

# COLLIE CLUB OF AMERICA



## COLLIE CLUB OF AMERICA SHINING STAR 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



*CCA Shining Star 2011 Presentation  
March 31, 2012*

*Collie Club of America National Specialty  
Oaks, Pennsylvania*

*Candy Wisnieski presenting The Ambassador's Cup to Ann Boles and Jump with CCA President Pati Merrill*

CCA Shining star has just completed its third year. We are proud to introduce the collies that have earned recognition in the program in 2012. To become a Shining Star, a Collie must exemplify the depth and breadth of the breed's character. Further, they must display a deep and committed relationship with their human partners through performance of their service to community and family. Collies are outstanding therapy dogs, education dogs and service dogs. With their unwavering love, generosity and wisdom, they can apply themselves beyond their training. Their inherent empathy and ability to problem solve in the moment, enable Collies to take their service to whole new levels. In the most touching and sad stories, they have served heroically, bravely giving their lives in the line of service.

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 can we choose among the people who breed, train and own these magical dogs and are themselves so generous with their time and talent. So, each year we choose a dog(s) who exemplifies the Shining Star Program ideals, and we ask this dog and human Partner to be Ambassadors of the program and accept an award, The Ambassador's Cup, on behalf of all the dogs, who serve their Partner's and their communities across the country.

This year's Ambassador Is a gifted and long-serving Therapy Dog from New Jersey, named **JUMP, aka Ch Riverrun's Jump for Joy**. Jump was bred by **Ann Boles** and **Mary Jackson of Riverrun** Collies and is sublimely partnered by **Ann Boles**. Ann has worked for 15 years and Jump for most of her life in the most difficult of therapy situations, children's cancer wards at the Bristol Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Jump is a hands-on therapy dog as the photo demonstrates. During her therapy visits, Jump goes to each of the inpatient units, visiting the children and their families; reducing worry and anxiety in

everyone. As the hospital's Life Specialist said in his letter to us, "Patients of every age connect with jump almost instantaneously, and it is clear from their faces that Jumps' presence brings profound warmth."



Working with **young** cancer patients is the most difficult of therapy assignments. It requires a special empathy, warmth and dedication from both members of the therapy dog team. The sadness of these children's cancer units can be exhausting over time. Jump and Ann have the special qualities required to do this kind of therapy work year after year. While she has dabbled in the show ring, Jump lights up when she gets to the hospital. As is the case with all outstanding Therapy Dogs, Jump's consistent, popular visits for therapy work are a mutually rewarding activity!

It is actually painful to have to choose a single ambassador among dogs who are so accomplished and whose combined contributions are such a beacon to the breed. We find that we must honorably mention others 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. Rather, they were composites of the many aspects of true collie character.

This year we would like to honorably mention young therapy dog, **Gracie** and her partner **Dennis Gallagher**. **Gracie**, like Jump works in hospitals, and is a very important part of her patients experience there. **Gracie** was bred by **Jackie and Ron Caruso of Devinwood Collies**. We would also like to honorably mention 2 emeritus dogs, **Thomas and Beamer**, who worked at Pier 57 and in the family center, right after the 911 tragedy. These dogs were part of a team who created, together with others, a whole new venue of therapy dog service – dogs that are specially trained for major disaster relief. **Thomas (Karavel Agent Double-O-Seven)** and **Beamer (Karavel Grand Slam)** were owned and trained by partner **Mary Valentine**.

This year the Shining Star Program is also awarding Gold Star tags to key people whose support and inspiration for the program was a beacon for us during the program's first couple of years. We wish to recognize. **Ben Baltz** was our initial inspiration for creating the program. This brave boy was helped tremendously by therapy animals. Ben was forced to endure a very long rehabilitation from surgery. His story gave Shining Star its start. **Sally and Bob Futh** have been the program's godparents. They have supported us through our first year and have been totally encouraging. Together they sponsored the first year's Shining Star collar tags and set the standard for a program that has always been funded **by** private and corporate sponsors and has never depended on the CC of A for financing.

The most difficult stories of Shining Star stories are those where a collie is killed in the line of duty. Nothing really prepares us for the fact that this aspect of collie character is true and unexaggerated by either Terhune or Lassie: the dogs will indeed give their lives for us. Sadly, we have two dogs awarded this year and one in 2011 who made this ultimate sacrifice. This year, we award **Ramsey**, a service dog who was killed in action when he threw himself between his handler and a coral snake, and we also have the very sad

story of **Lida**. **Lida** was brutally beaten to death during a violent home invasion while trying to protect her elderly owner. Our hearts go out to the owners of these dogs and also to the family of Malachi, class of 2011.

Shining Star would like to thank **The Collie Club of Northern New Jersey** for their sponsorship of the 2012 **Ambassador's Cup**. This was a very generous gift and it is greatly appreciated by the Shining Star program.

**This year, Shining Star is proud to introduce our new corporate sponsor, dogIDS.** This small, family owned dog supply company, in North Dakota and online, has generously sponsored all of our Shining Star tags. Many thanks to **Ashley at dogIDS** and to the company as a whole: For their cheerful and lightning fast responses to every question and for the tags, which are beautiful! Our Shining Stars love the tags and wear them proudly.



### Introducing the 2012 Shining Stars

<b>BEAMER</b>	<b>Mary Valentine</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>Major Disaster Therapy Dog</b>
<b>THOMAS</b>	<b>Mary Valentine</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>Major Disaster Therapy Dog</b>
<b>GRACIE</b>	<b>Dennis Gallagher</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>Therapy Dog &amp; Reading Programs</b>
<b>JUMP</b>	<b>Ann Boles</b>	<b>NJ</b>	<b>Therapy Dog</b>
<b>KENZIE</b>	<b>Alicia Moore</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>Service Dog</b>
<b>SADIE</b>	<b>Emily Partain</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>Education Assistance Dog</b>
<b>RAMSEY</b>	<b>Scott Cawley</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>Hero, Service dog, killed in the line of duty while protecting partner from a coral snake</b>
<b>LIDA</b>	<b>Myrna Shibolet &amp; Harry</b>	<b>Israel/GREECE</b>	<b>Hero, Brutally killed while trying to prevent an intruder from hurting her elderly mistress</b>
<b>BEN BALTZ</b>		<b>FL</b>	<b>Program Inspiration</b>
<b>SALLY AND BOB FUTH</b>		<b>CT</b>	<b>Program Godparents</b>

Shining Star wishes to thank those who helped us during the course of our third year. Continuing thanks to **Bob and Sally Futh**, the program's godparents, and to the District Directors for their support. Special thanks to CCA Secretary **Janie Clymer** for her help with CCA publications. We received a wonderful surprise in the mail. **Karen Jehnig** of Florida was ringside during the presentation of the Ambassador's cup and she took a disc full of wonderful photos of the presentation, including the one at the beginning of this report. Many thanks, Karen

### 2012 Gallery



**Gold Star Collar Tag**



**Jumps shares kisses with a patient**





**Jump at work**



**Jump and Ann awaiting the presentation**





**Jump, Anm and Pati Merrill after the presentation**





Gracie





**Sadie (the tri right) and her student group**



**Ramsey and Scott**



**Lida**



**Kenzie and Alicia**



Below: Mary Valentine with Thomas and Beamer





**Ben Baltz, with Molly, the pony**



**Bob Futh at the 2010 Shining Star Presentation Ceremony with Kathy Shires, Pati Merrill and Iris**