

Dustin's Paw



Dedicated to turning challenges into miracles!

Christmas
2004 News

**Making a
Difference—A
Team Effort**

**Tribute to
Dustin**

**Geralyn's
Corner**

**Ovelle's
Corner**

**Diane's
Corner**

**Goals for
2005**



Making a Difference—A Team Effort!

Tom Hayden once said of dogs, "They motivate us to play, be affectionate, seek adventure and be loyal." These words accurately express the results of a relationship with a **Dustin's Paw** dog. A relationship founded on an infectious enthusiasm for life! An enthusiasm that motivates and inspires turning challenges into miracles through the use of creative, professionally planned and orchestrated interactive activities.

The Miracle Team

This Christmas season we want to take this opportunity to thank you for being a part of the "miracle team." Your support, donations and prayers have made our work directly with the children possible.

Challenges

As many of you know this year has been a challenge! In January we discovered that it was necessary to change the name of our non-profit organization due to a conflict with a business with a similar name. Subsequently, we were removed from the internet and are in the process of reconfiguring our materials and publications.

In March we faced our most difficult challenge. Dustin was diagnosed with lymphosarcoma and on May 19 earned his wings as an angel. He was truly a gift from God touching many lives. We are very thankful and feel very privileged to have shared our lives with such an amazing dog.

Needless to say, we all — students, staff, parents and Diane — had become very dog dependent. But, the Lord provides. Geralyn, a Canine Companion for Independence Change of Career dog belonging to Diane's son, Thomas, rose to the occasion. Her gentle, sweet nature, love of being petted and enjoyment of treats were just what we all needed as we worked through our grief and began the process of welcoming another dog into our lives.

In September Diane gave a presentation to Canine Companions for Independence trainers and instructors in Santa Rosa outlining Dustin's skills and how the two of them had worked together as a team. Subsequently, she was invited to attend the November Team Training.

On November 13 Diane and Ovelle graduated as a Facility Dog Team. What a joy Ovelle is!

Why We Continue

There is NO question in our minds of the value of the work that Diane and the dogs have produced with the children and the difference made in the lives of the students, staff and parents. That's why we continue — even in the face of these challenges. However, we couldn't have done it without you. Your standing with us this year has really touched our hearts!

**A spoonful of dog
helps the medicine go down in the most delightful way!**



A Tribute to Dustin II, "My Dog"

October 27, 1997—May 19, 2004

Our dear Dustin "passed gently into the Lord's hands" on May 19, 2004. Although we feel the halls of Chandler Tripp, Della Maggiore and McKinnon will never be the same without his presence, Dustin's legacy of hope, inspiration and encouragement will live on.

During his life, Dustin warmed hearts, giving soul to reality. He whirled and swirled, acting as bridge bringing understanding and acceptance between the disabled community and the community at large. He rustled and whispered as an advocate and supporter. Like a steady, gentle breeze, he became a trusted member of the teaching staff.




"My Dog"


Students, staff and parents sought his warm, refreshing inspiration.


Dustin's ability to impact lives was nothing short of miraculous. His gentle urging and unconditional love motivated some children to say their first words to him. Some took their first steps with him. Others conquered fears with him at their side.


So you see . . . Dustin's spirit lives on in the hearts and souls of all the children he


helped and loved. He lives in their smiles and enthusiasm for life and will forever live in the laughter and joy that echoes in the halls of the schools where he worked.

 "Dustin was a very important part of our lives! If it weren't for the time you and he spent with Larissa, she may be a very different person today. Dustin did more than assist Larissa in learning to walk. He gave her the strength to conquer her fears and taught her all about unconditional love."—Kelly Evans, Parent

 "I was thinking of you and Dustin this morning and thought how thankful I am that I had the chance to know him. I remember how he patiently allowed the kids to play hospital and tea party with him, how he ran through the halls after toys, but especially I remember his SMILE, and how he was genuinely happy with his life and with you as "his human" working with the children and staff."—Charlene Koch, Staff

 "Dustin was wonderful and his legacy has been to show us what is possible outside the bounds of traditional education."—Mary-Anne Bosward, Director of Special Education, Santa Clara County Office

 "Through Dustin you were able to use your considerable skills to reach children who might not otherwise be reached. Your partnership with this remarkable dog was impressive and a joy to watch."—Jan Gurtner

 "Dustin's legacy of patience, kindness and willingness to befriend each child/adult reminds us daily of the type of life we should be living."—Geri Carlton, School Nurse

God created
the dog to make
humans feel
important.
Bob Lovka



A true friend
knows your
weaknesses but
shows you your
strengths, feels
your fears but
fortifies your
faith; sees your
anxieties but
frees your spirit;
recognizes your
disabilities but
emphasizes your
possibilities.



A dog is one of
the remaining
reasons why some
people can be
persuaded to go
for a walk.
O.A. Battista



Geralyn's Corner

The dog was
created
specifically for
children. He is
the god of
frolic.
Henry Ward
Beecher



Dogs are at
their best when
they feel they
are needed.
Unknown



A well-trained
dog will make no
attempt to
share your
lunch.
Helen Thomson

Meet Geralyn!

Geralyn is a sweet and loveable six year old Golden Retriever. She was bred by Canine Companion for Independence and raised as a puppy by Diane's son, Thomas. Later released from CCI due to hip problems, she was adopted by Thomas. Dustin and she lived and played together for five years.

In 2002 while Thomas was off at college Geralyn was trained at the Assistance Dog Institute in Santa Rosa, CA with Diane as a Social/Therapy Dog.

Geralyn loves food (especially apples and carrots). This summer she gladly encouraged a child to become a "good eater" using the "if you take a bite I'll take a bite" method.

Children in particular and people in general are another one of her loves. She is socially engaging and enjoys being petted. You can get lost in her soft fur and can't help but laugh at her antics.

Upon Dustin's death, Geralyn stepped up to help out. Never trying to fill his paw prints, she provided the much needed comfort and support during the grief process.



She started working this summer at Chandler Tripp in a pre-school orthopedic classroom. This fall she not only worked Dustin's old schedule but picked up a speech class and began working at Saratoga Sub-Acute Hospital. She has grown into an wonderful therapy dog. Different than Dustin yet effective in her own way.

She even has some of her own miracles! At Saratoga Sub-Acute she was able to get a young man who had not been out of bed since November of 2003 to join her for a walk down the hall. It was quite an entourage with a nurse pushing the wheelchair, respiratory therapist handling the respirator, Geralyn and Diane. However, the real "win" is that this young man now gets up and into his wheelchair every Wednesday so he can be with Geralyn.

She, also, received a Quality Kudo Award at

Chandler Tripp in October for helping a preschool visually impaired boy overcome his fear of a scarecrow and rubber bat.

With the addition of Ovelle, Geralyn will continue working in those situations where her talents are best suited.





Ovelle's Corner

Meet Ovelle!

Ovelle is a calm, focused bundle of love. At only two years old and just weeks on the job she is proving herself as an able helper to her special needs children and the staff.

3/4 Lab and 1/4 Golden Retriever she weighs in at just 53 pounds. Interestingly, her grandfather was Dustin's father.

As a Canine Companion for Independence Facility Dog raised by Nicole Scheid, a high school junior from Mercer Island, WA and trained by CCI Instructor, Shannon Wrenn, Ovelle comes to us with over 40 assistance dog commands. She can open and close doors and drawers, pick up and deliver almost any object and effectively work with a variety of assistive



devices and therapy equipment.

However, Ovelle's job calls for more! She and Diane are in the process of training the specialized skills Ovelle needs just for her children ranging from responding to commands in SEE sign language, commands via augmentative communication devices and behaviors needed to effectively use our interactive kits (Doctor, Beauty Parlor, Tea Party, Lunch Pail, etc.).

At the present time Ovelle and Diane are working full-time at Saratoga Sub-Acute Hospital until the Christmas holidays. In January they hope to be back working at Chandler Tripp, Della Maggiore and McKinnon schools as well as at Saratoga Sub-Acute Hospital.



Diane's Corner

This has not been an easy year. But, God always seems to send rainbows along with the rain! As the poem goes, "Many things in life worthwhile cause tears and sometimes pain . . . Yet after each storm, the sun peeks out putting rainbows in the sky."

Geralyn and Ovelle are for sure little rainbows! They have brought much joy not only at school but here at home!

[Dustin's Paw Animal Assisted Therapy Interactive Activities](#) manual continues to sell by word of mouth.

In March Lenore Williams, Amanda McEvoy, Diane and Dustin gave a presentation at CAL-ED on "How to Stimulate Language Development in Hearing Impaired Children Using a Therapy Dog."

In September and October Diane did three presentations for Canine Companions for

Independence in Santa Rosa, CA. One for trainers and instructors outlining how a working facility team functions entitled, "A Spoonful of Dog." Plus, two at the annual Graduate Seminar entitled, "Tools to Integrate Your Facility Dog Into Your Program" and "Ethical, Effective Work With a Facility Dog."

Our prayer is that these presentations will open the door for MORE children and others with disabilities to receive the benefit of a well trained dog.

This Christmas Ovelle and Diane proudly marched in the Los Gatos Children's Christmas Parade alongside Alycia and Honey and Joshua and BeBe II, Canine Companions for Independence Skilled Companion Teams. Alycia and Joshua have their special dogs because of Dustin. They were both his students.

Life's Rainbows

Many things in life
worthwhile,
Cause tears and
sometimes pain.
These times are just
like rainbows in the
rain.

It takes us time to
see this, to learn
from all we feel.
That life with its
happy/sadness is all
right and very real.

The Tears, the
Pain, the Questions,
Looking for hows
and whys
Yet after each
storm, the sun peeks
out
Putting rainbows in
the sky.

We know not all
their secrets this
beauty from
somewhere above
A soft and gentle
reminder we were
put on this earth out
of love.

How we use our
time is important
Someday we all have
to go
what we leave
behind is forever
I know because
God says so.

Author Unknown

Dustin's Paw is a California non-profit providing animal enhance learning activities and therapy for disabled children.



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Board Members
Kathy Bays
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Diane Rampelberg
Kathy Wahl
Lynda Wooten



We are dedicated to turning challenges into miracles!



Dustin's Paw—Goals for 2005

1. Our number one goal is to get Diane back volunteering at Chandler Tripp, Della Maggiore and McKinnon schools with work continuing at Saratoga Sub-Acute. Our major contributor (Mike Rampelberg, Diane's husband) is out of work. This necessitates Diane bringing in money which reduces her ability to volunteer and be with the children. We need \$10,000 per year to fund ***Dustin's Paw***. This money is used to cover the cost of dog food, vitamins, veterinary care, Heartgard, toys, supplies and materials needed for the dogs' interactions with the children, film and developing of pictures for the children, mileage, postage, printer cartridges, paper including special paper to make stickers for the children, envelopes, website and creation of new materials and books that enhance animal assisted learning and therapy.
2. Get a ***Dustin's Paw*** website up. This website will be used to educate and encourage animal assisted learning and therapy among parents and professionals. Included on the site will be the articles from our former newsletter along with newly developed materials and activities for various disabilities with trained dogs.
3. Create and produce at least two storybooks for hearing impaired children using SEE sign and our dogs.
4. Write the first three chapters to *A School Without a Dog Is Just an Institution* with Lenore Williams and find a publisher.
5. Write activity booklets for autistic children, hearing impaired children and visually impaired children.
6. Continue to do demonstrations and presentations in the community and for Canine Companions for Independence.
7. Keep contributors up-to-date via a quarterly newsletter highlighting stories of the dogs of ***Dustin's Paw*** at work with their children.



As 2004 comes to a close,
turn a child's challenge into a
miracle by making a tax deductible
donation to ***Dustin's Paw***♥

You can send your donations to ***Dustin's Paw***, 1517 Glencrest Drive, San Jose, CA 95118 or you can make a donation through www.paypal.com to diane@rampelberg.net with "Donation to Dustin's Paw" in the subject.

D-iane, O-velle, and G-eralyn (Yes, we are a DOG Team!) wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas! May each of you find a special way to help Jesus celebrate his birthday!

