

COLLIE CLUB OF AMERICA



COLLIE CLUB OF AMERICA SHINING STAR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

CCA Shining Star 2013 Ambassadors Cup Award July 4th 2013

CCA Shining Star has just completed its fourth year! We are proud to introduce the eight recipients comprising the class of 2013; as well as honoring as Ambassador, a 2011 Shining Star whose continuing outstanding work through 2013 has exemplified the goals of this program.

In order to become a Shining Star a dog has to exemplify both the depth and breadth of the breed's character and a deep and abiding relationship with human partners in the performance of service to community and family. Collies are outstanding therapy dogs, education dogs and service dogs. With their love, generosity and wisdom, they can and often do, take themselves beyond their training. With their natural empathy and tendency to think so well on the fly, our program honors Collies who often take their service to new heights. Since the first year of Shining Star we have seen these wonderful dogs raise the bar over and over again! This year, our 2013 Ambassador with his lifetime of experience and service, has expanded, yet again, our vision of the Collie.

Shining Star is not a competition in the traditional sense. It is impossible to pick a "winner" among so many accomplished dogs who selflessly perform very different services; nor among the people who breed, train and own these magical dogs and are themselves so generous with their time and talent. This year, we honor a unique dog whose intense training and skill in the area of tracking and search and rescue; and whose outstanding character, are focused on helping many people cope with tremendously difficult situations of loss, tragedy and trauma. We have two dogs that work as service dogs, and another that is a Guide Dog for the Blind, and we have a group of dogs that are dedicated to careers as therapy dogs who bring comfort to many in nursing homes, hospitals and care centers; and other dogs who visit libraries and schools to inspire and motivate our children in their efforts to learn to read.

Sadly, this year our program suffered a tremendous loss with the sudden passing of our friend and Shining Star committee chairman Candy Wisnieski. I know that Candy would be very proud of our 2013 Shining Stars and would be thrilled to join us all in honoring Decker as this year's recipient of the Ambassadors Cup. We thank Decker's owner/trainer/handler Lois Hall for accepting the Ambassadors Cup and representing all of our 2013 Shining Stars!

It is actually painful to have to choose among dogs who are so accomplished and whose combined contributions are such a beacon to the breed. We find that we must honorably mention all who are outstanding, and whose talents are valuable examples of the many diverse roles in which our breed is so capable. Lassie and Lad of Sunnybank were not, after all, totally fiction. They were, rather, composites of the many aspects of the collie character. search and rescue dog Decker and service dogs Royal, Leah and Bella represent many of these qualities while therapy and read dogs: Belle, Ramsey, Sandy and Blue Belle represent others.

Introducing the 2013 Shining Stars and their owners (alphabetically by state)

Bella	Kathleen Mulvaney	New York, NY	Service dog (Freedom Guide Dog)
Belle	Jan Vena	Florida	Therapy Dog
Blue Belle	Terry Pegram	Mississippi	Therapy Dog
Deker	Lois Hall	Iowa	Search & Rescue Dog
Leah	Cathy Acampora	Massachusetts	Service Dog (saved her owners life)
Ramsey	Joyce Ott	Pennsylvania	Therapy Dog
Royal	Kathryn Lawliss	Washington	Service Dog
Sandy	Rosellen Loye-Bucy	Michigan	Therapy Dog (adopted from Collie rescue)

Shining Star wishes to thank those who helped us during our fourth year. Thanks always to the CC of A District Directors for their support and help in spreading the word and bringing these amazing stories to our attention. Special thanks to CC of A President Pati Merrill for her help and guidance in the wake of Candy's death; to Candy's friends Susie Delorenza, Ann Boles and Leigh Cohen for their support and their help in gathering the stories for this year's class of recipients, and to Ashley at dogID's for their participation in providing each one of our Shining Star dogs with an actual golden star! We thank you all!

Submitted by:

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