

Spring 2018 Charity-WLTA “Pays It Forward”

Gunnar’s Wheels

WLTA will be raising funds for Gunnar’s Wheels during the Opening Night Reception at the Spring Conference next week in Delafield. Join us for raffles, games & prizes at The North Lake Bear Trap, proceeds go to Gunnar’s Wheels. Checks can also be submitted during the entire conference or by mailing them to Wisconsin Land Title Association (address below). Please make checks out directly to Gunnar’s Wheels. Thanks!



This is Gunnar and This is His Story

by Lisa Petersen

Jason Parker, a fireman and avid hunter, from Osseo Wisconsin had his life changed forever when his best friend, a black lab named Gunnar, was hit by a vehicle. Gunnar was paralyzed as a result of the accident and the Veterinarian that initially treated Gunnar wanted to euthanize him. Jason felt helpless but knew that his dog wasn’t any less of a dog simply because he lost the use of his hind legs. Jason vowed to give Gunnar the best life he could in spite the accident.

Following surgery and a lot of physical therapy, Jason got Gunnar a two wheeled cart. Friends and strangers were so touched by Gunnar’s plight and Jason’s love for his best hunting buddy that they donated money to help offset the cost of the cart. Jason vowed to use any extra money to assist other dogs with mobility issues. From that tragedy was born a nonprofit organization called Gunnar’s Wheels.

Gunnar’s Wheels supplies wheelchairs and carts to dogs, cats and even one opossum, at no cost to the pet owners. Jason buys the carts according to the needs of the pet and sends them to the owner. He works with the owners in the setup and adjustment of the carts so that the animal can find the mobility they once had, and in some cases, the mobility that they never had. The only condition attached to the cart is that once their pet no longer needs the cart (for whatever reason), they must return the cart to Jason (at his cost). He will refurbish the cart and keep it in his stock until the next pet comes along.

In a little over 3 years, Jason has sent over 700 carts around our State and around the world. Jason has never had to say no to a request and works tirelessly to keep his carts rolling on. He was chosen by GoFundMe as one of its monthly series of GoFundMe Heroes. He was also nominated as a candidate for the American Humane Hero Dog Awards hosted by the Hallmark Channel. Gunnar’s Wheels runs entirely on donations.

I had the honor of meeting Jason and Gunnar one year ago and I’ve been a huge fan and supporter since that moment. Gunnar crossed the rainbow bridge this past Fall but his legacy lives on through his Foundation. I would encourage you to visit his Facebook Page “Gunnar’s Wheels” to see his work in action. Jason asks cart recipients to send videos or photos of their dogs using the donated carts. The North Lake Bear Trap has, through the generosity of its patrons, funded 4 carts to date and the thank you’d that we have received, coupled with the videos of the dogs running free with their human siblings is beyond heartwarming.

I’m proud to call Jason my friend. I’m thrilled that Angie was so moved by his story that she has chosen to allow Gunnar’s Wheels to be the charity for the WLTA’s Spring Conference and I’m doing my best to get Jason and his wife to attend so that you can hear his story in his words.

Lisa A. Petersen, Past President, WLTA

