



February 2018

*Your investment in focused training yields life-enhancing results.*

## 2018 Year of the Dog



Happy Chinese New Year! We are especially happy to celebrate the coming of spring this year since 2018 is **The Year of the Dog!**

On Saturday, February 17th, Dogs for Better Lives participated in Southern Oregon Chinese Cultural Association's Chinese New Year Celebration in Jacksonville, Oregon.

Our DBL transport van joined the parade featuring Demo Dogs Keen, Buzz and Lucy. We also had a booth at Doc Griffin Park where we met new and old DBL friends, while Katie - one of our apprentice trainers - gave a presentation on "Traveling with an Assistance Dog".

We love connecting and sharing the impact of what we do in our communities, and hope to participate in more community events this year.



## Double Happiness

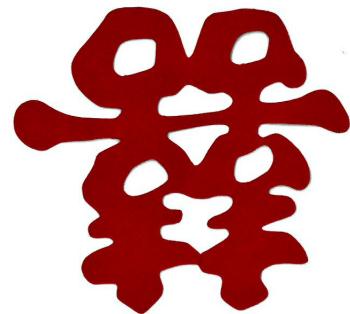
Meet Lia, one of amazing volunteer dog walkers! Lia recently shared a story about our name change that is fitting for **The Year of the Dog** celebration:

"When I first learned of our new name, Dogs for Better Lives, I started musing about the letters I would use on my calendar to note my dog-walking days instead of DFD (Dogs for the Deaf). DBL immediately came to mind, and then I flashed to "Double". I instantly realized that Double Happiness is a Chinese character used for celebrations such as weddings, birthdays and the New Year.

It is a beautiful character with two "Happiness" characters side by side for "Double Happiness", and it comes to me naturally since I have seen it throughout my life because of my Chinese heritage.

It also fits DBL perfectly because we bring happiness to our rescue dogs in finding them forever homes and happiness to the people who receive the dogs."

Lia has been a Dogs for Better Lives volunteer for 3 years. If you would like to join Lia on our volunteer team, click [here](#) to learn how.



## Diana and Jim Celebrate 10 Years Together

Diana in W. Virginia started to lose her hearing in high school. By the time she was in college Diana struggled to understand her classroom lectures. Diana was steadily going deaf, yet her doctors did not exactly know why.

Hearing door knocks or even the phone ring became increasingly difficult for her. "People would say that they came over to visit, but they couldn't get me to come to the door," she said.

That's when Diana decided to apply for a Hearing Dog from Dogs for the Deaf. 10 years have passed and life for Diana has significantly improved with little Jim by her side.



Congratulations Diana and Jim on celebrating 10 years - we wish you more good years together!

Do you know anyone who could benefit from having a Hearing Dog? Click [here](#) to learn more about our life-changing dogs.



Dogs for Better Lives' mission is to professionally train dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed and the people we serve.

[Click Here to Donate](#)

