

PutnamServiceDogs

EST 2016



2019 Annual Report: Making a Difference

December 2019
Fiscal Year 2019 (11/1/18 - 10/31/19)

OUR MISSION

Service Dogs Change Lives.

We Champion the Nurturing Bond Between Dogs and Humans.

We provide free Service Dogs and follow-up support services to people with physical disabilities other than blindness.



This past year was a very productive year and a year of growth. We passionately pursued producing that precious commodity – a Service Dog with the required temperament, able to perform obedience cues and service dog tasks predictably, and flawlessly. THIS IS NOT EASY!!!! A dog that is capable of being a service dog is a very rare dog. We expect to graduate our first 2 Service Dogs in early 2020, - Benji and Bailey! Two more dogs are in the pipeline to graduate by next summer, and we have Five more pups in training who will be mature enough (2+ years) by early 2021 to graduate. Let's hope they all make it! We'll start recruiting for great volunteer puppy raisers in January 2020, and begin the next class of 4 or 5 next February.

In our 3 years of existence, with very careful selection, Putnam Service Dogs has adopted 12 mixed breed pups from rescue organizations, and received a donated standard poodle puppy. (We have applicants who need a hypoallergenic dog). Of our 13 dogs, 4 have been released, and 9 are in training. When selected our pups are people oriented, non-

aggressive, probably be 50+ lbs when mature, and have good retrieving ability. Fetching dropped items is the #1 requested task of our applicants of their service dog. Because a hearing alert dog can be smaller than a mobility assistance dog, one of our 9 dogs in training is only 32 lbs. She's tested as a great candidate to be a hearing alert dog. We currently have 26 people on our waiting list, and receive applications for a service dog every month. The demand far exceeds the supply. We're limited by our donations, and finding great volunteer puppy raisers.

We hired a new Head Trainer, Jeff Fritz, who started January 2019. Jeff's passion (truly) to train service dogs, his experience as a sports' coach, and his abilities as a guru dog trainer, has added immensely to our training program. Kathleen Donovan, our intern, joined us October 1, 2019. She shadows Jeff Fritz to learn how to train service dogs. This is her last academic requirement before graduating from SUNY Cobleskill with a BS in Animal Science - Canine. We are delighted Kathleen has agreed to continue with us after graduation.



We're a 501(c)3 Platinum Level Guidestar Organization.



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Putnam Service Dogs celebrated our **3rd Birthday** with a sold-out, exquisite Luncheon at the Arch Restaurant in Brewster, NY, October 24, 2019. A Dog/Handler Fashion show featuring our pups and their raisers wearing matching outfits entertained our supporters attending the luncheon.

Other noteworthy events this year were:

1. Our **Funminster Dog Show** at Patterson Recreation Center May 18, 2019, for people to show off their pet dogs in fun categories such as Best Kisser, Shaggiest Coat, Best Senior, Dog/Owner Look Alike, Wiggle Butt, and more!

2. Our 3rd Annual **Golf Tournament** at Centennial Golf Course June 7, 2019

Additionally we took booths at the Ridgefield Theater Shakespeare Festival, Carmel Street Fair, Mahopac Street Fair, and Brewster Street Fair.

Putnam Service Dogs is an extremely bare bones operation. Our only paid employee is Jeff Fritz, our Head Trainer, and he's part time. We train our pups at a free space. Our pups live with their volunteer puppy raisers - the true yeomen of our organization, until they're ready for their Formal Service Dog Training (about 18 months of age). At that point, they live with our Head trainer. Our pups average \$100/week/pup in training expense.

We currently have \$114,000 in our Capital Campaign Fund. We vigorously seek the highest yield, safe way to invest our Capital Funds. We seek a site in Putnam

County for our Center that is 10 acres, 6 of them at least usable (not wetlands). Market price for this is at least \$1 Million now - just for the land. Fortunately, the Paladin Center, Carmel, NY (Putnam County) generously donates free training space for us. We visit public spaces - Home Depot, Danbury Mall, Restaurants and stores also to train our pups. We use the class structure of 4-5 dogs/class so they'll learn to focus while in close quarters to other dogs. Nothing is more distracting than another dog!

Our CPA is preparing our taxes for Fiscal Year 2019.

UNAUDITED EXPENSES (ended 10/31/19)

donations	\$102,000
expenses	\$ 99,000
program expenses	\$52,000
events	\$18,000
insurance, supplies, etc.	\$14,000
brand awareness & Puppy Raiser Recruit	\$13,700

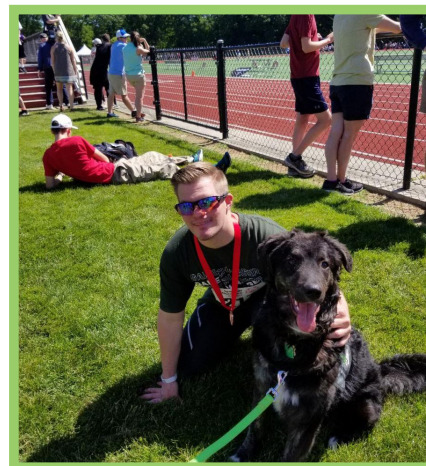
Our donations have increased each of our 3 years in operation, and we expect they'll continue growing as our base of supporters increases. There are no governmental public funds for Service Dog Schools.

We feel very fortunate, individuals and businesses have supported our cause, and our organization as they have. We couldn't do this without you!

Thank you!



[Learn More](#)



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