



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

December 2009



Paw Prints



Note from Susan

In celebration of Hawaii Fi-Do's 10th anniversary, I would like to dedicate this issue to all of our loyal volunteers for their many hours of labor, ongoing support, encouragement and love.

In spite of the struggling economy, Hawaii Fi-Do has managed to maintain its direction and mission of training and placing skilled service dogs, thanks to those individuals and businesses who support and believe in our work. Grants, along with donations of food, supplies and equipment from Star Pet Products and local and national businesses, have kept us going and allowed us to attain the following goals:

- assist the Wounded Warriors Program by providing skilled service dogs
- continue the "READ to the Dogs" library program
- expand "Youth Trainers" at the Life Center in Kahuku
- provide therapeutic dog visitations at Castle Hospital
- develop vocational training program for adults with special needs
- keep Kai, our facility dog, at Kahuku Hospital four days a week
- breed and train quality dogs
- continue with our foster puppy raiser/trainer program
- touch the lives of Mokapu Elementary School students with our educational program

We are very proud of all of our accomplishments over the years but perhaps our biggest accomplishment to date is our accreditation with the Assistance Dogs International (ADI). This past year, we became the first nationally accredited service dog program in Hawaii --one of only 47 worldwide.

Thank you so much for your faith and trust in our work to help others. All that we've accomplished these last ten years was made possible by you.

Dog licks to you all!

Aloha,
Susan

Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs
P. O. Box 757
Kahuku, HI 96731
808.638.0200
www.hawaiifido.org

Puppy Love



On October 14, Ehu delivered 12 beautiful and healthy pups, This is the first litter of medium labradoodles born in Hawaii. Several of the pups will remain with Hawaii Fi-Do to be trained as service dogs, while the remainder will be sold to those looking for an excellent family pet. Monies raised from the sale will be used in for the raising and training of our service dogs.

We are always looking for puppy raisers. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Susan at 808.638.0200.



Be sure to watch *Pet Hui* on OC16 and catch our Wounded Warrior dogs and Ehu's new pups in training !

Hawaii Fi-Do is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides quality trained assistance dogs to people with disabilities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Luehrs, Executive Director
Wendy Gorka, President
Judy Suan, Vice-President
Jane Lombardi, Secretary
Roxanne Bolden, Treasurer
Kristen Brooks, Voting Member
Scott Suzuki, Esq., Voting Member
Jeanne Gibbs, Recipient, Advisory
Karen Lombardi, Advisory
Cynthia "Cindy" Files, Advisory
Selma Brown, Advisory

Wounded Warriors Program



We have recently started a new program with the Wounded Warriors in Hawaii and are offering our services to all branches of the military. These GI's have a variety of permanent injuries and though their physical wounds are healing, the emotional scars also need attention. Hawaii Fi-Do is dedicated to being part of the healing process of our returning US servicemen and woman suffering from PTSD and other war related injuries. The concept of having a dog instead of a cane is the latest request coming from the Wounded Warriors. Finn is the first dog in Hawaii placed as a barrack dogs at Kaneohe Marine Base and Frank has just been certified as a service dog for a Wounded Warrior. Indy, a beautiful lab donated by Dr Casper of Feather and Fur, is currently in training for the Warrior Program.



Thank you to all who voted in the Tom's of Maine 2009 Project Sponsorships. Although we didn't win, we had tremendous support. We'll try again next year!



Over 40,000 people participated in Childrens and Youth Day, an annual event at the State Capitol. Hawaii Fi-Do had several working teams there to share our dogs and information about our programs. Many thanks to Marie Wachsmuth for handling the logistics for our group.



A warm aloha to all our sponsors for their generous donations. Special thanks to the Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation for donating \$4000 from their annual Oahu Charity Walk in support of our youth-at-risk and Wounded Warriors programs and Potential Development Unlimited for their gift of \$1000.



Bob Stalker, vice president of the Hawaii Fi-Do Board of Director, passed away after a long illness. Bob and his home companion dog, Jazzy were strong supporters over the years and will be greatly missed. In their honor, a memorial bench will be set-up at the kennels.



Wishes DO come true. Hawaii Fi-Do will be working with the Make a Wish Foundation to make Haley's wish, of having a labradoodle puppy, come true.

Thank you to Brownie Troop 275 of Hickam for donating proceeds from their cookie sale to Hawaii Fi-Do!



The first Hawaii-born miniature Labradoodles arrived June 29. Parents Deva Angel "Angie" and Benny Makana are both from Cloud Catcher Labradoodles in Australia



Vita is now 3 years old and works each day as a Facility Service Dog at Hale Ku'ike in Nuuanu a Memory Enhancement Center. Vita alerts staff when residents need assistance, and gives positive licks, hugs and kisses at the center. She also joins the residents on various outings in the community. Her presence encourages individuals to talk to residents who enjoy the company of others.

Over the last 10 years, Hawaii Fi-Do and its families have been blessed with and lost...

SADDIE

Hawaii Fi-Do's first therapy dog who lived to 18 years old

WILLIE

Our sweet Corgi who started "READ to Willie" motivational reading program

ULU

A special dog with a giant heart who left us too early

HOKU

Our first certified service dog that lived to serve two clients

PJ MARLEY

A special companion dog for a special family that will be greatly missed

ROYCE

A service dog in-training fostered by Darlene DeCrenzo
He was my inspiration to start Hawaii Fi-Do

JAZZY

A rescue dog who paid us back in many ways over the years
She spent her final years as a faithful companion to Bob Stalker



Estate Planning

No one likes to think about this part of life but the important thing to remember that if we don't do our own planning, the state will do it for us with no regard for our own wishes and interests. Every person should have a Will or Trust in order to assure that their wishes will be carried out.

Having a Will or Trust benefits the individual, their families, and can also benefit non-profit organizations like Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs in any of the following ways:

- Outright gifts of money or property
- Gifts through insurance
- Gifts through Trust or Will

Consult your financial or legal consultant's about these estate planning techniques and make sure the language is understood by all parties.

If you are interested in helping Hawaii Fi-Do in any one of these special ways, you will be helping to ensure that our work will continue for years to come.

Paw Prints on my Heart

*I gave you all my love
although I knew
one day we'd part
But you're still
with me always
You left paw prints
on my heart*

Lori Gosselin

Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs

P.O. Box 757

Kahuku, HI 96731

808.638.0200

www.hawaiifido.org