



*virtual*  
**GRADUATION**   
..... *twenty twenty*

Sunday, September 13, 2020

*Exceptional dogs for*  
..... *extraordinary people*

  
SAINT FRANCIS  
SERVICE DOGS



# SAINT FRANCIS SERVICE DOGS

Saint Francis Service Dogs is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help children and adults with disabilities become more independent and self-sufficient through partnership with a professionally trained service dog.

We are also committed to:

- promoting the use and acceptance of service dogs through public and professional education;
- providing advocacy for service dog partners; and
- supporting the growth of the service dog industry on a national level.

Our service area is the Commonwealth of Virginia and parts of West Virginia and North Carolina within a three-hour drive radius of our training facility at 8232 Enon Drive, Roanoke, Virginia.

*Helping people with disabilities better experience the world*

● ● ● ● ● ● ● through partnership with a service dog.

We are proud to be accredited by:



**Assistance Dogs**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**ACCREDITED MEMBER**

ADI is a coalition of not-for-profit organizations that train and place assistance dogs. ADI accredits programs to ensure that they adhere to the highest standards in all aspects of their operations, including ethical treatment and training of dogs, ethical treatment of clients, solid service dog training, and follow-up care.



## *Staff*

Beverly Amsler  
Doug Becker  
Madeline Bruggeman  
Debbie Clifton  
Deborah Duerk  
Beth Fulp  
Kari Grim  
Bob Lee  
Kathy Marr  
Amy Milberger  
Tiffany Moeltner  
Kristine Sorensen  
Robby Thomas  
Andrew Via  
Marilyn Wilson  
Cabell Youell  
Kaia - Our Staff Dog

### **Field Trainers**

Jeanne Bell  
Jenny Cole  
Lesleigh Cook  
Nancy Cunningham  
Susan Maynard  
Michael Smith

# Board of Directors

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## a message from *our Executive Director*



Welcome to Graduation!

We are thrilled that you can join us for our first virtual graduation!

We have used the people we serve as our inspiration to tackle a new pandemic reality with resourcefulness and grace. Although we miss being together and celebrating in person, the silver lining is that we can include even more people in our celebration this way, and we are delighted to welcome all of you to the joy of our work. I am excited for you to meet our wonderful graduates and their Saint Francis Service Dogs.

The graduates you will see today are the reason for everything we do. They are why our staff works with such dedication. They are why these beautiful dogs are cherished, lovingly raised and taught for over two years. They are why our volunteers work tirelessly and why our donors give generously.

Together, we are engaging, empowering and transforming the lives of people with disabilities: One dog, one person, one family, one community at a time.

Today we celebrate the beginning of new chapters in the lives of our graduates. With a Saint Francis Service Dog by their side, we send them into a friendlier world, a world with more opportunities, more joy, and a lot more laughter. We send them into a world that holds a little more love and joy than it did before.

Thank you for being here to share in this celebration of all the possibilities that can grow from the love of a talented Saint Francis Service Dog. I hope you will be as inspired by our graduates as I am.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● *Cabell Youell*

virtual  
**GRADUATION**   
..... twenty twenty

*Welcome*

*Presentation of the Graduates*

*Benediction*

*Celebration of Teams*

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John Carlin, **Master of Ceremonies**  
The Reverend Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver, **Benediction**

**Graduation Ceremony Committee:**

John Carlin  
Sally Craver  
Jo Lynn Draper  
Deborah Duerk  
Kari Grim  
Nancy Hack  
Amy Milberger  
Kristine Sorensen

*“Everyone loves seeing Ada walk down the halls, patients and staff alike. She has been a huge help with therapy support and seems to really brighten the patients’ days during visit modes.” -Sara, recreation therapist, RRH* ●●●●●●●●

**Breeder:** Break of Dawn Kennels

**Puppy Raiser:** Torrey Clark

**Trainer:** Jeanne Bell

**Dedicated to** Newport News Shipbuilding  
a division of Huntington Ingles Industries

# Riverside Rehabilitation Hospital *and Ada*



*“It is difficult to gauge how she will change my life over the coming years, but Fancy will be bringing the positivity and the go-get-em’ attitude I need to keep up. While we’re finding our new adventures, she’ll help keep me safe by ensuring that I reach far, but not too far.” -Hannah*



**Breeder:** ADI Breeding Cooperative

**Puppy Raiser:** Jimmy Justus

**Foster Family:** The Fisher Family

**Trainer:** Debbie Clifton

**Dedicated to the Hittman Family Foundation**

# Hannah *and Fancy*

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- “I will never forget the feeling after we got his diagnosis and being told all the things he wouldn't be able to do, and look at him now with his dog by his side. Our son has so much to offer this world.” -Erin, Logan's mom*

# Logan *and Rock*

Breeder: ADI Breeding Cooperative  
Puppy Raiser: Gary Damron  
Foster Family: Susan Adams  
Trainer: Debbie Clifton  
Dedicated to the Amy Elizabeth  
Lauth Charitable Foundation





# Ian *and Archie*

Breeder: Break of Dawn Kennels

Puppy Raiser: Daryl Hughes

Foster Family: Jacob Key

Trainer: Debbie Clifton

Dedicated to Kroger

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- “Archie has been the only constant we have had during moments of volatility and change. His energy and company could not have come in a better time. He has been a great support during this time of isolation.” -Silvia, Ian’s mom*



*“All I have to do is mention his name and he is right there, ready to please and do a task! He is not only a service dog, he is also my companion and partner.” - Leslie* ●●●●●●●●



# Leslie *and Hansen*

**Breeder:** ADI Breeding Cooperative

**Puppy Raiser:** Steve Strauss

**Foster Family:** The Fisher Family

**Trainer:** Debbie Clifton

**Dedicated to the ZIMS Foundation**

*“Beck brings me joy when I least expect it. She is always ready to work and go on a moment’s notice, and loves doing it. Beck is always ready for adventure.” -Lucy* ●●●●●●●●

# Lucy and Beck

Whelped: Pam Hand  
Breeder: ADI Breeding Cooperative  
Puppy Raiser: Pete Allen  
Trainer: Nancy Cunningham





# Elizabeth *and Luna*

Whelped: Pam Hand

Breeder: ADI Breeding Cooperative

Puppy Raiser: Baron Goldsberry

Trainer: Robby Thomas

Dedicated to Kroger

*“The best thing about the partnership is that she loves me for me. She has made me a better person and has given me the confidence to talk to people. She makes me smile all the time. I am very proud that I am her partner.” -Elizabeth* ●●●●●●●●

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- *“Since Ben has joined our family, Robert has started to display affection spontaneously. Our household is filled with more joy.” -Mike, Robert’s dad*
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# Robert *and Ben*

Breeder: Shenandoah Labradors and Solace Labradors  
Puppy Raisers: Chelsea Pollak and Jimmy Justus  
Trainer: Susan Maynard  
Dedicated to the Jack and Anne Glenn Foundation





# Tyler *and Palmer*

**Breeder:** ADI Breeding Cooperative

**Puppy Raiser:** Daniel Jesse

**Foster Family:** The Weirsema Family

**Trainer:** Tiffany Moeltner



*“Palmer helps provide structure for Tyler, which allows us to have a routine at home and a greater ability to be in public with Tyler.” -Tina, Tyler’s mom*

*This celebration would not be possible without our family of graduation sponsors, grantors, and donors*

## Graduation Sponsors

### Partner Sponsors



### Kaia Sponsors



*Sam and Sally  
Craver*



### Tyler Sponsors



*Annette Kirby*



# Grantors *and* Donors

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- Spain Commercial
- Wordsprint
- ZiMS Foundation

A full list of our donors from our most recently completed fiscal year can be found on our website.

# *Special Thanks*

to **John Carlin**, for editing and producing this wonderful celebration

to **Deb Duerk, Kari Grim, and Kris Sorensen**, for preparing segments of this ceremony

to **The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver**, for participating in this event

to **the Graduation Ceremony Committee** for all of their hard work in making this celebration happen in the midst of a global pandemic

to **our graduating teams**, for their flexibility and good humor over Zoom calls and email

to **the entire Saint Francis Family** of partners, trainers, dogs, Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and supporters who day-in and day-out help us fulfill our mission



# Together

*dedicated to the Class of 2020*

I will stay right by your side  
Through each day and through each night.  
If it's dark, I'll find a light  
and bring it back for you.

When you call, you'll find me there.  
My love for you is all sincere.  
You don't ever need to fear,  
I will always be right here.

And when you need clarity  
or shelter from the wind,  
I would give you anything  
just to see you smile again.

You are with me everywhere I go.  
Stronger together, we will grow,  
reaping every seed we sow.  
There is one thing that I know,

It's that when I need clarity  
or shelter from the wind,  
you would give me anything  
just to see me smile again.

Thank you for the journey  
and all the time you've spent with me.  
The future is so bright  
with you by my side.

*"Together" written and recorded by Heather Milberger*

# Ways to GIVE

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If you would like to help support these teams for the lifetime of their partnership and help us train our next class of dogs, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to Saint Francis Service Dogs.

*Gifts can be made in multiple ways:*

- **PHONE:** (540) 342-3647 ext. 409
- 
- **MAIL:** Saint Francis Service Dogs  
PO Box 19538  
Roanoke, VA 24019
- 
- **ONLINE:** [saintfrancisdogs.org/graduation](http://saintfrancisdogs.org/graduation)
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SERVICE DOGS

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