



Ability Dogs 4 Young People



3 Howard Close
Niton
Isle of Wight
PO38 2EB

Parish Clerk
Bembridge Parish Council
5 Foreland Road
Bembridge
Isle of Wight
PO35 5XN

17th July 2023

Dear Clerk,

I am writing to ask if the Bembridge Parish Council would kindly consider Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW in your grant allocations for this year. As a charity supporting extremely vulnerable people across the Isle of Wight, we have both Recipients with working Ability Dogs and training Ability Dog puppies in your Parish. I am seeking additional financial help as the after effects of the Covid pandemic combined with the cost of living crisis are having a serious effect on our fundraising and donations. We are heading towards crisis this year.

Like many charities, the Covid-19 crisis hit us very hard. Thanks to the generosity of Trusts and Foundations, groups and individuals on the Isle of Wight and the mainland during 2020 and 2021, with careful spending, we were able to raise enough to continue to support our recipients with their Ability Dogs and, in 2021 to resume training. Last year things improved, but fundraising was still tight. This was the first year since the charity started in 2012 that we struggled to raise as much as we spent and so ate into our reserves slightly.

As a medium sized charity training assistance dogs, we have always relied on the generous support of Island individuals and groups, and these donations have provided us with the funds to run successfully until now. However, in this current climate, people just do not have the money to donate as they have done previously, and so we are really struggling.

As well as covering all the costs for training, we also cover the costs of our working Ability Dogs. This is a large on-going commitment, especially as costs have gone up, (a bag of dog food has doubled over the last few years, for example). We apply for grants where we can, and this year we are trying to increase the number of applications. I am hoping that you will be able to assist as we are supporting local people within your Parish.

Registered Address: 3 Howard Close, Niton, Isle of Wight, PO38 2EB

Patron: Charlotte Corney

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Ability Dogs 4 Young People IOW A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Registered Charity No. 1154896

Training assistance dogs for disabled young people on the Isle of Wight

To provide you with some background: Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW is a charity helping young people and children with physical or mental disabilities, or both. We provide highly trained assistance dogs (Ability Dogs). The charity is dedicated to improving the quality of life for young people and children on the Isle of Wight with disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism, diabetes and epilepsy. All Ability Dogs are taught task work tailored to their recipient's needs. They are taught to assist and support their disabled recipients with their specific disabilities enabling them to lead fuller and more independent lives.

We aim to help as many disabled people as possible and to help in a variety of ways; through placement, therapy, group interaction and medical appointment attendance. We also involve the community through volunteering 'make a real difference' opportunities.

Ability Dogs help with complex mental health disabilities including crippling anxiety and depression (often suicidal), by giving a focus and routine, which helps break the cycle of self-harm and isolation, enabling them to turn their lives around.

I have attached some additional information about Ability Dogs 4 Young People and a Charity newsletter. I have also enclosed a couple of articles from national magazines featuring Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW. I hope you find them interesting. Please let me know if you would like any more copies.

Thank you for your support.

With kind regards,



Carol Court
Founder & CEO