



**Minnesota Statewide Community of Practice
Physical and Health Disabilities / Traumatic Brain Injury
Monday, February 13, 2023**

Speaker Bio - Holly Schultz

Holly Schultz and Sugar spend their volunteer time working to educate others on the benefits of utilizing service dogs and therapy dogs for kids and adults. Her volunteering took center stage when she began volunteering for a local service dog organization and she made it her goal to volunteer in every area of the organization to get a solid idea of the big picture of training a service dog for those who could benefit. She then moved into volunteering as a breeding home for dogs in the breeding program, whelping and caring for the litters and beginning the training process for the newborn puppies for their first 8 weeks of life.

Since that time, she has helped 3 local service dog organizations by volunteering, being a trainer for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) service dogs and fundraising to bring more service dogs free of charge to those that need them. She has worked over the years to create positive change for the service dog world and create awareness on the benefits of service dogs and therapy dogs. She is currently volunteering for a national service dog organization called Canine Companions with their fundraising events.

After being a breeding/whelping home for 6 litters and 38 puppies, she adopted the two dogs in her home when they retired from the program. Sugar decided that she wasn't done making a difference and she wasn't ready for retirement, so off they went to training to become a therapy dog team! Sugar also continued her training, earning a Canine Good Citizen, a Bachelors, and her Masters in Canine Life and Social Skills!

Holly and Sugar are currently a Community Support K9 team for the Anoka County Sheriff's Dept. and a certified therapy dog team with Therapy Dogs International. They spend their volunteer time together at memory care facilities, elementary schools, assisted living centers, parades and Sugar is a big hit at a local high school where she is their "K9 Counselor".

When Holly and Sugar aren't busy volunteering, Holly volunteers as a Reserve Officer for the Fridley Police Dept. and she is a Finance Manager for a Maple Grove manufacturing company.

Sugar likes to let people know if they haven't gotten enough of her that they can read about her in the popular Bourne Series in "Bourne Treachery" by Brian Freeman where she plays the character of a seeing eye dog for a CIA operative (Holly). She is also featured in a recent coffee table book "Tails of MSP" where her story of adventures is shared.