

SUMMER 2021

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

A NEW CAREGIVER AT CANUCK PLACE

MEET PADS GAIA, A SPECIAL
DOG WITH A BIG JOB

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MISTER BLAKE

MEET OUR NEWEST STARS

A LIFE OF IMPACT

TWO DECADES OF
CHANGING LIVES

 pads.ca     @padsdogs



PADS

COMING TOGETHER WHILE STAYING APART

It is impossible to put into words the support the PADS community has shown this past year. As COVID continues we may have slowed down but we never stopped, a feat only made possible by the dedicated volunteers, supporters and donors who asked every day how they could help ensure our future remained bright.

The PADS community raised funds, trained and placed life-changing dogs. Our donors have found new and wonderful ways to raise much needed funds for PADS:

- Our friend mister Blake celebrated his birthday this year with the gift of another PADS litter sponsorship (page 5)
- BC Distilled worked with several distilleries to develop a limited-edition collection with proceeds going to PADS (page 5)
- Our dear friend and PADS champion Shawn Laari completed his “Great Head Shave” shaving off all of his COVID hair in support of PADS (page 6)

Our Volunteers continued to persevere online, embracing new ways of puppy raising. Our staff have remained as committed as ever to our mission and this collective effort has paid off.



**“Since the start of COVID
PADS has placed 33
life-changing dogs”**

The pages of this newsletter tell a story of a courageous and resilient group of individuals committed to our mission.

We invite you to continue to partner with us in our efforts. I want to continue to report placements and success, but to do so we need your continued support.



With this pandemic our industry is facing unprecedented financial challenges and we need your help to get through them. Perhaps more importantly, our communities are hurting...this has made the demand for our dogs greater than ever before.

I invite you to explore the opportunities in these pages to partner with us. In particular, I invite you this summer to join our team as we “MOVE” for PADS (see page 8). Form a team at work, get outside, do something that makes your heart sing AND help place life-changing dogs in the process.

I am personally committing to moving for 55 days to celebrate my 55th birthday and personally raising \$5555 dollars for PADS! Will you join me??

Be safe, be kind, be well,

Laura Watamanuk, Executive Director
laura@pads.ca



MISSION

PADS supports people with disabilities and community care providers by partnering them with certified assistance dogs.

VISION

Our clients enjoy life-changing independence and wellness through partnerships with PADS certified assistance dogs.

PADS BOARD

Rob Walker, Board Chair
Rick DeHart, Past Chair
Cara Pavlovic, Treasurer
Robert DeKlerk, Secretary
Christine Coletta, Director
Kim Gramlich, Director
Nancy Kemble, Director



COVER PUP

PADS Gaia was recently placed at Canuck Place Children’s Hospice filling the very large paws of PADS Poppy in the lives of children and families.

Photographer: Beth Holbrook

A NEW CAREGIVER AT CANUCK PLACE

Canuck Place Children's Hospice is a place where short lives are lived to their fullest. North America's first free-standing children's hospice first opened its doors in 1995. They responded to the need for a hospice created specifically for children. Today the Canuck Place team is recognized internationally as leaders in the field of pediatric palliative care. PADS is proud to have bred, raised and trained their newest team member, Accredited Facility Dog Gaia.

Gaia was matched with two handlers and long-time staff members, Nurse Practitioner Camara Van Breemen and Nursing Manager Brenda Dewar.

Camara is one of the original nurses who founded Canuck Place 25 years ago and Brenda has been part of the team for over 20 years. Together they love and care for Gaia. The question is – does Gaia support their work or do they support hers – the answer is both!

Gaia is a petite yellow Labrador with soulful eyes and ears of velvet. These physical traits serve her well in her new role. Both Camara and Brenda talk about Gaia's ability to connect with her kind eyes and gentle presence.

One of the first children Gaia met at Canuck Place was a young girl, Neda. Camara shared about the special bond that formed not just for Neda and Gaia, but also for Neda's siblings and parents:



“Gaia visited Neda, a little 5-year-old who was nearing her end of life. She offered a wonderful distraction and lots of laughter”.

“Gaia also spent time with Neda's family, brother, and sister after Neda died. Her calm, considerate and loving presence in any situation is simply extraordinary.”

Gaia is not only a support to the children and families at Canuck Place, but to the team as well. She begins each day by making her “rounds” greeting each member of the staff – she makes a point of greeting every one of them.

Throughout the day, Gaia often has meetings and appointments with children and families, but she also welcomes her regular walks to destress and decompress.

Gaia has an innate ability to know how close to be to the children. One little guy leaned over to kiss Gaia on the nose and she was so gentle in return.

One child who is particularly attached to Gaia requests time outside with her each time he stays at the hospice. “Gaia really likes me” he says as Gaia greets him each morning with a big tail wag and her gentle head on his bed.

He strokes her head gently as he watches morning cartoons. There is nothing quite as magical as the love of a dog. We're so proud of how Gaia, Brenda and Camara are helping to ensure that short lives are lived to the fullest.



Gaia is welcomed to the team with a #1 Vancouver Canucks Jersey
photo credit: Beth Holbrook



L to R: Brenda, PADS Gaia & Camara *photo credit: Beth Holbrook*



Gaia was whelped by the **Gunson Family**, named and sponsored by **Jean Donaldson**, puppy-raised by **Catherine McLaughlin & Ian Mitchell** and the **Jolly Family**. Her advanced sitters were **Susie Bakajic** and **Una Chan**. The Canuck Place team sponsorship of Gaia, Brenda and Camara was funded by **Lynn Watson in memory of her beloved husband Tom**.

PUPPY RAISING DURING COVID-19

Many puppy-raisers will tell you that they volunteered at PADS to change the life of another – a client waiting for a service dog... but they soon discovered that our slogan “Changing Lives. One dog at a time.” was about them too. Somewhere along the way a sweet bundle of fur came into their life and changed everything.

This feeling has been magnified throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Puppy-raisers have risen to each and every challenge that has been presented. They have adapted to new ways of learning; adapted their daily routines in order to socialize their pups while staying (and keeping others) safe.

Some of our pups took on new challenges during COVID-19. One such pup is PADS Dervish. Placed with his raiser in early 2019, Dervish had a year of routine under his vest when Covid hit. His Puppy-Raiser Cindy is the Regional Director of Communicable Disease Control for Vancouver Coastal Health. Cindy has spent the last 14 months in the thick of organizing Vancouver Coastal Health’s response to the pandemic. This meant creating the infrastructure for the case and contact tracing program and as well coordinating the COVID vaccine roll out. But she was not alone...



PADS Dervish & Cindy



“Dervish has been by my side during it all and I have been very grateful to have him with me during this time. At work Dervish has been dubbed our ‘COVID support dog’

Dervish has been a comfort and stress relief to all working in this office. Even if people don’t interact with him regularly, they comment on how they like seeing him in the office. Dervish has attended many, many meetings and always takes it all in stride. “

PADS Puppy-Raiser Allie had a different and yet similar experience: “When the world changed in March 2020, having PADS Valentine with me was so impactful in a positive way for my mental health. I live alone and most of my family

live in various places around the country. She made me feel safe and definitely caught a few tears when I was missing my friends and family. Adding structure to her days helped lessen anxiety about this unknown reality we were all encountering.



“She exited her kennel every morning – wiggling around with her toys in her mouth – she helped me start each day with a smile. I joked that I wasn’t sure, in those early days of the pandemic, who was looking after who.”

Valentine graduated into the PADS Breeding program in 2020 and in February of 2021, Allie welcomed Valentine’s daughter—9-week-old Angel II—into her home.

“Just like her mom, she gives me something to focus on, outside of work and the response to the pandemic. These small things help me with keeping busy and maintaining a positive outlook. A wiggly little puppy that thinks that every day is the best day EVER, ensures we both get a walk with fresh air and exercise, taking training or play breaks throughout the day to step away from the computer or phone screen. Angel never fails to give me opportunities to laugh. PADS also has kept us learning every week with online puppy classes – maintaining connection and community.



Allie & PADS Valentine photo credit: Allison Beardsworth

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MISTER BLAKE!

Our dear friend mister Blake has done it again! When considering how to celebrate his birthday this year mister Blake decided as an early gift to himself (and US!!) to sponsor another litter of “mister Blake Stars”.

The **mister Blake 7-Star Vehicle Litter** is named after mister Blake’s favourite vehicles and it has certainly made for some beautiful and unique names. It’s also quite fitting that it gave us opportunity to show mister Blake the vehicle he helped fund last year!

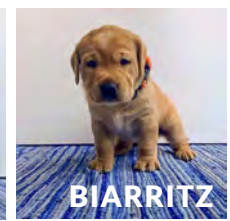
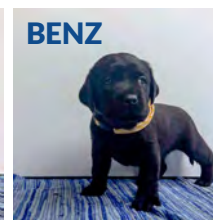
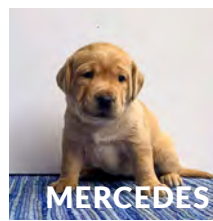
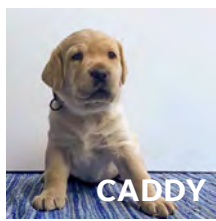
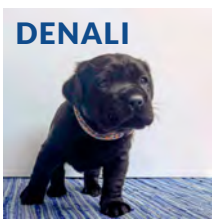
Funding is more critical now than ever before; we are so grateful for the faithfulness of friends like mister Blake. His ongoing generosity and kindness has allowed us to continue changing lives. It’s been a very different sponsorship. Previous litters have had the opportunity to meet their benefactor, but with COVID that happy reunion will have to wait until it’s safe for everyone. Until then, the puppies will be learning and growing!

As with mister Blake’s previous litters, we’re thrilled that the litter fulfills his mission of making a difference locally



mister Blake, PADS Angel II, Tara Doherty & PADS Cadence photo credit: Allison Beardsworth

and globally. Malibu, Denali, Caddy, Fleetwood and Mercedes are entering training at PADS and Benz and Biarritz are heading off to National Service Dogs (Cambridge, ON) and Canine Companions (US).



DISTILLING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

BC Distilled has been supporting PADS since their inception—raising over \$21K since our partnership began. When their signature event was cancelled for the second year in a row, founder Alex Hamer decided to take action! Five amazing distilleries came alongside the BC Distilled Team to support PADS, releasing limited-edition spirits.

Huge thanks to DEVINE Spirits, Okanagan Spirits Craft Distillery, The Dubh Glas Distillery, True North Distilleries and Wayward Distillery for their incredible support. Their heart and time raised over \$12K to support PADS programs!

To learn more about BC Distilled visit bcdistilled.ca



THE GIFT OF SECURITY

by George Prevost

Why donate securities?

With the stock market up so much this year, I wanted to realize some of my gains before they potentially disappeared.

Doing so could have negative tax implications, so I didn't want to just cash out and add income that I don't currently need. By donating securities, I was able to avoid capital gains taxes, which would have been considerable. As a result, PADS got the full value of the securities I sold, and I got a charitable receipt for that same full value.

How complicated was it?

The process was *very simple*. I filled out a form on the CanadaHelps.org website and then printed it out and sent it to my broker. A couple of days later my securities had been sold, with the money sent to PADS and a charitable receipt sent to me.

Why PADS?

I support PADS financially for a number of reasons. The most obvious is that our wonderful dogs are life-changing for the clients who they end up supporting and loving, and I wanted to do my little bit to help make that happen. As a volunteer at PADS, I've been able to hear directly from several clients what a difference getting a service dog has made for them. And actually seeing some of our dogs doing the work they've been trained for makes it pretty hard not to want to support the program that makes it all possible.

PADS does something else pretty wonderful, too. As well as our clients, there are several hundred volunteers whose lives are also being changed and enriched by their involvement with PADS. Sure, raising puppies is hard work, and sometimes challenging and even frustrating, but it is also extremely fulfilling, and life-changing in its own



PADS Winnie & George
photo credit: Kirsten Hathaway

way. It's certainly filled my retirement with meaningful, important things to do and puppies to love and be loved by, and it has helped me become part of wonderful supportive community of like-minded people. This community, too, is something that I'm very happy to be able to support.



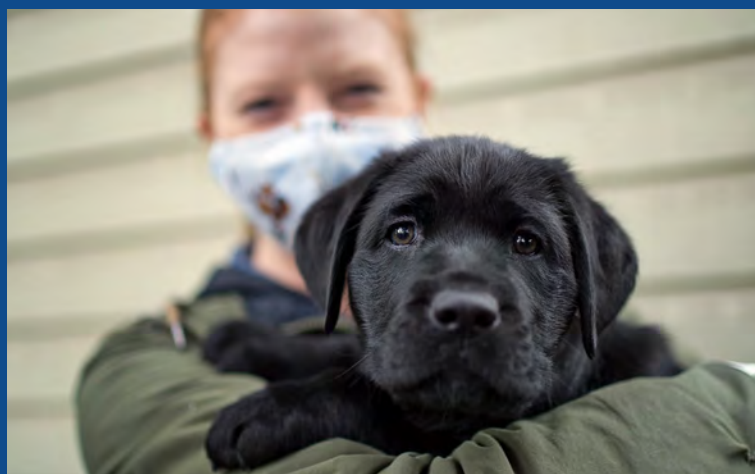
To learn more about giving the gift of securities please visit pads.ca/give

TUNING IN TO INDEPENDENCE

Early in the pandemic we looked for ways to inject a little joy into our struggling world. We chose to "visit" our newest litters, sharing a brief "Pawcast" with our social media followers. As the pandemic wore on, puppies grew and left the nest so we reimagined the concept and launched "Tune-in-Tuesday" spending 30 minutes or so introducing our community to a member of the PADS family. Viewers interact in real time, asking questions that we answer live on the air.

The 1pm (Pacific) broadcasts are simulcast on both Zoom and Facebook Live and close-captioned by PADS Volunteer Lannie Anderson on Tuesday afternoons.

Our guests have included clients, staff, supporters and yes even PUPPIES—they inspire joy, laughter, tears and a richer understanding of what it means to be part of the PADS family and the life-changing work that we do.



Heather & PADS Autumn II photo credit: Bill Ng



Watch past episodes or register for upcoming broadcasts at pads.ca/tune-in-tuesday

A LIFE OF IMPACT

This article began as a celebration of the creativity and spirit of two very special PADS volunteers: Cathy Beaumont and Shawn Laari. Unexpectedly—after Shawn’s sudden passing—it became one that pays tribute to the impact Shawn had within our lives and community. Shawn lived generously, joyously and fully - we will forever be grateful for his friendship, his many gifts to us and his inspiration.

Shawn & Cathy have been PADS volunteers for over two decades, recently completing raising their seventh puppy, Greco. Their work has never been limited to just puppies—they support PADS in so many ways—providing assistance to our working teams, fellow volunteers, our staff as trusted advisors, generous donors and enthusiastic fundraisers.



Cathy & Shawn Photo Courtesy of: Cathy Beaumont

Our digital content coordinator Katie reflected on just one example of their hearts. When she joined our community as a volunteer puppy-raiser she was a “carless” university student and a stranger to them. Cathy and Shawn offered to pick her up and drive her to and from puppy class each week. They listened to her many “is this normal?” questions with immense patience and immeasurable support.

They also put their many talents to work regularly. Cathy sews kennel mats (nearly 300 to date!!) for all the new puppies. Shawn crafted the off cuts into tug ropes for the puppy kits. Last fall they cut and sewed all the custom bandanas that were distributed to celebrate our graduates.

Their creativity and generosity is limitless - when Covid hit Cathy shifted her Beau-tie (doggy bowties) Gala efforts into a fundraiser for PADS, selling her dapper accessories in exchange for donations. Shawn simultaneously put his stock of lovingly harvested “Kitsilano Honey” up for grabs in exchange for donations to PADS.

In March of this year, they undertook their most creative fundraiser yet – “The Great Shave Off”. Shaving his Covid locks and offering to match all donations dollar for dollar.

We count ourselves so fortunate that we got to enjoy Shawn’s infectious enthusiasm one last time, just a week before he passed. Shawn joined us on the front lawn of PADS—decked out in a “Hair of the Dog” t-shirt— as staff, clients and supporters snipped off the tiny pigtails Cathy had put in his hair. The hair is destined for wigs for children facing cancer; the funds raised will support PADS Advanced Training program.. This effort resulted in nearly \$12 thousand dollars to help place more life-changing dogs.



Shawn Photo Credit: Tara Doherty

In late May, Cathy was presented with the 2020 Spirit of PADS Award honouring them both for their many years of devotion to PADS. In the coming months, we’ll be remembering Shawn’s life and contributions with a very special puppy that Cathy (and friends/family) will be given the honour of naming.

PADS PARTNERS

Our popular PADS Partners monthly giving option is the backbone of our program! By making an automatic monthly contribution you make it possible for PADS to plan each month, because we know we can count on you.

Become a PADS partner today by visiting pads.ca/sponsorship for more info.

PADS Piper III Photo Credit: Mike Edgar





#MOVEFORPADS

Registration Opens **June 26, 2021**



PADS

There are so many reasons to MOVE for PADS, what's yours? Whatever way you MOVE, make it matter by setting your goal and fundraise for a great cause. Challenge yourself or create a team and MOVE faster or farther than you've ever done before. **This year our registration is FREE but there are great incentives for our early birds!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- June 26:** Early Bird Registration Opens
- July 12:** Early Bird Registration Closes
- August 1-31:** Raise & MOVE!
- August 21:** A Day of MOVE - Virtual Event
- August 31:** Last Day for Donations

EARLY BIRD BENEFITS

- 50% off discount code for event t-shirt & bandana
- Entry into early bird prize draw (including Qualicum getaway)
- Team Name on Shirts
- Corporate Logo Personalization

NEW THIS YEAR - REGISTER YOUR CORPORATE TEAM!

Register by the early bird deadline to include your company logo on your team T-shirts! Learn more or sign up by emailing events@pads.ca

REGISTER **NOW** AT [PADS.CA/MOVE](https://pads.ca/move)

CONNECT WITH PADS

BURNABY

Head Office
9048 Stormont Avenue
Burnaby, BC V3N 4G6
info@pads.ca

CALGARY

Training & Puppy-Raising Program
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OKANAGAN

Puppy-Raising Program
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VANCOUVER ISLAND

Public Awareness Program
Toll Free + Option: 5
nanaimo@pads.ca

CALL

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ONLINE



REGISTERED CHARITY

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L to R: PADS Spring & Teri, PADS Harvest & White Family, PADS Autumn II & Ryleigh Photo Credits: Bill Ng