# Tales & Tails

*Providing people with disabilities quality trained service dogs*




MILITARY PRISON SERVICE DOG TRAINING PROGRAM
CAROLINA CANINES
CAMP LEJEUNE

Paws for Reading !

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANIMAL ASSISTANCE
CAROLINA CANINES

## Spring/Summer 2009 Inside Scoop....


| | |
|---|---|
| A Message from the President | 2 |
| Walk for Those Who Can't | 4 |
| Carolina Canines Partners with Coastal Carolina Community College | 5 |
| Two Wounded Warriors Benefit from their Service Dogs | 5 |
| Booker Willoughby Service Dog of Year | 6 |
| Contributor Acknowledgement | 7 |
| Leaving Behind a Legacy | 10 |
| And the winner is | 12 |
| Funding News | 12 |


# Carolina Canines for Therapy Program Launched

The new Carolina Canines for Therapy training program's mission is to improve the quality of life for people though animal visitation. People and their dogs, which have graduated from basic obedience courses, can enroll in Carolina Canines' six-week preparation class that trains the team for volunteering at hospitals, public schools and special-care facilities.

CAROLINA CANINES FOR THERAPY
Heel 2 Heal

Hairston began animal therapy training in 2002 using the Delta Society's training curriculum. In January, he realized the need for a new curriculum that included more hands-on preparation prior to visitation, which no similar programs offered. Also unlike other programs, the completion of training includes a multi-point assessment of the handler and dog and a criminal background check of the handler.



L:R Amie Granbois of Carolina Canines and Dave Thomas with Therapy Dog Sammy are recognized at Liberty Commons for Dave & Sammy's 5 years of service as a therapy team.

Currently, Carolina Canines animal therapy program volunteers 1000 hours of time in the community each year for approximately 30 local facilities, including New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Lower Cape Fear Hospice Life Care Center and Hermitage House, as well as New Hanover County Schools.

"A dog has the ability to bring joy and happiness to a sick patient, shorten a hospital stay, assist with therapeutic interventions and comfort a child, as long as the animal receives proper training to prepare for these interactions," said Hairston. "Our comprehensive, hands-on approach is really what sets us apart from other programs."

Hairston developed Carolina Canines for Therapy along with Michele Godlevski, the owner of Teamworks Dog Training, who also adopted the pro-

*(Continued on page 11)*

# A Message from the President

*From our greatest adversities come our greatest successes.*

—Marcus Aurelius

With the news of car dealerships, businesses, and some non-profits closing, it is time to assess where we are, not only today, but where we have come from and most importantly, how we are growing now.

We started this organization with $1,000 from personal savings, and now we have surpassed the $1,000,000 mark in funds raised. What has that money gotten the community that supports this organization so well? 32 quality trained service dogs valued at over $1,200,000, animal assisted therapy programs valued at close to $750,000, the Katrina program with services valued at over $70,000, and our Domestic Violence program with services over $10,000. The finished products and services we have contributed, with your help, $2,030,000. Most businesses would be happy with a 100% ROI (return on investment).

However, we are not finished contrary to what some people feel. We still have 15 service dogs in training (finished value $570,000), 24 individuals and their dogs have completed Carolina Canines for Therapy in Wilmington and Raleigh and 7 people are finishing the new class this session (with 3 more sessions planned this year). We stand ready to assist New Hanover County Sheriffs, City of Wilmington Police Department as well as other New Hanover County law enforcement agencies with our Domestic Violence program. Our Carolina Canines for Veterans at Camp Lejeune has now been accredited through Coastal Carolina Community College and the State Board of Education to qualify for Continuing Education Credits for the inmates, and we are receiving funding for teaching these classes. We received a grant from Cape Fear Memorial Foundation to replace the company vehicle and have just finalizing a deal with Stevenson Chrysler in Jacksonville, NC. Oh, and by the way, did I mention that our programs log close to 2500 volunteer hours each and every month?

It is now and always has been a privilege to serve this community and this is a responsibility we take very seriously.

Are times tight? Absolutely, however; with your help and God's continued support we are just getting started. So come on, join us by supporting not only your community but also the men and women that have served our country and desperately need our very specific services.

God Bless!

*Rick Hairston*

President and CEO

## Board of Directors

David Mickler, Chair
Mike Russell, Co-Chair
Tara Tatum, Treasurer
Paula Zabkar, Secretary
Nancy Barkalow
Al Lanier
Linda Stinson

**Website Design & Management**
David Mickler

**Staff**
**Rick Hairston**
President & CEO

**Pat Nowak**
Exec. Assistant / Grant Writer

**Amie Granbois**
Community Outreach Coordinator

**Carolina Canines for Veterans Trainer**
Stephen LeQuire

**Trainers**
Rick Hairston
Caroline O'Brien—Volunteer
Beth Shepherd—Volunteer
Donna Sweetman—Volunteer
Marianna Thompson—Volunteer

**Newsletter**
Pat Nowak

**NC State Employee Campaign #3602**

State Employees Combined Campaign
Partners in Giving

**Federal Combined Campaign #16373**

This just in……. thanks to Cape Fear Memorial Foundation and Stevenson Chrysler for helping us *drive* community service with a new company vehicle. You'll soon see Carolina Canines driving a Clearwater Pearl Blue 2008 Town & Country!

# You Can Help Us Help Others!

A one-time, monthly, quarterly or yearly donation to Carolina Canines for Service, Inc. will help us continue our valuable work in our community and provide someone the life changing gift of a service dog, a pet therapy visit, a canine literacy mentor or help one victim of domestic violence to safety.

*Yes, I want to be a part of helping someone in need!*

☐ Paw Print $15—$24 ☐ Furry Friend $25-$99 ☐ Puppy Pal $100—$499

☐ Big Dog $500—$999 ☐ Top Dog $1000 or more

Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Gift will be matched by _____ (company/family/foundation).

_____form enclosed_____form will be forwarded

I want my donation to support: ☐ You Decide!

☐ Service Dog Training ☐ Carolina Canines for Veterans ☐ Carolina Canines for Therapy

☐ Paws for Reading! ☐ Domestic Violence Animal Assistance

In Honor of: _____ or In Memory of: _____

**Please send the acknowledgement card to:**

Name:_____

Address:_____ City_____ State _____ Zip _____

Please include this special message: _____

All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Please return this form with your check or money order to the address below or donate on-line at www.carolinacanines.org via PayPal.

Carolina Canines for Service, Inc.

PO Box 12643 Wilmington, NC 28405

# Walk for Those Who Can't

Thank you to our event sponsors, donors, in-kind donors, volunteers, teams and individual walkers for a great 3rd annual Walk for Those Who Can't raising just over $19,000. Over 360 walkers and 250 dogs came out for a beautiful day that started cloudy, but ended as a sunny morning. Dogs of all sizes from a Yorkshire Terrier to Great Danes walked the John Nesbitt Loop at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina in support of the programs of Carolina Canines for Service. Master of Ceremony, Jon Evans of WECT provided highlights of Carolina Canines and inspired the teams and walkers in their quest to finish the walk.

The event was made possible by our sponsors who without their support the event would not be possible: Talk Inc., Merrill Lynch- William Truscott, Atlantic Orthopedic, Papa Johns, WECT, Sunrise Broadcasting, Surf 98.3, Jammin' 99.9, DogLiving, Encore, David Hill & Associates, NRL Builders, Inc., Health Source of Wilmington, Bootleg Magazine, Dock Street Printing, and Backyard Paradise. Donors included Lee Cowper, Keith Mann, D.D.S., Steele Electrical, and Talbert & Bright Inc.

The Top Fundraising Team was the Association of Nursing Students with Team Captain Kacie Nifong raising $1,285. Runner-up Fundraising Team was Harrells Academy Key Club raising just over $800.

The Top Individual Fundraiser for the second year in a row was Nina Newell and Jaxson raising $1,285. Nina topped her fundraising events of last year by nearly $400 and she and her finance, Greg, have registered Carolina Canines as their charity of choice for donations for their upcoming wedding in September 2009. The Runner-up Individual Fundraiser was Stacey Sears and her service dog in training Luke. Stacey raised $535 to support the programs of Carolina Canines.





Top: Rick Hairston and Kacie Nifong, Team Captain for Association of Nursing Students, Top Team. Bottom: Harrells Christian Academy, Runner-Up Team. Photos by Tyler Lewis





L: Nina Newell & Jaxson, Top Individual Fundraiser. R: Stacey Sears & Luke, Runner-up Individual Fundraiser. Photos by Tyler Lewis

Many local business came together to provide in-kind donations for the Walk including Indian Spring, Monteith Construction, Starbucks at the Independence Mall, Costco, Harris Teeter at Oleander location, Great Harvest, Unity Christ Church, Hercules Bags, Inc., Harley Davidson, Savage Tan, 4 Seasons Trophy, and RA Jefferies.

Participates came from near and far to help with the event. Ashley Parker joined us from Anchorage, Alaska and Kathleen and David Goins from Greensboro, NC who made

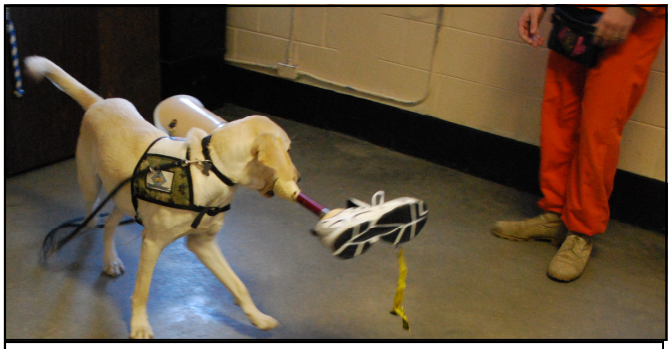


Ashley Parker assisting Rick Hairston with site breakdown. Photo by Jess Hall.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Carolina Canines Partners with Coastal Carolina Community College

In 2008, CCFS launched a national pilot program, Carolina Canines for Veterans, to train military prisoners to train dogs from local shelters as service dogs to assist wounded warriors. Operating entirely on private donations and grants, CCFS trains prisoners at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune brig to raise and train each service dog.



Service Dog in Training Titus learns to retrieve a prosthetic leg under the guidance of the handler.

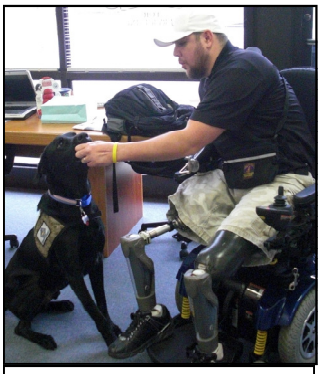
Having successfully placed three service dogs in the first year of the program, received national recognition and had one of the dogs placed awarded the 2009 Booker Willoughby Service Dog of the Year Award, another milestone has been achieved. Carolina Canines in partnership with Coastal Carolina Community College will provide a college level continuing education credit program for the service dog handling. Taking the program from 6 hours a week to a program providing for up to 30 hours of classroom and hands-on training for the participants to educate them on various dog training techniques, animal behavior, selection of a potential service dog and care.

Coastal Carolina Community College provides the opportunity for the quality post-secondary education, college transfer, workforce training and lifelong learning for the civilian and military population of Onslow County.

"We are extremely pleased to provide this opportunity to the participants of the Carolina Canines for Veterans program," said CCFS President/CEO, Rick Hairston. "Not only are these individuals providing a valuable health option to our wounded warriors while learning new skills, but now they can work towards a college continuing education units. The Carolina Canines for Veterans program has grown to provide for more than the initial mission and we look forward to working with Coastal Carolina Community College in offering this curriculum."

# Two Wounded Warriors Benefit from their Service Dogs

Just one week short of one year into the program, the third Wounded Warrior received his service dog trained in the Carolina Canines for Veterans program.



Joey and Joshua during team training

Joey Bozik, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom was severely injured in Iraq in October 2004 and is a triple amputee. Joey, a native of Wilmington, received the third service dog trained in the Carolina Canines for Veterans program at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Joshua is trained to assist Joey with his many daily tasks. One of the tasks Joshua was specifically trained to help his new partner with is removing his prosthetic legs. The process often took 15 minutes or more per leg, but with Joshua's help the time is shorten to about 5 minutes per leg. The true benefit is in the amount of energy Joey saves by having his canine partner help him.

And, in May Sgt. Ryan Anderson, United States Marine Corp, received his service dog, Rivka. Anderson's service dog Rivka will assist him with his balance, retrieving dropped items and recovering from a falls. Anderson suffered head injury and continues to battle vertigo and migraine headaches several years after his injury.

Carolina Canines for Veterans is funded in part by The Landfall Foundation, Heuston Foundation, Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation, Banfield Charitable Trust, Brian G. McAleese Memorial Foundation, Officers' Wives Club Camp Lejeune and in-kind donations from Summit VetPharm and Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health.

**Nearing $200,000 in services provided to Wounded Warriors in 16 months of the Carolina Canines for Veterans program.**

# Booker Willoughby Service Dog of the Year Award Goes to Joshua



Competing against numerous service dogs across the east coast, Joshua was one of five Carolina Canines Service Dogs nominated for the Booker Willoughby Service Dog Award sponsored by the Lambda Chapter of Mega Tau Sima (OTS) at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, VA. The award was first presented to Booker Willoughby whose owner, Mrs. Carol Willoughby, established the Saint Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation. A unique nomination, it is written from the dogs perspective about how the dog helps their human partner. The nomination are open to dogs trained to service including service dogs, search and rescue and law enforcement. We are proud to have one of our service dogs trained in the Carolina Canines for Veterans program win this award. The hours of dedication of all of our prisoner handlers, foster families, trainers, volunteers and staff are acknowledge through this award.

Here's what Joshua had to say about himself: *"I help my person by retrieving dropped items, retrieving drinks from the refrigerator, opening the door, retrieving the telephone, cell phone or remote when Joey asks. Joey is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom was severely injured in Iraq in October 2004 and is a triple amputee. I was trained for him in the Carolina Canines for Veterans program at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Brig. One of the hardest tasks I do for my person is help him take off his prosthetic legs. This takes us about 5 minutes for each leg, but it is a lot faster than the 15 minutes took Joey before he got me."*

Carol Willoughby writes, "I want to congratulate Carolina Canines Veteran's program at Camp Legeune for their exceptional training of service dog Joshua. I especially want to pay tribute to U.S. Army veteran Joey! I am so proud of your service and sacrifice for our country -- and of your inspiring teamwork with Joshua. Together you are proving that those with disabilities can live productive lives and make a difference in the world. I applaud you for winning the 2009 Booker Award.

**Special thanks to Roger Hazelwood and Barnabus for accepting the award on behalf of Carolina Canines, Joey and Joshua and giving a presentation at the Virginia Tech open house on April 4, 2009**

My service dog Booker was the first service dog honored in 1997 by Omega Tau Sigma Veterinary Fraternity (OTS) at Virginia Tech. Unfortunately, Booker died two weeks before the award was to be presented. He became the namesake for the OTS annual award.

**"Great job Carolina Canines!" Tremendous teamwork Joey and Joshua!" - Carol Willoughby, Co-founder Saint Francis Service Dogs**

As a career Marine aviator's daughter, I lived at Camp Legeune's Air Facility (MCAF) in Jacksonville, NC for a time growing up. I can't tell you how proud I am today to know the difference Joey and Joshua make for each other and all those fortunate enough to be around them.




A beautiful engraved plaque bearing the names of Joey and Joshua, as well as a plaque with Carolina Canines for Service, will hang permanently in the lobby of Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, beside a portrait of Booker and the names of all past and future award winning teams.

Great job Carolina Canines! Tremendous teamwork Joey and Joshua!"

## Carolina Canines for Veterans Facts

- 20 Prisoners have participated in the program with 7 prisoners currently enrolled
- 150 dogs evaluated; 31 sent for health evaluations; 15 dogs in the program; 6 released due to temperament or health
- Veterinary care costs nearing $6,700
- 3,250 pounds of dog food and high level treats used costing just over $3,000
- 5,690 waste bags used
- 19 press conferences held at the brig
- 3 dogs placed in first year of the program

# Special Thanks to Our Contributors from November 1, 2008—March 31, 2009

## HONORARIUMS

MRS. SUSAN BLOCK
Betty Rusher

MONTINE BRADHER
Carole Morrison

COREY BURGESS
Clara Burgess

CHRISTOPER COOPER
Patricia Lewis

DINEEN ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Margaret Kasper

MR. & MRS. RICK HAIRSTON
Joy Alford-Brand
Kathleen Baylies
Carol & Gary Bolduc
Lori& Andy Brinkley
Carol& Jim Burns
Betty Cameron
Kathleen Custer
Patty & Brian Dickson
Debbie Elliott
Katherine & Walter Engle
Mary Ann Harris & Emma Nord
Dee & Rick Maier
Heidi Messina
Kimberly Morrison
Peter, Jane & Becca Nowak
Caroline & Don O'Brien
Debbie Overbeck
Gerianne Pandolfi, D.V. M.
Deb Pinson
Kirsty Piper
Justin Queen
Janet & Mark Rodger
Ann & Bob Roskow
Glen Blackwood & Kristen Rowe
Stacey Sears
Dena & Delane Simmons
Sally Sprinkle
Linda & Bob Stinson
Joe & Nanc Stoner
Stephen& Libby Tatum
Marianna & Greg Thompson
Katrinka Webb
Mary & Ellen Zeigler

STEVE & LISA HASS
Carlton Swickley

PATTI HILL
Virginia Robichaux

MR. & MRS. JO HOUSE
Carol Anderson

DR. & MRS. HUNDLEY
Marty & Oogie Stanfield

LORI LOVE
Helen Love

NORMA NORWOOD
Betty Rusher

The ORNOT BORTHERS
Caroline O'Brien

MR. & MRS. ED RUSHER, III
Susan Block
Gerry Steele

SHARI, FRED, SHANE & ALYSSA
Justin Donaton

MR. & MRS. L.A. SWICKLEY
Carlton Swickley

BRADEN & NATHAN THOMAS
Donna Abrams

WAYNE, SAL & HOPE
Justin Donaton

MR. & MRS. CALVIN WELLS
Marty & Oogie Stanfield

PATIRICA WHEELER
Susan Stewart

MAX RAY WILLIAMS JR.
Max Ray Williams

WOMEN'S LION CLUB
George Kerr

ZEIGLER FAMILY MEMBERS
Mary, Mark & Ellen Zeigler

## MEMORIALS

***In memory of:***

NEWTON ANDERSON
Jane Anderson

DAVE KADERBEK
Bruce Bowker

LEANNE COX
Diane Berwind

GREG GIAMMOLVO
Arlene Nzaario

ETHEL GROSS
Robert & Nancy Barkalow

JAY TAYLOR
Jeffrey Newell

LOUISE SILERS
Democratic Women of New Hanover Society
Melisa Gallison
Holly Leyendecker

## PET MEMORIALS

***In memory of:***

CHESS
Dineen Animal Hospital

CORY
Barbara Duncan

LUCY COX
Bart Jones

EMILY JONES
Dineen Animal Hospital

PHOENIX
Renee Wells

SAINT
Jeannine Bicknell
Melissa Hann
Joanie Hoyt
Kristen Johns
David Mickler
Maria & Jack O'Conner
Reicko
Target

## FURRY FRIEND

Lindsey Brasser
David Dickson
Kristine Ratayczak

## PUPPY PAL

Bob Checkaneck—SC Greyhound Adoption Program
Pamela Donahue
John Ensign
Winifred Harrison
Robin Jackson
Brenda Kent
Frederick Osborn
Guy Prosper
Tony Stone

## TOP DOG

Renee Wells & Paula Zabkar

## FOSTER PUPPY PARTNERS

Melissa & Jack Thomas
Pike-Rocky Point Presbyterian Church

## CONTRIBUTORS

Suzanne Abramsky
Ellen Allen
Stephen Anderson
Rosalind Barker
Amy Berrier
Jacqueline Billings
Betsy Britttain
Julianne Budzinski
Louise Burevitch
Betty Cameron
Dee Carnevale
Evalou Cash
Andrew Clement
Stephanie & Greg Collins
Noah Collins

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Special Thanks to Our Contributors from November 1, 2008—March 31, 2009

*(Continued from page 7)*

George Cook
Arlene Costanzo
Deborah Crowder
Linda Crowell
Laurie Dennison
Pamela Donahue
Brenden Donovan
Carolyn Farley
Pamela Figueiredo
John Fogg
Gregory Gales
Melisa Gallison
Roger Gibbons
Eugene Good
Niki Graham
Johanna Grimes
Barb Guhl
Nicole Guite
Beryl Harrison
Patti Hill
Drusilla Hoge
Mrs. Raymond H. Holland, Jr.
Annetta Horner
Cyndy Hummel
Bart Jones
Roy Kaplin
D. Jeanne Laurain
Teme Levbarg
Karen Lynch
Carol Lyon
Todd Manning
Diana Matthews
Michael McCollum
Linda McKinney
Arlene Medder
John Meier
Timothy Mickler
Maureen Minton
Lavonne Morgan
Marie Muench
Joanne Napier
Debbie Overbeck
Lori Overton
Cathi Phillips
Kirsty Piper
Rebecca Pirone
Earla Pope
Jim & Jean Popp
Jean Powell
Justin Queen
Joe, Donna, Margaret & Anthony Repicky
Giorgina Richardson
Marian Rippy
Paul Robert
Kimberly Robuck
Sue Rochon
Elise Ross
Carrie Rowe
Betty Rusher
Mike & Nancy Russell
Oma Russell
Betty Ann Sanders
Cynthia Saylor
Martha Scarlett
Mary Schaffhausen
Janet Shadle
Elizabeth Shepherd
Louann Sidbury
Kate Snodgress
Ginny Spencer
William Stickle
Jane Suits
Virginia Sutton
Stephen Tanis
Joanne Tennille
Tracie & Dave Thomas
Caitlin Tupper
Lynn & Craig Unwin
Virginia Walker
Sharon Wallace
Margaret Weller
Renee Wells
Matthew Wesley
Gail Wilkins
Carole Wilson
Randy Woods
Nancy Zimmerman

## ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES

GFWC Women's Club of Holden Beach
Give A Dog A Bone Play Spa
Grace United Methodist Church
Jerry A. Jackson LLC
Keller Construction Services, Inc
Teamworks Dog Training, LLC
The Farlow Group
Tim Newton Auto Sales
Veteran Fire, Inc.

## VETERINARIAN SERVICES

Four Oaks Pet Hospital
Murrells's Inlet Veterinary Hospital
North College Road Animal Hospital
Port City Animal Hospital
Scott's Hill Animal Hospital
Wilmington Animal Healthcare

## MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

GE Foundation
Give with Liberty
Global Impact—Pitney Bowells
Merrill Lynch Co. & Foundation Inc.
Progress Energy
Wachovia Corporation Foundation

## PUPPY DONORS

Georgianna Baker

## CAROLINA CANINES FOR VETERANS

***Contributors:***

Reed Barbee
Robert Barkalow
Deborah Crowder
Ralph Dunn
Barbara Genes
Karen Gluntz
Suzanne Goree
Earl Grover
Lila Hackett
Annetta Horner
Christine Huffmon
Grace Jenis
John Mercadante
Sharon Perez
Addie Peterson
Mary Phelps
Ginny Spencer
Brenda Spooner
Jane Suits
Patricia Urion
Janet Whitteaker
Shirley Williams
Marie Winkler

Living Water Ministry
Memorial Chapel Marine Corps Air Station Cherry
NC VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Pine Valley United Methodist Church
Richlands Rotary Club
The American Legion Burton-Cowell Post 265
Veterans of Foreign Wars District 5

## IN-KIND DONATIONS CAROLINA CANINES FOR VETERANS

Intervet Scherling-Plough Animal Health

Hercules Poly, Inc.

Summit VetPharm

## FUNDRAISERS

Fat Tony's Italian Pub

Give the Dog A Bone Play Spa

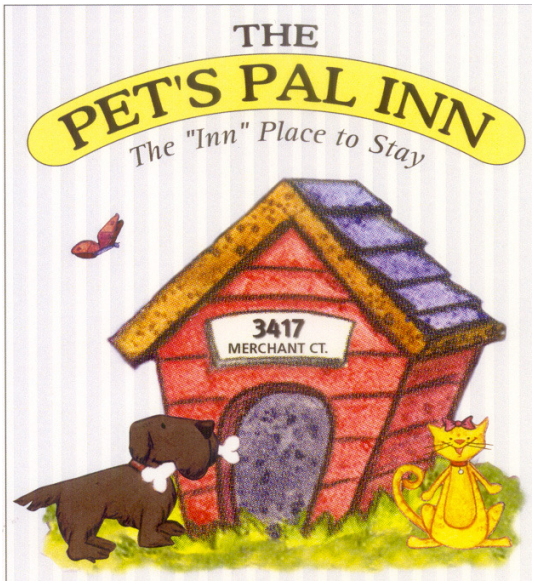
Raleigh Brown Backers

Keller Williams Realty

## Corporate Sponsor—Saint

U Talk

## Corporate Sponsor—Hero




JAMESON INN®
STEPHANIE GILBERT
GENERAL MANAGER
5102 DUNLEA COURT
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28405
910-452-5660 FAX 910-794-9251
TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS 1-800-JAMESON
wilmington.nc@jamesoninns.com / www.jamesoninns.com

## Corporate Sponsor—Partner

NORTH COLLEGE ROAD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

BLU ZEUS
CREATIVE.INTERACTIVE.RESULTS

PUPS Play & Stay™
DAYCARE & BOARDING

***You've mastered the world of social media, but have you mastered the world of corporate stewardship?***

**Partner with Carolina Canines to help us help others by becoming a Corporate Sponsor.**

# Leaving Behind a Legacy



Saint, the first service dog trained and placed by Carolina Canines for Service (CCFS), passed away in mid March, but will leave behind a legacy of friendship and service that is not soon to be forgotten, said CCFS President & CEO Rick Hairston.

Saint was rescued by SOAR from abusive owners and placed in the service dog training program in January 1997. The friendly mixed breed was trained as a mobility service dog who could pick up things as small as the back to an earring and open doors.

In December 1999, Saint was partnered with David Mickler and made his television debut on the University of North Carolina Wilmington program "Let's Talk" where he was given as a Christmas surprise to Mickler. Unable to find a parking space for his handicap accessible van, Mickler nearly gave up on attending the show. However, once inside he received a gift that changed his life, Saint.

Mickler said that one unexpected advantage of owning Saint was the way that Saint helped him to connect with other people. For example, when Saint accompanied Mickler to his son's soccer games, people would talk to Mickler about him which helped Mickler meet new people that might not have approached him otherwise.

"Saint could break down barriers," said Mickler, "People would see the dog and not the wheelchair and feel more comfortable approaching me."

Throughout his career Saint did many presentations in the community to educate the public about service dogs. After faithfully serving Mickler for nearly a decade and withstanding a spleen removal and cancer, Saint retired in 2007. During retirement he remained living with Mickler.

Saint's legacy consists not only of faithful service to Mickler but also of the education of the Wilmington community about the Carolina Canines For Service organization, service animals, friendship and compassion."We couldn't have trained a more loyal companion for David and we couldn't have asked for a more noble spokesdog for our organization," said Hairston. "Saint touched the lives of everyone he met. He will be dearly missed."



Within a week of Saint's loss, the beloved black Labrador that captured so many hearts with the 2005 Katrina Relief Project , Sir John Romeo, crossed the Rainbow Bridge with his friend and housemate Cara. Romeo came to Wilmington via United Animal Nations. Having survived the flood water in New Orleans, he was housed at the shelter in Monroe, LA where is captured the heart of Deb Ross an Emergency Animal Rescue volunteer, before coming to Wilmington in mid-October 2005. Romeo's owner was located the Sunday before Thanksgiving that year and Romeo was fostered by Pat Nowak. The plan to reunite Romeo with his mom, Lenniece Morrell, never came to reality because Romeo's arthritis had become so bad he would not be able to maneuver the 20+ stairs at Lenneice's rebuilt home.

Romeo had a happy, loved and spoiled life in Wilmington with a house full of canine siblings. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge having touched the lives of many and brought three women together in a unique bond of friendship, all for the love of Romeo.



And, just a couple of weeks later, CCFS said good-bye to another Service Dog. Samson, was the Dutch-German

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

Shepherd who assisted Diane Godwin with her needs. Placed with Diane in 1999, Samson faithfully served Diane for many years. In 2008 he was diagnosis with peri-anal cancer and while he was not often seen in and around the community in the last 6 months, Samson continued to serve Diane in her home retrieving dropped items, getting water from the refrigerator, or having Diane's towel waiting for her when she stepped from the shower.

For those who have been touched by Saint' or Samson's stories and would like to memorialize them, contributions can be made in their name by visiting www.carolinacanines.org. These contributions can help someone have the love and assistance that service dogs provide, which they may not be able to afford otherwise.

(Continued from page 1)

gram at her Raleigh, N.C.-based facility.

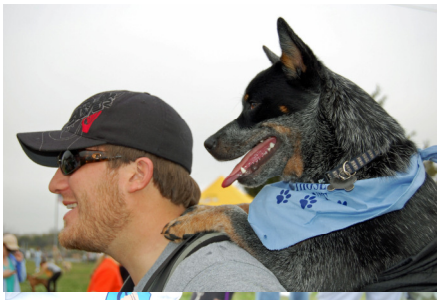
To learn more about the upcoming class schedule, class prerequisites including the AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate call 866-910-3647 or visit the website at www.carolinacanines.org.

(Continued from page 4)

and donated the Sam & Macy's Cookie Crack dog treats for sale at the Carolina Canines booth.

Rounding out the event were the many volunteers who made it all possible from setting up the site to ensuring the site was cleaned up at the end of the event to staffing the water stations along the walk route to taking photographs of the event. The photographers included Jess Hall, Blake Baxendell, Brenda Kitchen, Ryanne Thelma, and Tyler Lewis Without their dedication and help, the event would not have been a success.

And, last but not least the many teams and individuals who came together to raise funds to help us continue to help others. Your support provides the opportunity for someone to receive a service dog, have a visit in a local hospital or nursing facility from a registered therapy team, have a child learn to enjoy reading, or keep one more victim of domestic violence safe. Thank you.





















# Carolina Canines for Service Inc.

PO Box 12643 Wilmington, NC 28405 866-910-3647
Email: info@carolinacanines.org Website: www.carolinacanines.org

**Member of:**

## And the winner is….

Patty Dickson of Scotia, NY was the winner of the beautiful hand made picnic size quilt made with dog print material. The Cuddles for Canines raffle was held on March 28, 2009 following the Walk for Those Who Can't. Raffle tickets donations raised just over $2,000 was raised thanks to our generous supporters.



L-R: Ana & Patty Dickson holding the Cuddles for Canines quilt.

Joan Powell started out on a project using her gifts and talents dear to her heart. She began a quilt project and presented the quilt to Carolina Canines to use as a fundraiser. Many hours of cutting, piecing and sewing later, a beautiful quilt was presented to Rick Hairston and Pat Nowak in August. Joan, from Ohio, is familiar with Carolina Canines because she is the sister of retired Carolina Canines for Therapy team Dee Maier and Kobi. Thanks to everyone that made this possible.

## Funding News

Thank you to our funders who continue to make our mission possible!

Banfield Charitable Trust
Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation
Bonner Family Private Foundation, Inc.
Brian G. McAleese Memorial Foundation
Cape Fear Area Combined Federal Campaign
Cape Fear Memorial Foundation
DRS Technologies Charitable Foundation Inc.
Harris-Legacy Foundation
Hueston Foundation
Jared C. Fox Foundation
The Landfall Foundation
Marino Family Foundation within the Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund
North Carolina State Employee Campaign
Officers' Wives Club Camp Lejeune
PetCo Foundation
ThreeSpokes Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
Triangle Community Foundation, Inc.
Wilmington Woman's Club
The Carol R. Wohlner Revocable Trust

**Stay informed of all the happenings at Carolina Canines for Service. Subscribe to our email newsletter at newsletter@carolinacanines.org**