



# the LIONS Share

A newsletter from the Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence

2 0 1 1 W I N T E R E D I T I O N

## MT. PROSPECT LIONS CLUB REWARDED MANY TIMES OVER FOR THE GIFT OF LOVE

The Mt. Prospect Lions Club helped the O'Malley family purchase a custom manufactured four wheel bike for their son, John. As the LPCCI Area Director for Illinois, PDG Tom Laws found out that the family had applied for an assistance dog. With the support from Lions nationally, including the Lions of Illinois, they received Cavan in May. Here is a letter Kelly O'Malley, John's mother, wrote to PDG Tom Laws describing their incredible experience.

"We found out about Canine Companions thru Grace Ligon and her mom Kathy Becker. They have Gizelle, a Canine Companion from Ohio. John has always loved dogs more than anything else. At school they would have dog therapy and he would literally laugh for an hour while the dog was there. We applied on John's 5th birthday and got an interview set up in 12/2009. A face-to-face interview happened in April 2009 and we were accepted on the waiting list in May 2009. We got the call this year in March that they thought they had a match for John. We were over the top excited!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Our training was the first two weeks of May 2011 with Gwen, Adrena, Eric and Michael. CCI has the most incredible people and so talented at what they do. It was such a fun experience with them!

We had 12 disabled people in our Canine Companions class-6 adults (2 Veterans) and 6 children. The first 2 days of training you are paired with several different dogs they think may be a match. Cavan was our third dog we

worked with on day one. The moment they handed the leash over to John, Cavan put her head on his wheelchair and stared up at John with pure adoration---I knew immediately she would be our top pick. She listened well to our commands and was never bothered by John's

"tone" in his arms which often smacked her in the face unintentionally. Cavan was the most beautiful dog in the class and the only Golden Retriever, most were golden/lab mixes. On Wednesday morning they "officially" paired you with a dog. We were "over the top" excited that CCI thought Cavan was best with John. She came back to the hotel with us on Friday and boy did we have fun! She loved to play fetch. At graduation, we met the "Puppy Raisers", the amazing King family,

who took care of Cavan from 8 weeks through about 14 months. Only 40% of all dogs "make it to graduation" with a recipient so it was truly a special event that Cavan was so good to have made it this far.

The dog has made the world of difference to my son, John. The week we got back from CCI, my son had major surgery on both legs and was hospitalized for 2 days. Cavan was able to come into the hospital room and cheer him up. Once we got John home, he was in a lot of pain but still managed to giggle and have fun playing with Cavan. She ALWAYS lays by John and must be near him (the two weeks of training are magical and set the tone for the dog's job). Being an only child, my son's



*Cavan comforting John following surgery.*

See Gift of Love on page 2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lions,

We are Lions, “*We Serve*”, and Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is a wonderful organization to serve. Our Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI) volunteers are busy spreading the word about LPCCI and CCI. Our volunteers are making presentations to Veterans events, other service clubs, pet friendly events, as well as Lions Club events. We know that given an opportunity to spread the word, folks will be impressed with the program. Many of us are puppy raisers or can bring a puppy to the presentation. And better yet, sometimes people who have graduated from CCI team training and their dogs may be available to demonstrate how they work together at your event. So contact your friendly LPCCI representative and request a presentation at your next event.

You may be wondering about my first CCI puppy, Ellie VI. I have had Ellie, nicknamed Ellie Belly, for almost 15 months now. Wow time has flown by! She is now in “Big Dog” class, getting ready to be turned in for advanced training. These classes are held at locations like stores, bowling alleys, restaurants and the like to make sure she will do as instructed with lots of distractions. The person she will be teamed with must rely that when told to sit she will not run over to a little girl with a big chocolate ice cream cone and help herself. On February 17 Ellie will enter Advanced Training and we will miss her, but it will be like a child going off to college and we will get over the loss in a short time. Then it will be time to start walking bent over with a food treat 6 inches off the ground with another very little pup to teach it to “Let’s Go”.

Please take a few minutes to check out the CCI web site at [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org). Read some of the stories about how these highly trained dogs are changing people’s lives. You can help. Arrange a presentation at your club, have your club become a member of LPCCI. It’s not expensive and the money goes to help CCI. Next spring use one of our recognitions or sponsorships to honor your worthy members. These awards and sponsorships are as inexpensive as \$100. I once received one of these awards and was very pleased that the money went to help others.

PDG Don Allen, President LPCCI



### Gift of Love continued from page 1

connection to Cavan is so strong. Cavan is his constant companion so John is never alone socially. People now come up to John to pet the dog so John is getting much more social interaction. John’s motor skills have improved because he “has to pet” his dog and manages to find a way to get his hands and arms over to his dog.

It has been one of the biggest blessings! Thank you CCI.

We spent two of the best weeks up training in Ohio with Canine Companions. They are some of the most passionate people around and amazing at what they do. Tom, I would love to help however we can getting the word out about CCI. Thank you.”

Kelly Ann O’Malley

### JAZZ LEGEND DAVE BRUBECK MEMORIALIZES CCI DOG IN SONG



Shea Megal and Dave Brubeck.

What began as a new adventure, raising CCI puppy Mercer, became a whole new way of life for LPCCI Area Director Jim and Trustee Michelle Purton and resulted in “fame and fortune” Not the kind of fame and fortune we all think about, but a very special kind of fame and good fortune. It had to do with a little girl named Shea, confined to a wheelchair, who received Mercer and wrote stories about her relationship with her new dog. Then tragedy struck and Mercer was suddenly gone. What transpired next will inspire us all. Read about

Shea’s story and Jazz Legend Dave Brubeck’s tribute to Mercer in the Lions Clubs International January issue of the LION magazine.

## OPPORTUNITY DRAWING WINNER ANNOUNCED

Congratulations **East Cobb Lions Club**, a deserving winner of this year's Opportunity Drawing. The \$2,000 cash will be well spent on the many projects they support. Treasurer, PDG Ray Moore gives us a picture of its many accomplishments.

Our club was chartered as the East Marietta Lions Club in July, 1958. The area we served was the eastern suburbs of Marietta, the county seat of Cobb County, GA. As the county grew, our service area expanded to accommodate the large growth in population and the club changed its name to the East Cobb Lions Club in October, 1992. We have sponsored 2 new Lions Clubs.

Our club was instrumental in establishing the branch library system in Cobb County, remodeling and stocking the shelves of its first location. We are currently the oldest sponsor of the East Cobb Little League, having supported them for well over 50 years. For the past 25 years, we have taken over the Meals On Wheels program in Cobb County on Christmas day, preparing, serving and delivering as many as 140 meals to program participants. We have and still do provide eye exams and glasses for residents in our service area. We provide scholarships for deserving seniors at our 6 local high schools based on academic achievement and community involvement. In addition, we fund 2 memorial scholarships based on financial need. We support the Georgia Lions Lighthouse for the Blind as well as well as the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind. We support Canine Companions, Leader Dog, Southeastern Guide Dogs, and Recordings for the Blind (now Learning Ally). We made the first donation to establish the Hyde Farm Park, which is a heritage park operating as a turn of the century farm. We continue to support the establishment of another park in East Cobb. We are Patron sponsors of the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art. We provide not only financial support for local Habitat for Humanity builds, but we feed the workers as well.

This past spring we held our most touching project. One of our member's young children was diagnosed with a serious form of childhood cancer. We wanted to do something. At his urging, we contacted CureSearch for Children's Cancer and held a benefit spaghetti supper that netted over \$3000. Rarely do we ask for direct donations, but we wrote to our friends and they responded generously. Lions and friends from as far away as Australia and England supported us and we were able to send almost \$5000 as a show of support for Audrey and her family. Best of all, Audrey, whose favorite food is vanilla ice cream, has responded well to her treatments and visited us back in September for an ice cream social!

Our primary source of funds comes from a very successful golf tournament that we have conducted for the past 20 years. Held each April, we have played as many as 165 golfers. In addition, we have a Pancake Breakfast with Santa in early December. One of our members is a professional Santa and donates his time. We have a craft table for children to make decorative frames for the pictures we take of them with Santa. It is a very popular event. We have held chicken BBQs, sold coloring books, had steak dinners, almost any legal way you can think of to raise money, we've tried it and done it!

Our club has provided District leadership in the form of 2 District Governors, several Cabinet Secretaries and Treasurers and any number of zone and region chairs. Our members are and have been chairs of many district committees. Currently, we have 45 members, 9 of whom are women. Our ages span many decades, from the 30's to the 80's. We are a diverse group of service minded people, each of whom brings their full share of experience and talent to our club.

PDG Ray Moore, Treasurer



*Ready for quarterly road cleanup*

# LIONS LUNCHEES

Lions in California continue their tradition of providing lunches for the CCI Northwest and Southwest graduating classes, seminars and workshops. In just the last six months a number of clubs answered the call.

## OAKDALE AND LINDEN LIONS CLUBS ▶

—traveled afar to provide the June 24<sup>th</sup> Hearing Class graduates pork roasted in apple juice with red onions and rosemary, tossed green salad with home made Thousand Island dressing, pesto pasta with basil, garlic and cheese, dinner rolls and brownies with whipped cream for dessert.



## WINDSOR LIONS CLUB ▼

— provided the graduates of the September 30<sup>th</sup> Hearing Class with a cob-type shrimp salad complete with beets, beans, olives, cucumber, cherry tomatoes and hard boiled eggs along with dinner rolls and assorted cookies for dessert.



## COTATI LIONS CLUB ▲

— treated the August 12<sup>th</sup> graduates to a lunch of Mexican rice and tostados overflowing with chicken, refried beans, lettuce, cheese, salsa and onions as well as ice cream for dessert.



## SAUSALITO LIONS CLUB ◀

— along with **SMC LTD** and **PASTA KING** treated 170 CCI graduates and staff to a buffet lunch of rotisserie chicken, Caesar salad, marinara and pesto pastas, garlic bread and ice cream sundaes with a variety of toppings for the annual Graduate Seminar held October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## SANTA ROSA HOST LIONS CLUB

– served the November 4th graduating class Caesar salad, dinner rolls and delicious spaghetti with meatballs prepared by the Pasta King.



## MURRIETA LIONS CLUB

– inspired by club member and CCI puppy raiser Jim Batchelor who just received his 12<sup>th</sup> puppy, Raisen, provides lunches four to six times a year for the graduating teams at the Oceanside campus of CCI.

## SIERRA LIONS CLUB RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER DAY

In conjunction with the Responsible Dog Owner Day (RDO) the Sierra Lion Club had a Pet Photo Contest. The proceeds from the contest were designated to support LPCCI. Ellie, who had been reading Trixie Koontz books, wrote an article about herself and we sent a picture of the two of us for the club to use for promotions. They received over 200 submissions and the donation to LPCCI was \$800.00. Many thanks to Lions Colette Goga, Gail Hawksworth, and Wayanne Markley for the donation and a great day with animal lovers.

There were 7 categories; single and multiple dog, single and multiple cat, holiday, human plus animal, and barn yard for everything else. Club members judged the categories and the top 3 in each category received prizes. The day of the event Ellie and I were to announce the winners. Ellie decided it was time to come in season so I borrowed another CCI dog, Dovie, from the Gold Rush Champions to join me. Dovie and I announced the winners and handed out the prizes. The prizes were all baskets with all kinds of pet supplies and pet food. One of the winners of the cat categories had a bird feeder in the basket! I'm not sure about those people in Oakhurst!

RDO turned out to be quite a day with a dog show, low cost vaccinations and chipping, pet supply vender booths. There were over 400 people there dur-



*Sierra Lions Club Check Presentation*

ing the day. The 3 winning pictures in each category were posted on a board and for the next two weeks the citizens were encouraged to pick the grand winner, “The Peoples Choice”. Ellie and I attended the Eastern Madera County SPCA Animal Fair to announce the grand winner of the Pet Photo Contest.

What a fun way to earn money for LPCCI.

PDG Don Allen, President, LPCCI

## BOIL BABY BOIL

### Santa Rosa Host/Cloverdale to the Rescue

When it takes three hours to boil a pot of water, something needs to be done!

The Santa Rosa Host Lions Club ran into a real stumbling block while preparing lunch for the graduating class at Canine Companions for Independence last March. The water to cook the raviolis would not get hot - took three hours to heat! "That's not acceptable", complained one of the cooks. "Something needs to be done because we want to continue serving these lunches", chimed in some of the others. "Isn't our motto "We Serve"?"

That promoted the Santa Rosa Host Lions Club to think about replacing the electric stove with a much more efficient gas range. They presented their idea to LPPCCI and CCI. With the remodeling of Gittinger Hall in process, it seemed like an opportune time to make the change. With CCI CEO Corey Hudson's and Mrs. Gittinger's approval, the next step was to find a range that would satisfy the needs of a "commercial type kitchen" and yet fit the space allowed.

Santa Rosa Host Lions to the rescue! Lion Barry Bialkoski did the shopping and found Sears was having a sale. He was able to negotiate a 30% discount and free delivery.

The other requirement was to install a gas line. Cloverdale Lions to the rescue! Wes Boardman, honorary member of the Cloverdale Club, contacted Chris Vine of C.V. Plumbing. Working with CCI Facility Manager Jim Flint, Chris installed the line at a 10% discount with the Santa Rosa Host Lions picking up the tab. "It was a tricky installation with all the remodeling in progress, but everything went smoothly," commented Chris. "I'm glad to be a part of it." "It makes for a much more functional kitchen", he added.

This addition has been a real boon to CCI's kitchen. It proved its worth during the recent Tapas, Treasures and Treats fundraiser in May and has been well used ever since. A grateful thank you to the Santa Rosa Host Lions Club and Chris Vine of the Cloverdale Lions Club for satisfying a real need. You exemplify the meaning of "We Serve".

Lucille Hynes, LPPCCI Administrator

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## TRAVELER, THE STRIPPER DOG

Traveler, a ceramic dog bank outfitted with an LPPCCI puppy scarf and the latest LPPCCI trading pin, is passed around at district/cabinet meetings in District 4-A1. When \$100 is collected, a lucky member is awarded an Abdul Award. Thus far we have awarded six awards in as many meetings.

At the meeting in August, Traveler ended up in the back of the room with bills tucked between her scarf and her body as well as being full inside the bank. Thus we named her "Traveler, The Stripper Dog." Traveler's take at this meeting was almost \$200. So at the next meeting two lucky Lions will receive Abdul awards.

LPPCCI 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Robin Gurrola, who is a seven-time puppy raiser, was raising Traveler when she provided a program for the Oakdale Lions Club and Don Allen was in the audience. Traveler was released due to illness and is still living with Robin. Robin and Don have been doing presentations at Club meetings with Traveler (not pretending to be a puppy in training) until Don received Ellie VI. Thus it only made sense to name the dog bank Traveler.

If you ever get discouraged about attracting puppy raisers, remember Robin's words: "Sometimes we are planting seeds". It only took almost 15 years for Don to apply for a puppy.

PDG Don Allen, LPPCCI President



(l-r) Santa Rosa Host Lion Mike Rigalski & Cloverdale Host Lion Chris Vine



Traveler, The Stripper Dog, and Ellie VI.

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISITS CCI

Canine Companions for Independence invited Suffolk Lions District Governor Paul Wernersbach to tour their facility to observe their program which places exceptional dogs with exceptional people.

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is an organization that promotes the concept of training specially bred dogs to help people with disabilities other than blindness. All CCI Dogs go through an intensive training process where they learn to master more than forty commands. Dogs and individuals with disabilities are matched to form a team, and together they attend a two-week training program at a CCI Campus where they learn to work together. On Saturday, August 14 the CCI Medford Campus celebrated the graduation of 11 new assistance dog teams.

CCI trains four different types of dogs to address different types of disabilities. Service Dogs assist adults with physical disabilities; Hearing Dogs alert the deaf and hard of hearing to environmental sounds and their sources; Skilled companions enhance independence for adults and children with cognitive disabilities and Facility Dogs work with a professional in a therapeutic visitation setting.

CCI nationally has a dedicated volunteer workforce of over 3000 individuals. Volunteer Puppy Raisers teach the dogs basic commands and socialize them in public settings for the first 14-16 months of their lives. Volunteer Puppy raisers are needed to further develop CCI Puppies in social settings.

Anyone interested in learning more about this exceptional program can contact CCI NYS Area Director Mike Dickson at 631-804-5451 or PDG Patrick Mitchell at 631-363-6412.



*Pictured (L-R) PDG Patrick Mitchell CCI Trustee; Debra Mackenzie CCI Development Director; Paul Wernersbach District Governor Suffolk Lions with Service Dog Spencer and Lion Mike Dickson CCI NYS Area Director with Service Dog CJ.*

## PROCLAMATION HONORS DOGS Lions Club, Working Pups Come Together for Tribute

The Falls Run Lions Club International let out a roar at the Stafford County Board of Supervisors meeting for International Assistance Dog Week August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence Area 24 Director Jim Purton arranged for the board to issue a proclamation in honor of all service dogs. Falmouth Supervisor Susan Stimpson, whose district includes the Falls Run community, read the proclamation in honor of the August 7-13 event.

Special guests at the board meeting included Falls Run Lions Club charter and current President Dan Owens and his Leader Dogs for the blind Guide Dog Piper.

Owens, who lost his sight later in life, credited the Lions for their work and efforts in support of the Leader Dog program. "I have been using dog guides for 19 years," said Owens. "And they have been a tremendous asset in providing mobility."

Matt Hoioos and his CCI Service Dog Calder, or Cal, were also in attendance. A then 9-year-old Hoioos was pictured in an April 2007 edition of the Stafford County Sun with his face painted like a lion at the LPCCI booth at Family Fun Day at Duff McDuff Green Park. At the request of his parents Tom and Sharon Hoioos, Delegate Mark Cole, also in attendance, initiated legislation to allow service dogs in school. Called Matt's Law, it passed unanimously.

Sharon Hoioos said since Cal has been in her son's life, he has started to speak, which exceeded any expectation they

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*(l-r) Tom, Matt, Sharon & Cal Hoioos, Del. Mark Cole, Lion Jim Purton, Piper & Lion Dan Owen.*



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had for him to ever be able to verbalize. “Cal not only literally opens doors, but he has also opened the door for Matt to be able to socialize with children his own age,” said Sharon.

Though Del. Cole was recognized publicly for his efforts in getting Matt’s Law passed, he credited the people working with the service dogs for their efforts. “It’s an honor to be here,” said Cole. “My hat is off to the Lions Club for their efforts and the good folks that train these dogs.”

Though the Americans with Disabilities Act allows service dogs full access, the Hoioos’ did not just want to settle the issue for their son with a local school board. The passage of Matt’s Law ensures that no one else will have to fight the same battle. Matt and Cal have attended class together since July 2008.

The Americans with Disabilities act and Virginia law protect equal access rights for people with disabilities and allow them to be accompanied by their Service Dogs on public transportation, taxis, hotels and motels, schools and places of business to include retail establishments and restaurants.

For more information on the Lions Club and service dogs, visit *lpcci.com* and *leaderdog.org/lions*.

By Marty Van Duyne, Contributing Writer Stafford County Sun  
Member, Dog Writers Association of America