

# LIFE notes

*LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.*

Issue 29, June 17, 2016

## Service Heroes Edition



## Star Board Member of the Month



Hayden Hosford

Everyone knows that Cleveland is home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a museum where the legends of rock music are honored and enshrined and whose mission is to engage, teach and inspire through the power of rock music. But not everyone knows that Cleveland is also the hometown of LIFE's own "rock star" - a woman whose mission is also to engage, teach and inspire underserved children through the power of culture. Indeed, our Star Board Member of the Month is none other than Hayden Hosford.

Hayden had the privilege of traveling from her hometown to many places as a young girl, but it was the trips she made to New York City to see Broadway shows with her mother that had a profound impact on her life. It was on these journeys that she came to realize the transformative power of the arts. So, after graduating from Hofstra University on Long Island and receiving her master's degree in early childhood education from Towson University in Maryland, she moved to the Bog Apple and lived there for many years. During this time, she found her passion - introducing underserved children to culture. Together, they marveled at Broadway shows, explored museums, and enjoyed nice restaurants. She taught them etiquette and bought them nice clothes. The one requirement to participate in her program was that the children had to earn good grades. So, let's sing her praises: seven of the eight children were honor students. One went on to become a doctor!

When she moved to Palm Beach, Hayden found another rock star in the world of philanthropy who shared her passion for helping the most vulnerable members of society. So she became an ardent supporter of Lois Pope and LIFE, helping further our work on behalf of veterans and children. In addition, in memory of her mother, she is active with the Rita Hayworth Alzheimer's charity. She is also involved with the Chapman Partnership for the Homeless, Melanoma Foundation, Shelter for the Homeless and Abused Women, New York City Ballet, and Botanical Gardens. And she continues to work with underserved children, exposing them to the arts and culture and taking them on trips to Disney and Universal-her favorites!

## Upcoming events

### September 10, 2016

American Humane Association  
Sixth Annual Hero Dog Awards  
Sponsored by  
the Lois Pope LIFE Foundation  
Los Angeles, California

### Friday, November 18, 2016

"Lady in Red" Gala Pre-Party  
Hosted by Provident Jewelry  
Jupiter Florida  
By Invitation

### December 3, 2016

LIFE's "Lady in Red" Gala  
"Speakeasy"  
Starring the Empress of Soul,  
Gladys Knight  
The Mar a Lago Club  
By Invitation

To learn more or to donate, visit  
[www.life-edu.org](http://www.life-edu.org) or call 561.582.8083.

Good News!

Have you ever imagined what it would be like if dogs could talk? Not like in some fantastical way, but with truly useful applications. Specifically, what if service dogs and bomb-sniffing dogs could communicate with us? Associate Professor Melody Moore Jackson and her team at Georgia Tech are developing technology that allows dogs to say anything we give them the capability of saying. They've called their project FIDO, which is short for "Facilitating Interactions for Dogs with Occupations."

The Georgia Tech team has developed a vest with sensors on it that dogs can activate to facilitate communication. The vest can play a message or send a text to a smart phone, even eventually communicate GPS coordinates. From a training perspective, it's a basic system—dogs are trained to hit specific sensors in response to certain cues. So, if asked which toy a person is holding, the dog can hit a sensor that plays a message that says, "That is the Frisbee®" or "That is the ball." It's a cool trick, but the real genius of this vest is the variety of messages dogs can send.

For example, a service dog for a hearing-impaired person might hit a sensor in response to an alarm that sends a text saying, "I heard the alarm," and a different sensor in response to the doorbell so that the message reads, "I heard the doorbell."

In another scenario detection dogs are trained to bark if they find what they are looking for, perhaps a drug or an explosive. Although dogs are trained to search for multiple types of drugs or explosives, they are limited in their ability to communicate the details of their finds to their handlers. It can make a big difference to everyone's safety if the dog can let a handler know that the bomb is a stable type or an unstable one that needs careful handling. This vest can allow a dog to share more specific information.

The vest could allow a dog who has found anyone trapped after a natural disaster to activate a sensor with a message for that person to hear. The message lets the trapped individual know that help is on the way. Work is underway to allow a dog to activate a sensor that sends GPS coordinates to a handler. This same technology could benefit people with any number of health problems. Imagine that a person with epilepsy has a seizure and the service dog has been trained to activate a sensor in response to that situation. The activation of the sensor would result in a call to 911 and also send a message to a family member.

The possibilities of this technology are virtually limitless. The beauty of the design is that it is relatively easy to teach dogs with a solid base of training to activate sensors in response to specific cues. These vests represent a wonderful blending of solid dog training with new technology to increase the ability of dogs and people to accomplish a amazing things together.

Dear Friends of LIFE:

In the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, a true American Hero emerged. Her name was Bretagne and she was a Golden Retriever.



Bretagne  
with her handler  
Denise Corliss

Last week, the world said goodbye to this courageous canine—the last of the Ground Zero search dogs. Her heroism, however, will never be erased from our memory.

Bretagne and her handler Denise Corliss were fresh graduates of Disaster City, Texas A&M's 52-acre search and rescue training center, when they were deployed to New York shortly after the World Trade Center attacks. They joined hundreds of other teams sent from around the world to find survivors, working 12 hours a day for two consecutive weeks. At the time, they were unaware that there were to be few, if any, survivors in the rubble of the Twin Towers.

Though their mission seemed fruitless, Corliss discovered something unexpected: rescuers, firefighters and other emergency personnel would approach Bretagne and pet her. Soon they would be sharing their personal stories, describing their missing friends, loved ones and colleagues. Bretagne became a de facto, but much-needed therapy dog, giving comfort in the most desperate and horrible situation.

This true hero did what she was meant to do - heal others with her loving spirit. And she proved her heroism through many other deployments, including one to find survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

But old age slowed her down and, at age 16, it was finally time to let Bretagne rest.

In the end, she was given the hero's farewell she earned and deserved. The firefighters at the Cy-Fair Fire Department in Harris County, Texas lined the path to the Fairfield Animal Hospital as Corliss walked Bretagne in to be put to sleep. And as her body draped in an American flag was carried out, they saluted -with tears streaming down their faces.

We must never forget Bretagne and other dogs like her who keep us safe and comfort us in times of disaster. They are true American Heroes.

To learn more about Bretagne and her story, visit <http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/07/us/bretagne-911-dog-euthanized-tmd>.

Love,

*Lois*

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