

## DEDICATED DOGS

November 2011

In January 2011, the Cabool Alumni Association and the Cabool Development Foundation began organizing a group of dedicated and talented Cabool High School graduates and faculty who wanted to help ensure the successful future of our school and community. We call these individuals “**DEDICATED DOGS.**”

The idea was to harness the talent, experience, resources, and connections of people willing to help, for use by Cabool school and town leadership. To this point we have about 20 individuals who have committed to be DDs. Some success stories have already been accomplished by this group (watch the *Cabool Enterprise* for articles), but, will YOU become a DD? You don't need to do anything more than what you've already been doing in your life. Are you a lawyer, an accountant, a financier, a marketer, or a business executive? Are you a grant writer, an educator, a web developer, an architect? Are you a leader? Or are you just fired up to add a little “world-class athlete” ability to the team, and figure out what position you're good at playing?

So, here's what we'd like to ask of you prospective Dedicated Dogs:

- First, if you have a profession, skill, or knowledge that you would be willing to make available to our community and school as we progress, please contact Aaron Ayer or me. We'll put you in the database and figure out how to leverage your generous donation of time, which we will post on the group's web sites and seek publicity for.
- Second, if there are other members of your class, faculty, or interested friends who you think would make great Dedicated Dogs, please invite them to reach out to us. If you send email or a letter, please be sure to include how you would like to be contacted.
- Third, please let us know of any business opportunities you are interested in pursuing in the Cabool area and how we can help. Also, please let us know potential opportunities you want to recommend for us to investigate. We'll try to keep you updated on projects in which our organizations are involved.

Please contact Kirby or Aaron ([krholmes188@gmail.com](mailto:krholmes188@gmail.com), 618/ 910-1851 or [aaron.ayer@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.ayer@gmail.com), 704/ 582-9557). If you're reading this update, you're probably on the [www.caboolalumni.com](http://www.caboolalumni.com) website, but check out our town a little further at [www.cabooldevelopmentfoundation.com](http://www.cabooldevelopmentfoundation.com), an under-development site dedicated to promoting the town specifically.

We also respect that you may still be too busy, but may still want to help. If so, donations to aid in hiring some of the professional services needed and for rebuilding our alumni association scholarship fund would be very welcome in lieu of your “sweat equity.” If this describes you and you want to send a donation, both the Alumni Association and the Cabool Development Foundation are 501c (3) organizations, and donations are tax deductible. The respective treasurers are: Missy Dotson, Cabool High School Alumni Assn., 2842 Hwy M, Cabool, MO 65689 and/or John Ayer, Cabool Development Foundation, PO Box 931, Cabool, MO 65689.

Some projects with contributions by DDs include:

- Frank Stringer's organization of community businesses behind the idea of a walking trail and town lake off of South Cedar Street. He studied grant possibilities provided by

another DD, Cabool City Administrator, Ron Scheets, and developed a grant submission which has been approved for over \$200,000. His grant submission is now being used as a model for community health grants. Vicki Lynn Woods has provided engineering support for the project and many other DDs are getting behind this effort. For example, Steve Montgomery, Cabool Streets Supervisor and CHS alumnus (Class of 1975), has been “getten er done” with trails and rest areas beyond expectations! He and his co-workers have done a great job. Everyone is encouraged to go and check out the progress. Many citizens are already using the trails.

- Under her guidance, Dr. Kristine (Caldwell) Sutliff’s Missouri State writing classes have written grants for expanding “The Arts” in the Cabool area, internet expansion, and have assisted with telecommunications and marketing worth over \$100,000. She is planning additional Cabool projects for her classes for next year.
- Bob Nichols, Susie Skeen, Dala (Brill) Whittaker, Stacey (Skeen) Matherly, Debbie (Rader) Lemon, et al., have spearheaded the process for bringing a community health care clinic to Cabool through obtaining a nearly \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant. While this has had many starts and stops it is still in the works.
- Although not officially signing up as Dedicated Dogs, a group of players, parents, alumni, and CHS faculty former/current, installed new dugouts and a scoreboard at Jack Cook Memorial Field. The work, lead by Larry Baker and Coach Richie Jester, was completed in time for the CHS Baseball Dog’s first ever District Championship and Quarterfinalist season. Follow-on work continues at the field by many DDs and the CHS Building Trades Class on a facility which will house a concession stand, restrooms, media box, announcers area, storage, and a locker room.

There are many other examples of Dedicated Dogs in action, so watch for updates in the *Cabool Enterprise* and on the two websites shown above. May God bless you and yours.