

2022

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

CHANGING LIVES.
ONE DOG AT A TIME.

9048 STORMONT AVE



PAWS

35 YEARS

BACK TO SCHOOL

PUPPIES ON THE UBC
CAMPUS



GAME CHANGING PTSD DOGS

DOGS THAT SERVE THOSE
WHO SERVED US

MEET THE B-BOYS

CAROL ANN SHARES HER JOURNEY
WITH 3 VERY SPECIAL PADS DOGS

A SEASON TO CELEBRATE!

**We are celebrating our 35th year of changing lives - thanks to you!
We've come such a long way and the road ahead looks even brighter.**

You may not know that PADS was the first program to be accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) in Canada back in 2001. I'm proud to announce that in September, we were presented with our fourth reaccreditation at the Assistance Dogs International (ADI) conference in Concord, California!

I am also excited to share with you that recently we moved forward with some major milestones in our Strategic Plan. This includes the hiring of new senior level staff and introducing a new relationship management database, called Salesforce. These big changes will mean we'll be able to strengthen our existing relationships with clients, volunteers and supporters as well as broaden our reach into new markets. I've often shared with pride that each member of our leadership team brings a decade or more of experience to PADS. Each of them is actively involved in the ADI global community as respected leaders in their various fields.

Paired with this point of pride, I'm also excited when our team grows to include new faces, knowledge and perspectives. In the past few months, we've welcomed two new members to our senior leadership team: Joanne Veltri as Director of Development and Katelyn Mills as Director of Canine Operations. These two women bring not only rich and diverse experience but fresh eyes to our organization that will help us rethink, reimagine and reach our ambitious goals.

While he wanted his departure to be without fanfare, I want to send warm wishes and gratitude to Ron Tymrick, who after 29 years of changing lives



Heather, Katelyn, Jackie, Laura, Tara & PADS Cadence receive PADS 4th Re-Accreditation in Concord, CA

with PADS, is moving on to a new chapter of his life. Ron was PADS' very first trainer, and from humble beginnings training rescue dogs in his garage, he dedicated his career to our clients. The final years of his career at PADS were as our Client Services Manager. We wish him all the best as he celebrates his 60th birthday and new horizons.

There have been many changes over the years, but what has remained consistent is the group of dedicated volunteers and donors that, along with the amazing staff and Board, have made the organization what it is today. PADS could not place these life-changing dogs without the help of these people.

In the following pages you will hear from members of our village - new and old - who are helping us change lives, one dog at a time.

I'm wishing you and yours a very warm and safe holiday season!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Watamanuk".

Laura Watamanuk, Executive Director



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

Christine Coletta, Chair
Laura Watson, Vice Chair
Rob Walker, Past Chair
Cara Pavlovic, Treasurer
Robert DeKlerk, Secretary
Bruce Arthurs, Director
Kristy James, Director



COVER PUPS

Front Row: PADS Service Dogs Walker and Cadence.

Back Row: PADS Dogs-in-Training Smore & Norquay

Photographer: Bill Ng

Thanks to volunteer Ron Wiens for making our 35th celebration signage!

CAMPUS CANINES: UBC PADS PUPS

PADS has watched with interest over the years as other Assistance Dogs International programs have developed collegiate clubs. We knew that a program like this could be life-changing, both for PADS and for a university.

But there were many questions surrounding this dream project. Could a collegiate club be possible at PADS? How self-sufficient could it be? What kind of staff support would it need? How do we create a model that is sustainable? How big can it get? And finally, where would we find that key person our industry colleagues told us was essential - a student champion with the drive and skills to take on the herculean task of founder?

Enter Alina Cirlova, founding President of Campus Canines UBC. Alina learned about PADS through social media and was intrigued by collegiate clubs that puppy-raised at some American Universities. "I wanted to see if it was possible to make puppy-raising more accessible to university students, to create a pathway to connect them into the remarkable, supportive PADS community and change lives." Alina has taken this journey with PADS Puppy-in-Training Fleetwood (aka Campus Canines UBC Chief Puppy Pawfficer) at her side.



Alina & PADS Fleetwood
Photo credit: Bill Ng

CHALLENGES & CHANGES

Starting **AMS Campus Canines UBC** was not without challenges: like many things, COVID stalled the launch and growth of the club for almost two years. Yet, in hindsight the slow start and growth allowed for robust planning and ultimately huge success.

UBC has been a phenomenal partner. They have robust institutional policies in place that support the provincial public access rights of puppies-in-training and none of the club members have had any issues on campus. As a courtesy, of course, puppy-raising members reach out to their professors and let them know that they will be bringing a service dog-in-training to class. One of the biggest undertakings for the club was gaining Alma Mater Society status. Once they demonstrated the benefit to the students and the advocacy work for accessibility on campus, everything fell into place and approval was granted.

RAPID GROWTH

Campus Canines UBC already has over 100 members. This is huge for any club at UBC, particularly a brand new one. Among them are 5 Puppy-Raisers, 12 Puppy-Sitters and over 80 associate members.

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT THE CUTE PUPPIES

While all the members love puppies, they are just as passionate about philanthropic work and creating a more accessible world for people with disabilities. These members contribute to the club (and PADS!) by planning fundraisers, community events, developing educational materials and advocating for assistance dogs and people with disabilities.

RICH REWARDS

Bringing everyone together after the pandemic has been one reward, but the other is the legacy that is being created for Campus Canines UBC & PADS. Alina, and the initial executive team, built succession planning into the structure from the get-go to ensure her hard work would continue as she and other student members journey through the club alongside their time in university. When electing officers, they encouraged them to mentor next year's officers and then remain on as mentors as they step out of their term.

Beyond UBC, PADS is excited by the framework that the team is building that we'll be able to use as a road map for future puppy-raising chapters or collegiate clubs.



To learn more about AMS Campus Canines UBC follow them on Facebook or Instagram
@campuscaninesubc



PADS Fleetwood & Alina, PADS Wilma & Katie, PADS Marvel & Christine, PADS Loki & Adele. Photo credit: Bill Ng

GAME CHANGING PTSD DOGS

Currently 9.2% of Canadians live with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The PADS PTSD program supports first responders and military personnel with PTSD by training dogs to support wellness and social reintegration.

A runner and weightlifter with multiple blackbelts in various martial arts, Matt Staley became a military combat instructor.

Matt served in the Canadian Army for over 20 years, and was deployed in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. Proud of his military service, Matt continued a family tradition going back over a century. He was a leader and enjoyed his military career, until he didn't anymore. Matt says that by the time he was in Afghanistan he began to question his role as a Peacekeeper. In 2014 he was medically released from service with severe PTSD.

Enter PADS Fischer, a Labrador and Golden Retriever cross - who was matched with the now retired Matt earlier this year.



“Fischer is a stalwart and incredibly astute worker, who has had my 6 wherever we go!”

PADS PTSD Service Dogs, like Fischer, are highly trained to use their skills to support wellness and social reintegration in a variety of ways. They are trained to interrupt PTSD symptoms including anxiety behaviours and night terrors. They also provide positional support and a grounding presence wherever they go with their partner.

Fischer was made possible with the support of True Patriot Love. Since 2018, PADS has certified 17 PTSD

dogs and maintains an ongoing relationship with each team. Recipients report a reduction of PTSD symptoms, less depressive episodes, less need for medications, better sleep, and a return to—or even expansion of—past activities.



Matt & PADS Fischer



Fischer was whelped by **Vicki Smith and Paul Nelin**; Puppy-Raised by **Shawna & Randall Frasch, Paul Lindquist, Berk & Trish Shaw and Alli Sandberg**; Advanced sitting by **Carol & Ken Arnold, Tao Zeng, Susan Hollingshead & Derek Crane, Kerry Shepherd, and Tessa Matsuzaki**; and Puppy Sponsored by **Total Pet - Vernon**.

CHANGING THE LIVES OF VETERANS & MILITARY MEMBERS

True Patriot Love Foundation is Canada's leading organization in support of the military community. The foundation raises awareness surrounding the challenges related to military service and funds programs to assist serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, and their families in support of their physical and mental well-being, rehabilitation and recovery, and transition post military service.

Since being founded in 2009, True Patriot Love has committed over \$35 million to fund innovative research and 945 community-based programs across the country, helping to change the lives of over 37,600 military and veteran families.



To learn more about how True Patriot Love is changing lives visit pads.ca/truepatriotlove



IN A NEW LIGHT

We are honoured and overwhelmed to be able to share with you IN A NEW LIGHT, a documentary film of the journey of our client Juliet Walden and PADS PTSD Service Dog Stark.

This STORYHIVE Documentary was produced by our dear friends, the incredibly talented Mack Stannard and Maddy Chang and their extraordinary crew. Our immense thanks to all involved and our friends at TELUS for funding this powerful project.

Juliet and Stark were matched just over 4 years ago as PADS first PTSD Team. We are delighted to see how this team has grown in their years together. We cannot thank Juliet enough for being brave enough to step up and then sharing her story with the community to bring awareness and help others.

To watch In a New Light, visit pads.ca/julietandstark

CALGARY IS TREVOYAGING!

As our program grows in the Calgary region, we needed a wheelchair accessible vehicle to deliver services to our clients in Alberta safely and efficiently. A dynamic trio of supporters came together to get us rolling!

Getting these amazing wheels on the road was a collaborative effort between the **Province of Alberta**, the **Spruce Meadows Leg Up Foundation**, and the fastest talker we know (with the biggest heart) our friend **Bill Brown** of **Elevate Auctions**.



“Volunteering for PADS has become a personal passion. Everyone from the trainers, volunteers, clients, staff, donors and of course the pups, are simply amazing.”

~Bill Brown

Many of you will remember Bill as our fabulous auctioneer from our **For the Love of Dog Gala**. When Bill heard that we needed matching funds for the van, he jumped into action, and used his own 60th birthday celebration as a wonderful reason to help us raise the funds required.

Thanks to this generosity, our Calgary team (and visiting staff from other regions) now have reliable, accessible wheels that allow them to support client training, do field trips and transport our precious canine cargo safely.



PADS Brie, Lady & Piper pose with the Trevoyager. Photo credit: Heather Kidd

The new wheels have been dubbed “The Trevoyager” by the Calgary Team. The name is a nod to both PADS Service Dog Trevoy (featured on the wrap with his partner Duane) and Verne Trevoy whose name he honours each day. Verne, a legendary PADS volunteer and client, was known (among other things) for his love of epic road trips with his Service Dog Charlie -- especially when they involved PADS.



CAROL ANN & HER B-BOYS

Long-time PADS client Carol Ann says she has been a dog person since the day she was born. While she couldn't own a dog of her own until she went to college, she never imagined she would ever be able to have a large dog such as a Labrador. That changed in 2001 when her husband Ric, who is a great researcher, discovered PADS and her journey with service dogs began. As we celebrate 35 years, we are honoured that she would take the time to share her journey over many of those years with us.

BARLEY - THE BRAVE

Prior to her retirement and move out west, Carol Ann worked at the University of Alberta with an office next to the UofA Hospital. Part of her job involved going between different buildings on campus. This was in Edmonton where the winters are snowy and long. Barley was able to get her where she needed to go every single time! Often, ambulance sirens would blare and poor Barley did not enjoy those high pitched noises at all. But, he continued to do his job, never breaking his stride. Barley was an amazingly fast, powerful pulling dog and when he retired it took 6 months for him to truly understand that he was retired!



Carol Ann and PADS Barley
Photo credit: Ric Johnson

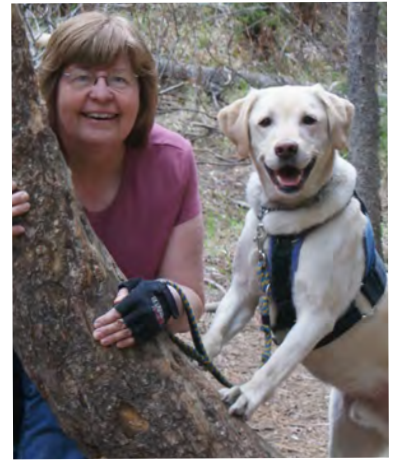


“Barley gave me freedom. I was never alone because I had Barley with me. No longer did people stare at me because I was in a wheelchair, they stared in awe of Barley!”

BASIL - THE BOISTEROUS

Carol Ann was later matched with Basil, another yellow lab. She remarks that for the first 6 months Basil was “Barsil” as humans often find it difficult to make the change to a new dog. Where Barley was beautiful, Basil was boisterous.

For him, every task was a production. A heel would have him making a spin in the air and landing beside her chair with a look as if to say, “What’s next?”! Carol Ann still worked at the university and not only was he able to settle well under her desk for hours, he was a wonderful addition for students who came to her office with problems or needing support. Basil retired at the age of ten to a family friend on a farm where he lived out his retirement.



Carol Ann and PADS Basil
Photo credit: Ric Johnson

BRONX - THE BRAINS

Bronx, her current PADS dog, is a brainy, all-business guy. For Carol Ann, he is truly what a service dog should be; he just gets it. Bronx is never distracted (by other dogs, squirrels or even bagpipes!) and always gets the job done.

He anticipates what’s needed but also always follows the rules. He is ready to pick up items but not before he’s asked. He’s also a great cuddler – makes for a wonderful combination!



Carol Ann and PADS Bronx
Photo credit: Don Larson



Carol Ann is quick to thank all those who make dogs like Barley, Basil, and Bronx possible—the volunteers, staff, and donors—for all the ways they ensure these special dogs are so well cared for and trained. “Your efforts ensure that PADS clients, like me, can have the freedom to live our lives with a companion that provides us with such beautiful service”.

Learn how you can help raise or fund a life-changing PADS dog at pads.ca/volunteer or pads.ca/give

A VERY IMPORTANT FRIEND

PADS recognizes the power of dogs as catalysts for social inclusion. Our VIP program places fully trained dogs with children and adults with physical or developmental disabilities. Our friend Laura, a young woman with a life-long traumatic brain injury, tells us a little about her new friend Annie (PADS Anna).

In July something very special and wonderful happened in my life. PADS let Annie come to live with me and my family. She changed everything for me. She got me out of my rut, she helped me focus on her and not so much on my problems. I knew I would have to learn to be more independent because I needed to take care of her if she was going to stay.



“She helped me realize there were lots of things I could do that I never thought I could before.”

I had to get organized and be responsible. No excuses. I had to learn

to push myself. She has motivated me to be responsible, nurturing, and caring. Annie is so well trained that I am allowed to take her to my volunteer jobs. She is good with my friends too. I spend a lot of time with Annie, she is a great companion and good company for my whole family. Annie makes me feel safe and confident in the community. She is so special, and she makes me feel special too.

My friends from Strive Community Living want a dog like Annie. I hope PADS keeps training dogs so their dreams can come true just like mine did with Annie.

Laura and Annie (formerly PADS Anna)
Photo credit: Bill Ng



Anna was whelped by **Ruth & Ron Wiens** and **Tara Doherty**; Puppy-Raised by **Meredith & Henrik Areskoug**; Advanced Sitting by **Julie Cochrane** and **Kerri & Ryan Brandlmayr**; and Puppy Sponsored by **Doris Froese**.



The holidays are a time when friends and family gather and celebrate a love that is evergreen. As we enter this holiday season, we are reminded that we too have love like this - our monthly donors.

Each month this year faithful PADS donors have made an easy, automated monthly gift to help change lives.

This commitment helps PADS to operate with confidence each month knowing that we have a faithful community of support behind us. Our monthly donors change lives all year long. Consider becoming a monthly donor, because when we can count on you – our clients can count on us!

Start changing lives all year long—today—at pads.ca/monthly-giving

PADS Puppy-In-Training Toast & PADS Benji
Photo credit: Bill Ng

MEET HUGO + TOAST

Hugo + Toast is a Saskatchewan-based clothing brand that was created for a beautiful purpose! Co-owned by Karlissa Dressler and Kenedi Klein, **Hugo + Toast** is making a name for itself, both through its cozy and stylish bamboo loungewear (that might just be as soft as a PADS puppy!) and their generous support of assistance dogs in Canada.

We are honoured that Hugo + Toast have chosen PADS to receive 10% of every sale for the next two years!

Founder and Co-Owner, Karlissa, was inspired to support service dog organizations after her personal experience with dogs. Hugo + Toast was named for her two Golden Retrievers, Hugo and Toast. They had a tremendous impact on Karlissa's wellness as she went through postpartum depression.



Karlissa later met PADS Accredited Facility Dog Merlot and Sgt Tia Froh (pictured at left) who work in her own community of Regina, SK, which led her to select PADS. We couldn't be more grateful.

Tia & PADS Merlot
Photo credit: Chelsea Dressler

hugo + toast



PADS Hugo & Toast
Photo credit: Katelyn Fuchs



IT GETS EVEN BETTER

PADS supporters can Buy One, Get One Free from Hugo + Toast with our discount code. Get your code at pads.ca/hugoandtoastpartnership

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WING IT"