

Wing & Shot: Service and hunting dogs, kennels, boarding

Meet Ryan Rucci.

The 27-year-old, Schaumburg, Ill. native was born with cerebral palsy and almost died at birth. He probably would need a wheelchair throughout his life, yet Rucci learned how to walk without even a cane. He learned how to ride a bicycle. He played baseball as a boy, even though cerebral palsy made it difficult for him to run, throw, catch and bat. The *Chicago Tribune* reported his story.

In 2015, Rucci who grew up in the shadow of Wrigley Field was hired by the Chicago Cubs as a fan ambassador. The job requires daily interaction with Cub fans and often works in the sections reserved for fans with disabilities.

However, Rucci needed some help with day to day activities. So he approached Fred Saber of Brandon Township based Wing & Shot to train an emotional support dog that Rucci just received from a shelter two weeks prior.

"When we discussed his needs I explained that this type of training takes months," said Saber. "Then when we discussed price I could tell in the conversation money was an issue. So with a couple of payments he was able to afford one month of training for his new buddy Wrigley."

After Rucci and Wrigley were home for a couple of days he called Saber with a few concerns.

"He said, 'boy I sure wish I could leave her longer. Fred, how do people afford this?' I went on to explain



From left, Mike Green, Fred Saber, Ryan Rucci, Austin Saber and Wrigley at Bishop Airport.

that most of these special pups have a sponsor," said Saber.

Saber who had trained dogs professionally for more than two decades, opted to donate his time and sponsor additional training for Wrigley.

Then on March 2, Saber along with Wrigley greeted Rucci at Bishop Airport in Flint. After about an hour of training in the airport, Rucci and Wrigley headed

back to Chicago.

"We all thought this would be a great positive story considering all of the negative attention therapy/ service dogs are receiving right now," said Saber. "People are curious and trying to understand what it is and why these pups are playing such a huge roll in our society today."

In 2016, Fred and Kelley, owners of Wing & Shot dog training purchased Maple Lane Kennels, 2939 Hummer Lake Road, Ortonville, a boarding, grooming and daycare facility, helping to expand the need for their customer's boarding and training demands.

"Each year we offer four seminars for those who want to learn more about training hunting dogs," he said. "We prepare dogs for hunting season or competition—stop by and visit our facility. Service therapy and emotional support dogs have been a huge part of our business in the last 10 years now, filling the schools with them, mostly for special needs children. Next year our company will have a pup for a year trained for a therapy dog then donate to a special child in need."

Saber and his staff pride themselves in maintaining an immaculate state-of-the-art facility and upholding the highest standards in customer service and pet care. They get to know each animal's personality and are able to give them more one-on-one attention.

Between the Wing Shot Kennels in Goodrich and Maple Lane Kennels in Brandon Township, there's room for boarding 65 animals.



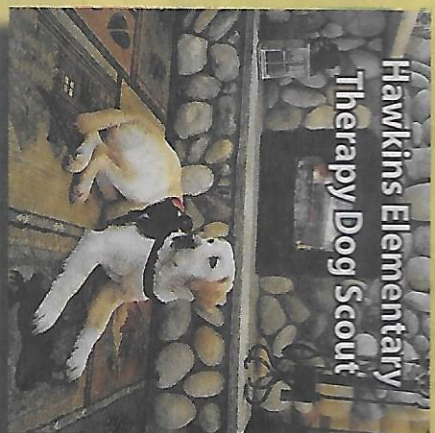
Guage the Retriever

Maple Lane Kennels



Wing & Shot

Hawkins Elementary
Therapy Dog Scout



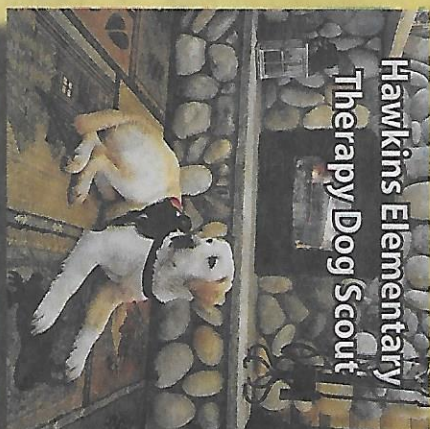


Maple Lane Kennels



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