



ICAN  Indiana
Canine
Assistant
Network

IMPACT REPORT

2022



Letter from the president

Every year, our annual impact report is our chance to share ICAN's proudest achievements from the past twelve months with supporters like you. And on these pages, you'll read about the triumphs we accomplished thanks to your generosity.

From adding five puppy litters (a new record!) and 44 new dogs to the program to placing 20 graduated service dogs with adults and children statewide and launching a new division for veterans struggling with combat-related challenges—2022 was nothing short of a momentous year for ICAN.

It goes without saying, we could not have achieved these wins without your support. Your humanitarianism fueled our mission and enabled us to innovate, grow, and work toward changing even more lives in impactful ways.

Your giving also positively impacted more than 4,000 Hoosiers—from clients and their families to volunteers and incarcerated men and women. You helped advocate for independence and opportunity by facilitating partnerships between people and dogs.

Thank you for all you have done and for all you will continue to do to help us improve the lives of adults and children living with disabilities.

I know these transformative moments from 2022 are just the beginning for ICAN. And thanks to you, our future is bright, and the best is yet to come.

Jillian Ashton, CFRM
President, Indiana Canine Assistant Network



Enduring IMPACT

Thanks to supporters like you, 2022 was a momentous year. We share these triumphs with you.

OUR DOGS

ICAN service dogs help people find new perspectives, purpose, and independence.



20 DOGS PLACED
IN 2022:

7

Mobility Assistance Dogs

Trained to perform helpful tasks for children and adults who use wheelchairs or have mobility challenges.

4

Psychiatric Service Dogs

Trained to work with people who have certain kinds of mental health disorders or learning disabilities.

1

Diabetic Alert Dog

Trained to recognize and alert a person when their blood sugar levels start dropping.

8

Facility Dogs

Trained to work with a professional in a residential or clinic setting such as a school, hospital, courthouse, etc.



110

Active service
dogs



58

Dogs in
training



5

Litters
born



44

Puppies
born



61

Applicants waiting
on service dog



20

Dogs expected to be
placed in 2023



230

Dogs placed since
2002



OUR HANDLERS

Our inmate handler program helps incarcerated individuals move beyond their mistakes and learn the skills they need to successfully return to the community. Your support helped them gain hope.



52

Inmate handlers



65

Expected handlers in 2023



15%

Recidivism rate

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. From furloughers and puppy raisers to outreach speakers and event coordinators, these individuals are part of our life-changing mission. We could not do what we do without their support.



250

Volunteers



85K

Logged volunteer hours



46

Puppy raisers



18

Experienced litter sitters



62

New furloughers



100+

Outreach hours

Small but MIGHTY

Thanks to ICAN's new Veterans Service Division, a five-pound Yorkshire Terrier proves dogs of all sizes can be service dogs.



ICAN client Suzanne Smith and her ICAN service-dog-in-training Dobby.

When Army National Guard veteran Suzanne Smith feels overwhelmed in a crowded place, she looks down at her ICAN service-dog-in-training, a Yorkshire Terrier named Dobby, and says, “Find the door.”

That distinct phrase signals Dobby to immediately find the nearest exit and remove Suzanne from the situation causing her stress as quickly as possible.

This one cue has changed Suzanne's life.

Since returning from active duty in 2004, where she served as a physician assistant, Suzanne has struggled with service-related trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and severe anxiety. This developed after she survived two sexual attacks on tour in Iraq. While she sustained no long-term physical injuries from the abuse, the assaults left her with emotional wounds she feared would never heal.

“I never wanted to leave my home,” Suzanne recalled. “I wouldn't even go to the grocery store unless it was at odd hours. I was too afraid.”

Her biggest challenge, though, was trying to be strong for her four children.

“I tried so hard to appear ‘normal’ on the outside, but inside I was screaming,” she remembered. “I spent my life just going through the motions.”

**“ I AM REGAINING
THE COURAGE TO
GO OUT AND LIVE
LIFE AGAIN. ”**



Like many veterans, it took Suzanne years to seek help. Thankfully, in 2018, after months of fighting suicidal thoughts, she began speaking with a counselor through the Veterans Health Administration, who later suggested she explore the idea of a service dog.

As luck would have it, when Suzanne began her search, ICAN had just launched its new Veterans Service Division in her hometown of Fort Wayne—making the prospect of a service dog seem much more within reach because she could stay in familiar settings.

However, in addition to the emotional scars Suzanne carries from military duty, she struggles with mobility issues due to an injury she sustained while in Iraq and later complications from an unsuccessful surgery that tried to improve movement in her hand and arm. As a result, the limitations to her physical abilities made her doubt she could independently manage a big dog.

That all changed when Suzanne realized ICAN's newest division was willing to train dogs of all breeds and sizes within a specific set of parameters.

“That piqued my interest,” Suzanne said, “because I always thought service dogs had to be ‘big’ dogs.”

But now, after just a few months of training, her Yorkie Dobby, who weighs only five pounds, proves that all dogs, no matter their size, can make a big difference.



Dobby has already learned how to soothe Suzanne when she has a PTSD attack. He can recognize when she is becoming anxious and will ease her stress by licking her face—something he also does if he senses Suzanne is having a nightmare when she is asleep.

Dobby is also training to retrieve objects from the ground when she cannot bend over and get them. He is even learning to fetch her keys and phone by name and bring them to her.

And under the guidance of ICAN trainer Deborah Cotton, Suzanne is also teaching Dobby how to lay under a chair and stay there for an extended period so he can fly on an airplane with her when she visits her children living out of state.

“Dobby has enhanced my independence,” said Suzanne. “For me, he's no different from someone's cane, walker, or wheelchair. And, now, I don't know



what I would do without him.” This reclaimed independence has also given Suzanne the courage to step out of her comfort zone and try new things again.

“I've missed out on so much over the last nearly 20 years,” said Suzanne. “I lost the ability to find joy in life. But with Dobby, I am regaining the courage to go out and live life again.

In fact, since training with ICAN, she hopes to pay it forward to the organization that has changed her life by becoming a volunteer after Dobby graduates—something she would never have been able to do if it wasn't for Dobby by her side.

“Because of Dobby, I can say for the first time in a long time that I am happy,” Suzanne said. “He gave me my life back, and now I can see a future.”

You can help veterans like Suzanne find independence again. Learn how at icandog.org.

Financial Operations REPORT

Intense training, veterinary care, quality nutrition, outreach/follow-up activities, equipment, and supplies required to train currently costs ICAN \$25,000 per dog. Clients only pay a fraction or zero percent of that cost. ICAN does not receive state or federal funding.

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Total Income 2021</i>	<i>Total Income 2022</i>
Individual donors.....	30%	50%
Event revenue.....	21%	20%
Foundations.....	12%	20%
Program revenue.....	5%	3%
In-kind.....	9%	2%
Corporate Contributions.....	5%	4%
Other.....	18%	1%
	\$1,010,508	\$1,487,433

<i>Operating Program & Expenses</i>	<i>Total Expenses 2022</i>
Administration.....	8%
Fundraising/Events.....	26%
Direct Programming.....	66%
	\$1,276,595

OF EVERY
\$1 DONATED,
\$.87 GOES
DIRECTLY INTO
THESE DOGS AND
OUR CLIENTS!





THANK YOU FOR
unleashing possibilities.



icandog.org

