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Rachel Franz & Marama
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* Sponsored by Janice Lair in honor of her father, Buster

Upcoming Graduation & Building Dedication

Fall 2021
Graduation
Saturday, October 9, 2021
11:00am
KSDS West Training Building
703 D St.
Washington, KS 66968

Join us as we honor those who graduated with a KSDS assistance dog between November 2019 and October 2021. Afterwards, we will be dedicating a building in honor of one of KSDS’ founders. Lunch will follow in our East Training Building. Free to the public!

* Masks may be required based on October CDC recommendations for new variants. *
Puppy Raising: Where the Adventures Begin!

Have you ever wanted to learn more about being a KSDS puppy raiser? Recently, we were able to catch up with KSDS Puppy Raiser Lisa Hamilton (and puppy-in-training, Montana) to learn about her experiences raising KSDS dogs. Lisa began puppy raising in 2013, but first decided she wanted to raise a puppy while at a dog show in Wisconsin during her high school years. At the time, she learned about puppy raising from another assistance dog training school. Fast forward to 2013 - Lisa met a KSDS puppy raiser and knew it was her time to begin raising one of her own because the reward of changing someone’s life was much greater than winning a ribbon in obedience or agility at a dog show.

It’s one thing to talk about being a puppy raiser, but it becomes a lot more “real” when you receive your first puppy from KSDS. As Lisa shared, “it can be an emotional roller coaster at times, but it is so worth it!” Despite the ups and downs, you always know you are not alone thanks to the resources and support KSDS provides from the time you have an 8-week old puppy until the day you turn your pup back in for formal training. Pups Day, one of the highlights for many puppy raisers, shows this better than anything. During the day-long program, current puppy raisers gather at KSDS to refresh their skills, socialize with one another, and learn new training techniques. Puppy raisers also learn about some of the challenges their future handlers may be facing and what the dogs are going to do to help them become more independent. Other highlights include the Kansas State Fair and KSDS sponsored events in which puppy raisers volunteer next to KSDS graduates. During these events, puppy raisers are able to ask the graduates questions to learn more about how their dogs help them on a day-to-day basis. Plus, as Lisa stated, “there is no better reward than actually seeing the pup you raised graduate with their new partner and making a difference in their lives.”

Although we hope for the best, there are some things that can be challenging, even for seasoned puppy raisers. A few common trials include house-breaking, chewing/teething, and kennel training. Lisa suggests keeping dogs on a strict schedule and staying consistent until you get through the early months of puppy training as a resolution. Another unique test, especially for our more introverted puppy raisers, is overcoming the inevitable attention they receive when bringing their puppy to public places. Despite the obstacles, there are incredible benefits to puppy raising, too! Taking the pup just about everywhere is one of them. As Lisa shared, she LOVES having a puppy by her side most of the time, but she notes it would be even better if she could control
the people around her. Another positive is watching the puppy learn, play, and grow, especially since they are so cute and each have unique personalities. On a personal level, the support of other puppy raisers is unmatched, since many are going through similar tribulations at exactly the same time. Therefore, they can bounce ideas off each other and figure out the best way to handle a situation since many littermates have similar personalities and struggles.

Although each litter is different, one of the most unique opportunities afforded to our puppy raisers is the ability to train in public. Nine times out of ten, this is a seamless experience, but there are occasionally times when puppy raisers are asked to leave. According to Lisa, when this happens she generally tries to explain what she is doing and shares a KSDS brochure with them before graciously leaving since she knows that puppy raisers do not always have public access. She also notes, it’s sometimes helpful to travel in pairs during the first few outings in case many children come up to pet the dog. As a duo, one can teach the public how to appropriately interact with a working dog while the other reinforces appropriate public manners with the puppy.

After raising a puppy for 18 months, turn-in is one of the most bittersweet moments our puppy raisers face. Despite the sadness of turn-in, we have had many repeat puppy raisers. When asked why she has raised multiple dogs, Lisa shared something she once learned from a fellow puppy raiser, “if God can give his one and only son up to die on a cross for our sins, surely we can give up a puppy to someone who needs them more than we do.” To this point, Lisa has not been let down, even after raising four puppies and currently working on a fifth, Montana. Every dog that she raised has an amazing new family that she met through KSDS, befriended, and continues to keep in touch with. No matter the placement, there is NOTHING more rewarding than seeing the dog that you raised graduate with their new partner. As an added bonus, all puppy raisers become a part of the unique KSDS family who have shed many tears of joy, struggle, and happiness together. At the end of the day they know they made an immeasurably strong impact in the life of a fellow human being. Plus, if you're like Lisa, puppy raising may even be the key to unlocking new experiences and enable you to experience personal growth in remarkable ways.

As Lisa concluded, “the most important thing to remember when agreeing to puppy raise is that it's all about the bigger picture and an open mind.” She continues, “…when you receive your first puppy to be raised, you don't always know what the future holds for that pup. They may be chosen as a possible breeder, an assistance dog or end up being career changed for something outside of anyone's control.” There is one thing she [and all KSDS puppy raisers] know for sure, KSDS will do everything in its power to find the perfect job, home and situation for the puppy you raised. With that in mind, we encourage you to give puppy raising a try if you truly love dogs AND can be consistent and committed to working with them daily. If you do, you will be rewarded many times over (and might even make some new friends in the process).
On March 14, 2021, Kora and Arnold (Can Do Canines) welcomed a litter of seven lab puppies – five males and two females. Meet our Donut Litter: Cruller, Sprinkle, Twist, Glaze, Fritter, Churro, and Éclair*

Meet Charity! She came to KSDS in July 2021 from Guide Dogs of America. She was born on May 4, 2021 from the litter of Sam & Rita (Guide Dogs of America). Her name was chosen by the Grand Chapter of Kansas Order of the Eastern Star. They had KSDS as their year long fundraiser / charitable organization in FY 2019 - 2020.

On April 19, 2021, Rachel and Charcoal (Joys of Living Assistance Dogs) gave birth to a litter of eight puppies – seven black labs and a yellow. The litter consists of five females and three males. When naming this litter, we opted to utilize names that were selected by individuals/groups who donated $1,000 or more to KSDS. Meet Leo, Victor, Adah, Ruth, Electa, Fidelity, Constancy, and Trust.

* Éclair was sent to Ireland as an inaugural member of Assistance Dogs International’s (ADI’s) International Breeding Cooperative.

On April 23, 2021, Bo Raven and Harold (Joys of Living Assistance Dogs) gave birth to a litter of five black lab puppies – four males and a female. Thanks to your participation in our Name Game, their litter theme was selected as types of grass. Meet Turf, Fescue, Reed, Barley, and Savanna!

On May 25, 2021, Denali & Tank gave birth to a litter of three golden retriever/yellow lab crossbred puppies – two females and a male. Their theme is the Farm Litter. Meet Rooster, Chick, and Mare!

Special thanks to Jacob & Shon Garman-Davenport for whelping the puppies in their home and raising them until they were 6 weeks old.

Meet Boaz! He came to KSDS in June 2021 from Summit Assistance Dogs. He was born on April 16, 2021 from the litter of Stitches (Summit Assistance Dogs) & Gipper (Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities). His name was chosen by the Grand Chapter of Kansas Order of the Eastern Star after they made a significant contribution to KSDS in 2020.
Pumpkins & Pups

Join us in Leawood for a 21+ fundraiser benefiting KSDS on Oct. 15, 2021!

Tickets will be sold ahead of time
Call KSDS @ (785) 325-2256
Have Credit Card ready or mail check to:
KSDS Assistance Dogs, Inc.
120 W 7th St.
Washington, KS 66968

$55/person | $95/couple
Limited number of 8 or 10 person tables for a premium. Guarantee you sit together!

All proceeds benefit KSDS Team Placements!

Thank you, Marcia Funke! Enjoy your retirement!

Join us in congratulating Marcia Funke (Grant Writer/Donor Manager) on her retirement from KSDS effective June 30, 2021. Marcia began her career at KSDS in January 2008 as a newcomer to the non-profit world. Over the course of her 13.5 years at KSDS, she wrote hundreds of grants, interacted with thousands of donors, and received just over $1.3 million in funding from grants she wrote. It is an understatement that Marcia was a driving force behind the growth and success of KSDS in the 2010s, albeit from a “behind the scenes” role. Now that she has retired, Marcia is looking forward to relaxation, travel, and more time spent with her husband, Ron. We wish her all the best in her next chapter in life! Thank you, Marcia!!

KSDS Re-Accredited by Assistance Dogs International

Assistance Dogs International (ADI) is the accreditation organization for assistance dog training facilities around the world. Schools they accredit must pass a rigorous screening process to ensure their training programs, administrative policies, and longevity plans are well thought out. As a member of ADI, organizations also receive direct access to the North American Breeding Cooperative (ABC) to enhance their breeding stock for years to come. Therefore, it is with great excitement, that we share KSDS has been re-accredited through December 31, 2025!
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We apologize for any omissions or mistakes that were made in this, or any previous, newsletter — they were unintentional. If you notice a mistake on the donor pages of this newsletter, please email ksds@ksds.org or call us at (785) 325 - 2256.
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Cindy is a native Kansan, who was born and raised in Great Bend. In 1999, she moved to the local area, but did not begin working at KSDS until July 2021. Prior to working at KSDS, Cindy gained over 20 years of experience in customer service, bookkeeping, and management. She was first introduced to KSDS by her sister, Tammy Gano, who has had the pleasure of receiving three facility dogs from KSDS – Catalpa, Shelby, and the newest, Harley.

On a personal note, Cindy has three children, Zaine, Robbie, and Garek; and two dogs, Ringo and Luna. She loves animals and has always had at least one dog in her home. Cindy loves to spend her spare time with her family and fur babies. She also likes to bake, fish and spend days on the water doing nothing.
In Memory of:

John Barbee & Piper
Nancy Barbee
Tracy Johnson

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