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Q1 Name of your organization.

Best Friends Animal Society

Q2 Grant #

20150631

Q3 Grant Period

September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016

Q4 Location of your organization

City	Kanab
State	UT

Q5 Name and Title of person completing evaluation.

Abby Ouimet, Development Officer

Q6 Phone Number:

253.509.3770

Q7 Email address.

abbyo@bestfriends.org

Page 2: Key Outcomes and Results

Q8 Total number of clients served through this grant funding:

216 shelter dogs

Q9 Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on the goals and objectives. Use the following format: State the Goal: State Objective 1: Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 1: State Objective 2 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 2: State Objective 3 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 3:

Best Friends is truly appreciative of the long-time support of the S.L. Gimbel Foundation for our Canines with Careers (CWC) program. With your help, the CWC program saw a year of heart-warming accomplishments and strategic growth. The key outcome of CWC is to improve the quality of life for 400 dogs and people annually. Specifically, CWC goals and objectives for the 2015 program year were: Work with 500 individuals how to select and train shelter dogs for careers; Assess and place at least 400 shelter dogs; and Recruit new volunteers who will work to deepen partnerships with existing career dog organizations that will train and place career dogs according to the CWC model.

Objective 1: Work with 500 individuals how to select and train shelter dogs for careers.

Program Results: 539 S.L. Gimbel Foundation Grant Direct Impact: 108

The Project Director, Sherry Woodard, has travelled all over the country working with organizations to raise the bar regarding training and placing career dogs with individuals who benefit from this service. At each training opportunity, Ms. Woodard talks with career dog training organizations and trainers on how to expand their training to include working with shelter dogs for service careers, and placing dogs with people diagnosed with autism and PTSD if they are not already doing so. Components of training and services provided by CWC and its consultants include: assessment training; train the trainer workshops; dog training classes for clients; transportation of service dogs; and workshops for owners on daily care/medical needs, understanding your dog, safety, reading body language, and appropriate play between dogs and their people. Many times these services are provided at no cost to the clients. Ms. Woodard has also developed training documents and a manual to share with individuals for continuing reference. Ms. Woodard receives inquiries for service dogs from all over the country – that is why her network of partner trainers is so invaluable in helping people locally.

Objective 2: Assess and place 400 dogs.

Program Results: 482 S.L. Gimbel Foundation Grant Direct Impact: 216

Support from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation specifically impacted 216 of the 482 shelter dogs who were transformed into service dogs in 2015. Ninety-four of those dogs now assist veterans with PTSD and 41 help children with autism. The remaining dogs serve in a variety of assistance and service roles for people with mobility issues, anxiety disorders and other special needs, including emotional support and detection. Follow-up services are provided to the families and dogs to ensure a smooth transition into home life, including supplies (harnesses, leashes) and training classes (either group or one-on-one).

Objective 3: Recruit new volunteers who will work to deepen partnerships with existing career dog organizations that will train and place career dogs according to the CWC model.

Program Results: 7 S.L. Gimbel Foundation Grant Direct Impact: 1.5

Ms. Woodard travelled all over the country to work with organizations on selecting, training and placing career dogs with individuals who will benefit from their service. She works with a number of individuals and organizations, encompassing therapy dog programs, municipal shelters, private rescues, animal control divisions, individual trainers and prison rehabilitation programs. She also spoke at two national conferences, including the Working Dog Conference in Pennsylvania and the Best Friends National Conference. She also held a special workshop in Phoenix, AZ, for our No More Homeless Pets Network Partners, where dozens of local animal rescue groups came to learn about selecting shelter dogs for service. Ms. Woodard had hoped to increase her volunteer task force to 10 volunteers, but it can be a challenge for volunteers to consistently focus on all areas of the program (including day-to-day work like administrative tasks and correspondence) vs. just the “fun” parts of visit shelters to assess and train dogs. However, she will continue to evaluate potential trainers to elevate to a national volunteer mentor/trainer role.

Q10 Please describe any challenges/obstacles the organization encountered (if any) in attaining goals & objectives.

It is a challenge for Ms. Woodard to be the only staff person overseeing a program that has grown leaps and bounds over the years. She solely manages hundreds of relationships with trainers and organizations carrying out the CWC model. As the sole program director and with hundreds of existing partner groups and trainers already in place, Ms. Woodard feels it most strategic to narrow her focus on deepening existing relationships with current affiliates, rather than adding on new partners en masse each year. It can be a lengthy process to add new partner groups or trainers because the behavior and training field is a complex one, with varying degrees of methods and beliefs and CWC follows a “positive reinforcement” behavior modification and training plan. And so to that effect, Ms. Woodard feels it best to concentrate her efforts on current and new partners that will sustain the CWC model in their communities as well as personally training and placing more dogs herself.

Q11 How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles?

Ms. Woodard is still focusing on training other trainers to seek out and deepen relationships with current and potential partner groups and trainers to ensure sustainability of the CWC program across the country. In 2015, she elevated seven trainers to be volunteer leaders. As mentioned above, it can be an extensive process to add new partner groups or trainers and takes time to build those relationships. Also, in the future Ms. Woodard and her volunteer team intend to focus more on individual trainers or trainers at shelters that are willing to volunteer their time to implement CWC (as is the case with many partner groups already) so as partner groups don't feel overwhelmed by taking on another program. Also, Ms. Woodard is exploring an internship program where interested trainers can come to the Sanctuary for an extended period of time (3-4 weeks) to learn from Ms. Woodard's methodologies and take them home. This pro-longed time with Ms. Woodard will demonstrate a deep commitment to CWC and hopefully make the program management run even more smoothly.

Q12 Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

One positive outcome that has manifested because of the CWC program is a culture shift of the service dog industry. It is becoming more common place for trainers and the general public not to devalue the potential of a shelter dog to become a service dog. Best Friends, and other organizations with similar programs, hope to fundamentally change the career dog field by providing a compassionate, less time-consuming and more cost-effective alternative to the traditional model. People's lives will be enriched and dogs previously without any future will be saved. Also, a number of government agencies are beginning to see the value of emotional support dogs. These dogs may or may not be trained as therapy dogs, but are trained to support people through emotional crises or stressful situations to reduce anxiety and provide a sense of strength, comfort and acceptance. We have recently seen this employed with children in a courtroom setting and with those affected by the mass shooting in Orlando, FL. We are thankful to the S.L. Gimbel Foundation for seeing the value in that work and partnering with us on that endeavor.

Q13 Briefly describe the impact this grant has had on the organization and community served.

The human-animal bond is a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals that is influenced by behaviors essential to the health and well-being of both. This includes, but is not limited to, emotional, psychological and physical interactions of people, animals and the environment. Through the support of the S.L. Gimbel Foundation, those who are most in need of such a relationship are no longer being left out or overlooked. CWC is impactful because it is not cost prohibitive and it blends human services and animal welfare. CWC is breaking down barriers for those who need service animals and shattering stereotypes of the “ideal” service dog candidate. It has also impacted ours and other's definitions of career dogs, meaning that yes, we officially train dogs to be service or therapy dogs, but acknowledge that they can serve a variety of roles, including search and rescue, detection and emotional support. CWC is a true showcase of the human-animal bond and we are so grateful to the S.L. Gimbel Foundation for helping us make that a reality for hundreds of veterans, adults and children in need.

Page 3: Budget

Q14 Please provide a budget expenditure report of the approved line items. Include a brief narrative on how the funds were used to fulfill grant objectives.

Generous funds from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation were used in a variety of directed ways, to best support the Canines with Careers program. Grant monies covered a portion of training and transport supplies, such as crates, harnesses, collars toys and other training materials. It also funded part of the CWC Project Director's salary and a portion of her travel costs as she traveled around the country working with stakeholders to train rescue dogs for careers of service. With the overage on the grant report, \$235.25 was moved from our general fund to cover the expenses. Please see attached detailed accounting log.

Page 4: Success Stories

Q15 Please relate a success story:

Please see attached selection of vignettes from our 2015 CWC program.

Q16 Please relate a success story here: **Respondent skipped this question**

Q17 Please relate a success story here: **Respondent skipped this question**

Page 5: Organizational Information

Q18 Which category best describes the organization. Please choose only one. **Animal Services**

Q19 What is the organization's primary program area of interest? **Animal Welfare**

Q20 Percentage of clients served through grant in each ethnic group category. Total must equal 100% **Respondent skipped this question**

Q21 Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each age category.

Children ages 06-12 years of age	14
Adults	36
Senior Citizens	50

Q22 Approximate percentage of clients served with disabilities from grant funds.

Physically Disabled	25
Mentally/Emotionally Disabled	50
Other Disability	25

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund

Q23 Approximate percentage of clients served in each economic group.

Respondent skipped this question

Q24 Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each population category.

Military	35
Elderly	50
Children/Youth (those not included in Family)	15
