



The Brigadoon Barker

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Youth Program at Whatcom Discovery Center Going Strong

From a Volunteer's Perspective by Kate Dustrude

When I was first asked to help volunteer with a group of fifth grade boys at Whatcom Discovery Center, as a part one of the youth programs at Brigadoon, I was both ecstatic and incredibly nervous. I wanted to know everything there was to know about training service dogs, and this was just another leg up in my teaching. However, I had absolutely no idea what to expect on our first day at the school.

I was genuinely shocked to see how well the boys and dogs worked together almost immediately. Sure, it was a huge transition for both, but after a few months of practice together, everyone seems to have settled in quite nicely. I was especially curious to see the growth in both the dogs and the students, but the results were far beyond my imagination.



Students from left to right— Bryce, Ben L., Jack, [Mary Allen, Brigadoon Board] Tayler, Adrian, Ben S. Caleb and Riley. [Kate Dustrude, Brigadoon volunteer]. Back row teachers Ms Amy, Mr Jeff, Ms Karen. Front and center, Brigadoon dogs Winston, Yellow Lab and Spinner, Golden Retriever

I was working last week with a boy who was new to the school, and therefore new to our program. We learned early on that he'd never lived with a dog, and really hadn't spent much time at all around them. Naturally, he was timid, and didn't express the developing confidence that many of the other boys were. Over the next couple weeks, however, we noticed that this new, shy student was taking an interest in the dogs. Although it might have only been to sit and pet them, or help one of his class mates groom, he was steadily increasing his confidence.

Last week, I saw something remarkable. As we were outside with the boys, working with the dogs to stay in heel position, with all the added distractions brought on by the change of scenery, our timid new student knocked us all speechless. Not only was he walking confidently with Winston, one of the dogs in this particular program, but rarely did he need my assistance. Even though his general training knowledge spanned only a little way, he was trying his best to incorporate what he'd been taught about getting his dog's attention.

It was absolutely incredible, to see what fantastic progress he'd made. This boy started out as a scared, passive student, and has steadily developed into an encouragement for all of us in youth programs like this one. To see that our work at this school has made this much of an impact on just one student, let alone all the others we've worked with, has made the time I volunteer here one hundred percent worth it. I can witness that what we do with the students is of actual benefit, and it really is delightful to see. I couldn't be more amazed or impressed with how far each and every one of the students has come.



Offering a Helping Paw to Change Lives One Partnership at a Time

is the topic for a new series of presentations Brigadoon will be hosting around Whatcom County. We have all heard of or seen seeing eye dogs. Not as many of us have heard of or seen what Assistance Dogs can do for their human partners. The public will be invited to join us for one hour informative sessions and learn about what these amazing dogs can do for their physically or developmentally disabled partner. People will have the opportunity to meet some of our dogs and see what they can do. Please tell everyone who you think might be interested in this program and let them know we would love to have them attend one of our sessions.

Schedule of Presentations

Saturday, June 5th @ 11am

We will join the Farmers' Day Parade and then follow with a presentation in the Lynden Pioneer Museum, 217 West Front Street, Lynden, WA

Tuesday, July 13th at 12:30pm

Ferndale Senior Center, 1998 Cheery St, Ferndale, WA
Everyone Welcome!

Saturday, August 7th @ 1pm

Food Co-op, Cordata, Bellingham
Everyone Welcome!

Check our website for updates for the Fall presentations.

We welcome you to tour our training facilities. Please call anytime to schedule a tour at 360-733-5388

How Can You Help?

There are many ways that you can help.

- Do you have fundraising experience?
- Do you have a skill you could offer?
- Event planning experience or willingness to help.
- Volunteer at the kennel with dog walking, grooming, helping in the office
- Puppy raising (please see the website for requirements for this)- www.brigadoondogs.org
- No time, but would love to help financially. Tax receipts provided for all donations.



Digital Updates from Leanne

Please check out our website often at www.brigadoondogs.org. We try to add new information about what's going on in the Service Dog and Youth programs, as well as just general information.

Note that our contact address has changed to info@brigadoondogs.org

Volunteer Spotlight—Valerie Allen

I moved to WA in 2003 from Northern CA, where I was a research analyst. I have volunteered with Brigadoon for about 6 months. Basically I walk dogs and do whatever chores need doing. My favorite thing is the dogs of course, I'm not really interested in training but I do love to give each dog individual rubs, hugs and love. They say the eyes are the window to the soul and I believe the same holds true for dogs. Nothing makes me happier than seeing smiling, shiny eyes. It is my mission for myself every time I go there to make sure each dog knows that it is loved no matter if it can turn on a light switch or not.

To me dogs are the only epitome of unconditional love--in its truest form, walking this planet. They are a gift to be cherished and protected. For so many they are just a tool or a commodity or an extension of a persons ego and I am happy to say this is not the case at Brigadoon. If a dog is willing to be a service dog, in my eyes that makes it even more special, and while I am all for helping people, they must realize



Wine Tasting and Fund Raising for a Brigadoon Dog for a Six year old boy Carlos by Leanne Little, Brigadoon Board Vice President



Carlos is an active 6 year old boy with Cerebral Palsy and a seizure disorder. Currently Carlos walks with a walker or uses a wheelchair to get around. Carlos and his parents can see the value that a service dog could offer him in helping him walk without his walker, alerting them to upcoming seizures, opening doors for him, turning on lights, picking up items he's dropped (just to name a few things a dog can be trained to do), and a companion dog to be his best friend.

Friday, April 16th, approximately 50 people gathered to celebrate Carlos' wish of raising money towards the training of a service dog. The event was held at the J. Bookwalter Tasting Room in Woodinville, WA and what an event it was! There was excellent wine to taste and purchase on site, lots of food to nibble on, and a silent auction with many wonderful items donated to help

towards this cause. Carlos' Mom Beth worked tirelessly talking to everyone she could about the fundraiser and many businesses went above and beyond to get a donation approved for the silent auction. Carlos' parents, Carlos and Beth Villavicencio were excellent hosts and are obviously well respected and loved in the community based on the outpouring of donations by all.

Denise Costanten brought the puppy Gunther (in the picture with Carlos below), and an older service dog Tate to the event. Denise presented an inspiring powerpoint presentation explaining what Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs is all about and how they've managed to change lives so far and did a brief live demonstration. A very heartwarming evening!

The evening concluded with a total of \$7500 donated towards the training of a dog for Carlos. Thank you everyone for your generosity in this wonderful cause! Carlos is working towards his goal of \$30,000 for his service dog. He's now had \$8321 donated on his behalf. If you're interested in helping Carlos, please go to his webpage at <http://www.brigadoondogs.com/Carlos-Donations.html>



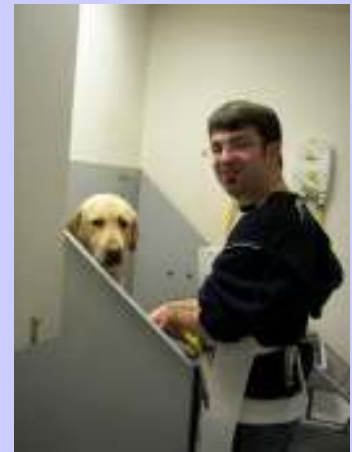
New Board Member Joins Brigadoon

This month we welcome Carolyn Wyandt as a new Board Member. Carolyn is currently self-employed as a consultant in Business Networking. She brings special business skills to Brigadoon and believes in the wonderful mission. She has served on the Boards of the Whatcom County Day Care Providers Association and the Whatcom County Foster Parent Association. We look forward to her participation and expertise.

Brigadoon dogs having fun

It is not all work, some moments of fun at Brigadoon.

Corey, one of our volunteers with cerebral palsy, giving Winston a bath. Watch the newsletter for more volunteer moments.



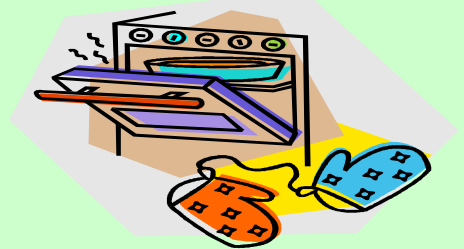
Volunteer trainer Edwina Kleeman has some fun with Winston and his half brother puppy Gunther. Gunther is a rising star at Brigadoon. He seems to be telling Winston that he is going to be the number one dog one day.

Recipes to cook for your dog—

Very Tasty Sardine Training Treats.....

In training, high value treats are very motivating. Here is a recipe for real motivation.

Put in blender: 3 eggs, 1 can sardines, 1 pack plain graham crackers. Blend on high speed until liquid. Pour on cookie sheet and spread out. Bake at 350 for about 20 min, until it looks rubbery and light brown on top. Cool. Then cut into bite size pieces. Recipe from Dianna Kirkbride



These AMAZING dogs are ready for their companion forever homes!

Sometimes the dogs don't make it through the Service Dog program for one reason or another. In this case, Journey (2 years old) and Tate (3 years old) are being released and we're looking for a forever home for each of these amazing dogs. Both are neutered males and housebroken. Both are up to date with their shots. Call Denise to schedule an interview and find out more at 360-733-5388.



Journey
Smooth coated pure-bred Collie

Some training.

Donation to Brigadoon in exchange for this amazing dog desired.



Tate
Smooth coated pure-bred Collie

Obedience trained, needs work on down/stay.
Donation to Brigadoon required.