



This is Larry Brennan, one of 55 people who found a new kind of independence with the help of **NEADS** this year.

NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans  
2013 Annual Report



“Apple is trained to assist me with a variety of tasks. She is also my constant companion. She brings so much joy to my life.” —LARRY BRENNAN







Every one of our 55 clients  
has a story of life-changing  
**independence, companionship,**  
**and connection** through canine  
**assistance.** Continue reading to learn more.



# Meet our graduating class of 2013:

Jane Aldrich and Shemp

Lucas Austin and Rory

Jenn Bent and Serenity

CJ Blundon and Bedford

Michael Boddy and Sailor

Larry Brennan and Apple

Dante Brodeur and Lucky

Andres Burgos and Gunny

Angel Camacho and Tanner

Meaghan Cancelmo and Dixie

Rayanie Castillo and Chief

Ariana Cloutier and Carey

Emily Collins and Rev

Jami Cope and Major

John DeFazio and Owen

MaryAnn DeMeo and Dora

Patrick Devlin and Bixler

Noelle Englehart and Alex

Desiree Forte and Kharma

Joseph Gallante and Rave

Susan Gardner and Tess

Aaron Helstrom and Tucker

John Hendricks and Minnie

Braedan Hines and Rubin

Jesse Jordan and Radar

Eric Krupa and Princess

Cynthia Lambert and Dodie

Tiffany Livingston and Rowan

Janet Lucier and Dottie

Janet Martin and Della

John Matta and Spirit

Brandon McCormack and Lizzie

Nicole Monfredo and Murray

Angela Mullally and Blaze

Caitlin Peck and Chance

Taylor Pratley and Milo

Alexander Prime and Lucy

Tina Marie Sifford and Whimsey

Jon Spann and Sparkes

Nicole Szretter and Scooter

Jennifer Tanner and Justice

Ritamarie Theiler and Capetta

Jean Thibault and Cami

Nicole Toscano and Watson

Norma Truman and Alvin

Joyelle Webster and Noya

Michael Wetherby and Magee

Rene Wilkins and Saint

# IN THIS YEAR'S annual report

## Meet six of our clients



LARRY & APPLE



ANGELA & BLAZE



CAITLIN & CHANCE



JOHN & MINNIE



AARON & TUCKER



ANDRES & GUNNY

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Visit our newly redesigned website at [www.neads.org](http://www.neads.org).

Look for the  icon throughout this annual report for links to online content!



# Letter from the CEO

Every year I look forward to seeing our annual report. There is always much to share and many reasons to celebrate. This year we have 55 specific reasons to celebrate the work of our staff, volunteers and partners because 55 client pairs were matched this past year.

2013 was also significant for a number of other reasons: first, we celebrated our fifteenth year in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Correction. Needless to say, the program has come a long way since the first site was established in Gardner. Today we are in eight Massachusetts state prisons, as well as the federal prison at Fort Devens and JJ Moran prison in Rhode Island. Typically between 70-80 dogs are in the program at any given time, which means approximately 120 inmates and 80-90 Weekend Puppy Raisers are all part of this remarkable program.

Our second milestone involves the Princeton campus. This fall we celebrated our twentieth year in this location with plans for expansion to enhance our client experience.

Thirdly, in April we established the Pawsitively Strong Fund to help survivors of the Boston Marathon Bombing who suffered a permanent disability. The Fund was created in conjunction with

the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and will eventually become available to victims of violent crime in Massachusetts who could benefit from a service dog.

And finally, volunteers are so important to us that we wanted to establish an award to recognize a NEADS volunteer who—over an extended period of time—has contributed to NEADS. The NEADS SPIRIT Award was established with that in mind. We recognized George Fregeau as the 2012 recipient and Linda Sargent as our 2013 awardee.

As you read this report, I hope you will become inspired by the stories of our clients. If you are a member of NEADS Nation, ask yourself 'is there a way I can do more?' And if you are not a part of NEADS Nation, I hope our clients' stories will encourage you to find a way to help us serve more veterans, other adults, and children in the coming years.

As always thank you for your interest and support!

Gerry DeRoche  
*Chief Executive Officer*



# NEADS by the numbers



55

TOTAL DOGS

25 FEMALE DOGS

30 MALE DOGS

03 CLASSROOM DOGS

06 TRAUMA ASSISTANCE DOGS



51 LABRADOR RETRIEVERS

02 MIXED BREED DOGS

02 GOLDEN RETRIEVERS



14 SOCIAL DOGS

04 THERAPY DOGS

09 HEARING DOGS

Represents dogs that trained with a human partner during the fiscal year September 1, 2012–August 31, 2013. Totals may not add up to 55.

12 CANINES FOR COMBAT VETERANS

19 SERVICE DOGS

## Our Assistance Dogs

### PEOPLE WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Service dogs assist people with a physical disability by performing tasks that their partner cannot do or has trouble doing, like picking up dropped items, opening doors, and turning lights on or off.

### WOUNDED COMBAT VETERANS

Our Canines for Combat Veterans program provides dogs that are specially trained to help wounded veterans regain the independence they deserve.

### PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF OR HAVE HEARING LOSS

Our hearing dogs help people who are Deaf or have hearing loss by alerting their human partner to the source of a sound.

### CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

With the help of a parent or facilitator, social dogs accompany their partner to many public places, and help a child with autism or developmental delays feel calmer and more confident.

### CHILDREN WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Service dogs for children perform tasks like: picking up dropped items, opening doors, and turning lights on or off. Children who are 10–15 require the help of a parent to facilitate working with the dog.

### THERAPEUTIC SERVICE PROVIDERS

Service dogs for the classroom, therapy and ministry are matched with teachers, therapists and ministers who seek to engage with their community and interact in a unique way.

### TRAUMA ASSISTANCE DOGS

The Trauma Assistance Dog (TAD) program matches dogs with veterans with post-traumatic stress who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. TAD dogs are currently placed with veterans in New England.





# Major Accomplishments

More than **doubled Foundation support**

*Foundations for the Future* capital campaign became a part of our business plan to begin work on our **new client house**

Created the **Pawsitively Strong Fund** to provide assistance dogs to survivors of the Boston Marathon bombings

Published our first Client e-Newsletter: **The Client Connection**, to strengthen communications with existing and potential clients

Celebrated **15 years** of partnership with the Massachusetts Department Of Correction

Hired a new **Junior Trainer** and a **Veterinary Coordinator**

Solidified our dog sources by **purchasing more puppies** from Guiding Eyes for the Blind and joining ABC breeding Coop

Formed a **Puppy Raiser Council** to foster unity and stronger communication among our puppy raisers

**Congressman Jim McGovern (MA)** introduced the bipartisan Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act inspired by a visit to the NEADS campus

**Harvard Community Action Partners** selected NEADS for the second time as a beneficiary of pro bono work from their MBA graduates, which culminated in a study of our communications & development outreach


Created a new four minute **video about the benefits of our Social dog program** for children on the autism spectrum

Over **100 potential clients** were interviewed by NEADS in person, by telephone, via Skype or with video

**55 dogs** were trained and matched with partners

Developed and awarded our first **SPIRIT Awards**, for a volunteer who has greatly contributed to NEADS over an extended period of time.





# 55 Clients, 55 Stories

BY MICHELE FOURNIER

Meet six of the people whose lives were changed by NEADS.

## Larry & Apple

Losing his first service dog, Emmie, was a difficult and traumatic event; but when Larry Brennan was ready for a second service dog there was never a thought to going anywhere but NEADS. “They had my trust,” he firmly states, and as a result Apple is the new service dog in residence at Larry’s apartment complex in the heart of Boston. It is clear that everyone in the apartment building knows Larry and Apple. By the sounds of it, the pair are rarely in their apartment, but are frequent walkers in the city of Boston, exploring the Public Gardens and the Greenway in all weather.

Larry speaks fondly of Emmie, and there are photos of her on his bookcases. But it is also clear that Apple has made her own place in Larry’s heart. She is already learning how to anticipate his needs and has begun to pick things up for him before he can even ask her to.

Apple goes to work with Larry every day at Massachusetts General Hospital and sits in on meetings. Although her primary job may be her service to Larry, the strong companionship between these two is clear. Larry states, “We’re never apart” and this seems to be one of the most valuable components of Apple’s relationship with Larry. He has already taken her on a road trip to The Baseball Hall of Fame. He says that it doesn’t matter if she has her ‘Service Dog’ jacket on or off—she is always by his side and with him all the way. He looks forward to watching her play in the snow and is grateful that not just once, but twice, NEADS has been able to give him the perfect dog, suited just to him and his specific requirements.





in need of comfort and distraction. The dog has developed strong and positive relationships with many of the children in this Pre K-8 school, and has shown a high level of success working with children on the Autism spectrum. During one instance, a child who is non-verbal was experiencing frustrations expressing his feelings. Blaze demonstrated that you can express yourself without words.

A favorite time for many of the students is fondly referred to as “Blaze time” during which the child can brush, read, walk or play a favorite game with the dog. This one-on-one time is used as a relationship-building and calming time for these children. Angela says she can’t imagine doing this work without her trusted partner.

XOXO xoxoXoxoxototoxOtotoxobtoXtX X!  
Dear Blake You are the Best  
therapy in the world. Thank you  
for coming to our class every.  
You are the Best talented most  
trained dō in the world.



## Blaze was a puppy?

Blaze was featured in last year's annual report as a puppy because he was generously named by the Worcester Fire Department. Look how far he's come!



# Caitlin & Chance

"You could never fathom the ripple effects that Chance has had," says Heather Peck-Ouellette, "not only in our life but in our whole community."

Chance is a social dog placed with Heather's daughter Caitlin, a teenager with Asperger's Syndrome who desperately needed the bridge to independence that this dog provides. Chance allowed Caitlin to move from a frightened teenager who was unable to be away from her mom even for a few moments—and couldn't go to school—to one who attends school and even sings and performs in front of audiences. Those who were in attendance at the Spring 2013 NEADS graduation know just how powerful Caitlin's singing can be; but before Chance came into her life, that voice was quiet due to her anxiety and insecurity.

Caitlin was unable to trust others, make social connections or go to school before the arrival of Chance. Now, Caitlin's mom speaks of her daughter's "strong internal core." Caitlin can do things she would have never dreamt of doing before. Caitlin can have friends over, and they love and greet the dog as an accepted member of the household. She now sings in front of crowds of people and is active in her church music ministry.

Her mom describes Caitlin's new attitude as, "I can do this!" Chance was partly responsible for making this all happen. Heather credits NEADS for the "beautiful and perfect" way that they matched her family with Chance. Chance has had a 'magical' ability to transform not only Caitlin's life, but her whole family's.







## John & Minnie

John Hendricks was attending a Wounded Warrior event when he noticed a group of veterans with service dogs. He couldn't help but notice the high level of discipline and "in control" behaviors the animals were demonstrating. John approached the dog owners and discovered that they were NEADS dogs. That chance encounter led John on a journey to his new relationship with Trauma Assistance/Hearing Dog Minnie.

Minnie has made a big difference for John, allowing him to get out of the house more. She alerts him to sounds that he may miss, such as the alarm clock, the doorbell or a ring tone on a phone. Minnie accompanies him to the Veterans Administration as well as to group events, and she loves to play ball in John's fenced backyard. She is a loved and valued member of the family.

John says there are many ways in which a service dog can be an integral part of a combat veteran's life. There is no doubt that Minnie is a lifeline for him.







## Aaron & Tucker

Aaron Helstrom describes his black Labrador Tucker as a Marine, just like him. Of course, this is Aaron's way of saying that this dog is filled with personality and is a great match for him. Aaron and Tucker just celebrated the first anniversary of their partnership and Aaron simply gushes about what his dog means to him. Tucker acts as Aaron's ears, and alerts him to the sounds he cannot hear. He picks up articles that Aaron drops, and he curls in Aaron's lap to comfort him when Aaron needs emotional security.

Aaron first was introduced to NEADS while in therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Aaron was initially hesitant to apply for a dog, not wanting to take an asset from another

wounded veteran. But he is now grateful that he persisted and that NEADS took the time to find the perfect dog for him. Aaron feels more comfortable in public places with his "battle buddy" Tucker by his side, putting his mind at ease. In combat, a battle buddy is a partner who is assigned to each soldier. They are there to assist each other both in and out of combat.

As Aaron says, "he picks me up when I am feeling down, and is just what the doctor ordered when I am feeling ill. It is great to have a friend who loves me unconditionally and is always there for me watching out for me and I for him."







## Andres & Gunny

Andres Burgos found himself transformed from an independent, athletic Marine, to a man trying to cope with physical challenges. After a hit and run accident left him with a physical disability, he was alone and struggling with fears for his own personal safety. He often struggled to find a reason to get up in the morning.

Andres turned to NEADS after learning about service dogs. Now a yellow Labrador retriever named Gunny has increased Andres' quality of life and has restored much of his vitality and reason to live. Gunny goes to work every day with Andres, who is quick to admit that the dog offers him something to think about aside from his disability. The simple routine of having someone else to care for—to feed and walk and

even play with—brings Andres comfort and relief from isolation. Andres is now pursuing sports with the Paralympics and says that Gunny has made all the difference in his life.

At work, Gunny is curled up on a dog bed under Andres' desk. Gunny is completely focused on Andres. The dog seems unaware of the hum of activity in the room, but with only a small movement and one quick gesture from Andres, Gunny's attention is riveted on his owner. With one word, the dog stands and then another word has the dog up on Andres' lap, lavishing him with kisses. When Andres returns to his work, the dog goes back to his bed but remains alert and focused on his partner.





# From Puppies to Partners

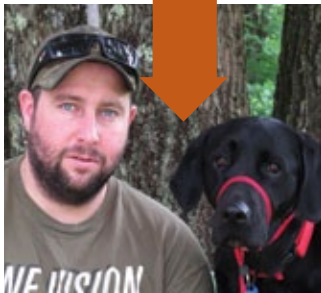
At NEADS, we love our soft, adorable, playful, joyous, charming, bumbling puppies...



but we love who they grow up to be even more.



JENNIFER TANNER  
& SERVICE DOG JUSTICE



JOHN MATTA  
& SERVICE DOG SPIRIT  
(CANINES FOR COMBAT VETERANS)



LARRY BRENNAN &  
SERVICE DOG APPLE



RAYANIE CASTILLO  
& SOCIAL DOG CHIEF







JANET MARTIN  
& HEARING DOG DELLA

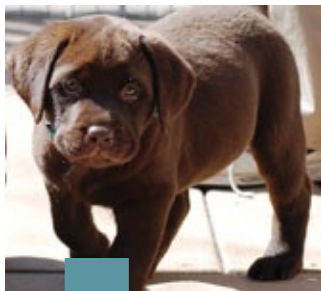


TAYLOR PRATLEY &  
SOCIAL DOG MILO

➡ Can't get enough puppies?  
Like us on Facebook to get  
our 11AM Cute Puppy, a daily  
posting of photos of our  
puppies in training.



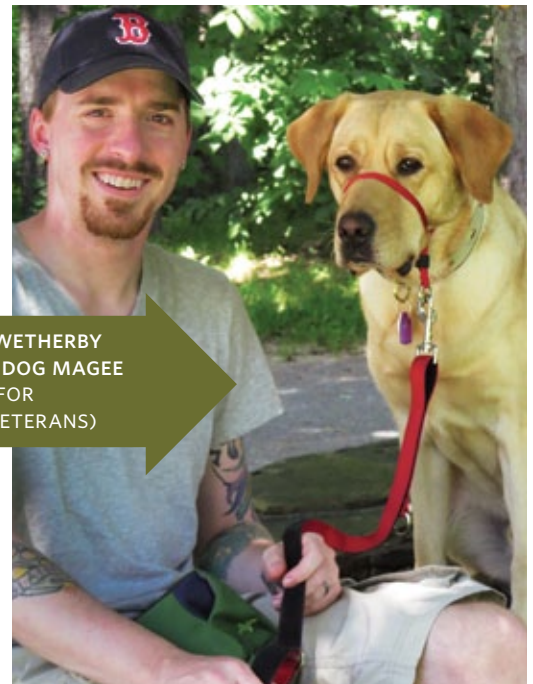
MEAGHAN CANCELMO  
& SOCIAL DOG DIXIE



BRAEDAN HINES  
& SOCIAL DOG RUBIN



MICHAEL WETHERBY  
& SERVICE DOG MAGEE  
(CANINES FOR  
COMBAT VETERANS)





# Media Highlights

## Congressman Jim McGovern

US Representative Jim McGovern visited the NEADS campus in July 2013. As a direct result of his visit to NEADS, Congressman McGovern introduced the bipartisan Wounded Warriors Service Dog Act to the House of Representatives saying, "on a recent visit to NEADS, I heard amazing stories about how service dogs are helping to treat veterans with physical disabilities as well as those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress. This non profit has connected many deserving veterans with service dogs over the past few years with incredible results." This Act would create a competitive grant program for organizations that match service dogs with veterans.

➡ **Watch a video of Congressman McGovern proposing the Wounded Warriors Service Dog Act on the House floor, posted on the NEADS website video page.**



## 15 years of Prison PUP Partnership

NEADS would not be where we are today without the support of prisons that participate in our Prison PUP Partnership. This year, we were proud to celebrate 15 years of partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Correction at a party hosted by the MCI Framingham prison. NEADS CEO Gerry DeRoche presented three certificates of distinction, honoring three prisons' milestone years with the Prison PUP Partnership: NCCI/Gardner (15 years) Northeastern Correctional Center (10 years) and MCI Plymouth (10 years).

NEADS is also grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication of the Massachusetts federal prison at Fort Devens and JJ Moran prison in Rhode Island.



## Social dog program video

In order to shed light on the amazing impact that NEADS Social Dogs have on children on the autism spectrum, we created a four-minute video that profiles Stephanie Slattery and her daughter Cassidy, a nine-year-old girl who is on the autism spectrum. Cassidy has been profoundly changed by Trixie, a gentle yellow Labrador retriever. You may also remember Cassidy and Trixie from the cover of last year's annual report.

➡ **To see the video, go to our website and visit the videos page, and turn to the back inside cover of this annual report for an update on Cassidy and Trixie.**



## SPIRIT Award

This year, NEADS introduced a new tradition—the SPIRIT award. This recognition is given to "...an individual, organization, or group of individuals who, over an extended period of time, have enthusiastically exuded the energy and exemplify the values and the commitment expressed in the NEADS mission." George Fregeau was the very first recipient of the SPIRIT award at the Fall 2012 graduation. He co-founded our Canines for Combat Veterans program and has been a dedicated and beloved member of NEADS Nation for many years. At the spring 2013 graduation we were proud to present the SPIRIT award to Linda Sargent, our Maine Puppy Raiser Coordinator for the past 20 years. We are incredibly grateful and lucky to have so many talented, devoted volunteers as part of NEADS nation!

# Year in Review



## Development Department

From new Boston partnerships with corporations and individuals to the kindness of strangers, soon to become friends, NEADS has something to offer that resonates with most everyone. Whether an impromptu email encourages friends to donate new linens and bed spreads for our Client House, or an outpouring from community groups turns into large donations that number in the tens of thousands of dollars, NEADS welcomes, cherishes and relies upon each and every relationship.

## Canine Department

Numerous improvements have been made in the area of canine services both within and outside of NEADS. A **Veterinary Coordinator** was hired to advance the management of the dogs' health care. A new, centralized database was developed to provide us with valuable analytic tools to enhance our operations. We've established a **Puppy Raiser Council**, whose representatives help shape policies and improve communications with this important group of volunteers. Externally, we've expanded relationships with two key partners: the Massachusetts Department of Correction, which oversees the prisons where many of our dogs are trained, and Guiding Eyes for the Blind, from which we purchase many of the puppies.

## Communications and Programs

Our recently completed fiscal year brought many new friends and relationships: from GE Aircraft to EMC to Congressman Jim McGovern and Secretary of Health and Human Services John Polanowicz, visitors became more fully aware of the NEADS organization's highly trained assistance dogs. We produced a new video that describes our **Social Dog program** for children on the autism spectrum. We are grateful to the Harvard Community Action Program for selecting us as a beneficiary of one of their projects this year, with a focus on enhancing our communications and development efforts.

## Client Services

55 dogs were trained and matched this year, an increase of six dogs over last year. We were proud to graduate six Trauma Assistance Dog (TAD) pairings among the 55 graduates. Six other veterans from our **Canines for Combat Veterans program** also received dogs in the last fiscal year, including one woman veteran. A new state, New Mexico, was added to our list of the states served by the placement of a service dog for the classroom. Over one hundred applicants were interviewed through personal interviews at NEADS, by telephone, Skype or with video formats. Placement of courthouse dogs for therapy is being explored.

## Revenue

NEADS created the **Young (at heart) Professionals**, a group of individuals that recruit sponsors and volunteers for NEADS events. The enthusiasm generated by the **Third Paddling Puppies Race and Fair** co-chairs increased ticket sales by 24.7%. NEADS continues to have presence at large local special events, such as Pooch-A-Palooza at the Prowse Farm or nearby Holden Days. Our green energy program continues to educate clients and supporters about alternative energy sources that will provide the organization with additional sustainable income over time. NEADS merchandise is featured for purchase in our newsletters, at the NEADS Store on campus, and at events.

## Vision & Values

This year, NEADS developed a new Vision and Values charter. We are pleased to share it here:

We will:

- ensure the continued fulfillment of our mission by tirelessly increasing our number of client-dog teams, improving the efficiency of our training processes, cultivating current and new revenue sources, implementing rigorous financial controls and nourishing the wellbeing of our valued employees and dogs.
- build upon our history, by continuing to foster a rewarding experience for our clients, while remaining engaged and invested in their welfare and success.
- continuously transform ourselves through innovation in the evolving world in which we operate, adapting to changes in training techniques and equipment, legislation, and the recognition of new types of disabilities.
- play a dual role as a leader in education: we will teach our clients how to maximize the partnership with their assistance dogs, and we will teach those who interface with our clients how assistance dogs provide empowerment and independence.

**INTEGRITY** We are an honorable organization that embraces integrity in all that we do. This is manifested through our commitments to honesty, trust, sincerity and transparency.

**PASSION** We are passionate about the welfare of our dogs and the independence that they provide to those they assist.

**COLLABORATION** We recognize that collaboration plays a vital role in the successful fulfillment of our mission. We depend upon and appreciate the supportive individuals and organizations who work with us in the spirit of teamwork and partnership.

**THOUGHTFULNESS** We care about our clients' wellbeing, and strive to provide the level of support that each person needs by being thoughtful in our service.



# Ways to Give



William Masiello Architects, Boylston, MA

## Foundations for the Future

On the occasion of its twentieth year on the Princeton, MA Campus, NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans is embarking upon a Capital Campaign to raise \$1,000,000 to revitalize an existing building on the NEADS property. This rehabilitated structure (architect's rendering above) will become a state of the art client house and training facility. Under the leadership of CEO Gerry DeRoche, NEADS is undertaking the renewal and rehabilitation of the "Red House." Refurbishing this facility is necessary to keep pace with an ever-growing population of people who require canine assistance.

➡ **Watch for more about this exciting project and how you can contribute!**

## Pawsitively Strong Fund

We pride ourselves on reacting in times of crisis and need. Like so many others, were horrified by the events at the Boston Marathon. In response, NEADS created the *Pawsitively Strong Fund* to provide independence, companionship and comfort to survivors of the Boston Marathon bombing through the use of canine assistance. In collaboration with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Victim Assistance Program and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance, NEADS is committed to providing highly skilled assistance dogs to survivors of the bombings who have sustained a permanent disability. The Pawsitively Strong Fund will be there for the Boston Marathon bombing survivors should they decide that a service dog is right for them, whether it be six months, one year, or ten years down the road. This new fund reflects the dedication we have to all of our clients... present and future. Each and every day we help people experience life-changing freedom, companionship and connection with the assistance of the best trained dogs in the country!

## General Giving

NEADS has earned a four-star rating by Charity Navigator for the last twelve years. More than 80 cents of every dollar you donate to NEADS goes directly into programs sponsoring an assistance dog for a child or adult. Your tax-deductible support and philanthropic investment enables us to make a huge difference in the lives of individuals with a disability. With your help, we look forward to the continued training and placement of these incredible assistance dogs. Here are a few of the special and unique ways you can give:

**DOGGIE DORM:** Sponsor a kennel run at NEADS for one year and get photos and progress reports about every canine resident that stays there during training.

**NAME A PUPPY:** Name one of the new adorable puppies in our Early Learning Center and be kept up to date on their progress, get pictures throughout their training, and be invited to their graduation ceremony to meet their lifelong partner!

**SPONSOR A CLIENT:** Read each client's biography on our website to learn how your support will be life-changing when they receive a NEADS assistance dog.

➡ **Visit our website and click on "Get Involved" to learn more about how you can support NEADS.**



## Donor Story BY SUSAN CURTIN

### *Susan and Mike Curtin are lead donors to the Pawsitively Strong Fund*

Marathon Monday is a tradition that I share with my friend Lorraine Feeney and my husband Mike. This year was no different. We had finished lunch and made our way to the finish line and had just connected with Mike in the bleachers. We were there no more than four minutes and this HUGE explosion goes off almost directly across from our vantage point. We knew we had to flee. We realized how fortunate we were to get out so quickly and it wasn't until we arrived home that afternoon to our two boys that we really felt the impact of how close we were to the danger.

As the images and stories began to unfold in the media we were just overwhelmed at how evil and what a cowardly act had just ruined a tradition we cherished. Come to find out we know some of the injured through relationships with close friends. That was even more sobering. Boston cops ran into the scene as we were fleeing. The medical staff at the finish line and the Boston hospitals were incredible in saving so many lives. We were struck with a sense of pride and dignity for our great city of Boston.

But, then you think of all the injured and how the road ahead will be long and isolating for many. That's been our motivation. We wanted to make a meaningful difference for the injured that may have a longer lasting impact.



We originally stumbled upon NEADS via the internet. After learning more about the incredible work and life-changing experiences this organization provides we felt that it was a great way to help the injured from the Boston Marathon tragedy. The bond and companionship the NEADS service dogs provide is just remarkable. Many people don't realize that the best trained service dogs nationally come out of NEADS and their reach is deep to people that are deaf, others that use wheelchairs, our injured veterans and to autistic children. We hope through this new fund the individuals most affected by the Boston Marathon tragedy have the opportunity to have a service dog in their life.

**“Many people don't realize that the best trained service dogs nationally come out of NEADS...”**

This fund will be around for a long time as the injured move along in their recovery and piece together their future. We so appreciate the opportunity we've been given to give back and admire the great work being done at NEADS. Spending a day at the NEADS training center we were reminded that there is more good in our world than bad.



## The Pawsitively Strong Fund

➡ To contribute to The Pawsitively Strong Fund, select “Boston Marathon Fund” from the Get Involved drop down menu on our website.

# Financial Report

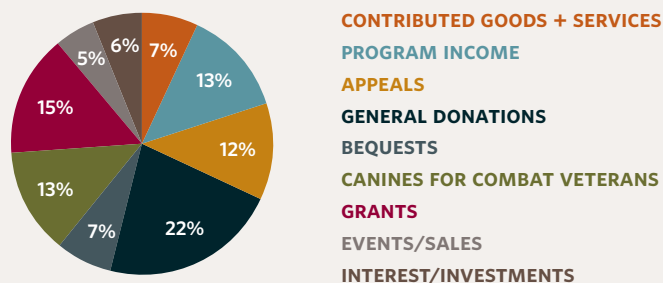
## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2013	2012
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
General fees and contributions	1,726,666	1,728,245
Contributed goods, services and property	160,708	221,981
Grants and foundations	356,512	368,218
Interest income	1,642	9,101
Investment gains	132,911	68,014
Other income	3,188	4,932
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>2,381,627</b>	<b>2,400,491</b>

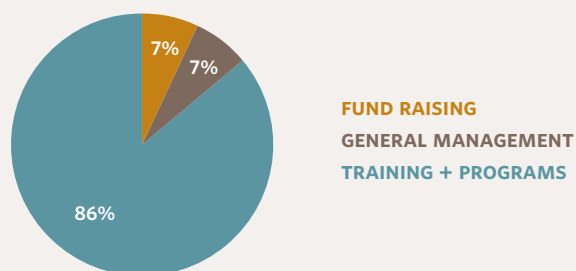
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Training program	2,048,596	2,138,206
Management and general	151,254	199,246
Fund raising	172,445	173,940
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>2,372,295</b>	<b>2,511,392</b>

<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>9,332</b>	<b>(110,901)</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>4,567,091</b>	<b>4,677,992</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>4,576,423</b>	<b>4,567,091</b>

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE BY CATEGORY



## EXPENSES BY CATEGORY







## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

# Cassidy & Trixie

Since last year's cover story of Cassidy and Trixie, Cassidy has continued to make great strides. Trixie has become an incredibly valuable tool to help Cassidy handle her frustration with her difficulty communicating, which caused outbursts, especially at school. Now, she keeps a picture of Trixie in the front of her binder to look at throughout the day as a reminder of what she has to look forward to. Having Trixie has helped teach Cassidy about relationships and how to have compassion.

**"Being part of the NEADS family has made Cassidy confident in knowing that she is a part of something very special. She has a feeling of belonging that she didn't have before. I continue to be grateful to NEADS and everyone who helps NEADS in any way. You have changed my little girl's life more than you know."** —STEPHANIE SLATTERY, CASSIDY'S MOTHER

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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