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Frank Spears—Editor

NLMAD
NEW LIFE MOBILITY ASSISTANCE DOGS

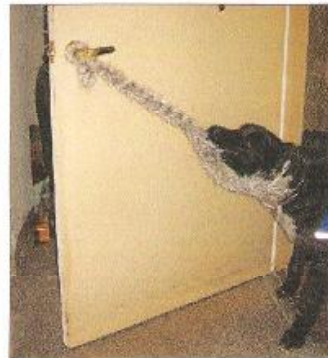
Specializing in the rescue and training of shelter dogs, to assist the disabled, providing both person and canine with a new lease on life

Spring 2011

NLMAD Graduates Team # 61 Amanda Levesque & Jimani

Amanda sustained a head injury as a child leaving her with Cerebral palsy-like symptoms. Jimani, is a 2 year old lab mix that was rescued from the Dare Co Animal Shelter on the Outer Banks, NC. NLMAD's head trainer Mark Hoke was his puppy home since his rescue at 10 weeks of age. Despite the February winds in Asheville, Amanda and Jimani braved through them to become a team!

Amanda is a very determined young lady and her spirit is to be applauded. Jimani had a very strong bond with his trainer, so NLMAD suspected he would be confused who to listen to. In the end, Mark had to hide so Jimani would learn to listen to Amanda. After a few days of frustration (not Amanda's) Jimani finally began to help Amanda by picking up everything she dropped and placing it in her hand. He also began touching automatic door buttons and closing Amanda's apartment door behind them. This team is well on their way to becoming a team to admire. Happy Trails & Wagging Tails!

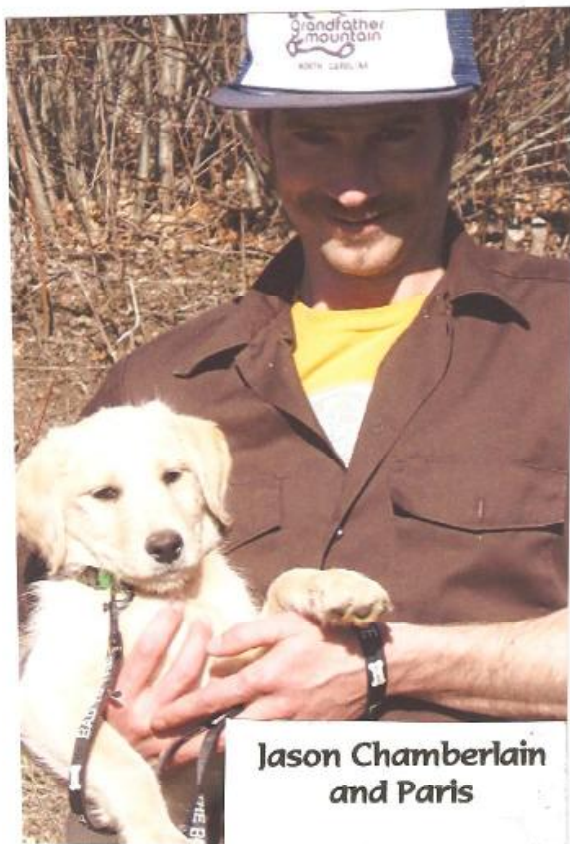


NLMAD Welcomes a New Puppy Raiser

Jason Chamberlain used to train Search and Rescue dogs to find people in avalanches. He now resides in Ashe County. Jason agreed to puppy raise Diamond a border collie/aussie mix (a Bossie) that needed to be socialized and housebroken. Jason did a wonderful job with Diamond ,working also on her basic obedience and retrieves. Diamond is one of the sweetest and most humble dogs you will ever meet.

Jason has now agreed to take on the challenge of a 10 week old female labradoodle named Paris. Paris is a beautiful pick of the litter puppy donated by Dr.Patricia Autland of Boone. She literally jumped through hoops at 8 weeks old!

Puppy Raising is a very selfless but rewarding job. Thank You, Jason If you are interested in being a puppy raiser or volunteer, Please call 336-838-2215 or email us at nlmad@aol.com



**Jason Chamberlain
and Paris**



A Diamond in the Ruff

The Starfish Legend

As the old man walked on the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish," countered the man. "How can your effort make any difference?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it safely into the waves.

"It makes a difference to this one," he said.

—Lauren Easley from "The Star Thrower"

Festivals 2011

April 16 ,17...Super Flea, Greensboro Coliseum

April 21 – 24...Shakori Hills Music Festival, Pittsboro, NC

April 28 – May 1...Merlefest, Wilkesboro, NC

May 7...Shine to Wine, N. Wilkesboro, NC

May 6, 7, 8...Mayfest, Pilot Mtn. NC

May 14...Ole Market Days, Lexington, NC

May 28, 29...White Squirrel Festival, Brevard, NC

June 10 – 18...Riverbend Festival, Chatanooga, TN

July 2...Christmas in July, W. Jefferson, NC

July 4...FunFourth, Greensboro, NC

July 15 – 19...Craftmen's Fair, Gatlinburg, TN

July 30, 31...Superflea, Greensboro Coliseum

August 13, 14...Sourwood Festival, Black Mtn, NC

Labor 4 Day Weekend...Hillsville, VA

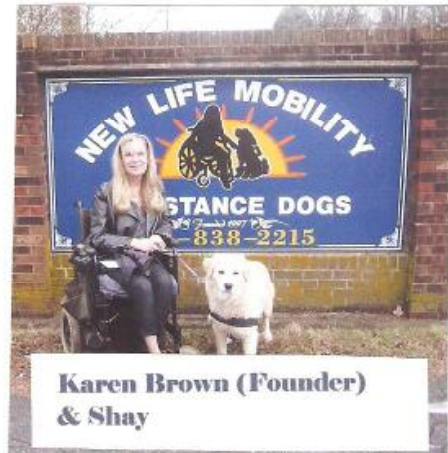
Sept. 9, 10...Historic Downtown Morganton Festival, NC

Oct 1...Apple Festival, N. Wilkesboro, NC

Oct. 7, 8, 9...Oktoberfest, Hickory, NC

Oct.22...Lexington Barbeque, NC

1st Sat in Nov...Pumpkinfest, Statesville, NC



**Come Out and Support
NLMA
by Playing the
Dog Pick 100 Game!**



Cagney and Lacey at the entrance sign

Board Members 2011

Karen C, Brown, President
Ruth Sturgill, Vice-President
Sue Taylor, Secretary
Diana Washburn, Treasurer
Dr. James Taylor
Brian Weber
Kathy Weber
Art Belanger
Pat Belanger



Kyia in the Oregon snow

More Sad News

Makenna Sewell was 4 years old when she came all the way from Oregon with her family, to be partnered with Kyia. She is now a beautiful 15 year old young lady. Makenna and Kyia were Team # 11. Shortly after the first of this year, we received the sad news below about Kyia.

Karen,

It is with great sadness and a feeling of loss that I write to tell you that we had to put Kyia down today. I know it has been years since we contacted you but have been grateful for the help in Makenna's life with Kyia. As you know she was an amazing dog with an even more amazing heart and sense of what Makenna needed. This is not the way we wanted to start the new year but she really began to suffer with hip pain and was unable in the last day to get up to go to the bathroom. We may be interested in the program again in the near future. All our love- The Sewells



Makenna and Kyia
on the last day



Kyia and Makenna

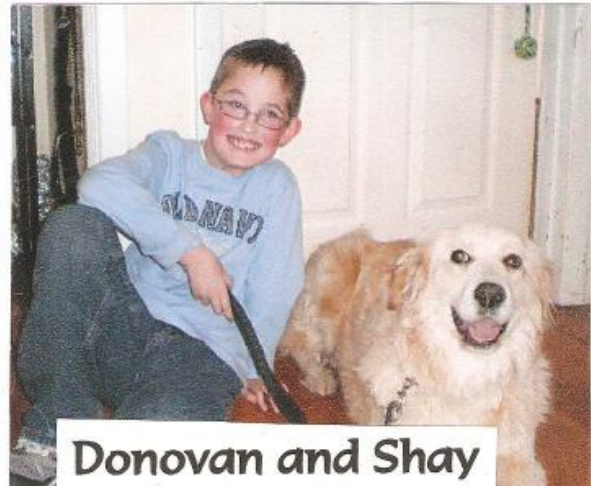
Meet Donovan Cook

NLMAD has been given the opportunity to help a special 7 year old boy named Donovan Cook who lives in Mooresville, NC. Donovan has the Kyphscoliosis Type of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a diagnosis shared with only 60 cases worldwide. EDS causes all of Donovan's joints to dislocate at any given moment and leaves him with very low muscle tone. Walking, let alone standing for long periods, is a struggle for him. His mother states that as Donovan gets older, she sees him determined to be independent and wanting to rely on others as little as possible. An assistance dog would navigate his way whether in a wheelchair or walking, as safely and confidently as possible. A recent visit to the Wilkes Co. Animal Shelter uncovered a beautiful 2 year old Golden Retriever mix with a heart of gold. NLMAD named her Shay. NLMAD feels that she has the potential to be a great match for this courageous young boy. We have seen true magic happen with children and their assistance dogs! Who wouldn't want to become the cool kid at school with the really awesome dog? If you would like to help this team become a reality, Please help us, help **D o n o v a n b y d o n a t i n g t o :**

NLMAD

P.O. Box 659

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NLMAD is sad to report the passing of Lewis Yoder, who was our very first recipient. Thirteen years ago, Lewis was placed with a dog named Cinder. What a twosome they became. Lewis was a double leg amputee. He always claimed that was not his disability but it was the stroke he had in his early sixties. The stroke left him legally blind and in a wheelchair. I will never forget their first day of wheelchair pulling training. Cinder began pulling the chair and Lewis started saying "Slow down, it's too fast." By one trip around the mall Lewis was asking if we could get her to go even faster! Lewis and Cinder were a familiar sight in Wilkesboro. One time in Walmart I heard "Look Out! Blind man coming through really fast". I turned to see Lewis & Cinder zipping through the aisles! Cinder had her usual happy wagging tail and Lewis was wearing a big broad grin. Cinder worked with Lewis for ten good years. One day Lewis called with the sad news that Cinder had passed away from cancer. He tearfully announced he was so depressed that he just was going to go into a nursing home. Life was essentially over without Cinder. I told Lewis that I had another dog for him that of course could and would not ever replace Cinder but would be of great help to him. The dogs' name was Lizzie, a small yellow lab, who to this day remains the calmest lab puppy NLMAD's had the pleasure to train. Lewis began to protest that he could never love another dog, which of course true to my nature fell on deaf ears!

NLMAD gathered up Lizzie and showed up at Lewis's door fifteen minutes later. Upon first meeting, Lizzie was a bit taken aback at getting close to Lewis's beard. I told Lewis drop something on the ground. He did and Lizzie immediately picked it up and put it in Lewis's lap. With big tears streaming down his face, Lewis said "I Love her Already!" Lizzie proceeded to put her front feet on Lewis's lap. She did not give Lewis a doggie kiss that day but I kept telling Lewis that she was a respectable girl and did not kiss on the first date! About 3 days later in training, Lizzie gave Lewis a great big SLURP! Lewis called many times to report that he still loved Cinder but he had to admit Lizzie might be a little bit better on some things than Cinder. That always brought a smile to my face!

I would personally like to thank all the Wilkes County residents who gave donations to partner Lewis with his new dog Lizzie. So many people were touched by Cinder and the special bond she shared with Lewis. They wanted Lewis to remain independent as long as possible and selflessly donated money to make Lewis smile again with a new dog at his side.

Lizzie worked with Lewis the last four years. As his health declined, he did eventually have to go into a nursing home. Of course Lizzie went too. She quickly became the whole nursing homes' dog. Lewis's daughter Brenda called to give the sad news of her Dad's passing. She said the last month for Lewis was very painful. Lizzie quickly realized she could no longer sleep next to Lewis because of his pain. Lizzie sat by his bedside till he drew his last breath. Brenda said she witnessed Lizzie then immediately get up on the bed and lay her head on Lewis's chest. Lizzie must of known he was gone and was no longer in pain.

Lewis has gone to join his Cinderella at the Rainbow Bridge. One day Lizzie will also join them. It was not only a pleasure to have Lewis as Team # 1 and # 41, but it was an honor to call him my friend. We will all miss you Lewis.

- December 20, 2010



A Letter From the President

This has been a bittersweet start to the year. Sadly, we are at the stage of operation as an organization where our past recipients are reaching their golden years. We learned of Lewis Yoder's passing and Makenna Sewells' faithful assistance dog Kyia also passing away. We have also learned that Journey and Cagney, two of our fabulous goldens still working have been diagnosed with terminal cancers. Upon their passing we have been asked by their recipients to train successor dogs for them. We will proudly do so. We are happy to work with all of our new recipients this year also. Please donate and help us continue our service!

Karen C. Brown
Founder of NLMAD

An Artistic Opportunity for NLMAD

M. Theresa Brown did a pastel portrait of Cookie at the last fundraiser. She presented it to NLMAD as a donation for all of Cookie's years of service. The portrait is an 8 x 10 with a value of 275.00 for that size. Of course its value to our Founder, Karen Brown is now PRICELESS! If you would like to have the essence of your animals or children captured by the talents of this fine artist, Please check out her website. If you mention New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs name as a referral, then 25% of the cost will be donated to NLMAD! What a win/win opportunity!



M. THERESA BROWN

PORTRAITS

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New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs Inc. Annual Appeal

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____



In support of the operation
of NLMAD Inc. I/We
hereby make this gift/pledge

Total Gift
\$ _____

One Time Gift: _____

Quarterly Gift: _____

Semi-annual Gift: _____

NLMAD is a 501(C)(3) Nonprofit Organization; contributions are tax deductible.
PO Box 659 Moravian Falls, NC 28654