



SAINT FRANCIS
SERVICE DOGS
AND

PARTNERS AND PAWS

Helping people with disabilities better experience the world through partnership with a service dog



Goodbye to a Good Friend

— Leigh Singh 1/26/70 - 5/15/19

Working at Saint Francis is not for the faint of heart

The price of experiencing the joy and love that is so abundant at Saint Francis is that we must also feel the pain that comes with truly investing ourselves in our work. That means that when a dog, partner, volunteer or donor suffers, we suffer.

It also means that when a partner or a dog dies, it is devastating. There is a certain type of quiet that descends on the Saint Francis office and kennel as we absorb the blow. You can feel it. We dip our sad faces into the scruffs of patient dogs' necks. We breathe deeply. And then we get back to work, doubling down on our passion to make the world better for people that so deeply deserve a fair break.

continued



Goodbye to a Good Friend

continued

Saint Francis lost one of its greatest champions this spring. When Leigh Singh passed away, she took with her a chunk of our hearts. Leigh was a partner that shared her life with a succession of three Saint Francis Service Dogs, the last of which, Piper, survived her. Leigh was a board member, a volunteer, a donor, a cheerleader, a writer, an editor, and a dear friend. She never failed to have an encouraging word, a story of hope, and a sparkling smile for all of us. When we asked for help, she always said yes, no matter how much her disability was causing her pain.

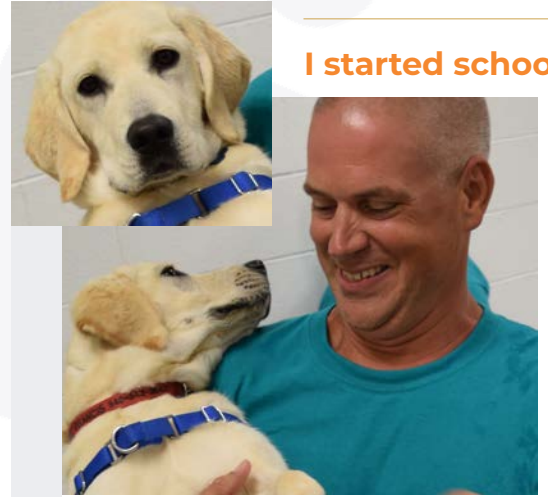
We were stunned, shocked, and saddened by her death. She leaves a giant hole behind. So we will do what we do. We will fold her into our hearts and never forget. And then we will pick up our work and we will double down yet again. We will carry her legacy and those of the people and dogs that have gone before her, and we will make the world better. I hope you will join us.



Cabell Youell

CHILI update

I started school!



It's me again! Chili Spice!

*Well, a LOT has happened in the last few months! I got way bigger, for starters! Then (and this is the exciting part) I started school! At least they tell me it is school...I just think it is very fun. I go to school at a big place called Bland and my teacher is named Daniel. When I first got here, I was not sure what to do, but Daniel was really patient with me and worked hard to understand what I was telling him. Now we are best friends. I love our room, and I love our games, and I love playing with the other puppies, and I love my dinosaur toy, and I love to play in the puppy pool. I also love my new grown-up name: Sophia (isn't it pretty?). Daniel says that I am super smart and a hard worker and that someday, I will be a service dog with my very own person! I'm so excited!
...Now I have to find my dinosaur...*

540.342.DOGS (3647)

PROGRAMS APPLY HELP NEWS & EVENTS ABOUT CONTACT DONATE

SAINT FRANCIS SERVICE DOGS

CREATING INDEPENDENCE
FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS with DISABILITIES

LEARN MORE

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VISIT
Our New Website!
www.saintfrancisdogs.org

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT!



It has been said that it takes a village to raise and place a Saint Francis Service Dog.

For over 10 years, the Wissers have been an important part of our village. 2008 is when they answered the call to join a team of volunteers to transport puppies to and from Bland Correctional Facility, the home of our Prison Pup Program. Jim recounted their first trip to Bland as one of chaos and confusion. No sooner did they pass through the gates and shut the car doors than did the sirens start to wail. Apparently, they entered the prison grounds right at the time of a shift change drill! Having served as puppy transport for many years,

this first memory is replaced by memories of the days they pick up puppies for the last time, as the men who have raised them and started their training stand at the fence and wave bitter-sweet goodbyes to their charges, another step closer to changing the life of someone with a disability.

The Wissers now volunteer in almost every way imaginable. They are frequent puppy-sitters, dog-groomers, and holiday Angel Tree sign-laminators. They also still volunteer to transport dogs, including picking up puppies from regional airports and breeders.

They have even been known to make a trip or two up to Pennsylvania for us!

Their passion for animals and giving hearts are noticed by everyone. They said their friends and family often give them gas cards to help with their volunteer work, not only for Saint Francis, but also work they do with Lynchburg Humane Society and I-81 Transport. Bev said "If there are critters involved, we'll do it!"

They both said that their favorite day of the year is graduation. Bev mentioned that when they see the dogs matched up with their partners, she can remember picking them up when they were 8-weeks old, bathing them on "spa-day" (their term for grooming day), and watching them grow through every phase of training. "It's rewarding to know that we played a tiny part in that."

I think all of us at Saint Francis know that the Wissers play much more than a tiny part.

We can't thank them enough!



HIGHLIGHTS

We are excited to share our newly designed website with you! Our goal was to create a beautiful, user-friendly browsing experience for our Partners, supporters, and community.

- Streamlined design and navigation.
- Online forms and sign-ups

ADA Compliance and increased accessibility

Mobile-friendly layout

UPCOMING EVENT!

Paws & PossAbility

PLEASE JOIN

Saint Francis Service Dogs

for

The 2nd Annual Paws & PossAbility
It's an event you don't want to miss!

GC Commercial, Inc.

and Tarnished Truth Distillery will bring you
a night of delicious food, great company,
and a little friendly competition!

Join us for
a creative cocktail tasting and mixing event,
all for a good cause!
It'll be the Cat's Meow
and a Dog Gone good time!

Event presented by



GC COMMERCIAL, INC.
CLASS A GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Visit:

saintfrancisdogs.org/pawsandposs.html
for reservations and event details or contact:
Kari Grim at 540-342-3647 Ext. 405
kgrim@saintfrancisdogs.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

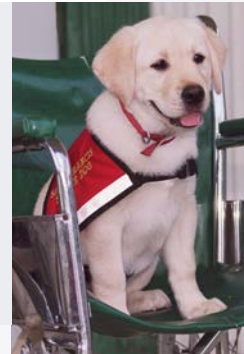
Cheers!

*All proceeds from this event will support our mission to
help people with disabilities from Tidewater and across our region
better experience the world through partnership with a service dog!*

Additional sponsorships are available!

**Can you provide a safe,
comfortable, loving home?**

*If you can, then join our
Saint Francis Service Dog Family
as a **PUPPY VOLUNTEER!***



There are Two Types of Puppy Volunteers



As a **PUPPY RAISER** you help
Saint Francis by taking a
puppy into your home.
You introduce the puppy to
the big world and teach the
puppy the puppy basic
manners and commands.

As a **PUPPY SITTER** you offer
your home to puppies that
need a weekend getaway or a
vacation for a week or two.

Our Puppy Volunteers receive
a great deal of support from
our staff including, orientation
one-on-one instruction,
weekly classes, training and
reference manuals, and
24/7 support.

For More Information Contact Us At
volunteer@saintfrancisdogs.org or
(540) 342-DOGS

What the Pup Program Means to Me...

“That I have the opportunity to give at a time when I really just don’t have much to offer”

John D. Mills

“The Pup Program allows me to take part in something good”

Robert Huffman

Our Friends at Bland

When the Saint Francis Service Dogs Prison Pup Program began at the medium security Bland Correctional Facility in the summer of 2002, we never expected it to become such an integral part of our program. Now all of our puppies spend time in Bland under the tutelage of our “Bland Puppy Raisers.”



Bland Puppy Raiser Team

The relationship is more than mutually beneficial. The men provide round-the-clock care and love, individualized training, and a regular schedule for our puppies. While there, puppies learn quickly the behaviors and tasks they need to master in order to become a Saint Francis Service Dog.

“It means a chance for me to be a benefit to society from behind these gates.”

Brad Toelle

All residents of the Honor Dorm, participants are carefully selected. To stay in the program, the men must maintain near-perfect behavior in all aspects of prison life.



“To me, this PuP Program means HOPE.”

T.D. Wells

This time and energy commitment could not be replicated outside of a prison setting with any amount of funding. The participants find a sense of purpose in their time behind bars and receive the unconditional love and companionship of their dogs, who do not know why their raisers are in Bland, nor do they care.

They work together every day, providing the dogs with intensive training and each other with camaraderie and fellowship as they work towards their common goal of raising their pups. Our staff travels to the prison weekly to work with the Puppy Raiser Participants and their dogs, training, evaluating progress, and troubleshooting problems. A counselor on the prison staff acts as liaison to Saint Francis, overseeing the program and providing ongoing communication with our staff.

After completing their time in Bland, the dogs move on to advanced



NEED NAME HERE

training, and those that make it all the way through the program become full-fledged service dogs. The seeds of the support our dogs give to their partners were planted behind bars at Bland. No one benefits more from the dedicated work of these men than the deserving individuals who will be matched with a one-time Saint Francis Prison Pup.

“The fact that so many lives are touched, enabled and enriched by the service dogs encourages me tremendously”

Need raiser name of Duxi, Macie, Kojak

We are deeply grateful for our friends at Bland!



Partner SPOTLIGHT

I have had two awesome Saint Francis Service Dogs, Titus and Hansen. I lost Titus to cancer last July 2018. As it has been with other dogs and service dogs, I was devastated and my grief seems to be worse every time I have to say Goodbye to such faithful helpers.

The staff at Saint Francis urged me to apply for a successor dog, knowing that the process can be lengthy. I struggled with my decision, but knew that a service dog could be very helpful to me. As the first few weeks went by, I realized just how important a Partner could be to my life! I was having difficulty picking things up. I use a power wheelchair for mobility and picking items up can be a real chore. I also have trouble opening some doors and getting through them successfully. What I missed the most was having a faithful and unconditionally loving dog partner who would be with me in all my daily activities. One whose eyes were constantly attentive to my every move and who could sit comfortably by my side, just waiting for our next adventure together!

When I met Hansen for the first time, my heart just melted with joy as I saw this yellow lab, much like Titus, but unique is his own manner. I knew right away that Hansen was my handsome partner! Even with the presence of several staff and my husband, TJ, and his Service Dog, Granite, and another friend of mine, Frances, Hansen came right over and greeted me with those loving eyes and a lick on my face and that was all I needed. We were partners from the very beginning and the relationship just continues to grow as we do things together. He is a very gentle soul and yet when he is working and doing tasks, he is all business! Usually, he does not leave my side very often, but he does enjoy occasional naps throughout the day. We play frequently and he loves ALL his toys and has a basket full of them. He even tries to get Granite to play with him too, although Granite is older and needs more rest. Despite that, both dogs get along well. I am a counselor and also serve a small Episcopal Church as an ordained Deacon. Hansen is a wonderful partner in my church activities, attending services, going on pastoral care visits and sitting beside me as I dismiss the congregation at the end of services.

I am active with my work and Hansen loves to ride in the car and be with me. He helps to open and close doors with a rope attached to the door, picks things up from the floor, helps to tug my jacket off at the end of the day and tugs off my socks as best he can. He brings me things and carries small unbreakable items. He loves to get clothes out of the dryer and will sit on the bed, watching as I fold the laundry.

He likes to retrieve the lunch box from the refrigerator, hoping that I have included some dog treats, just for him! We do enjoy several walks during the day, and he does not forget to remind me of his breakfast and dinner time. When we are outside, he often will just settle down in the grass and be content to watch rabbits, deer, and birds. It's as if he enjoys all of nature and yet, is curious about everything he sees. He likes to go shopping with me, especially to the grocery store and pet store. At the end of the day, he is ready to settle down and just relax with me, my husband, and Granite, his other dog companion. Occasionally, both dogs will come up on the bed to



make sure everyone is OK, but they both sleep on their own beds. And as a new day dawns, Hansen readily comes to me, ready for a new and happy day, awaiting with great pleasure, just to be my Partner and enjoy another fun-filled day! Other people see Hansen as a loving and attentive part of my life! I cannot begin to express just how grateful I have been for the gift of Hansen and the joy he brings me. My thanks go out to ALL who have made him the Special Partner he is – staff, trainers, especially Debbie Clifton, puppy raisers, Partner program with Kathy Marr, inmates, and his amazing foster family. Saint Francis Service Dogs is truly a wonderful family to us!



Donor SPOTLIGHT *thank you!!*



Thanks to the support of PetSmart Charities and explore.org, a direct charitable activity of the Annenberg Foundation, as well as our family of supporters, we were able to place eight service dogs with their new partners!

Additional grants from Newport News Shipbuilding and the Hittman Family Foundation will provide the funds required to raise and train two additional service dogs for children and adults with disabilities.

“We are deeply grateful for this generous support. It takes two years and tens of thousands of dollars to raise and train a single Saint Francis Service Dog. This support will help change the lives of people with disabilities in ways both simple and profound. On behalf of all those whose lives will be invigorated and spirits uplifted by your generosity, thank you.”

Cabell Youell

Tribute GIFTS

Thank you for celebrating the special people and animals in your life with a tribute gift that has a lasting impact on children and adults with disabilities.

HONORARIUMS

Marti and Andy Anderson

Ann Watson

Lois Angeletti

Eliza and Betsy

Gracie Christian

Dreamer Laughhunn

Jim and Linda Eaton

Sharon Nantz and Family

Lucy R. Ellett

John and Matilda Bradshaw

John Ellmore

Basil Owens

Gracie and Stella

The Francis Family

Hansen

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Angela Israel

Chris and Jenn Lugar

Michelle Gereaux Karim

Helen Carty

Gerri Lauterio

Arlene Miller

Lily

Faye Gargiulo

Lincoln

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John and Charlotte Engleby

Karen and Tom Whitt

Dorothy Dodson

Dr. Courtney Wiegard

Randolph and Cary McGann

Cabell Youell

Amanda Stanley

MEMORIALS

Angus, Bridgette, Brody, CeeCee, Cricket, Dembe, Hokie, Lucky, Missy, Mr. Jiggles, Riley, Roxy, Shadow, and Stanley

Dr. Lara Hertweck

Abby, Angel, Annie, Asher, Bali, Beamer, Bill, Billie Boy, Bogie, Chloe, Cheeseburger, Cheesy, Daisy, Dakota, Diamond, Diesel, Gabe, Gracie, Hewey, Hubble, Jack, Lee, Lucy, Luna, Mabel, Maggie, Marley, Mary Shelly, Meadow, Millie, Missy, Money, Murphy, Pit Stop, Ree See, Ruthie, Sam, Sweet, Zoey

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Amos

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Bat

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Beau

Faye Gargiulo

Bella

Lucy and Tibi

Anthony Bizjak

William Atwood
Burtonsville Volunteer
Fire Department
Bruce and Kathleen Hynes
Corrine Piccardi
Rice Tire

Wendy Brooks

Dr. and Mrs. W.
William Stevens

Aubrey Brown

Paul Smith

Betty Hines Campasini

George and
Teresa Harkrader

Chevy

Janell Love

Chevy and Daisy

TheraPets of the
Roanoke Valley

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John and Kathryn Cowlbeck

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Rick Prashaw
John and Martha Collins
William and Melissa Knocke
Erwin and Gail Jacus
Edward and Dolores Link

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Dorothy Forbes
Jo Ann Terry and Frank Irby
Steve Light

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Dale and Pamela Rucker

Dora

Linda Daniel and
Ernie Butler

Ellie

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Eric Fluster

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James

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Jazz

Sonya Barton

Otis Lambert

Jeff and Katie Highfill

Lucy

Charlotte Bennett

Lucy

Jan and Rand Garrett

Irene McAuley

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Dr. John Berreen
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Kevin and Patricia
McMahon

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Lance Moore

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Cunningham

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Nana

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Sami

Martha Watson

Scout and Mollie

Sue Anne Boothe

Leigh Brill Singh

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Carl and Alison Nelson
Senior Choir at
St. Paul's UCC
Cooper and Cabell Youell
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Mark and
Kathy Baske Young
Debbie Stokes
Bodo Stock
Diana LoVecchio
Amy Miller
Paulette Boothe
Linda Honaker
James Scott
Cindy Wright
Jean Allen Davis
Sally and Sam Craver

Leigh Brill Singh***continued***

Dennis and Jeanne Catt
Mary MacDonald
PWCS Preschool
Child Fund and IPOP
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Janet Lynn
Deborah Kipps
Barbara Kipps
Betty and Roy Lindholm
Kevin, Sarah, and
Katherine Kivimak
Cheri and Mike Hodgdon
Kevin and Patricia
McMahon
Annette Kirby
Barbara and Robert Brown
Christopher and Aly Brown
Richard Brill and
Nancy Watts
Justin and Shanna Brill
Cristina and David
Sutherland
Jim and Linda Eaton
Lynn Grimes
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Eberle Smith
Jane White
Jane Garber
Debbie and David
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Diane and Jay Hylton
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Phyllis Lytton
Kathy Marr
Melisa Thomas
Sharon Pheil
Debbie and Ron Overstreet
Judi and Jerry Barnes
Gregory Brink and OCC
Barbara Wilcox
Barbara Didway
Susan Haisley

Brenda Sullivan

Ed and Marsha Thompson

Titus

Christine Merriman

Greg Tolzmann

Charles and Carrie Souter

Milla Wiegard

Humes and Barbara
Franklin

Gracie Wignot

John and Maria Hammond

Winston W. Burks, Jr.

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If you wish to make a
tribute gift, please mail to
P.O. Box 19538, Roanoke,
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For online donations, visit:
saintfrancisdogs.org

Tribute Notification
Certificates will be mailed
immediately upon receipt.

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Ways to GIVE

Thank you for your support.
Gifts can be made in multiple ways:

PHONE: (540) 342-3647 Ext. 409

MAIL: Saint Francis Service Dogs
8232 Enon Drive
P.O.Box 19538
Roanoke, VA 24019

ONLINE: saintfrancisdogs.org/donations

Saint Francis Service Dogs is a secular, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that raises and trains service dogs for children and adults with disabilities.

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience if you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the mission of Saint Francis Service Dogs.



an ADI accredited organization



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SERVICE DOGS

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