

Fall 2008

A special thank you to our volunteers!!

This organization stands where it is today and continues to grow because of the hard work that our volunteers do. We would like to truly thank you for your time and effort. We hope you realize just how important you are for our effectiveness, our spirit and our bottom line.

Anyone interested in joining our volunteer crew, please send an email!



Service dog, Yarrow

“A psychiatric service dog makes it possible for me to be successful”

- Sue Alexander



K9 Helpers Service Dogs Newsletter

What is K9 Helpers?

K9 Helpers has been working in the Wellington community since 2001. We are a small, non-profit organization in Guelph. K9 Helpers trains and places service dogs to assist adults with psychiatric disabilities such as mood disorders, anxiety, schizophrenia and various phobias.

K9 Helpers is very specialized and currently trains one dog at a time for a human partner. The dogs are trained specifically to the needs of the person.

Psychiatric service dogs make it possible for people with mental health disabilities to increase their independence, cope with their challenges and reintegrate with society.

The service dogs provide the support for those with invisible mental conditions to live a fulfilled life. This is what makes them essential to those who need them and why their contribution to society is so valuable.

Current events

Come walk with the K9 Helpers Service Dog Team at the **Halloween walk!**

It will be on **Sunday, October 26th, 2008 at 1:30pm**. Starting from the small shelter in Riverside Park. All dogs must be leashed and under control by an adult or responsible teen.

Prizes will include books about Clifford, the Big Red Dog, donated by Scholastic Canada and books about dogs by Guelph authors Robert Munsch and Joellen Bogart.

There are many categories to be won such as best costume (dog and human), most pledges acquired and closest dog-human look alike.

Come walk with your dog, your children, your family—or just by yourself! Costumes for you and your pooch are optional, but encouraged!

Support K9 Helpers and support mental health, call or email us to register and get your pledge sheet today !! Phone: 519-766-3957 or Email: info@k9helpers.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President— Ann Munsch
Treasurer— Bruce Roberts
Info Officer— Ashley Whiteman
Member-at-large— John Alexander
Handler Rep— Linda
Head Trainer— Sue Alexander

We are continuously searching for funds. If you would like to sponsor a dog, donate items/ funds or volunteer please contact us!

info@k9helpers.org

519-766-3957

In the spring, K9 Helpers held their annual Valentine's Tea. We had many wonderful volunteers to help us pull everything together for a beautiful event. There were over 100 auction items and Tom King came to help with a live auction. We had great entertainment with songs from James Gordon and belly dancing from the Invoke-Tress Dance Theatre.

Our head trainer and the president of our board of directors also attended a meeting at the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion in June, where they were presented with a generous donation.



Sue, head trainer, shows children what a psychiatric service dog can do.

How your donations are being used?

For years, K9 Helpers has operated on a shoestring budget. We started out collecting bottles, and have benefited from the donations of our supporters ever since. Here's where the money goes:

Our primary mandate is to train and place service dogs. 85 to 90% of our budget goes directly to the dog--food, veterinary care, and most of all, training. The purchase of a suitable puppy and months of intense socialization and individualized training by a professional are our biggest expenses. We provide training for the handlers, and support for the team for the life of the dog.

A second mandate is public education about mental health disabilities and K9 Helpers dogs--the free talks and demonstrations for community groups and schools and media interviews. These require lots of

time, all of it donated by our trainer, board members and other volunteers. Our expenses in this area include our information brochure and flyers we distribute in the community.

Our third mandate is to promote and facilitate easy public access for our service dog teams. This means pro-active education for members of the public and the commercial and business communities on the rights of service dog teams to go anywhere any other member of the public might go.

If we succeed in our efforts to receive grant money, we hope to also be able to expand our volunteer programs, add expertise and people to our small board, and maybe start to train more than one dog at a time!