



SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

May, 2016

Summit in Sixty Seconds

Highlights from Summit's annual fundraising luncheon

Many thanks to the hundreds who packed the Bellevue Hyatt Grand Regency April 28 for our annual fundraising luncheon – and to all our wonderful donors who continue to support us even though they couldn't attend. It was a smashing success, raising more than \$180,000 to support our life-changing work.

There were few dry eyes in the house when videos were played featuring 2009 graduate Eric Rea, talking about how his life changed after receiving Golden Retriever Titus, and Monroe Correctional Complex inmate Leo, a trainer in our prison-partnership program, talking about his experience working with Summit dogs.

Eric broke his neck during a snowboarding accident in Montana 17 years ago and has been a quadriplegic since then. He said his life during the years after the accident, until he got Titus in 2009, were filled with depression and frustration. He said he finally decided he wanted to break out on his own and experience independence. Enter Titus.

"Titus opened up a whole new world of opportunity for me," Eric said. "We have had so many great shared experiences that I will treasure forever. It's hard to put into words all the things he's done for me."

Titus is getting up in years, and Eric knows he will need a successor dog soon, possibly a dog partially trained by Leo, who has been involved in the Summit prison training program for three years.

"Prison is a cesspool of negative emotions. I swam in it for seven years," an emotional Leo said in his video message. "There is no hate, no evil, no prejudice in a dog. They are able to let you open up and use emotions you've locked away. I can feel human again. Dogs and Summit have helped me become a better person."

Guests also enjoyed a service-dog skills demonstration featuring Summit trainer Lisa Freshour and 2015 graduates Melissa Mitchell (also now a staff trainer) and Tanner. Another highlight of the event was the annual Puppy Parade. Nine pups in training ranging in age from four to 16 months were escorted across the stage by trainer Lisa Freshour and volunteers Joy & Dave Thompson, Mike Powers, Lucy Sanderson, Mary Beth Foglia, Mary Lou Vibrans and Alice Collingwood.

The two videos shown at the luncheon can be viewed on-line: [Eric's Story](#) [Leo's Story](#)

Take special Summit-label wines to your next party

A number of people at the luncheon asked us about the special Summit wines we were handing out as thanks to our many table captains. That prompted us to remind you that we have six delicious choices – Carmenere, Malbec, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc – each adorned with a photo of a Summit puppy or graduate dog on the front and our story on the back. These are a bargain at \$19.99 a bottle with proceeds benefiting Summit. Buy more than one bottle and save on shipping costs over single purchases.

Please share a bottle of [Summit Wine](#) with friends and share our story!

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