

Newsletter

Name this newsletter — see back page for details

Exciting Year for C.O.P.E. Service Dogs

It has been a whirlwind year for C.O.P.E. Service Dogs — with new pups, new programs, and many enjoyable events initiated and organized by our community members.

As we look forward to the new year, we would like to acknowledge our volunteers who make the difference. From Puppy Raisers and Puppy Sitters, to promotions and fundraising, we would like to thank you for your time, energy and commitment. Planning for a new litter next year means our need for more volunteers is continuing to grow. Whatever your talents are, whatever your time availability, we can put you to work — just give us a call.

Ronald McDonald House Charities supports C.O.P.E. Service Dogs.



George Cohon, Founder of McDonalds Canada and Ronald McDonald House Charities, Canada presents C.O.P.E. Founder, Jane Boake, with a cheque for \$35,800 to support our programs.

Volunteers Needed

- ☺ Puppy Raiser Families
- ☺ Board Members
- ☺ Fundraising
- ☺ Public Awareness and Promotions
- ☺ And many more opportunities

For more information contact us at:

705-252-5996 or
info@copedogs.org

Creative Ideas Help C.O.P.E.

We are blessed with people in the community who have bright ideas about how to raise funds and awareness for C.O.P.E. In the past 6 months, these bright ideas have turned into reality as 6 different events were organized by dedicated community members to benefit C.O.P.E. The outcomes have meant great advances in our services.



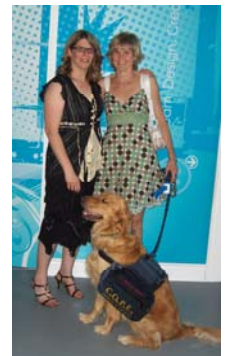
Sue Smockum, Charity Golf Tournament

Our heartfelt thanks go out to:

- Sue Smockum - Barrie Country Club Ladies Charity Golf Tournament (raised a record amount for the annual charity tournament)

- Nicole Norris and Nat Caron - Grand Opening, The Cosmic Garage and Nat Caron Photography Studio.
- Liza Heer - Opening of Starbucks, Mapleview

- Joni Medlyn and Nicole Norris — Joni's Hue U Fashion Show
- Kathie MacMillan and staff at Mapleview Animal Clinic - Santa Photos
- Patricia Murray - Pampered Chef Fundraisers.



Nicole Norris, The Cosmic Garage

Holiday Greetings from the Chair

Special Season's Greetings to all. It is a privilege to be involved with C.O.P.E. for so many years. 2007 has really been the launch-pad for our bright future! Tremendous excitement brews in our office and our hearts as we see the success stories continue. We now have 10 C.O.P.E. dogs placed with Life Partners and families of people with disabilities. C.O.P.E. is grateful for the participation of over 25 Puppy Raiser families, and more than 100 other volunteers through the years. The High School Assistance Dog Program (HSA) boasts a 98% success rate of youth participants who have either graduated or are still in secondary school.

Our future plans include HSA program expansion into more local high schools, which will in turn engage more

struggling elementary students in our Reading Buddy/Math Partner Programs. Plans include more puppies, meaning we will require even more Puppy Raiser families and volunteers. As we put the infrastructure for this growth in place... my thoughts turn to you.

C.O.P.E. success is YOUR success. We can only grow with your continued support. Donors and sponsors, dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, and committed staff will ensure more youth participants will graduate high school, more challenged elementary students will progress in reading and math, more elderly people will enjoy therapy visits and more Life Partnerships will be forged. You have the power to continue to expand the C.O.P.E. magic.

It is a pleasure and an honour to work with each of you. Thank you for your commitment and devotion to C.O.P.E. Together, we'll make 2008 a banner year!

Happy New Year!

Debbie Gilbert



Students are taking the lead with C.O.P.E. Service Dogs' High School Assistance Dog Program

Jan Soule, C.O.P.E. Instructor

C.O.P.E. (Canine Opportunity, People Empowerment) Service Dogs is a multi-faceted charity that involves the whole community in the two-year training period of our service dogs.

Through our youth programs, C.O.P.E. reaches out to high school students having trouble in school. Each student is matched with a C.O.P.E. puppy or dog and taught how to train it to open doors, turn on lights, assist in an emergency, remove coats - tasks that a person who uses a wheelchair, for example, might have difficulty doing on their own.

C.O.P.E. Service Dogs has once again partnered with the great staff and students of Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Innisfil and Jean Vanier Catholic High School in Collingwood.

At Nantyr, students in a learning strategies course spend a class Monday, Wednesday and Friday training the next crop of C.O.P.E. Service Dogs. While learning training techniques like setting up for success and overnight learning, students gain skills that are easily transferable to their own lives.

At Jean Vanier students in the school's Alternative Education Program work on developing the dog's commands during their classes Tuesday and Thursday.

"It really works that overnight learning," said a Jean Vanier student about one of C.O.P.E.'s dog training techniques. For overnight learning the student trainer must always make sure that the dog successfully completes a command before it goes to rest.

When told the overnight learning could help students as well he decided to try it.

"I got a much high mark on my last test," he said.

The lure of working with the dogs has also made truancy less of a problem.

"I was going to skip school but then I remember it was C.O.P.E. day," said another student.

Now that students and dogs and puppies have formed their bonds they will be taking their teams on the road, helping elementary students with their reading skills and visiting retirement residences and hospitals.

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Message from the Founder/Executive Director

Wow....2007 has been an incredible year for C.O.P.E. We've grown in leaps and bounds! In my capacity as a Special Education teacher at Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Alcona, I have the pleasure of teaching 31 students in the High School Assistance Dog Program (HSA). Jan Soule continues to instruct at Nantyr Shores as well as offering her expertise to 9 students in the HSA program at Jean Vanier Catholic High School in Collingwood. Jan and six of our dogs in training make regular therapeutic visits to Angus Morrison Elementary School in Angus. Our program expansion plans include new secondary and elementary schools in the Barrie area for September 2008.

Karen Baldwin has joined the team as our Development Officer and we have already seen an increase in fundraising

activity. Debbie Gilbert continues in her role as Chair of the Board, and master administrator.

Our 'Seven Wonders' puppies are now fast-learning teens themselves, and together with their youth handlers are preparing to make trips to seniors' homes for therapy visits, and elementary schools for the Reading/Math Buddy program. The delight of accomplishment on the faces of the youth and children (and their teachers!) while cuddling with a dog and a book continues to inspire us all.

We celebrated the commencement of four C.O.P.E. Dogs' careers with their new Life Partners this year, and honoured their Puppy Raiser families. We currently have over 50 active volunteers! We intend to welcome more

puppies in 2008 and will need even more Puppy Raiser families....please enquire!

At this time of year, when we are asked to give even more of ourselves, I extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the sponsors, donors, and especially the volunteers that continue to give generously of your time and efforts toward the success of C.O.P.E.

It continues to be remarkable to me how a skilled service dog improves the quality of life and sense of independence for someone with a disability. And, how that same dog impacts so many others while preparing for this important role. We are proud to be changing the lives of people by sharing the talents and magic of C.O.P.E. dogs!

Jane Boake



In addition to our "Seven Wonders" puppies, C.O.P.E. also welcomed two new additions to our programs, Ben, an 11-month Golden Retriever (courtesy of George Cohon and Sherri Hall, Maple Lane Golden Retrievers)



and Bing, a silver Standard Poodle, age 16 weeks, our newest addition.

Students taking lead—continued from page 2

Students who often struggle in school are required in C.O.P.E. class to be a leader.

"I gave him a command and he did it for me," beamed one student who had recently started working with a new dog. "I can teach this dog things."

Working with our trusting Golden Retrievers teaches the students empathy, parenting skills and increases self-esteem. Students become part of the solution for various people in our communities. As the dogs graduate the students "turn over the leash" to people with disabilities who gain a whole new world of physical and social access, thanks to these assistive and therapeutic animals.

This week one of the dogs, Cosmo, graduated and students said their good byes.

"Cosmo really listened to me," said one of his trainers. "I think he's smarter than I am."

Not so, but Cosmo is smarter thanks to his training.



C.O.P.E. Service Dogs

P.O. Box 20035

Barrie, ON

L4M 6E9

Phone: 705-252-5996

E-mail: info@copedogs.org

www.copedogs.org

Charitable Registration : 896771417 RR0001

2008 C.O.P.E. Calendars

Now Available

\$10 each



The funds raised from the Calendar help ensure our programs continue, and grow...and we have some big expansion plans for 2008! ALSO, the calendar promotes awareness and gives others the opportunity to give, and get involved.

Your Support Counts

Did you know that it costs over \$22,000 to raise and train each C.O.P.E. Service Dog during their two year training period? During this time, each dog enriches the lives of over 40 people— their student trainers, the Reading Buddies and Math Partners, those recovering in hospital or in retirement or nursing homes, their puppy raiser families, and our volunteers—all before they join their Life Partners.

Yes, I want to support C.O.P.E. Please find enclosed my donation of:
_____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$35 _____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail your donation to:

COPE Service Dogs, Box 20035, Barrie ON L4M 6E9

Or online at www.copedogs.org

Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 and over.

C.O.P.E. Service Dogs is supported in part by:



LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO



United Way of South Georgian Bay

Name this newsletter!

Are you feeling creative?

We need a name for this newsletter, which will be issued on a regular basis. Simply fill in the ballot and mail it in, or forward your suggestion to info@copedogs.org.

The winning entry will receive a complimentary 2008 C.O.P.E. Calendar and a large plush Golden Retriever.

C.O.P.E. Service Dogs respects the privacy of our supporters. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us at info@copedogs.org or 705-252-5996.

Name the Newsletter Ballot

Suggested Name(s): _____

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