

A Major League Assist for People with Diabetes and Their Families

Making a difference today... as research gets closer to the diabetes-free world of tomorrow.



Ron & Vicki Santo
DIABETIC ALERT
Dog Foundation

To educate people about the availability and efficacy of diabetic alert dogs and to raise funds in order to assist approved clients with the purchase of a diabetic alert dog.



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The Ron & Vicki Santo Diabetic Alert Dog Foundation is all about making a difference in the here and now. What is needed right now is a 24/7/365 monitor that sounds the alarm when a diabetic's blood sugar level starts to become too high or low.

In the long term, unmanaged spikes in blood sugar invariably lead to heart disease, blindness, kidney disease and amputations. More immediately they can result in comas and death.

Vicki Santo knows this all too well. Her husband, legendary Chicago Cubs third baseman Ron Santo, played his entire career with type 1 diabetes – the only player with type 1 diabetes to ever be elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Retiring from baseball in 1974, complications from Ron's diabetes began developing in 2001, just about the same time "Joker" – a 2-year-old Australian shepard – joined the Santo family.

"He [Joker] had a sense of order about him that was hard to explain," Vicki said. "If things weren't just right, he would sit by me and pant until I fixed the problem. As Joker settled into our lives, he would come to me if Ron was having low sugars. At the time, I didn't know anything about diabetic alert dogs – but we had a natural in Joker."

Kidney failure led to Ron's death in 2010. He had two major goals in life. To be elected into the Hall of Fame and raise money for both diabetes research and helping those now suffering with the disease – which formed the inspiration for the Foundation.

It costs about \$18,000 to train a diabetic alert dog. These dogs have been shown to

sense changes in blood sugar levels up to 30 minutes before any man-made device would ever detect a problem – IF the device happened to be in use at the time. The dogs are with their charges 24/7/365, repeatedly sounding the early alarm of impending trouble. And yes, saving lives.

By going to the Foundation's website you can read the incredible stories. A 4-year-old boy with type 1 diabetes, a 42-year-old woman, a 60-year-old man – just a few of the people whose lives have been changed and saved by their dearest friend, their diabetic alert dog.

Still early in its development, this Scottsdale, Arizona-based Foundation has already won the support of the Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Dodgers. It represents an excellent opportunity for philanthropists wanting to have a major league impact on an organization and see direct and almost immediate results from their investment.

Of course, the ultimate win comes when there is a cure for diabetes. But for the Ron & Vicki Santo Diabetic Alert Dog Foundation, like Ron, it's about being a big playmaker today – helping people with diabetes live productive and independent lives. ■

PHOTO TOP: Ron Santo and some of his very best friends. Scottsdale Financial appreciates the opportunity to have helped in the Foundation's early development following Ron's death.