Schumann
Mark & Cheri Schumann
Donovan Schumann
John & Kim Schumann III
John Schumann Jr.
Joseph Sperry
Veterans Council of IR County
Ann Waggaman
Suzan Williams
Barry & Vickie Wyatt

In Honor of Barbara Longfellow 101st Birthday
Elizabeth Jacobsen
In Honor of Jeanette Myers
Julie Fick
In Honor of Joan Rhame
Elizabeth Jacobsen
In Memory of Ann Ford
Bob & Macy Swift
In Memory of Brian Ligon
Ken Ligon
In Memory of Davis
Sherrie Davidson
In Memory of Sandy Giani
Doris Tropf



Dear Friends,
Please join us for this year's Howl-O-Ween
Canine Costume Pawrade on October 20, 2018.
Everyone in costume **wins a prize!**
See you there!

Dogs for life