

TAILS OF ALOHA

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TANNER'S STORY

BY KELSEY PORTO

I have always loved the thought of helping people and making an impact on the lives of others. When I was told about our senior project at Radford High School. The Board of Education requires seniors to completed a service project as part of our graduation requirement. I knew I needed to find a project where I could make an impact on the lives of others and enjoy the project as well.

So my search began...I've always loved animals and Tails of Aloha seemed like the perfect project for me. I get to bring my yellow Labrador Retriever, Tanner, on visits and see the immediate and positive impact he has on others. The people smile and talk to Tanner before they even acknowledge me!

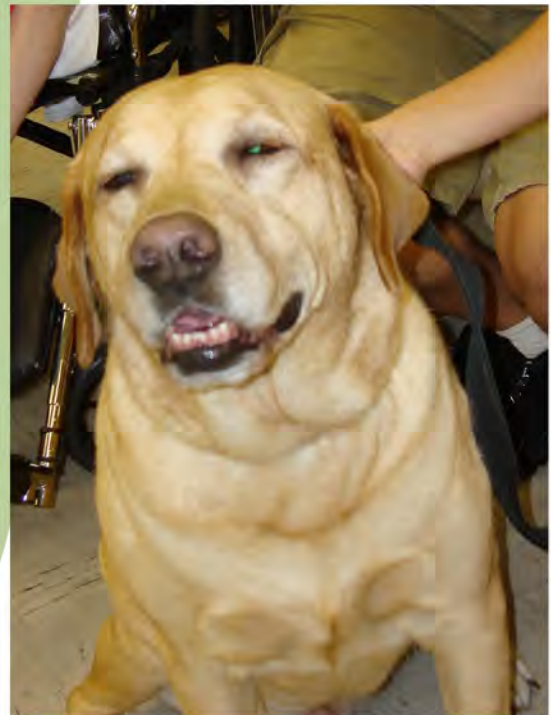
Tanner is now eight years old and was eight weeks old when I got him and we were in Lubbock, Texas.

We needed to pass a therapy team test, and thank goodness we passed! Now that we are a registered therapy team, I will be making for visits.

I am part of Big Brother's Big Sisters of Honolulu, occasionally volunteer at the Kau Kau Wagon, and to various services projects with Interact Club and the National Honor Society.



Tanner



Tanner blissfully content with his massage.

CHANGING LIVES, ONE VISIT AT A TIME

Volunteers!



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Congratulations to the Tails of Aloha volunteers who were recognized through the President's Volunteer Service Award, Points of Light Institute, for their total volunteer hours for 2009.

"Congratulations on receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, and thank you for helping to address the most pressing needs in your community and our country.

In my Inaugural Address, I stated that we need a new era of responsibility--a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our Nation, and the world. These are duties that we do not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit than giving to your community that moves America a step closer to its great promise.

Our Nation faces the most challenging economic crisis in a lifetime. We will only renew America if we all work together. Individuals, the private sector, and government must combine efforts to make a real and lasting change so that each person has the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential.

While government can open more opportunities for use to serve our communities, it is up to each of us to seize those opportunities. Thank you for your devotion to service and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great Nation."

Barack Obama

The awardees are:

Gold Award

Jaime Psak
Gayle Igarashi

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Bronze Award

Wendy Iwasaki
Gregg Kamei
Paul Marietti
Lisa Oi
Keith Sato
Gail Shiraishi
Kathy Summers



Presidential Volunteer Service Award Criteria:

- Bronze - 100 - 249 hours
- Silver - 250-499 hours
- Gold - 500 or more hours



WE WOULD LOVE TO RECOGNIZE YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU DO, SO SEND US YOUR MONTHLY TOTALS TO [INFO@TAILSOFALOHA.COM!](mailto:INFO@TAILSOFALOHA.COM)

KULANA MALAMA

The following is a short report from one of our team members, Kathy Summers on her visit at Kulana Malama in Ewa Beach.

Willy and I visited the children at Kulana Malama the other day. Willy is an eight year old Golden Retriever therapy dog who has worked with children his entire life. As all the children are on trach tubes and hooked up to machines, many cannot sit up or talk. Willy skillfully maneuvered his body around to each child so he could look into their faces and they could pet him. To him, each was a precious child. We saw smiles and peace come to the children's faces because they could feel him. Who can describe the gifts of such a sweet and loving dog!

Sophie who is another Golden, and my service dog is two years old and understand approximately 30 commands. She helps me when I am dizzy and retrieves anything for me. Sophie is very intuitive about what I am feeling. Those are her "service skills" but it would be unjust to say those are her best skills. First and foremost, she is my companion and goes everywhere with me. She loves to go to places and behaves perfectly. People always stop and want to talk with us and pet her and tell us their stories. Although the American Disabilities Act does not consider the loyal friendship of a dog, a trained skill that helps a disabled person, truly they are not naming the best skill of all, that a dog provides to a disabled person. Perhaps in the coming years, this will change and people who have less noticeable disabilities will be allowed to have the blessing of a dog accompany them everywhere. If the standards for the dog were high, excellent training, and skills, well cared for, so they would be a welcomed extension of that person. I wonder just how much this might change the atmosphere of our world to be kinder better one.

Dogs are able to bring a love and peacefulness that humans cannot bring to one another. Thank God for dogs!

**The amount of happiness that you have
depends on the amount of freedom you have
in your heart.**

Thich Nhat Hanh

CRAZY CANINE

Our newest friend and supporter at Tails is Crazy Canine, located at 98-027 Hekaha Street, Suite 33 (behind Cutter Ford). They truly treat you like family and are very knowledgeable about the products they carry. Doreen is a super happy and fun-loving person and will be more than happy to assist you with your doggie questions and needs.

TAILS OF ALOHA YOKOHAMA

The first time I met Megu, the Corgi, it was at the dog training center where I worked as an intern dog trainer. The minute I laid eyes on her, I was in love with Megu. She became my favorite dog at the training center. When it was time for me to leave the dog training center, I could not bare to be without Megu. That's when I decided to ask my boss if I could take Megu with me as a farewell gift. And thanks to my boss, I was allowed to adopt Megu from the training center! And that's how Megu became one of the members of the Taguchi household.

Besides having her meals and taking walks around the the neighborhood, Megu can be found sleeping the day away. Megu's another name is "Ninja Dog". She moves quickly and without any sound! One minute you see her at your feet, and the next...she is in the other room taking a nap!

We really believe she comes from a lineage of Ninja Dogs.

Megu was the only child in our home for a while until we had a son. Megu loves her younger two-legged brother. She always tolerates his rough-house play.

Megu and I are connected psychically to the point she knows what I am thinking and what I plan to do. Megu is my support, my companion, and a wonderful addition to the Taguchi household.

Although Megu is already none years of age, she is still has her puppy qualities about her.

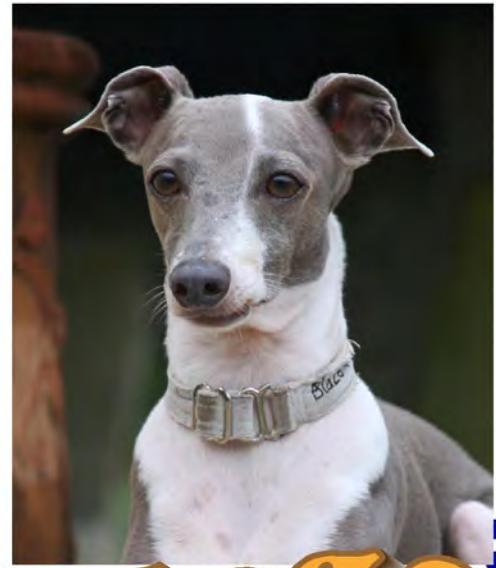


Argus

NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Boomer



Blaze



Jack



Maggie



Nicky

In Training



Hunter