



Rescuing Dogs To Free People



Welcome to Paws Press

FSD's Email Bulletin

Hello Mel,

Introducing **Paws Press**, an email bulletin for all the volunteers, donors, partners, clients and friends of Freedom Service Dogs. We're excited to bring you news and information on a more frequent basis so you can stay informed about all that's happening here at FSD.

Look for the **Paws Press** in your email box every other month. We will also email you special bulletins containing breaking news. Use the button above and send this to a friend to [join our email list](#). Thanks for everything you do to make Freedom Service Dogs' work possible.



Meet GiGi!
A new recruit from Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies.



The Recession

Help Us If You Can

The current financial crisis is hitting us hard. We continue to operate with less income due to a reduction in donations and the forecast looks dreary. The economic crunch will hit hardest among the most vulnerable in our community - that includes our clients and abandoned dogs. Everything is more expensive for disabled people. Many depend on community services that are turning them away during these difficult times. In addition, we're seeing more and more dogs being abandoned by their

owners because people give up their pets when in crisis.

We need your help now more than ever. If we have to cut services to reduce expenses, the waiting list for a service dog will grow longer. We will be unable to bring more dogs in from shelters. Far fewer client-dog teams will be placed this year without your help.

Please consider helping us financially and [Donate](#) today. Your donation of \$25.00 will feed one

dog for a month. Your gift of \$100 will buy two training backpacks. \$10,000 will sponsor one service dog for six months. Please also consider donating items from our [Wish List](#). We need you to help us today. Your donation will make a huge difference and change the lives of a client and a dog. Thank you.

Introducing David and Summer

The Perfect Match

David is a Gulf War Veteran with many physical challenges as a result of his tour of duty. His spinal cord injuries and severe nerve damage inhibit his balance and his ability to walk. Increasingly, the back of his wife's wheelchair is what he would grasp in order to balance. Not anymore. Summer has been with David for one month and already keeps him from falling, detects obstacles for him and even helps with the grocery shopping - although David says she always wants to go to the dog bone aisle first!

"Some days I can't move my legs, then Summer is my legs", said David. "She gives me freedom because I need to watch my wife to take care of her and not be behind her wheelchair. Now people talk to us about Summer and our disabilities, before they always talked behind our backs."

Summer has been outfitted with a special harness that was custom-made for her to help David. The harness was fitted by Bold Lead Designs. Congratulations to David and Summer on their perfect match.



David with his wife, Trish and Summer, his new professional service dog.

Charity Portraits for Freedom Service Dogs

@
Colorado Canine Academy
Sunday FEB. 22nd from 10- 2



\$10 Goes to FSD!

Contact:

A Picture is Worth a Thousand....Dollars

(We Hope!)

One of our exceptionally talented volunteers is hosting a fundraiser. If you need an updated photo of Fido, please call Kelli Stover to book a portrait session. She'll donate a portion of the proceeds to Freedom Service Dogs.

When:

Sunday, February 22, 10am-2pm

Where:

Colorado Canine Academy, Littleton

Cost:

\$35 Sitting Fee (Includes a free 5x7 print)

Kelli Stover
303.588.2838
kelli@stoverphotography.com

Best In Show
FSD's Volunteer Spotlight

Baking with liver is probably not a favorite activity for most, but for Freedom Service Dogs volunteer Lisa Padgett, it's a creative outlet.

A self-described "dog nut," Lisa bakes, packages, and sells treats packaged in tennis-ball cans to raise money for FSD. She attends various craft fairs, spreading the word about FSD and providing dog lovers with a homemade gift. She not only raises awareness and funds at craft fairs, but she has also been instrumental in planning the Assistance Dog International Trainers Conference to be held this fall in Estes Park.



Lisa with her two best friends,
Benny and Roxy.

Lisa's favorite memory is a group training session where a FSD trainer taught a golden retriever to touch his nose to a toy by waiting for him to present the behavior. She laughs thinking about it--a group of adults sitting around the dog and cheering wildly when he touched a toy with his nose. The dog quickly learned the behavior, and Lisa has used the technique with her own two dogs, Benny and Roxy.

Lisa is thankful to have found an organization that rescues dogs to help people. She loves working with the dogs but really enjoys reading client success stories. "It's what all the hard work is all about," said Lisa.

Freedom Service Dogs depends on volunteers like Lisa and is thankful for all of her help! [Click here for more information about volunteering.](#)

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