

S.L. Gimbel Final Evaluation Report Questions.
Questions 1-15 are required and must be completed

1. Organization name: Best Friends Animal Society
2. Grant #: 20140269
3. Grant Period: May 1, 2014-April 30, 2015
4. Location of Services (City and State): Nationwide
5. Name and Title of person completing evaluation. Abby Ouimet – Development Officer, Foundation Relations
6. Phone Number: 253.509.3770
7. Email address: abbyo@bestfriends.org
8. Total number of clients served through this grant funding: 252 (105 people and 147 dogs)

9. Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on the goals and objectives.

Best Friends is truly appreciative of the 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 2014 program year were: Train 500 individuals how to select and train shelter dogs for careers; Assess and place 400 dogs; and Develop up to 100 new partnerships with existing career dog organizations that will train and place career dogs according to the CWC model.

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

Program Results: 479

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Grant Impact: 105

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. Ms. Woodard has also developed training documents and a manual to share with individuals for continuing reference.

Objective 2: Assess and place 400 dogs.

Program Results: 401

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Grant Impact: 147

In 2014, CWC worked in partnership with individuals and organizations in 17 states to select, train and place 401 career dogs into loving homes, which included dogs prepared to work

with individuals diagnosed with autism, PTSD, visual impairments and hearing impairments. These dogs were also trained to act as facility dogs and therapy dogs where they travel with their owner to hospitals, nursing homes, therapy sessions and court rooms to assist individuals who need their services. Throughout the CWC program, nearly 150 different dog breeds and breed mixes have been selected as service dog candidates. Some of the most common breeds or mixes include Labrador Retrievers (and mixes), German Shepherds (and mixes) and Terriers (and mixes), including pit bulls.

Objective 3: Develop up to 100 new partnerships with existing career dog organizations that will train and place career dogs according to the CWC model.

Program Results: 16

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Grant Impact: 3.5

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 had a presence at three national conferences, including the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), where more than 700 attendees learned about CWC. 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 felt 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.

10. Please describe any challenges/obstacles the organization encountered (if any) in attaining stated 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 thought it most strategic to narrow her focus on deepening existing relationships with current affiliates, rather than adding on new partners en masse (as noted above).

11. How did the organization overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles?

Ms. Woodard is focusing on training volunteers (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 2014, she elevated six 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.

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

One unintended 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. We are thankful to the S.L. Gimbel Foundation for seeing the value in that work and partnering with us on that endeavor.

13. 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. 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.

14. Please provide a narrative on how the funds were used to fulfill grant objectives. Support documents (receipts, expense reports or marketing materials) can be emailed to grant-info@thecommunityfoundation.net or faxed to 951-684-1911 or mailed to The Community Foundation, 3700 Sixth St. Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501

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. Please see attached detailed accounting log.

15. Please relate a success story.

When five-year-old Dalton Excell's sister was invited to perform at Disneyland, the whole family was excited to take the trip. Even Dalton's mother, Angie, who just a short time ago would have been concerned about taking Dalton to a place with so much commotion, knew he'd be okay all because of a very special big black dog.

Three years ago, Dalton was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. His tendency to wander away made outings a challenge for the family and dangerous for him. By the time Dalton was diagnosed, he'd already gotten lost a few times. One day when the family was having lunch, Angie was trying to manage Dalton and pick-up everyone's order. As Dalton tried to wriggle away, all the food wound up on the floor. "Keeping one hand on Dalton at all times was necessary for his safety, but I couldn't keep a hand on him and help his siblings," says Angie. "It was very frustrating."

Angie began exploring ways to help Dalton and learned that service dogs could help autistic children. As she researched how to go about getting a service dog, she learned there was one big hurdle to overcome. "I was distraught to find that autism service dogs can cost between \$10,000 and \$30,000." But then she learned that Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS) trains service dogs and places them with people in need, at no cost to the family, through its Canines With Careers program.

After meeting Dalton's family to learn about his needs, Sherry Woodard, BFAS' animal behavior consultant, searched shelters for a dog who would be a good fit to help him. "I was looking for a dog big enough to handle Dalton, but with a personality almost unaffected by emotional meltdowns," Sherry says. Then, at a city shelter in southern Utah, Sherry met Bart, a big, mellow and sweet dog who, above all, was steady — just what Dalton needed. Likewise, what Bart needed most of all was a home, and it looked like he might get lucky enough to land in one where he'd be especially appreciated, because he'd have a very important job.

Sherry worked with Bart daily for two months, getting him ready for his assignment. She worked on his focus and ability to calm right back down after a moment of excitement. Bart also learned an important game called "find Dalton," in which the person with Bart follows until the dog locates Dalton. As Sherry says, "That's very important if Dalton ever goes missing."



Bart has already been hiking at Bryce Canyon National Park, with Dalton beaming next to him, as was the rest of the family. Thanks to Bart's presence, they worry less these days about Dalton's safety. "Dalton has more confidence and less anxiety with Bart at his side," says Angie.

"The process our family went through to get Bart was one of wonder," says Angie. "It was so stressful to have a child constantly in danger, someone who could wander at any time. Sherry made it so easy. She came and met us, helped us articulate our needs and filled them."

And what about a fairy tale ending for a young boy and a formerly homeless dog? It happened. Dalton and Bart did get to meet a princess at Disneyland.



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

S.L. Gimbel Foundation

Grant Dates 5/1/14-4/30/15
Grant Number G0105
Report Due 5/15/2015

Grant Amount \$25,000.00
Amount Spent \$25,000.00
Balance Remaining \$0.00

Grant Code	Date	Budget Account	Activity	Special Notes	Amount Spent	# Animals Impacted
G0105	8/25/2014	613-6540	Training and placing CwC dogs	Keith Hightower	\$658.50	7
G0105	9/11/2014	613-6540	Training and placing CwC dogs	Keith Hightower	\$612.50	9
G0105	9/16/2014	613-6540	Training and placing CwC dogs	Keith Hightower	\$540.00	11
G0105	9/15/2014	613-6540	Training and placing CwC dogs	Skye Poitras	\$3,050.00	15
G0105	9/22/2014	613-6540	Training and placing CwC dogs	Keith Hightower	\$525.00	10
G0105	10/7/2014	613-6540	Training and placing CwC dogs	Keith Hightower	\$802.50	14
G0105	10/7/2014	613-6540	Transporting	Karen Muthreich	\$400.00	4
G0105	10/7/2014	613-6540	Training special needs handler and dog she chose w/o help	Sharon Witherspoon	\$420.00	1
G0105	10/7/2014	613-6540	Transporting	Chris Vergallito	\$55.26	1
G0105	10/30/2014	613-6560, 6020, 7680, 7681, 7682, 7683	2 conferences,	Credit card 11/2014	\$1,759.93	1
G0105	11/17/2014	613-6560	Training and placing CwC dogs	Keith Hightower	\$375.00	11
G0105	2/2/2015	613-6560	Training and placing CwC dogs	Keith Hightower	\$737.50	15
G0105	2/2/2015	613-6560	Selecting, Training CwC dogs	Skye Poitras	\$1,000.00	14
G0105	2/2/2015	613-6560	Selecting, Training CwC dogs	Janine Takasugi	\$650.00	1
G0105	2/9/2015	613-6560	Training sessions 7 CwC dogs and their people	Keith Hightower	\$310.00	7
G0105	2/9/2015	613-6560	Sherry's Salary		\$10,000.00	
G0105	2/14/2015	613-6560, 6020, 7680, 7681, 7682, 7683	KY + dog training	Credit card 12/2014	\$1,940.55	5
G0105	2/17/2015	613-6560	Training sessions 7 CwC dogs and their people	Keith Hightower	\$150.00	7
G0105	2/17/2015	613-6560	Training a veteran and her family	Karen London	\$163.26	1
G0105	2/17/2015	613-6560	Selecting, Training CwC dogs	Sam Wike	\$500.00	3
G0105	2/23/2015	613-6560	training sessions 7 CwC dogs and their people	Keith Hightower	\$200.00	7
G0105	2/26/2015	613-6560	training sessions Joe Robinson	Kathleen Stasi	\$150.00	3
						147