



ANNUAL APPEAL | FUNDRAISER & FRIENDRAISER | 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

**Paragon Service Dogs, with your instrumental support, celebrates forging extraordinary service dog partnerships that break barriers and inspire possibilities for individuals and communities.**

As we look back on the past year, our hearts are filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support. Your generosity and belief in our mission have fueled an exciting year of transformation, growth, and new beginnings for Paragon Service Dogs and those we serve.

### Transformation

After 45 remarkable years as International Hearing Dog, we are now Paragon Service Dogs. Paragon means “excellence,” a standard we uphold in training every dog—whether for hearing service or another specialized role. After nearly two years of thoughtful strategic planning and program development, the name change signifies our renewed focus and expanded services. This transformation represents a bright, exciting future; we can’t wait to share it with you!



### Growth

We expanded our Puppy Raiser and PAWS’Abilities programs, welcomed our first puppies from Assistance Dogs International’s Breeding Cooperative, and launched our new Animal-Assisted Mental Health Counseling program, Good Talk.

We celebrated the certification of our first two facility dogs! Curly is making a difference in a school social work program in California, and Sporty is partnering with a local MSW social worker, helping to spread the healing power of the human-animal bond.



### New Beginnings

We found our forever home! After decades of leasing property from the Department of Natural Resources, we are overjoyed to have purchased our own 5-acre property in Longmont, Colorado. Our new facility is full of possibilities. It provides our dogs with a positive environment in which to thrive while offering constructive spaces for our life-changing work. We are excited to build the future together on this beautiful campus, and we hope you’ll visit us soon!



As we prepare to embark on another exciting year, **we humbly ask for your continued support.** Your donation allows us to train extraordinary service dogs that transform lives and build brighter futures.

**“The freedom that Camo brings to my life is simply amazing!”** – Roxanne

*(over please)*



## Your Support Matters!

Your support can make a difference for someone like Roxanne, who has lived with hearing loss for decades. Roxanne faced increasing difficulty navigating noisy environments and even feared for her safety during cherished walks by the lake. Roxanne began her journey with Paragon in search of freedom, confidence, and safety. Everything changed for Roxanne when she met Camo, a devoted yellow lab who completed his training through our PAWS'Abilities and Advanced Training programs.

This past September, after two weeks of intensive team training, Roxanne and Camo became an inseparable team. Roxanne now finds comfort in knowing that Camo will alert her, whether out and about, at work, or at home. With Camo by her side as a steadfast aide, Roxanne now enjoys the freedom, confidence, and safety she longed for. Roxanne remarks, **"Camo just amazes me!"**



## The Need is Undeniable.

Service dogs not only help individuals with specific tasks related to their disabilities but also offer broader benefits. Yet, research indicates that under one percent of those who can benefit—one in four adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control—are teamed with a service dog. In response, Paragon leverages nearly 46 years of experience to cultivate transformative service dog partnerships—hearing dogs redefine how individuals who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing navigate life's challenges, and facility dogs offer essential support to diverse individuals in well-being environments.

**The investment to raise, train, place, and support a service dog can exceed \$20,000.** Despite the cost, we are committed to offering our dogs to those in need at no charge—believing that no one should be denied the life-changing support of a service dog because of financial barriers.

## We Can't Transform Lives Without You.

With 14 pups in training, each representing hope and independence, your kindness, via a one-time gift or by becoming a monthly donor, has the power to transform lives. **Please give generously** to help individuals like Roxanne experience the life-changing connection that empowers them to navigate life's challenges with the devoted assistance of their extraordinary service dog partner.

## How to Give\*:

**Donate online.** Give a gift securely online by visiting [paragonservicedogs.org/donate.html](https://paragonservicedogs.org/donate.html) or using the QR code.

**Mail in gift.** Complete the enclosed response card and mail the card (with check if preferred giving method) to Paragon.

*\*Every gift donated directly supports Paragon Service Dogs (EIN: 84-0779444) and is 100% tax deductible.*

Give to Paragon!



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Thank you for standing with us, believing in our mission, and making a difference. Together, we can accomplish so much.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Carol Heiden*

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