



The Brigadoon Barker

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Holiday Greetings to All of Our Friends.

Thanks to all of you, 2010 has been a wonderful, productive and blessed year. Good things have come in a range from small packages the size of puppies, to large gifts the size of children and adults, who volunteer their time and/or donate to the running of the program. We thank each and every one of you.

Brigadoon has had a busy year full of changes and growth. We started 2010 with new board members: Mary Allen, Leanne Little, Chris Pastorino and Carolyn Wyandt. The board brought a new enthusiasm to our program and has strengthened the foundation of Brigadoon's work.

Carol Quick was hired earlier this year to care for the dogs when they are not in training. She lovingly feeds, runs and plays with the dogs on a daily basis. She has been a great asset to the program by providing constant care.

I am also very pleased that Jean Barnett was hired part-time as my administrative assistant. I am so grateful to have such an organized professional on the staff.

Our Puyallup Brigadoon satellite with, Rob, Tressie and Amber Lowe, are currently working with little Eva, a five-month lab-mix from the Kitsap Humane Society. They have also raised Gunther, a yellow lab, who will return to Brigadoon to be evaluated for the next level of training. They are also active in finding other puppy raisers in the Puyallup area.



Our youth program continues to work with at-risk students at Whatcom Discovery Center. One of the students who trains with the dogs says, "What Brigadoon means to me is the fact that I know I am helping disabled children and adults by training these dogs, I am also learning these helpful skills for training dogs. Brigadoon is an amazing experience for me."

Retired Air Force veteran, Jean Kautzman, will be training with the newly established Brigadoon CHI (Canine and Heroes for Independence) program at Camp Murray. Brigadoon CHI will work with veterans with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) vets and



TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) vets. The founders of the CHI branch include Aaron McCarthy, the marketing and finance director, and Ameer Gilbert, the program director. Look for more information on this program as it builds next year.

The dogs seem eager to please our new part-time trainer, Hanna Knapp. I am pleased to see the dogs in such capable hands.

In October we graduated five teams from the Brigadoon program: Joseph and his safety companion, Winston; Lorna and her hearing companion, Gypsy; Trevor and his coping companion, Lucy; Nick and his calming and centering companion, Spinner; and Carolyn and her balance companion, Barkley. I am proud of all the new teams!

Our silent auction at the graduation was a success. A big "thank you" to all of you who donated items as well as participated in the auction.

We have added two new puppies to our training program. Charlie and Linus are spirited ten-month old lab/boxer crosses from the Yelm Animal Alliance, and are keeping the trainers busy with their antics.

A new 1,584 square foot, training building was added to the Brigadoon facility in November. Public pet training will be starting the first part of 2011. Hallie McGee will also provide clicker-training classes in the new structure. Look for further information on our website in January 2011.

Brigadoon has started the accreditation process for ADI (Assistance Dog International), a coalition of not for profit organizations that train and place Assistance Dogs.

As always, a special thank you to all the volunteers for their loving service to care, train and love our animals. And sincere thanks to all of our financial donors, without your continued donations we could not exist.

Wishing you all the best for 2011,

Denise



Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs is a local non-profit that works in partnership with youth and veterans of our community to help train dogs for people with a variety of disabilities.



Please see the Brigadoon website on how to donate to our wonderful program, www.brigadoondogs.org or mail us at Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs, 4759 Mission Street, Bellingham, WA 98226.