



A *Summer* OF POSSIBILITIES

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026

Paws With A Cause

A Summer OF

At Dutton Christian Schools (DCS), DAISY, a Paws With A Cause (PAWS) facility dog, has just completed her first school year weaving through classrooms, hallways, and the lives of students from 2nd through 8th grade. As June arrives, she is stepping into something new: her first summer break. For DAISY, summer brings a new rhythm, shaped less by bells and class schedules and more by connection, rest, and open space.

Now that the school year has come to a close, the hallways she once moved through each day are quieter. DAISY is a steady presence for students needing comfort during anxious moments, focus during testing, or simply a tail wag on a hard day. “It’s amazing just to see the smiles on the kids’ faces when they see her,” shared Lyn, who cares for DAISY at home and works in the school’s finance office. Moments like these are part of the ongoing work PAWS supporters help sustain as each placement grows beyond its first year.

But summer is where DAISY’s world blossoms in a new way.

At home, her days stretch longer and slower. She runs across 300 acres, rides along on the golf cart like it’s her favorite destination and settles into the kind of freedom only summer can bring. “She just loves riding on the cart,” Lyn said. “She’ll run for a bit, and then she’s like, ‘okay, let me on.’”



If we’re sad, whenever we see DAISY or pet DAISY, we can get happier.

Even in this quieter season, DAISY’s presence will continue to reach students in small but meaningful ways. School-based camps, tutoring sessions, and occasional summer visits offer moments for connection to continue. Rachel, an Inclusion Specialist at DCS shared that those touchpoints matter: **“DAISY helps kids feel like school is a home.”**

Students feel it too. “If we’re sad, whenever we see DAISY or pet DAISY, we can get happier,” said a middle school student. Others describe her as a calming presence during stressful moments or a helpful resource for refocusing when things feel overwhelming.

As one student put it simply, **“DAISY makes it easier to be at school.”** Now, as DAISY moves into her first summer, there is space for both rest and relationships to continue in new ways. Time to run, swim, ride, and soak in the summer days—balanced with the ongoing connection to the students and staff who have come to rely on her presence.

Right now, your support can ensure dogs like DAISY continue bringing calm and connection all year long. From the structure of the school year to the freedom of summer, DAISY’s impact continues—steady, calming, and deeply felt.

Passibilities

On a quiet February day, Michael welcomed a new kind of sound into his life—one he might not always hear, but would always feel. HAZEL, his Paws With A Cause (PAWS) hearing dog, joined his side, bringing with her not just customized training but reassurance, connection, and a renewed sense of confidence.

For Michael, who has partial hearing loss, daily life once came with uncertainties—missed alarms, unheard sirens, and the subtle but constant awareness of what might go unnoticed. Now, HAZEL bridges that gap. From alerting him to the smoke detector, tea kettle, and microwave, to notifying him when his name is called, she ensures that important moments are never missed. Because of the generosity that makes partnerships like this possible, individuals like Michael can move through the world with greater independence and peace of mind.

But HAZEL's impact goes far beyond the tasks she performs.

"I've always been positive," Michael shared, "and HAZEL has helped me see that I can still do everything, I just need help." That realization has been transformative. Instead of holding back, Michael is looking forward to the months ahead with HAZEL by his side—longer days, fresh air, and the simple joy of being outside together.

She keeps me in the hearing world.

In unexpected ways, HAZEL has also opened doors socially. Once shy and reserved, Michael now finds himself in frequent conversations sparked by his four-legged partner. "She keeps me in the hearing world," he said. Even without hearing every word, he sees the smiles, the curiosity, and the joy HAZEL brings to others. It's a ripple effect, one PAWS partnership touching countless lives. Your support today will help create these moments of connection, not just for clients, but for entire communities.

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As the weather warms, Michael is looking forward to a summer that feels both familiar and entirely new. Camping trips will bring opportunities to use HAZEL's skills in new environments, from passing dogs at the campsite to the unpredictability of the outdoors.

And between these moments are the ones that simply feel like summertime outside, daily walks, and a game of fetch near the water, even if HAZEL is still deciding how she feels about swimming. There's talk of trying canoeing someday, too. More than anything, Michael is looking forward to continuing to grow together—more confident, more connected, navigating each day together.

This summer, Michael is moving through each day with a new sense of assurance. With HAZEL by his side, he's stepping forward with confidence, no longer worried about what he might miss or holding himself back.

And because of the compassion that fuels Paws With A Cause, more life-changing partnerships like Michael and HAZEL's are made possible—season after season, story after story.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH EVERY UPDATE!

Join our mission to transform lives through the power of service dogs. By subscribing to our newsletter, you'll stay informed about our latest success stories, upcoming events, and how you can get involved. Each edition offers insights into our work, updates on our incredible teams, and opportunities to support our cause.

pawswithacause.org/newsletter-subscription/

PAWS IN THE PARK 5K

Lace up your shoes (and leash up your pup!) for PAWS in the Park, a dog-friendly 5K and 1-mile run, walk, or roll in West Michigan! Join us **Thursday, August 6th at Millennium Park** for an evening of movement, community, and purpose.

All ages and abilities are welcome, whether you race or stroll. After the finish line, enjoy music, local vendors, food trucks, and a beer garden.

Bring your friends and family and be part of something meaningful—changing lives, one step at a time!

Race Start: 6:30 PM



**SCAN HERE
TO SIGN UP!**
bit.ly/paws-in-the-park-5k

