



SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights



Summit in Sixty Seconds

September, 2016

Life changing phone call!

James Abernathy knew his life was taking a wonderful new turn when he received that long-awaited phone call from Summit telling him that Chocolate Lab Cooper "had selected me."

He was an active athlete when he sustained a spinal cord injury during his sophomore year in high school. Since then, he uses a wheelchair and relies on personal care aides to help him every morning and evening, but during the day, James is on his own if he drops something or needs help opening doors. Enter Cooper, who will become his new best friend and helpmate this fall.

James said he wasn't sure when he answered the phone if it would be that great news he's waited so long to hear, or if he would be told he was going to have to wait a while longer. He said a wait would be understandable, because he knows the extent to which Summit goes to ensure good matches.

"This is one of the reasons I'm confident Cooper will be an excellent service dog," he said. James said he and Cooper were a "natural match" when they met during his assessment.

"I was trying to contain my excitement, because I knew he could be matched with someone else," he said, although he couldn't help feeling excited and thinking about his life with his service dog.

Cooper will accompany James to his Olympia job as litigation counsel for a non-profit organization and on his personal activities and adventures. James is enjoying getting to know the Northwest since his move from Ohio two years ago.

"I'm looking forward to my increased independence and functionality. Cooper will allow me to engage in a more active lifestyle," James said. "The effect Cooper will have on my life is much more than just physical. It's also emotional and spiritual."



Heartfelt thanks to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Summit wants to express our gratitude for the continuing support from this wonderful foundation, which recently awarded us a \$5,000 Quality of Life grant for our 2016 Fund-A-Pup campaign. Each new puppy provides hope that another of our waiting clients will be that much closer to receiving their life-changing canine partner. This will also support our emerging breeding program. We are carefully evaluating some of our recent puppy acquisitions as potential breeding dogs.

The Christopher & Dana Reeve foundation is dedicated to advancing quality of life and discovering cures for spinal cord injuries.

Supporting Summit is as easy as a walk in the park – with your dog



Put some fun in fundraising with [Wooftrax](#), a free app you can download to your phone and support Summit by simply taking your dog for a walk. Several of our staff and volunteers have tried it (like volunteer Penny Potter, pictured here, taking a stroll with Mabel), and it's easy to use. Once you download it, select Summit as the beneficiary of your walks, and then it's automatic every time you walk your dog. The more people actively walking with the Wooftrax app, the greater the donation to Summit. You don't need a dog to walk, but you do need to walk outdoors, not on a treadmill. The app knows! Every "Walk for a Dog" counts, so don't just take your dog for a walk, take a walk for a Summit dog!

Please visit our website at www.summitdogs.org.
Donate to our cause at www.summitdogs.org/donate.
Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/summitdogs.