



# The Brigadoon Barker

## Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs

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**First Quarter 2011**

## Brigadoon teams canines with Wounded Warriors.

Brigadoon is proud to introduce our new program for our Nations Wounded Warriors, at Joint Base-Lewis-McChord, in Tacoma. The Brigadoon program, Canines and Heroes for Independence (CHI), has been created for Veterans injured by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The Dogs will be partnered with a Veteran to aid them in living a more fulfilled and independent life. Some of the canine tasks will be to calm a Wounded Warrior in a stressful situation, such as, exposure to very loud noises, or large crowds; retrieve medications, turn on lights, wake their partner from a nightmare, or brace a Veteran to catch his/her balance. Dogs will be trained to meet each Veteran's specific need.

Brigadoon's Executive Director, Denise Costanten, works with CHI to train and certify the minimally trained dogs currently in the Warrior Transition Battalion. Costanten is also working with CHI in the search for puppies and young dogs to train for partnering with more Veterans.

If you would like to support this vital program for our Service Men and Women please contact Brigadoon. Brigadoon is a full member in good standing with the Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and in the process of becoming an accredited service dog program through ADI.



*SSG Aaron McCarthy with his Service Dog, Bella.*



*SPC Brenda Anderson and her Service Dog, Jillian.*



**Brigadoon**  
Youth & Service Dog Programs  
**4759 Mission Road**  
**Bellingham WA 98226**  
**Saturday, March 12**  
**11:00AM - 1:00PM**

## Brigadoon Open House - March 12

The first 2011 open house will be held at the Brigadoon facility on Saturday, March 12, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at 4749 Mission Road, Bellingham.

Anyone interested in the Brigadoon programs, potential dog recipients, volunteers, donors, board members, Veterans and their families, and the general public is invited to come and see what we do at Brigadoon. Learn about Brigadoon; see how you can help or be helped, and how Brigadoon impacts our community.

Enjoy a tour of our new training building, meet the Brigadoon Service Dogs in training, and enjoy some refreshments.

## Youth Program: Positive Association With Students (PAWS)

Brigadoon Youth & Service Dogs Programs work in four of our five classrooms at the Whatcom Discovery Center. The 22 students who participate are excited about Brigadoon and the dogs. They have a

sense of accomplishment as they work with the dogs that provide unconditional love. The students have expressed they feel good about the opportunity to work and train the dogs and help the people who will eventually receive the dogs. It is amazing to see the students interact with the dogs in a positive manner as they gain confidence in themselves and their ability to train the dogs successfully.

Here are some comments from the students from the WDC Classrooms:

*"I am working at the positive future of disabled people and the future is good!"*

*"What I really like about Brigadoon is the dogs and how they love us. I also like the fact that you come and show us how to train dogs. I*

*also like KC and all the dogs you bring with you. The most important thing I like about Brigadoon is that it brings people closer to animals"*

*"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. I am working at the positive future of disabled people and the future is good!"*

*"I think Brigadoon is a really good program. It really gives you a chance to learn how dogs think and it really helps the community. Plus, it is just fun to be there. One of the reasons I find myself having a good time is getting to brush them, just watching them getting loved up is awesome"*

*"Here are a few reasons why I like Brigadoon. One it helps people in need and I think that it is really cool that the program does that. Two, it helps people bond with the dogs and I think that is really cool. Three, it is a way to learn how to train dogs and it might be a skill you might need if you decide to get that job. Overall it's a really cool program to be in".*

**Thank-you, Denise for bringing this opportunity to the students at WDC.**

**Mary Allen, WDC School Counselor**

### Canines & Heroes For Independence (CHI)

#### *"Path To Independence"* Fundraiser

**March 24, 2011 – 5:00 - 7:00 pm**

Great American Casino Ballroom  
10117 South Tacoma Way, Lakewood, WA

**RSVP by March 15th to Ameer Gilbert,  
ameer@brigadoondogs.org**



**253-632-5427**

**\$50.00 per person**

Includes wine, meal, desserts,

1 raffle ticket - additional raffle tickets  
are available at the door.

Many door prizes.

All proceeds go to the Brigadoon  
Youth & Service Dog Programs - CHI Program



## Denise's Message

I would like to start out welcoming everyone to the NEW YEAR and thanking each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart, who have given their support throughout 2010. I look forward to your continued support this year as well.

Although I will still perform my Executive Director duties, I'm looking forward to getting back into training dogs again. The new training building will enable me to offer some puppy/basic good manner classes soon to our friends with puppies/dogs in the community.

There is so much more happening and I will share our progress as time goes on. I hope more of you will believe in the mission and my vision for Brigadoon and want to be more involved. Your support is essential to the sustainability of Brigadoon. This organization is on its way to becoming SPECTACULAR ... don't you want to be part of this happening?

Please share Brigadoon with your friends and I hope to see many of you at our open house March 12th.



## Brigadoon Service Dogs in training.

We are busy training puppies and young dogs which are slated to graduate in 2011 or 2012. It costs up to \$30,000 to raise, train, and house a dog from a puppy and we are looking for sponsorship(s) for each dog. If you are interested in sponsoring a dog please see our website at <http://www.brigadoondogs.com/Sponsor-A-Dog.html> to pick a level of sponsorship that works for you, or call us at 360-733-5388.



Parker is a Golden Retriever pup who is eager to please and loves learning at Brigadoon. He is looking for a sponsor who loves Retrievers.



It is no secret that Denise's favorite breed is the Smooth Coat Collie and if you met Sable you can see why. She is intelligent, energetic and beautiful. She will be on the 2011 graduation podium stealing the show. Let Brigadoon know if you would like to sponsor the final stages of her intense training.



Charlie (r) and Linus (l) are brothers that came to Brigadoon from a shelter in Yelm, WA. They are Lab/Boxer mix and are looking for sponsors who like strong sturdy dogs yet are sweeties.

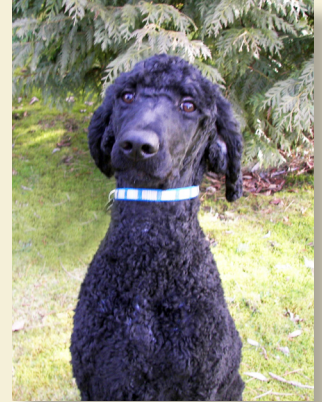


Apollo was donated by Kristine Aanderson, of LestWeForget Kennel in Canada. He was donated specifically for the CHI program and will go to a Veteran. He is looking for a sponsor that will be proud to help serve our Veterans by providing them with a Service Dog.

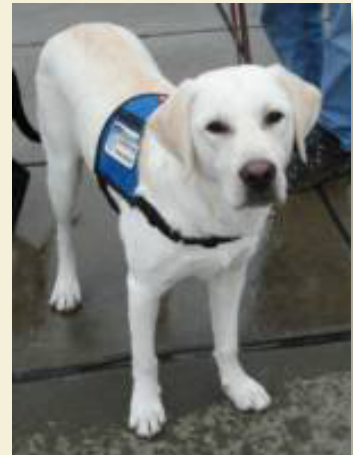
(Apollo was named after 'Operation Apollo', a Canadian and American operation from October 2001 - October 2003. The operation was undertaken as part of a United Nations resolution condemning the attacks of 9/11 and affirming that allied nations had the obligation to eradicate global terrorism. Canadian and American forces undertook missions to working with local people to obtain information about recent Al Qaeda and Taliban activities, eradicate hostile fighters and their hideouts, distributing humanitarian aid.)



Little Eva is a Lab mix, she is busy growing and learning at puppy raisers, Rob, Tressie and Amber Lowe's home, a Brigadoon satellite in Puyallup. Eva would like a sponsor that will grow with her through training, getting a human, and graduating from Brigadoon.



Lando, a Poodle/Lab mix was added to the program recently and is training well with Hanna Knapp and the volunteer trainers. Lando is very interested to prove to a lucky sponsor that he will be the best Service Dog in the Poodle/Lab mix category.



Gunther was puppy-raised at Brigadoon's satellite in Puyallup, and is currently back at the facility for formal training. He is a sturdy Labrador with lots of love to give. He will be matched with his human partner this year. If you are interested in sponsoring his training please contact Brigadoon.



Gracie, came to us from the Puyallup Animal Shelter. She is a Black Lab that enjoys an occasional bone during her 'off' time. When she isn't chewing on her bone she is busy studying the commands of her trainers. Sponsor Gracie and she might share the bone.

## From the editor: What makes a good Service Dog?

by Diana Fewing

My husband and I adopted Holly, a Yellow Lab, in January. We call her a "Brigadoon drop-out". Holly is sweet, smart, and happy, but has growled in public. She is not aggressive and doesn't attack, but Holly is not happy when strangers approach too quickly or startle her.

KC, Brigadoon's gentle giant, a German Shepard and Collie mix, showed signs of not being comfortable in public settings and was always on alert. He was not comfortable doing his jobs so he was also released from service and is in a happy forever home.

So, neither of these dogs were bad dogs. Why did they have to go? I talked with Denise at Brigadoon and did some other research and found out that not all good dogs make great service animals.

Service dogs need to be in good health, confident, love people, intelligent and gentle. It is very important to match the correct personality of the human partner with the canine personality. A medium sized dog would not work for a dog that needs to provide bracing for its human team partner, but, might be the

perfect size for a hearing aide dog. Not all dogs need to be pure bred. In fact, Brigadoon often obtains some of their canines from animal shelters.

The Brigadoon dogs spend hours training for specific tasks and need to be able to respond to the cues their human partner gives them. They also need to problem solve in cases where their handler may require help but might not be able to give a command. The dogs have an innate sense of responsibility to their human partners. They give unconditional love 24/7, offering emotional support as well as physical support.

Service dogs cannot be aggressive or be out of control in a private or public setting. They must allow people to approach their partners and not be protective. A dog that is aggressive to other animals will not make a service dog.

All in all, Holly and KC are really good dogs. They have a few quirks that prevent them from becoming a Brigadoon Service Dog but they will give years of joy to their new families. We love Holly and I bet KC's owners are thrilled to have him in their home too.

## New Training Building

A new 1,584 square foot, training building was added to the Brigadoon facility in November. The new building provides plenty of space to have more than one dog being trained at a time. Brigadoon will be offering basic obedience training and puppy training to the public. If you and your dog are interested in the classes please call Denise CoStanten at 360-733-5388.



The Brigadoon training building is complete. Look for future information on a work party to paint the exterior.



The heated interior of the training building is ready to use. The false ceiling and matted flooring will be added later. The trainers started using the building mid-February.

**BARKING  
DOG**

Jonathan who is noted for his tact was awakened one morning at four o'clock by his ringing telephone.

"Your dog's barking, and it's keeping me awake," said an irate voice.

Jonathan thanked the caller and politely asked his name before hanging up.

The next morning at four o'clock, Jonathan called back his neighbor. "Sir," he said, "I don't have a dog."

## Board Members Needed

The Brigadoon Board of Directors is looking for a few additional experienced, committed and dedicated Board members to carry out its mission to provide highly trained dogs to serve and support Veterans, adults and children with tasks that otherwise would be required by human assistance. We would like to increase our abilities to advance the Brigadoon programs in our communities through strong and loyal leadership. If you are interested in serving this worthy cause please contact Denise Costanten, 360-733-5388.