



May 2014

# “The NSD Scoop”

“Enriching the quality of life and enhancing the independence of individuals and families living with special needs.”



When Chris McArthur told me we needed to stuff 50,000 eggs, I thought she was joking. 50,000 is an incredible amount! Before long, Clark Road Secondary School in London was on board, the Highland Place seniors were on board, as well as numerous individuals and families, all ready to get as many eggs stuffed as needed. Production of the National Service Dogs Easter Egg Hunt for Dogs, to be held on April 18, 2014 in eight cities, was once again in full swing. That was then, this is now. Another successful hunt is complete. Despite the gloomy weather predictions, we had over 1000 people register with their families and best friends and we raised \$89,465 for NSD's programs!

Thanks to the generosity of so many, participants received grand prizes of lawn care, car care, Blue Jay tickets, theatre tickets, movie passes, theme park passes, museum passes, restaurant gift cards, dog holiday weekend packages, pet photograph packages and more. There were dog treats and toys of every kind and of course, Purina Beggin Strips and Milk-Bones for everyone. Without our incredible volunteers, donors and sponsors, we couldn't have done it.

Please continue to spread the word to your friends and family about our most anticipated annual fundraiser. If you'd like more information on how you can join the Easter Egg Hunt volunteer force in one of our hunt cities, please contact [judy@nsd.on.ca](mailto:judy@nsd.on.ca) or 519-623-4118 ext. 10.

If you haven't experienced an NSD Easter Egg Hunt for Dogs, what are you waiting for? Be sure to mark your calendar for **April 3, 2015**; you'll have an incredible amount of fun!

My best, *Judy*



# NSD Spotlight

*About a month ago we received the following article from Sophia, the 12 year old sister of one of our clients. Sophia's article was incredible and showed a depth of feeling and understanding well beyond her years. Because Sophia's article so perfectly captured NSD and what we work for every day, we wanted to share it with you.*

1 in every 42 boys has a tough time making friends. 1 in every 42 boys cannot express their feelings properly. 1 in every 42 boys has autism. There is no cure for the 1 in every 42 boys all around the world. People question autism. Some don't understand, while others simply don't want to understand. Society cannot comprehend the needs and wants of these children, but there is hope. There are four-legged creatures that don't judge and will just accept you for who you really are. These animals can see through the criticism, judging, and hostility of the human eye. The organization National Service Dogs trains Labrador and Golden Retrievers to make the lives of people with autism safe, happy, and full of new experiences.



Have you ever felt like someone you loved needed saving? This was a thought running through one mother's mind in 1996. That was the spark that ignited the wisdom, compassion, and faithfulness that National Service Dogs has to offer. This desperate mother had a three-year-old son with autism. She was doing what all mothers of children with autism do, searching endlessly for help. But it wasn't doctors or therapy that gave her hope, it was the vision of her son with a loyal Labrador or Golden Retriever sitting by his side, and keeping him safe. National Service Dogs (NSD) took this mother under their care and provided her with a black Labrador named Shade. Soon enough, this little boy was on a family vacation with his loyal and faithful companion, Shade. The miracle of Shade and this little boy gave NSD the recognition needed to continue their dream. Suddenly, everyone was informed about autism, and NSD was expanding rapidly. Their dogs were everywhere and families with children with autism were on a wait list to receive their personal miracle. 200 volunteers, no government funding, one vision is how NSD made it all possible.

“Enriching the quality of life for individuals with special needs”. This is what NSD believes in accomplishing. Every day, trainers and volunteers at NSD wake up with this burning passion to fulfill this goal. Six months at a time, groups of NSD's silent angels are trained to receive their wings. With fully secured wings, the dogs begin the process of developing a bond with their selected child. Once the dog realizes the bond between the child and itself, the dog will act upon instinct to keep the child out of harm's way. One of the ways this happens is with a tether that attaches from the dog to the child. When the dog is told to “halt”, it will stay planted in position, not allowing the child to bolt. Through training, these dogs have also learned about autistic behavior. Some people with autism may throw tantrums when schedules are changed, and new environments are introduced. The service dog will act as a comfort, providing its love and companionship for the child. It is in these little miracles that we see the autistic child flourish and become who they truly are.

# NSD Spotlight Continued

In my house, a National Service Dog named Eli made it clear that hope was on its way. When my brother was diagnosed with autism at the age of two, my family was searching for a source of hope to ensure that things would get better in the future. My parents and I watched my brother, Julian grow and develop and tantrums were inevitable at times. This is why we decided that a dog from NSD would benefit Julian. After waiting anxiously for a few years, we finally got our silent angel, Eli. I watched in awe as Julian and Eli were bonding very well. When Julian would throw tantrums, Eli would immediately run to him and put his nose on Julian's lap. Eli is now a positive influence on Julian and keeps him focused. My brother really loves the subway station, but it is very dangerous. Now, Julian can go to the subway station attached to Eli and danger is eliminated. One day, Julian started to run into the valley behind our house. Eli swiftly ran after him and stayed with him. Julian will continue to grow and develop with Eli by his side every step of the way.

In summary, NSD's dogs provide children with autism with the perfect friend. From back in 1996, we see that service dogs for autistic children impact their lives in several ways. My brother, Julian can now lead a more independent life because of the love Eli has taught him. Eli leads Julian to fulfill all his goals in life, and be confident and speak out. So, 1 in every 42 boys can now have an extra guardian angel. They can live their lives in love and happiness.

*Submitted by Sophia Trozzo*

## Congratulations Class of April 2014



**Back row:** Mango, Journey, Louie, Mandy

**Third row:** Lola, Neptune, Merlin

**Second row:** Misty, Lucy

**Front row:** Nico, Norman

Graduation was held April 30, 2014. Our best to our graduating Families and Service Dogs!

# Puppy Program Update

**The A litter** are doing well in class. We've had a few challenges with some puppies who think they know better than some of our newest puppy raisers; but these are still very early days for this bright and energetic group of puppies. They do not lack confidence that's for sure. Little yellow Abbie scores 10 out of 10 for exuberance!

**The Hollywood litter**...what a difference a few weeks can make! They've almost grown out of that initial stage that the A litter is going through now and they are settling in nicely. We see small furry bundles on some who have inherited dad and grandpa's thick coat while the others have a long and silky coat. Aptly named, they are a good looking bunch and certainly fit into the "Hollywood" theme for their looks and charms.

**The "V" litter:** Now five months old and quickly losing their puppy looks. Some are getting very tall and lanky. This bright litter seem to be leaning towards the looks of mom, Equioa. Bobtailed Vernon always gets noticed when he is seen around the London area. He'll always stand out in a crowd. Some still show their puppy antics while others are taking things more seriously.

**The "W" litter:** Quite different from the V litter, the Ws are shorter and more chunky. At six months old, some have sensible heads and others play to the crowd. One thing is for sure, they'll get there in the end if genetics has anything to do with it. Jingles and Dog Guides', Nugget, have good track records for producing puppies who have the beauty and the brains.

**The "U" litter:** This eight month old purebred Golden litter are looking very mature for their ages. Isla and Vedo should be very proud parents! These stocky puppies with nice broad heads certainly have the brains as well as the looks. All are doing well in class. It doesn't seem more than five minutes ago that they were joining the Puppy Program.



**Puppy Camp for May 2014:** Here we are already into May Puppy Camp. Puppies from the P, Q, R, S and T litters will be coming in for their introduction to kennel life and some for breeder assessments. This is a fun time for all, with the days spent learning new things and being assessed over the few days at camp. The puppies enjoy lots of playtimes, meeting the evening volunteers and seeing what a five star kennel looks like! On a serious note, they'll be boarding the training van and going to the plaza to see what life can throw at them. They will also enjoy relaxing in the red room while having snuggles with our evening volunteers.

**Advanced recall in June:** While some puppies will be coming in for a Puppy Camp, the older puppies are on standby and waiting for their recall to Advanced Training. The remaining puppies from the L, N and O litters are due in for Advanced Training in June. Other puppies from those litters have already been through their training and have been placed.

# NSD Events

## Motorcycle Ride for Autism & Veterans

**Sunday, July 13, 2014, Registration 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., Ride 10:00 a.m.  
Waterloo Masonic Lodge, 440 Weber St. N., Waterloo**

Enjoy a scenic Sunday ride sponsored and captained by 1st C.A.V. and the Gulf-Kuwait Motorcycle Unit. The day will include pictures with puppies, a complimentary lunch and a chance to win great prizes. Watch [www.nsd.on.ca](http://www.nsd.on.ca) for more details. Cost: \$25 per driver, \$15 for an additional rider; raise \$100+ and ride for free!

## Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 6:00 p.m.**

**NSD Training Centre, 1286 Cedar Creek Road, Cambridge**

All parties having an interest in the business of National Service Dogs are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting. Refreshments and a tour of our facility will be available from 6-6:30, with the meeting starting promptly at 6:30. Please come out and join us.

## Annual Open House

**Sunday, August 24, Noon to 4:00 p.m.,**

**NSD Training Centre, 1286 Cedar Creek Rd, Cambridge**

Drop in to our Training Centre for our Annual Open House during the last weekend of August. The afternoon will include a BBQ, children's crafts, tours, Certified Service Dog demonstrations, and volunteer awards. Contact [Judy@nsd.on.ca](mailto:Judy@nsd.on.ca) or 519-623-4188 ext. 10 for more details.

## Promote Your NSD Fundraiser

Are you organizing an event in support of National Service Dogs? Provide us with all the details and we'll add it to the next issue of "The Scoop." Contact [judy@nsd.on.ca](mailto:judy@nsd.on.ca) or ext. 10 to promote your event.

## Summer is a great time to visit

Planning a visit to Waterloo Region? Organizing a bus tour? Just curious to know what we're all about? The spring and summer months are a great time to visit National Service Dogs. Situated on 7 acres in the country, our training facility is a fun and educational experience for dog lovers of any age. To arrange a tour please contact [laura@nsd.on.ca](mailto:laura@nsd.on.ca) or call 519-623-4188 ext. 13.

## Volunteer Opportunities

If you have a couple of hours once a week, once every two weeks or once in a while, we can use your help with:

### Puppy Raising

- Help us socialize and train our puppies-in-training by welcoming one into your home for app. 16 months

### Weekend Sitting

- Help provide a relaxing weekend for a dog in Advanced Training

### Fundraising

- Work with our staff to ensure the success of various fundraising events.

### Building Maintenance

- Assist with general painting and repairs, including building kennels, completing electrical work and plumbing, mowing and gardening

Interested in volunteering? please contact Breana at [volunteer@nsd.on.ca](mailto:volunteer@nsd.on.ca).