

# The Pawsitivity

# REPORT

Your Generosity at Work



## “I don’t know what we’d do without her”

Knowing that court can be a scary place, especially for children, our Facility Support Dogs are on hand to offer their love and support.

Facility Support Dogs Marielle and Jaz help professional agencies assist people in traumatic situations. These dogs are trained to provide on-scene support when requested to those most vulnerable in the community.



Jaz, the newest Facility Support Dog Guide

And we’ve seen time and again what a deep difference that support can make to these children.

Marielle is one of our grads of 2019. Now she works at the Beausejour Family Crisis Resource Centre in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Kristal LaBlanc is one of her handlers. She recalls the words of one child, while Marielle was busily giving her “hugs.”

*“She really loves me, doesn’t she? And she’s going to be with me the entire day when I have to talk to adults about what happened? You promise? And she will meet me outside before I go in? I am so happy!”*

Marielle’s support was so in demand that the centre has just recently received their 2nd Facility Support Dog Jaz. Jaz and Marielle will share the workload, helping more young

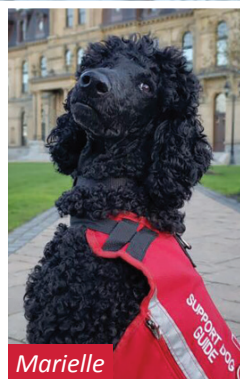


Jaz and Kristal

people as they testify in court.

Kristal says she doesn’t know what these children and families would do without Marielle. Or recent graduate, Jaz.

*“We ourselves can’t go into the witness box and provide comfort and compassion. They just give something that no other human could ever give.”*



Marielle

# Is there anything in the world better than doggy hugs?

Recently, Kelly from Alberta wrote in to tell us about the wonderful support given to her son Chris by his Autism Assistance Dog Guide, Timber:

*“Chris needed some dental work done that required a general anesthetic. I’d told Chris everything that was going to happen, but of course it’s still scary for a child.*

*When Chris was talking to the nurse, Timber could tell Chris was getting agitated so he sat at Chris’s feet and let Chris pet him. This calmed him right down and kept him calm while we got the pre-op medication in.*

*Then as soon as Chris was in bed, Timber hopped up on him. He lay there giving him “hugs” until it was time for Chris to go to the OR.*



Timber supporting Chris

*Timber couldn’t go into the Operating Room, but he waited patiently while Chris was gone. The moment Chris was back, Timber was right back on that bed, giving Chris all his hugs.*

*It was an hour and a half, and that Timber never moved from that spot.*

*Everybody talked about what a good dog he was in the hospital. He is such a great dog – and Chris just adores his hugs and snuggles!”*

We love hearing stories about the support and security families get from their Autism Assistance Dog Guide. Dog Guides like Timber provide safety, companionship, and unconditional love to children aged 3 to 12.

Those hugs and snuggles that Chris loves so much are brought about by supporters like you – and we couldn’t be more grateful!

# Lukey is where he needs to be...

In the summer of 2019, Lukey, a yellow Labrador/Golden Retriever puppy, bounced into Jeanette’s life. It was her first time fostering a future Dog Guide.

*“My children encouraged me to foster a puppy,” says Jeanette. “Lukey came home and totally changed my life! Suddenly, I’m walking into stores with this adorable ball of fluff. I went from being invisible, to being everyone’s best friend!”*

After two years, Lukey was recalled to start his formal Dog Guide training in the Autism Assistance Dog Guide program. Jeanette was heartbroken but also overjoyed that he would enrich a child’s life.

Jeanette shares... *“Lukey was meant to love a child, to help them live a full life. He’s where he needs to be. Fostering is one of the best decisions I’ve ever made!”*



Puppy Lukey



Jeanette and Lukey





## A Match – and a supporter – made in Heaven

Larry Wainwright says, ***“I’ll never live long enough to give back to Lions Foundation what Lions Foundation has given to me.”***

We would respectfully disagree. Larry has been a dedicated supporter of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for decades. He and his wife, Hilda, have organized and participated in eight walks for the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides – helping raise an astounding \$70,000!

In 1976 Larry became legally blind. In 1977 he became charter member of the new Fergus Lions Club in Fergus, Ontario.

Larry remembers when the very first Canine Vision Dog

Guide graduated from the foundation in 1985.

Larry met his own Dog Guide, Otis, on the third day of training in Oakville.

***“When Otis came, he laid his head in my lap and let me scratch his head and neck. I knew we were a match made in heaven – as I was the biggest, oldest and greyest client and Otis was the biggest, oldest and greyest dog. That bond has stayed with us ever since.***

***Otis always knows if I am not having a good day or not feeling well. He lays at my feet when I’m sitting, follows as I walk through the house, jumps up and lays beside me on the bed. All I do is move***

***and he is up for whatever I might need.”***

Larry is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of supporting Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. As Larry says, ***“to give the precious gift of a Dog Guide to clients in need anywhere in Canada.”***

In his words, ***“Thank you seems too little to say.”*** But we would like to offer the biggest thank you to Larry, Hilda and Otis. For all their dedication to helping others, through their support of Dog Guides.

And to you, our readers and supporters, for continuing that tradition of compassion and generosity.



Hilda, Larry and Otis



Larry and Otis raising awareness



Larry and Otis going for a walk

## Supporting the Dog Guides of the future

Many supporters ask us about leaving a gift in their Will to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. A bequest in a Will is a loving way of making sure that the causes we care about continue into the future – no matter what size our bequest or estate is. Each bequest will raise, train and place a Dog Guide who can:

- 🐾 Provide guidance to a person who is blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing;
- 🐾 Assist and support a child who has autism spectrum disorder;
- 🐾 Give the gift of independence and safety to a person who has a physical or medical disability, epilepsy or diabetes;
- 🐾 Provide support for individuals dealing with trauma.

For more information about leaving a gift in your will, please contact **Julie Jelinek** at **1-800-760-3030 ext. 223.**

## Monthly Donor PROFILE

### Monthly giving: a wonderful way to pay it forward



One of the easiest and most effective ways of supporting Dog Guides is by becoming one of our monthly supporters.

Monthly supporters arrange for a donation (of any size!) to be made directly from their bank account or credit card each month.

Wenda Bourgeois's neighbour lost his vision over 20 years ago. Wenda got to see first hand the difference a Canine Vision Dog Guide made in his life – and in the lives of his family.

It was this neighbour who suggested Wenda get involved in helping foster Dog Guide puppies.

***"My first foster puppy was Lightning – and now 20 foster puppies later, I am still loving it!"***



Wenda with Future Dog Guide pup Haru.

Wenda has also seen how valuable monthly gifts are to the Dog Guides, allowing us to plan and budget for the year ahead.

***"When Banff, one of my foster dogs, had health issues, the Dog Guides vet staff were phenomenal, and helped me get through a very stressful time. I quickly realized that without the help of monthly donors, that type of care and support would likely not be available. It was then that I decided I could make a difference by becoming a monthly donor."***

***If you have a pet that provides you with unconditional love, joy and comfort, then perhaps you'll consider becoming a monthly donor to pay it forward."***



Wenda at her home