



The Brigadoon Barker

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Keeping Our Joseph Safe

Article contributions by Beth Swanson and Tracy Rains



Joseph is a wonderful, beautiful, child. When he was in his second year, we began to realize that he was not developing like other 1+ year olds.

An appointment with a developmental pediatrician led to a diagnosis of Peri-sylvian Syndrome. It's a rare syndrome that matched up with his symptoms of: drooling, lack of speech, motor delays, and visual and hearing processing problems.

Joseph has no fear. He does not have any instinct for danger. He simply does what he sets his mind to do, whether that be climbing 15 feet up into a tree, approaching or picking up a snarling animal, or running into the street. Joseph is so quick and quiet, that he does not engage in the typical pre-speech babbling. He is very difficult to keep track of and must be visually watched over.

Safety is a huge issue.

Based on Joseph's needs Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs will train a dog that will alert an adult by barking, that Joseph is not where he is supposed to be. The dog will be trained to stay with Joseph at all times. Because Joseph is so quiet, it is possible for him to disappear without an adult's or the dog's knowledge. Brigadoon will train the dog to find him. Once the dog has found him, it will alert an adult to his location by barking.



October 19, 2007

Everyone's greatest desire is that Joseph stay safe. Brigadoon will train a dog that will become Joseph's constant companion, and give the family security and peace of mind.

Brigadoon Tour

Mark your calendars for the next tour. It will be **October 4** from 10am-11am. Presentation begins at 10am. Bring a friend! Come visit our facility, meet the dogs, and learn more about what we do! You will not be asked for a donation. Call us and let us know you're com-

A Day in the Life of a Brigadoon Volunteer

Wagging tails, happy people, new friends to make, and that feeling inside me telling me I have done a wonderful thing...

The hours go by like minutes, there's so much to do: Everything from training to walking to washing the dogs (I get wet every time) to office work and mingling with people. I always feel good about helping out because I know that everything me and the other volunteers do helps; but I always feel like Brigadoon does more for me than I do for them!

When I'm at Brigadoon, I feel so busy with what I'm doing...and carefree because I'm doing something I love—with some of the nicest people I have ever met. I make new friends every time I volunteer! The hardest decision I have to make when I'm there is which dog to walk first! Brigadoon is my escape from the everyday world.

If you ask any volunteer at Brigadoon why they decided to volunteer, one of their first answers would be that they love animals. That may sound like a run-of-the-mill answer, but you can really tell by the look in their eyes and how seriously committed they are to work with the dogs, that their love of animals runs much deeper.

You can tell you've run across a Brigadoon volunteer when you ask them what they did today and they ask you how much time you have. You'll also know because their hands smell like hot dogs and dog food and their clothes are wet from bathing dogs. You know a Brigadoon volunteer by the language they use with animals and the affection they give. Being a Brigadoon volunteer is not just a job—it's a part of my life.



Denise our founder with Int'l Am/Can Champion Cassidae's Brigadoon aka "Briggs"

One of the most rewarding parts of working with the dogs and people at Brigadoon is witnessing the success stories. What I will never tire of is seeing the smile on the clients face when their dog looks up adoringly at them offering unconditional love, as well as the satisfaction in the dogs expression knowing he has made a difference in his person's life.

Unfortunately, there is a down side to all of this. When you have spent hundreds of hours raising, caring, and training a dog for someone and you are weeks away from graduation and the dog just doesn't come through. You have the tough decision of releasing them from the program and starting over with another dog. Thank goodness this does not occur very often so we get to enjoy our success stories.

Another fun aspect is to match the right dog to the right human partner. Sometimes months will go by for a dog in training just waiting for his person to come in. Then it happens—in walks just that special one and the magic begins.

Board of Directors

Denise CoStanten, President/CEO/ Founder

Leon Costanten, Vice President

Julie Urban, Treasurer

Kathleen Ball, Secretary

Miles Olszko, Volunteer Coordinator

Marguerite Turner, Director

Why do we call the hottest days of the summer "dog days?" Because the ancient Romans did.

Their reason? It was part of their religious belief that during the period from July 3 to August 11, Sirius the Dog Star, the brightest constellation in the northern hemisphere, added its celestial heat to that of the sun, creating extra heat that made their world swelter.

Mission Statement

We provide highly trained dogs to perform tasks and support that would otherwise require human assistance for children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. We engage the youth of the community in this process. We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Carob Peanut Butter Crunch Balls

1/2 Cup All-natural Peanut Butter, no salt
Added

1/3 Cup Honey

1 Cup Puffed Rice Cereal, not sugared

1 Cup Carob Chips (available in health-
Food stores)

In a large bowl, beat the peanut butter and honey until well blended and smooth. Stir in the cereal and mix well. Use a teaspoon to shape the mixture into balls. Place the balls on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Chill until firm.

When the mixture is firm, melt the carob chips in a double broiler over low heat, stirring until melted. Pierce the balls with a fork, and dip them into the carob, completely coating each ball. Shake off the excess carob, and return the ball to the baking sheet. Place the baking sheet in the refrigerator for 1 hour or until the carob is completely hardened. Store the crunch balls in a covered container or plastic storage bag in the refrigerator. Recipe yields approximately 20 two-inch balls.



Updates On Training

Kathleen Ball

Some of our dogs have had some real breakthroughs recently. Here are some of their successes:

- It only took Chelsea, a yellow Lab, only one week to pick up and carry a crutch. Chelsea is also learning to "wave" her paw.
- Tate, a smooth Collie, learned to pick up a crutch.
- Phoenix, a German Shepherd, learned to retrieve a leash, a tennis ball, a plastic dumbbell AND bring them back the trainer.
- Bond, a smooth Collie, learned to bring his dog bowl out of the crate.
- With the help of Home Port students, Chelsea, Phoenix, and Tate learned to track (following a scent). They also practiced "run and find".

SAVE THE DATE

Several Brigadoon service dogs will graduate in a special ceremony scheduled to be held at the Sehome High School gymnasium, Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 2 PM. These dogs have successfully completed two years of specialized training and will officially join their new owners. Each dog has been trained to assist in specific ways.

The dogs received two years of training, starting with basic commands when they were barely two months old and moving on to increasingly difficult tasks. By the time the dogs are ready to graduate, they've learned to ignore all types of distractions and respond quickly to commands. They know they have a job to do and that's their priority.

Sunday's ceremony will mark the beginning of a new life for these well-trained dogs and their grateful owners.

Please call 360-733-5388 to reserve your seat.

Desserts will be graciously donated by
Hilltop Restaurant & Catering.

Our Wish List

Gift Cards are a great way to help, i.e. Whatcom Farmers Co-op, Walkers Healthy Pet., Pet Stop, Cost Cutter Foods, Petco, Petsmart, or Costco. Other stuff needed...

- Fold up treadmill
- First class Postage Stamps
- Blankets and Towels
- Paper Towels
- Copy Paper for our printers
- Jennie O Jumbo Turkey Franks
- HP Inkjet Print Cartridges (#s 95 & 92)
- Poodle Grooming (i.e. Critter Clips)
- \$250,000.00 toward new Kennel Building



Contributors to Brigadoon— July-August

There are no words to express our gratitude for your support of our program.
Thank you!

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Dennis & Charolotte Archer
Matt & Kathleen Ball
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Christopher & Joyce Rossi
Search & Rescue Fundraise for Aaron
Joanne Simon
Douglas & Colleen Thornburg
Thrivent Financial For Lutherans
Marguerite Turner

Did you know...

"Three dog night" (attributed to Australian Aborigines) came about because on especially cold nights, these nomadic people needed three dogs to keep from freezing.