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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

Sallie & Sugar Team # 38

Spring 2006

After college and graduate school, I married and began teaching in the local school system. My teaching career was followed by my becoming a busy stay-at-home mother of two children, homemaker and wife. When the girls entered kindergarten, I joined the interpretive staff at Old Salem. I was also a volunteer in several areas and loved gardening, sewing and crafts.

During the nation's bicentennial year I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, and it quickly progressed to a severe condition. My joints deteriorated and needed many surgeries so that I have new knees, many artificial finger and toe joints, and interesting elbow, shoulder, and wrist joints. Although there continues to be damage, new drugs came out in 2000 and have provided much reduction in my active disease.

A changing point came in 2005, after a hard year with chronic bronchitis and pneumonia. I began new medicines and was accepted into a great exercise study at Wake Forest University, although I have limitations in my mobility, balance, and flexibility. I try to accomplish as much as I can and be as involved with family, friends and activities as possible. I do admit that I drop

things easily and have difficulty picking up large, awkward or heavy things. I find it difficult to reach above my shoulder level or to button pants and shirts. Until recently I could only walk with a cane and although exercise has helped a lot, I



still find my balance shaky. I have continuously tried to find adaptive ways of overcoming these obstacles. To this end I was so delighted to have the opportunity to partner with a mobility assistance dog—a dream I have cherished since I learned about service dog programs. I have started training with "Sugar", a beautiful 4 year

old yellow Lab. She is a wonderful dog with tremendous abilities to assist in so many areas of my life. I can already see that her skills are just beginning to be tapped! She is learning to help me dress and undress. Sugar is also able to brace so that I can stand up from a chair safely. We are learning to walk at my slow pace, giving me greater security from falling. I am trying to learn as much as she knows and to be her leader. I figure at this point I am playing catch up in the skills area, but I can see a beautiful partnership and companionship developing. I hope that we will make a superb team as I improve. She is definitely an inspiration to me and a great motivator for me to work hard.

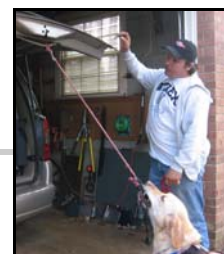
Sallie P. Page



NLMAD Successfully Competes in Wilkes County Dog Show



The Wilkes County Dog Park was the site of The Humane Society of Wilkes Annual Dog Show. A large turnout of both canine participants and audience admirer's filled the field on a beautiful sunny day. Lizzie is one of our star puppies. At 10 months of age, she competed against 11 other dogs in the Most Obedient category and came away with 2nd place. That's our girl! Her half brother Max who is in the very capable puppy raiser hands of Vicky Combs took 1st place in the Best Costume category. Max made the crowd laugh at his tail and carpenter tools hanging out the back of his overalls. Cookie and Lizzie won 3rd place as Bug Fairies. Cookie won 1st place in the Best Trick by wowwing the crowd with her ability to pick up a coin up off the ground and hand it to Karen! Let's hear a big WOOF! WOOF! for all the special dogs and owners that made the show be such a good time!



Crissy Noel
Watching Jim
work . *Who is
training who?"*

NLMAD is featured on WXII Channel 12 News in Winston-Salem, NC

The news crew came in November and both Sugar and Cookie wowwed them with their many service dogs skills. The purpose of the TV segment was to find a disabled recipient from Forsyth Co to partner with Sugar a 4 yr old yellow lab rescued from Forsyth Co. These were specific grant requirements that had to be met to receive a grant from the WS Foundation, specifically the Edna Parkin-Georges Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00. The segment was aired at least 4 times and we received several inquiries. One particular lady named Sally Page, a resident from Forsyth Co. was deemed to be the ideal person for Sugar. A huge thank you to the TV station for being so instrumental in finding Sugar's person! And also another huge thank you to the Winston-Salem Foundation for their wonderful support and generosity of grants to enable NLMAD to thrive and grow!

TOP TEN DOG COMPLAINTS

1. Blaming your farts on me...not funny...not funny at all!!!
2. Yelling at me for barking...I'M A DOG, YOU IDIOT!
3. Taking me for a walk, then not letting me check stuff out. Exactly whose walk is this anyway?
4. Any trick that involves balancing food on my nose... stop it!
5. Any haircut that involves bows or ribbons...now you know why we chew your stuff up when you're not home
6. The fake fetch throw. You fooled a dog! Whoooo-Hooooo -- what a proud moment for the top of the food chain!
7. Taking me to the vet for "the big snip," then acting surprised when I freak out every time we go back!
8. Getting upset when I sniff the crotches of your guests. Sorry, but I haven't quite mastered that hand-shake thing yet!
9. Dog sweaters. Hello???...Haven't you noticed the fur?
10. How you act disgusted when I lick myself. Look, we both know the truth, you're just jealous.

Now lay off me on some of these things. We both know who's boss here!!! You Don't See Me Picking Up Your Poop Do You?



By Sharon Lawson

God Sent Me A Guardian Angel
The time has arrived when I've united
With my service dog, My Angel
The dawns to twilights of being alone
are now gone

Brandy is always with me, her work is never done
I need her glorious sunshine, like a flower
needs the sun.

Bracing for me, she loves to do,
She helps me balance and walk too.
My devoted companion so regal and royal,
My guardian angel, so loving and loyal.
Everyone who sees her notices her glow,
My angel Brandy is a pleasure to know.

God answered my prayers and now we're together
My guardian angel from God, I will be thankful forever.

A Special Thanks To Those That Contributed This Quarter!

Wilcox Emporium
Brushy Mtn Ruritan Club
Ted & Diane Blackmon
Gail Coffer
Stanage Elling
Robin Witcher
Donna Peterson
Tammy Kelt
Jill Sepker
Mary Roddy
Wal-Mart
Carol Brown
Ogden & Mary Kelt
Carol Neustadter
Morton & Leslie Shavell
Frank Underwood

Sylvia Hansmann
Sandra Oliver
Retta Cheung
Marie Van Scoy
Bank Of America Fdn Matching Funds
Larry Farthing
Lewis Yoder
Paul Tomcho
Lysbeth Chamblee
Leonard Herring Family Fdn
Frank Spears
Keith & Judy Jansen
Emporium USA
Roger Wright
Ray Price Harley Davidson
Jason Seaton



We're on the web:
www.nlmad.org

My name is Teresa Angel . I have struggled with rheumatoid arthritis for the past 29 years. In 2002 I was placed with my first assistance dog named Honor who greatly made my life easier. He was the most humble golden retriever and quickly became my best friend. In 2005, an undetected cancerous tumor took him from my life entirely too soon. He was the joy and a big highlight in my life and that makes me ache as I think of the loss. There remains an empty place in my heart and home. I have decided I am now again ready for another assistance dog. New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs is again training another dog for me. I know there will never be another Honor but I look forward to the help and companionship of an assistance dog. A poodle/schnauzer mix has been selected for me. His name is Mig and word has it he is full of personality and charm. He is being trained to pick up dropped items, and get the phone for me. He will also be able to bring my money purse up to a cashier in a store and carry in groceries from the car to the house. I look forward to a long working partnership with this new dog. Part of my responsibility in getting my new dog is that I must help fundraise to help pay the training costs. I need your help to accomplish this goal. Please send a donation to help make my life complete again. Thank you.

Letter From The President

Happy New Year! 2006 looks to be a productive year for NLMAD. Especially exciting is the addition of three new very motivated board members to our already ambitious board. Jim and Sue Taylor, 3 time successful puppy raisers have joined us and have agreed to discuss and employ fundraising ideas with recipients waiting for their service dogs. NLMAD has found that recipients that actively participate in the fundraising process appreciate and work harder to become a team with their assistance dog. Also joining us this year is Frank Spears who has generously donated his time, effort and money in creating our newsletter! He also helped ignite additional excitement with fundraising ideas to help this organization not only thrive but to grow!

In upcoming newsletters, we plan to add veterinarian tips, courtesy of Dr. Sylvia Smith. Training tips will also be included to aid our service dog teams to continue their success in becoming the best teams they can be.

Thank You, *Karen*

Hi, my name is Pam Bullion and I am from Jonesville and currently live in High Point, NC. I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when I was 14. I used to enjoy bowling, the beach, and social activities that people take for granted like going to the movies , restaurants, and the mall. I used to have friends but due to my limited mobility, they have detached themselves from me. When I found about assistance dogs, I knew that was an answer to my prayers. New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs is currently training a dog for me. It is being trained to pick up dropped items and get the phone for me. It will also learn to help undress me, turn lights off and on, push automatic door buttons and open the refrigerator, get me a drink and shut the door. I am especially looking forward to the companionship of an assistance dog. I believe a whole new world will open up to me once I receive my dog. Part of my responsibility of being a recipient is that I need to help fundraise for the organization training my dog. Please help me become more independent and send a donation. Thank you.

The Crisis of Pet Overpopulation

By: Sylvia Smith

Every day in the United States thousands upon thousands of puppies and kittens are born because of the uncontrolled breeding of pets. Add to that number the offspring of stray and abandoned companion animals, and the total becomes even more staggering. Every year, between six and eight million dogs and cats enter U. S. shelters; some three to four million of these animals are euthanized because there are not enough homes for them.

Too many companion animals competing for too few good homes is the most obvious consequence of uncontrolled breeding. However, there are other equally tragic problems that result from pet overpopulation: the transformation of some animal shelters into "warehouses," the acceptance of cruelty to animals as a way of life in our society, and the stress that caring shelter workers suffer when they are forced to euthanize one animal after another. Living creatures have become throwaway items to be cuddled when cute and abandoned when inconvenient. Such disregard for animal life pervades and erodes our culture.

Abandoned and stray companion animals that survive in the streets pose a health threat to humans and other animals. Homeless companion animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and anger citizens. Some of these animals scare away or prey upon wildlife - such as birds - or frighten small children.

The public health epidemic of dog bites - which number more than 4.5 million each year - is due in part to uncontrolled breeding of pets. Bites by so-called dangerous dogs have drawn an enormous amount of media attention, and fatalities caused by dangerous dogs are a serious concern. Often the vicious tendencies found in some dog breeds can be attributed to irresponsible breeding without regard for temperament. Neutering can help reduce this aggressive behavior.

Clearly, pet overpopulation is not just a problem for the animals or for the shelters involved. Each year communities are forced to spend millions of taxpayer dollars trying to cope with the consequences of this surplus of pets. These public costs include services such as investigating animal cruelty, humanely capturing stray animals, and sheltering lost and homeless animals.

Tree Lighting Ceremony in North Wilkesboro

Twas a cold and blustery night,
Lots of people in sight
All gathered together,
To brave the weather.

Vendors lined the streets with wares to sell
Cookie and Lizzie dressed as reindogs from head to tail.
Lindsey dressed as Santa, HO! HO! HO!
Karens Santas helper costume took all week to sew
Santa yelled with a voice that could sound through fog
For \$1.00 donation you can pet a reindog!
People dug deep in their pockets that night,
Just for a peek at the reindogs, oh what a sight.

Sharon Lawson & Brandy Team #37

Brandy a beautiful female golden retriever was rescued from the Wilkes Co Animal Shelter along with her 4 month old puppy. Brandy immediately showed service dog potential, unfortunately her puppy proved to be too timid. A loving home was found for him. After 8 months of training Brandy was ready to be partnered with Sharon Lawson from Alabama.

Sharon was injured in a car crash that left her paraplegic. Miraculously, she regained use of her legs and learned to walk again. However her balance and gait remained unsteady. Brandy was trained to be a walker dog to help steady Sharon's balance. She has also helped Sharon gain more stamina and confidence with walking. Brandy quickly bonded with Sharon when she came for training. Who wouldn't when being told constantly what a beautiful dog they are?

Within a short period of time, Brandy was retrieving for Sharon, getting the phone, retrieving drinks from the refrigerator, and getting the grocery bags from the van. Sharon's smile and Brandy's happy wagging tail are sure to turn many a head upon their return to Alabama. Happy Trails and Wagging Tails!

A Burden Has Been Lifted
The day has finally come when I received my best friend.
The days and nights of being lonely have now come to an end.
His name is Vale and he stays by my side,
The joy on my face, I cannot hide.
Opening doors are things he likes to do,
He even adjusts my feet by grabbing my shoe.
The benefits of having him, I can't explain,
It's like the impact of a flower receiving rain.
Even those around me seem to have a glow,
Because of Vale's loving personality they've gotten to know.
We're like peas and carrots, or two peas in a pod,
Having Vale, is a blessing from God.
By Jason Seaton

Sally's Story

— After college and graduate school, I married and began teaching in the local school system. My teaching career was followed by my becoming a busy stay-at-home mother of two children, homemaker and wife. When the girls entered kindergarten, I joined the interpretive staff at Old Salem. I was also a volunteer in several areas and loved gardening, sewing and crafts.

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2006 Board of Directors

Karen Brown, President
Ruth Sturgill, Vice-President
Wade Sanders, Treasurer
Tammy Helt, Secretary
Sylvia Smith, DVM
Frank Spears
Jim Taylor
Sue Taylor
Anne Wentworth



Jim & Sue Taylor's Love

We have been volunteering for Karen since the late fall of 2000. Sue a Registered Nurse and Jim who had been teaching and administration at East Carolina University for ten years retired after 35 years of working with families of children and adults with disabilities. Both retired and moved to the mountains of Western North Carolina where they built a cabin on 15 acres in Deep Gap.

Over the past 5 years we have trained 3 dogs for NLMAD.

1) Lacy, our first puppy. She is shown here visiting a school and showing her good manners at a fairly young age. We will talk to the children about the puppy being trained to help a person with a special need because of their disability. It is a really good learning experience for the children as they learn information about children and adults with disabilities and also about service dogs being so valuable to the person in need



2) Hope, our 2nd puppy. Here hope is shown in one of her teaching situations. The puppies are taken to all sorts of situations in order to develop their manners and control. We take them almost everywhere with us at one time or another, including church, where they are such "angels".

3) Journey was our 3rd puppy. He is shown here having some fun. As the old saying goes, "All work and no play makes one dull". So each of the puppies do have some time for free play and directed play as they grow up



We look at puppy training as the "preschool thru prep school years" and when they are through with these years of "puppy training" they go "off to college" as we call it, where "Professor Karen" takes over and trains them in the specific skills that are needed to help the person with a disability that she matches the young dog.

Many people comment to us that it must be difficult giving the young dog away after they have been with us for over a year. Certainly we do get attached to the puppy during these formative months as they are so cute and lovable as you see them go from the "toddler" stage of development to "post adolescence" and it is a little heart-wrenching when they leave.

However, when one sees the joy and elation in the eyes of the recipient of the dog that you had some part of in training, it warms your heart so, even though a few private tears seem to flow. The separation and loss seem to be over taken by knowing you were able to help in a small way to make the life of a person with a disability easier and happier.

As Saint Francis the Patron Saint of animals writes in his "Prayer for Peace", that "It is in giving...that we receive". And we certainly have received more out of giving our time as volunteers to the New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs as puppy trainers than we have given.