



PAWSITIVE NEWS

WINTER 2018

K9s 4 Mobility is dedicated to enriching the lives of others through the training, placement and support of Assistance Dog Partnerships.



K9s 4 Mobility Achieves Accreditation

Assistance Dogs International is a membership organization that sets the ethics and standards for the Assistance Dog Industry. K9s 4 Mobility became a candidate member one year after incorporation and had seven years to achieve the accreditation membership level. K9s 4 Mobility CEO Michelle Woerner and board member Judy Sifers were helpful in preparing for this achievement in just five years. This also required a high commitment level of the board of directors to have all the policies and procedures in place, show financial transparency and complete documentation of the organizations business.



In July 2017, an ADI Accreditation Assessor traveled to K9s 4 Mobility's training facility and interviewed board members, clients, staff and volunteers. The Assessor also ensured that the training facility and dogs being trained met all the ADI standards. Assessors file a complete report following their visit, which they submit to an ADI Accreditation Committee. K9s 4 Mobility was pleased to hear in August that Accreditation had been achieved.

K9s 4 Mobility is now a fully Accredited member of ADI and will now use the ADI Accreditation logo. While attending the ADI conferences, K9s 4 Mobility will have a vote at the business meeting to include election of board members, statements of position and acceptance of new standards in the Accreditation process. K9s 4 Mobility will also be eligible for ADI specific grants. The Accreditation is required to be renewed every five years.

Why did you choose K9s 4 Mobility?

When we moved to Fort Collins a few years ago for my husbands' job, we met Michelle at a MS support group meeting. I was excited because my beautiful service dog, Henna, was aging and I needed to start planning for her successor. I was impressed by Michelle's approach and philosophy, and the fact that she could help me find a dog able to help me with balance. MS has affected my gait and balance, among other things. It was exciting to meet Bhakti and see how he can help me with balance. He's also quite beautiful and he gets along well with Henna. We're excited to grow our relationship and begin our next chapter.

Dee Sullivan



Do you know someone who could benefit from a Service Dog?

Please tell them about K9s 4 Mobility!



New Service Dog Law



During the 2017 Wyoming Legislative Session, Representative Landon Brown sponsored HB114 which assigned a fine up to \$750 to someone misrepresenting their pet dog as a Service Dog. Those working to put this bill together were: Chris Brown, Bob Jensen, Barbara Stafford, Joanna Vilos and Michelle Woerner. Jill Jensen and Service Dog Linden, inspired the group to take action since she has encountered multiple unfriendly and disruptive "fake service dogs" in public.

Many business and individuals showed their support during testimonies for both the House and the Senate. Governor Matt Mead signed the law and it went into effect July 1, 2017.



What makes K9s 4 Mobility different?

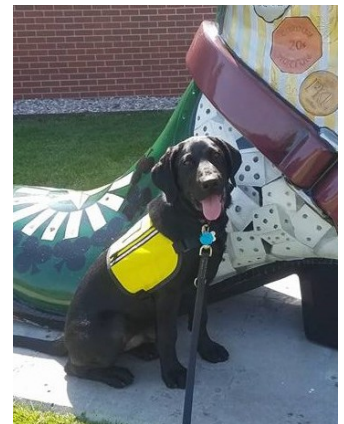
We get asked quite often, what makes K9s 4 Mobility different from other schools? There are a few things that set us apart, the first being that we place nationwide. Some schools limit where they will to certain geographical areas.

The biggest thing that sets us apart is that we place in the home as opposed to the placement happening at our facility. With many schools, the client must travel to the school, spend two weeks working on bonding and skills and commands, and after the two weeks the team returns home. This is the first time the dog has seen their new home. We believe having the placement happen in the home allows for the dog to get used to the home and with Michelle still there, she helps to address any situations that might come up in the home and in the person's life. We cannot duplicate every home therefore, placement in the home helps lead to success.

Drake the Demo Dog

For a few years now, the idea of having a demo dog has been floated around. Having a dog that would be able to do all of the public demonstrations would be helpful. Sometimes when a demonstration or presentation opportunity arises there are no dogs in training that are that far along in their training. Drake unfortunately did not pass his hips. This presented us with the opportunity of keeping him as part of the K9s 4 Mobility family, continuing his training, and making him the demo dog.

Drake will be residing with our new part-time trainer Karen Kerekes. Karen was his puppy raiser and will be working on more skills with him, as well as taking him to presentations and demonstrations.



Spotlight on a Volunteer

Sue Foy has been volunteering for K9s 4 Mobility from the beginning. Sue volunteers every Wednesday rain or shine. Cleaning the building, walking Pumpkin, supervising playtime outside, cleaning dog's toys, making pumpkin treats, she does it all! She helped organize this year's Treats 4 Tricks 5k as well.

"I volunteer for K9s 4 Mobility because it provides me with a purpose that helps to meet the specific needs of others. When purpose meets need, the outcomes are amazingly beneficial for both animals and humans."

-Sue Foy



International Association of
Assistance Dog Partners

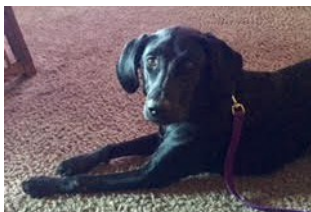
STRANGE REMEDY BENEFIT CONCERT RAISES OVER \$21,000!

Doctors Jack Wright, Jeff & Lynne Carlton, Dan Passehn, Randy Johnston and Doug Harris generously donated their talent and time for K9s 4 Mobility at the Historic Atlas Theatre on April 29th. The crowd enjoyed the entertainment, food and drinks plus some fun games to help raise over \$21,000 for K9s 4 Mobility!

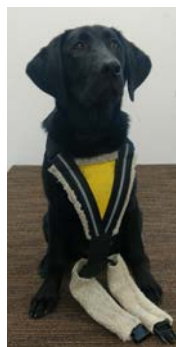




Frank Mendicino pictured with the K9s 4 Mobility Board of Directors and Michelle



Miles & Owen are sponsored by the first donation made in 2016 by the Miles Trust



Timothy Miles Trust

K9s 4 Mobility was honored to receive a \$250,000 endowment from the Timothy Miles trust. Frank Mendicino and Manderson Miles were tasked with finding a dog organization that would carry on a legacy that Timothy Miles would be proud of to support

"First off, we could not be more thrilled and honored to have received such a generous donation from the Miles Trust through extensive work and effort from Frank Mendicino (extra special thanks to Frank!). Through this quasi-endowment we are going to be able to stabilize operational funding, and begin to lay the foundation for investment opportunities to realize potential returns over the next decade. This opportunity gave the board something substantial "to chew on", no pun intended, and it has given us a real vehicle to expand into a financial arena we never thought possible. As a board, we are excited that the work and service we provide to the community-at-large, by our wonderful staff, has not gone unnoticed. Keeping our nose to the grindstone and being the best possible stewards of this gift has been one of our main focuses since we received it in August. Our work is never over, and we believe that this gift is in good hands and has set a precedent for years to come. "

—Derrek Jerred



Assistance Dog Partnerships 2017



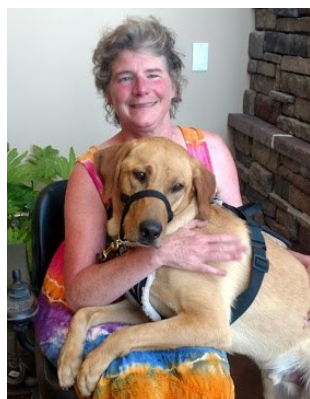
Gabby and Monica Team # 19

Gabby is a rescue from Black Dog Animal Rescue, her sponsor was Leeds Pickering, WY, and her puppy raiser was Sherry Brendel, WY. Gabby is partnered with Monica Cavanuagh in Fort Collins, CO. Gabby helps Monica with stability, retrieving and tugging items.



George and Callie Team # 20

George was purchased from Rosenbach labs, and was raised by Doug & Kelly Wright, KS. George was sponsored by Pat Keplinger, IL. George is partnered with Callie Yeater in KS. Callie was previously on the K9s 4 Mobility board of directors and is a co-founder. George is her fourth Service Dog.



Susan and Moose Team #21

Moose was purchased from Rosenbach Ranch Labs and is a brother to George. He was raised by Larry Braddy, KS and sponsored by Steve & Susan Kline, WY. Moose is partnered with Susan Keenan in Cheyenne, WY where he spends most of his days retrieving items and opening doors.



Bhakti and Dee Team #22

Bhakti was purchased from another Service Dog organization, he was sponsored by Joyce Pelletera, TX, his puppy raisers were Eddie and Jessica Wong, CO, and his training sponsorship was provided by Wes and Hedwig Pettinger, TX. Bhakti is partnered with Dee Sullivan in Loveland, CO. He provides stability for walking, retrieving and tugging items.



My Service Dog

My name is Susan Keenan and I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1990. Over the years I have lost the ability to walk and much of the function of my left arm has gone. M.S. has dramatically reduced my energy level and ability to perform routine tasks that most people take for granted.

On August 21, 2017 I became the proud human for my service dog Moose. Quite unexpectedly he has provided me with a sense of purpose. I now get up at 7:30 AM to start the day with my new buddy and helper. My constant companion will pick up anything that I drop on the floor and he remains at my side throughout the day. We go outside every day and take "walks" with me in my wheelchair and Moose on leash. Moose loves to play fetch and I get a lot of exercise during our foray outside. My family and I take Moose with us most of the time. Moose will accompany us to the grocery store and he is very well behaved when we go to restaurants or department stores. He is an all-around good companion and he is very attentive to my needs.

I chose K-9's for Mobility because my husband and I have known Jill and Bob Jensen for many years. When we accepted Moose into our home Michelle Woerner (trainer extraordinaire) came to our house every day for a few weeks to make complete the training process. Moose had been fully trained but I learned a lot!



Petco Foundation Supports K9s 4 Mobility

K9s 4 Mobility is honored to receive a \$5,000 grant to help extend our efforts and serve the Petco Foundation's mission to raise the quality of life for pets and people who love and need them. [#PetcoFoundation](#)

Meet a Helping Hero at Petco is about celebrating how the Petco foundation supports our organization and others! Susan and Moose showed all just how a Service Dog Team should act in public even with lots of dogs close by. Puppy Raiser Karen with Drake impressed many with how well-behaved a puppy can be while working!



Career Change Dogs

We are often asked what happens to the dogs who do not make it in the program due to behavior or health issues.

These special dogs are called career change and they go from being an assistance dog prospect to a pet extraordinaire. We receive applications from people who are interested in adopting a career change dog if we ever have one. If the situation arises we first contact the dog's puppy raiser to offer them first choice. If they are not looking to add to their forever pack, we then review the applications to find the best fit. The applicants are invited to come meet the dog, visit with them, and see how they feel.

Some of our career change dogs stay local, some live in other states. All are loved and spoiled, and we get updates on them often.



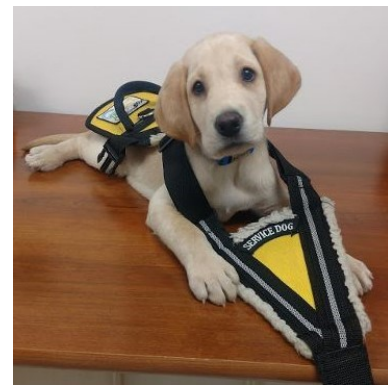
MarkWest Energy Partners Ensures Lasting Legacy

In the spring of 2017, MarkWest employees raised money with the goal of sponsoring two service dogs, one through *K9s for Warriors* and another through *K9s 4 Mobility*. Our wish was to reach out and affect change on both a national and local level. After researching several local organizations, the committee was inspired by the work that *K9s for Mobility* does each and every day.

The Mark West Matters committee is a cross departmental team that works to coordinate the giving and fundraising activities of the MarkWest family. Our committee was established in early 2016 to honor the sudden passing of a beloved colleague, safety director, Bruce Gillick. The group's vision is to actively promote the core principles of the company by giving back to the communities in which we live.

In 2016, MarkWest Matters raised \$50,000 for the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease – the disease that took Gillick's life. We are excited to honor Bruce's memory in 2017 by naming the service dogs after him, one "Bruce" and the other "Gillick". MarkWest Matters representatives chose the service dog organizations as the 2017 recipients because Gillick was a dog lover and he regularly volunteered at a Denver animal shelter. We are excited to learn all about "Bruce" and his progress!

-MarkWest Energy Partners, L.P.



Follow the dog blog at

www.k9s4mobility.org



Karen Kerekes Joins the K9s 4 Mobility Staff

Karen started volunteering at K9s 4 Mobility during the summer of 2016, after moving to Cheyenne from Texas where she was heavily involved with another Assistance Dog organization. She wanted to continue her volunteer work in the Assistance Dog Industry. Karen has been a puppy raiser for K9s 4 Mobility for over a year. She has been a volunteer trainer at K9s 4 Mobility during the past six months, along with helping to develop a puppy raiser mentor program. Karen is now a part-time staff member and helps with training and coordinating puppy raisers, doing puppy raiser home checks and helping with transport to vet appointments. Karen also helps fill in administrative duties as needed.

We are thrilled to welcome Karen to the K9s 4 Mobility Staff.

October is Assistance Dog Awareness Month

Governor Matt Mead proclaims October 2017 as Assistance Dog Awareness Month. Since 2012 when K9s 4 Mobility was incorporated, the Governor has met with the board of directors, staff and volunteers each year to sign the proclamation. Governor Mead has met many of the puppies and dogs in training and some of them have left their paw marks on his desk and kisses on his cheek.



Board of Directors: Chair Gregg Jones, Vice Chair Heather Roe Day, Secretary Amber Still, Treasurer Brandy Marrou, Derrek Jerred, Judy Sifers, Dr. Tracie Caller, Joanna Vilos

Staff: CEO Michelle Woerner, Assistant Trainer Karen Kerekes, Kennel Assistant Justine Woerner

Alumni Board Members: Bob Jensen, Callie Yeater, Barbara Stafford, Pam Reiman

Founders: Bob Jensen, Judy Sifers, Julia Maloukis, Callie Yeater, Michelle Woerner

Thankful Thursday

As our final year of Thankful Thursday drew near, we had some amazing donations to auction. Thankful Thursday allows organizations to participate for five years. We had an amazing five years participating, this year we raised \$22,308 and over the five years we raised a total of \$81,000. Thank you to our supporters who made this possible. We couldn't do what we do without any of you. Thank you for believing in us and our mission. Our sponsor, Thrivent Financial helped, to cover the expense of new t-shirts that sold out that night.



Treats 4 Tricks

Treats 4 Tricks included a 5k, in addition to the dog costume contest this year. Our amazing volunteers Sue Foy and Keri Lovelett headed this venture up and did an amazing job. We had 77 runners join us on a windy and cold morning, and we had 12 brave dog participants. We love getting to meet local dogs and their owners. We raised \$3,760 with the help of our sponsors: The Petco Foundation, Jonah Bank, The Cheyenne Dog Food Company, A Bee Friendly Company, SecurityFirst Bank, Devoted Friends, Century 21, #1 Properties, First Interstate Bank and Foot of the Rockies. Next year's Treats 4 Tricks is already being planned, it will be a 5k and will be held Saturday, September 9th.



What does a Puppy Raiser REALLY do?

It's not just all fun and games. So, you are raising a puppy for K9s 4 Mobility. Now what?

Puppy raisers start with the basics, potty training, teaching the dogs not to chew, playing with toys to help their mental stimulation, walking on a leash. Basic commands such as come next, sit, stay, come and heel are all taught by the amazing puppy raisers.

Once these skills are well known and reliable, the public visits begin. Puppy raisers take the puppy to public places to get used to seeing people, shopping carts, automatic doors, riding in cars, walking beside a shopping cart, etc.

Almost every Friday there is a public training workshop Michelle leads for the local puppies. This is about 45 min at a store of Michelle's choosing to help fine tune the skills and get some expert advice. We love our puppy raisers!



Larry & Leslie with Owen



TOYS AND MORE

Follow this link to order toys and other goodies for the dogs in training. When you sign up as a new customer, K9s 4 Mobility receives \$20

<http://chewy.com/rp/3895>

The dogs love Kong toys, chew bones, teaser balls, indestructible balls and interactive puzzle toys.



The **Walk for a Dog** app is a great way to support K9s 4 Mobility. Simply download the free app, create an account, and chose K9s 4 Mobility is your organization. Make sure to use the app whenever out for a walk. Walk for a Dog has companies that donate money every month. This money is put into a "pool" and every month randomly a winner is chosen from all the walkers who have used the app for the month. The chosen winner's organization gets that month's money. The more people with the app who walk for K9s 4 Mobility, the more chances to win the money.



Thank you

January 1- December 2017

#1 Properties

4 Rivers Equipment
Anheuser Busch
Kim Avent
Brent & Patricia Bacon
BARK BOX
Chris Bass
Jack & Marjori Bedessem
Paul Belotti
Benebone
Benevity Community Impact
Robert Benzien & Cathy Craig
Dave Berry
Black Dog Animal Rescue
Bitter Creek Brewing
Tad & Nicole Bolinger
Larry Braddy & Leslie Kierman
Richard Bratton
Traci Buran
Jerry Burnett
Dr. JJ Chen & Dr. Tracie Caller
Coleman Company
Dr. Jeff & Lynne Carlton
Bertha Carter
Connie Sloan-Cathcart
Monica Cavanagh
Century Link
Century 21 The Bell Real Estate
Cheyenne Animal Shelter
Cheyenne Pet Food Co
Karla Choquette
Carla Howard
Michael Ceballos
Colorado State University
Cheryl Crawford
Don & Heather Day
Devoted Friends
Barbara Dilts

Terry Dimon
Elizabeth Davidson
Dan Dorsch
Colleen Eifealot
Eckman Family
Bill & Beth Edwards
Miranda Eisele
EOG Resources
Mildred Evans
Jennifer Fay
First Interstate Bank
Foot of the Rockies
Jennifer A. Forseth
Gina Frankin
Frontier Veterinary Clinic
Sue Foy
Sharon Garland
Timothy and Laura Geary
Glen and Susan Garrett
Mary Genereux
GOTR Wyoming
Galen & Jennifer Gough
Hackney Trust
Amanda Hauer
Jim and Peggy Hearne
Ann Heckman
Kenny and Abby Herl
Paul and Jeanne Hickey
High West Digital Solutions
Karen Hirt
Leah Innocci
Joyce Pellettera
Bob & Jill Jensen
Derrek Jerred
Ted and Tracy Jerred
Dr. Randy & Patty Johnston
Jonah Bank of Wyoming

Anne Jones
Gregg & Dorrie Jones
Wilbur & Amy Juett
Lauri Julian
Dorothy Kalinoski
Patricia Keplinger
Troy and Karen Kerekes
Cody & Dawn Kozak
Lingle Lions Club
Corey Loghry
Lone Tree Labradors
Cynthia Loomis
Kerri Lovelett
Del & Sally Lummis
Tammy Maas
Linda Mackey
Magpul
Janis Manke
Brandy Marrou
Thomas & Starla Mason
Michelle McMahon
Sue Mecca
Frank Mendicino
MHP LLC
Miles Trust
Lori Millin
Mr. Jim's Pizza
Mary Myers
Linda Obrecht
Tiffany Olson
Mona Pearl
Stan Pence
PETCO
Kurt & Vicki Peth

Wes and Hedwig Pettinger
D. Leeds Pickering
George Plunkett
Heather Preston
Red Ruff Inn Doggie Daycare
Dale and Lori Reed
Walter and Pam Reiman
Reiman Corporations
Jan Reinschmidt
Peter & Pam Reis
Don Reith
ReMax Capital Properties
Rib & Chop House
Anthony and Tracy Richard
Keith and Bobbi Richardson
Rock Springs Block
Doug & Susan Samuelson
Rose Schafer
Security First Bank
Terry and Karlin Shively
Steven and Linda Shotwell
Ashley Sifers
Tom and Judy Sifers
Simon Contracting
Kathy Sitzman
Ricky and Dixie Smiddy
Greg & Patti Smith
Victor Soller
Bill & Barb Stafford
Gary and Georgeann Steffens
Brandi Stoetzel
Bill & Mary Jane Strickland
Amber Still
Sunrise Elementary PTO
Mary Lou Theis
Eric & Cindy Todd
Dean Towns
Traders
Brian & Traci Turner
Christina Turner
Ron & Ursela Vigil
Village Tavern
Joanna Vilos
Mark West Hydrocarbon LLC
Western States Bank
Ron & Carol Waeckerlin
Dan & Diane White
Joe and Renae Wicals
Greg & Bethany Williamson
Linda Wilson
Robert & Susan Wilson
Doug & Kelly Wright
WYHY Federal Credit Union
Wyoming Mounted Association



Monthly sponsors are great way to support K9s 4 Mobility, as little as \$50 a month helps to cover a dog in trainings food, toys and treats for the month. This is a huge monthly cost for K9s 4 Mobility, and every little bit helps.

Latte (the cat) and Pumpkin (little barky dog) are also in search of sponsors to cover their expenses. These two are an important part of the training staff!

Donation are easy and safe on our website; www.k9s4mobility.org





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www.k9s4mobility.org

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Join us for our 2018 Fundraisers:

BINGO, April 23rd

All Jazzed Up, May 18th

Treats 4 Tricks 5K, Sept 29th

Strange Remedy, Oct 2018



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Tracie Caller is a native of Rock Springs, graduating from the University of Wyoming and attending medical school through the WWAMI program at the University of Washington. She works as a Neurologist at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. In her spare time, she enjoys running and hiking with her Belgian Tervuren.

Joanna Vilos grew up in Worland, WY and received her B.A. from the University of Maryland and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She is Senior Legal Counsel for Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and was previously a partner with Holland & Hart LLP in Cheyenne, where she focused primarily on employment law. In her spare time, Joanna enjoys traveling and going to Wyoming Cowboy's games with her two children, ages 8 and 13.