



MIRACULOUS TAILS

A Publication of Dustin's Paw of Idaho

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DIRECTORY

Dustin's Paw of Idaho
A Non-profit Corporation
ID #20-8449841

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Canine Modality Specialists

**Integrating
Assistance Dogs
into learning
experiences and
therapy sessions**

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Ovelle
Prairie IV

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Can Dogs Bowl?

They sure CAN! Dustin's Paw of Idaho Bowling Team bowled up a storm at the Canine Companions for Independence Pins for Pups Fundraiser at Westys Garden Lanes in Boise. Our Team was made up of Julia, Claire and Zane Gambassi, Sam and Galba O'Donnell, Trevor Vatcher, and of course, Ovelle and Prairie. All four dogs are Canine Companion for Independence Assistance Dogs (www.cci.org) and all the kids were/are patients of Ovelle and Prairie.



Ok. So the dogs can bowl. Cute trick. But does it do anything for the children? SURE DOES!

A bowling alley is a pretty stimulating place. For some children the dogs are a calming influence and the only way they will even set foot in the place much less actually bowl themselves. When they do participate, the family has an activity they can enjoy together!

For other children the dogs provide "focus" so while in a loud, noisy place with strange lights and smells they can pay attention. Some children need to learn how to take turns and are more willing to do so with their dog.

Other children will be practicing how to get their wheelchair into position so they can tell their dog to PUSH. Some will be walking to get into position, others just maintaining a sit.

Another will be mustering the strength needed to push the bowling ball. In any case, what a fun and challenging way to learn how to navigate in the world with your dog by your side!

Another child will be learning cause and effect as he watches his dog PUSH and then takes his turn. Some will be using alternative communication to tell their dog PUSH via a communication device OR sign language in a real life/time situation. Some will be projecting their voices while commanding their dog in a noisy bowling alley. Truth is, dogs inspire us to do things that are difficult, new and challenging.

It was a wonderful experience for the DP Team! So, what kind of bowlers were the dogs? Pretty good, although not quite as good as their children. However, Ovelle and Galba managed to get spares and Prairie and Zane got strikes.

Diane Rampelberg
President, Dustin's Paw of Idaho

A Heart For Others

By Melody Dean
Board Member, Dustin's Paw of Idaho

When Diane asked me to write a piece about Dave Dean and his connection to Dustin's Paw, I happily agreed and am honored to share his story. After all, I knew him better than anyone because we were married for 39 years before he passed away in 2008 from a fatal, rare brain disease called CJD, also known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (www.cjdfoundation.org).

Dave's 57 years were filled with adventure, spirit and passion without regrets. He knew how to live in the moment and how to make each day count. He loved fishing, golfing, boating and spending time in the mountains with his family at our cabin. He loved helping people – especially children. They had a very special place in his heart and he bonded with them instantly.

In 2006 our daughter, Tiffany Dean, who is a speech pathologist at STARS (St. Alphonsus Rehabilitation Services) and Jumpstart (STARS intensive therapeutic preschool program) shared a story with us about this amazing lady, Diane and her dog, Ovelle who called one day to see if she could offer help. Apparently, she and Ovelle had unique skills and knowledge about how to integrate canine activities into therapy for disabled children and adults. Diane and Ovelle soon arrived at Jumpstart pulling their wagon of "tricks" and left making a lasting impression. What started out as volunteering one day a week quickly turned into two and ultimately full-time.

Diane's dream was for Dustin's Paw to become self-supporting; but in the meantime, she needed enough money to cover her transportation costs and Ovelle's needs.

Dave and Tiffany began brainstorming and the idea of an "opportunity grant" seemed like a viable option. Dave suggested holding fundraisers and agreed to match the amount that was raised. Although at the time his donation was anonymous, the cat has since been "let out of the bag" and that initial support helped Dustin's Paw get their start in Idaho. Today, six years later, Dustin's Paw continues to "turn challenges into miracles" through the support of generous donors and grants.



If Dave were here he would tell you what a privilege and honor it is to help support someone like Diane, who is so passionate, knowledgeable and committed to making a difference in the lives of these children and their families. She works tirelessly to help each patient achieve their long term goal of independence. The unconditional love of Diane and these highly-trained dogs, Ovelle and Prairie, and their gentle urging has brought remarkable results for countless disabled children and adults in their physical, occupational and speech therapy goals.

The family of Dave Dean is continuing Dave's legacy and his heart for others by holding the "Second Annual Dave Dean Memorial Golf Tournament" on September 16th at Banbury Golf Club in Eagle, Idaho. **21st Century Vitamins** is partnering with us again to make this year's event another huge success! All proceeds will benefit Dustin's Paw and we invite you to join us. Whether you play golf or just want to attend the Bar-B-Q and after-golf festivities, your presence is welcomed and encouraged. Tournament information and ways you can help are available online at: www.davedeanfoundation.org or visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/davedeangolf



Dustin's Paw Donors:

Helping us turn challenges into miracles

Here are some of the many programs and services made possible by our special friends and donors:

New Dustin's Paw Website: Thanks to donations from the 2011 Dave Dean Memorial Golf Tournament we now have a brand new website. Designed by Katie Mooney and Jenna Haener of Valice we think they did a wonderful job of communicating our mission to bring healing and independence into the lives of disabled children and their families. Check out our new website at www.dustinspaw.org

ipads for the children and dogs to use: Two ipads were purchased thanks to the Idaho Episcopal Foundation and 2011 Dave Dean Memorial Golf Tournament. One ipad is being used in speech therapy and the other is used in occupational and physical therapy. You can see Ovelle and one of her boys using the ipad during speech therapy on our website at www.dustinspaw.org

Special Bike for children and dogs: Some time ago STARS received an adapted bicycle donation from a former patient. Designed for older students, this bike needed some TLC. Mike Rampelberg provided the labor, Dustin's Paw donors provided the money for the needed parts and TODAY we have a functioning bike. Grant loves to take Ovelle for a ride on the bike and race with Prairie. You can view a picture of Grant taking Ovelle for a ride on our facebook page www.facebook.com/dustinspawidaho (March 15)

Two plays: Many thanks to our faithful supporter, the Saint Alphonsus Auxiliary, who provided the funds to put on two plays for our Jumpstart families. Our morning group presented the **Jumpstart Dog Show** and our afternoon group presented **Ovelle, BARK!** The kids and dogs made their parents proud! A video of the performances was put together by Cody Hoge under the direction of Andy Favor as a part of the Video/Broadcasting Class at Eagle High School. Each family received their own DVD as a remembrance. You can view the plays on our website www.dustinspaw.org

Two Parent Tea Parties: Both morning and afternoon Jumpstart Parents joined their children for our 4th Annual Parent Tea Party sponsored by STARS, Dustin's Paw donors and the Saint Alphonsus Auxiliary.



Many parents struggle with how to play with their special needs child. Working beside the STARS therapists along with Ovelle and Prairie, parents got an opportunity to practice their "play" skills. You can view pictures of this year's tea party at www.facebook.com/dustinspawidaho (June 5)

Five Parent Workshops: With hearts for parents and the challenges they cope with each and every day, Diane, Ovelle and Prairie continue putting together workshops to help parents. This year Dustin's Paw donors and STARS sponsored two Music Magic Workshops, another Potty Training Workshop and two new workshops, Selecting and Using Toys and Tips and Tools for Challenging Behavior. You can view pictures of the workshops at www.facebook.com/dustinspawidaho (March 18 and October 30)

Workshop for Diane: Thanks to Dustin's Paw donors, Diane and the dogs, were able to attend a seminar on the Picture Exchange Communication System. You can view videos on our website showing the results of the seminar of the dogs working with two children www.dustinspaw.org and at www.facebook.com/dustinspawidaho (January 30) you can see a picture of our "dog" PECS book.

Several demonstrations/presentations/events in the community: Dustin's Paw donors have provided the gas money and materials to share the message of turning challenges into miracles in school classrooms, civic groups, assistance dog group, via the Capital Classic and March of Dimes March for Babies Family Tent.

Basic Needs: Dustin's Paw donors provide food for the dogs, vet care needs and money for gas to get us to and from work and events.

Photo collage by River Street Studio www.riverstreetstudio.com





Where There's a Will There's a Way!

We'd like you to meet our buddy, Lucas. He's a very special boy with a strong will and DESIRE to play ball with his dogs. But, before we could play ball we had to overcome some challenges.

First, we had to find a way for Lucas to sit upright. So, we put him in his chest/neck brace and used a chair with a tray. He was now upright, could see his dogs and was ready to go.

Next, we had to figure out how Lucas could get the ball over the edge of the chair tray. So, we brought in a big piece of vinyl and taped it to the chair to make a really great ramp. We were just about ready!

Then, we needed to reduce the friction so that Lucas could move his arm every so slightly to push that ball down the ramp to his dogs. Lotion did the trick!

Shazam! Lucas was playing ball with his dogs! The secret is that moving his arm is one of his therapy goals. However, Lucas could have cared less about therapy. He just wanted to play ball with his dogs. Did you see HIM throw the ball for his dogs! It was so much fun!

*Many thanks to Occupational Therapist Rebecca Strickler.

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It's time to renew your membership with Dustin's Paw of Idaho!

Your donation helps us to continue to touch
the lives of disabled children and their families.

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