



Paws of Allegiance

Newsletter of Paws for Purple Hearts

Winter 2016

Open for Service in Fairbanks! PPH Alaska Celebrates Grand Opening

By Betsey Jacobs

Paws for Purple Hearts opened the doors to its Flagship Training Facility in Fairbanks, Alaska, on November 10, 2016. The frigid temperatures and icy roads didn't keep the Golden Heart City from turning out in full force. The Grand Opening Festivities started with a Reception and Ribbon Cutting Thursday evening and ended with the Family Open House on Saturday.

Both events highlighted Paws for Purple Hearts' services to Warriors with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma. Attendees enjoyed a tour of the facility and a service dog demonstration. At Saturday's Open House, each child in attendance was given a "passport" and visited several different activity stations, including making dog toys and dog treats, cupcake decorating, face painting, art, and games.

On hand to celebrate were Paws for Purple Hearts chief operations officer, Dave Platte, and chief executive officer, Greg Sipple, who traveled from Virginia, as well as the client program facilitator, Laura Douglas, from the Rohnert Park, California, office. After the



Top, Ribbon Cutting at the Fairbanks Paws for Purple Hearts Grand Opening. From left: Jennifer Imus, board member, Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, Dave Platte, Laura Douglas, Nathan Collin, Betsey Jacobs, Veteran Kent Storey, Veteran Jeff Bizzarro, Greg Sipple, and Marisa Sharrah, president and CEO, Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Kimberley Maher.



Bottom, Silent Springs FFA members Heidi Faulkner and Abigail and Alayah Brunty at the pet-treat-making activity for visitors to the Open House. Photo by Betsey Jacobs.

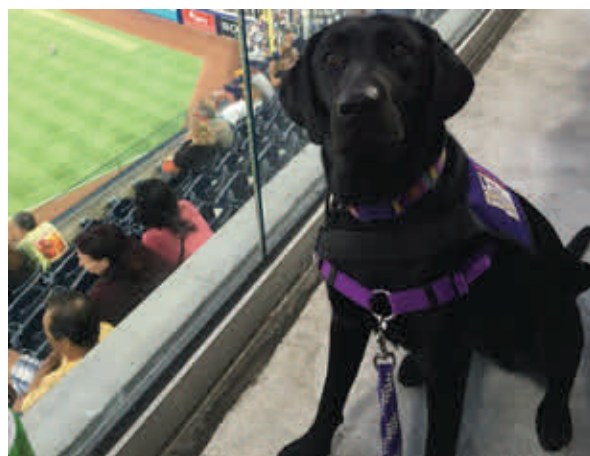
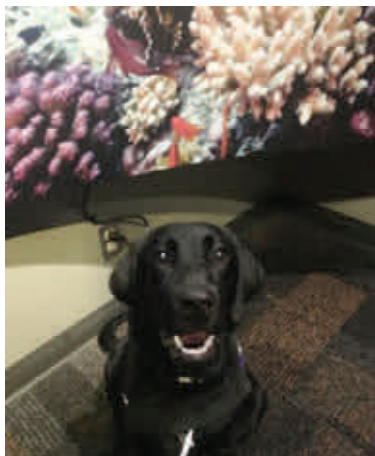
Grand Opening, the Paws for Purple Hearts team was invited to visit Noble Paws for a dog sled ride and kennel tour. Noble Paws is a Fairbanks nonprofit that, like

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San Diego PPH Celebrates Funding, Facility



Selah Marting, above left, and Kristen LaTorre launched the Paws for Purple Hearts San Diego chapter with pups Alameda, above left, and Rae. They are excited and grateful for the generous support of the **Petco Foundation**, which provided a \$50,000 grant that enabled the chapter to obtain a perfect facility in the Sorrento Mesa area! Selah, Kristen, Alameda, and Rae have been busy visiting Petco Park, hosting booths at community events, touring a pumpkin patch, marching to support Veterans, visiting the aquarium, and more! At the Veterans Day Parade, the dogs made many people smile and cheer as they walked by. Selah and Kristen felt very welcomed and appreciated by the Veterans community. Top right photo by Jessica Smielecki. Other photos by Kristen LaTorre.



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Editing and layout of Paws of Allegiance by Pamela S. Hogle

**To Donate Call (877) 422-2606 or
Donate@PawsForPurpleHearts.Org**

Paws for Purple Hearts is licensed by
The Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Military Order of the Purple Heart
Service Foundation, chartered by an Act of Congress for combat-wounded Veterans

Petco Foundation and PPH Partner to “Help Our Heroes”

By Greg Sipple, President and CEO

All five Paws for Purple Hearts locations participated in Petco's Help Our Heroes event on October 15. We are proud of our partnership with Petco and the Petco Foundation, and we are very grateful for their assistance in securing a facility for the San Diego chapter. Its location, just east of the Interstate 5 and 805 merge in the Sorrento Mesa area, is perfect for our purposes.

Paws for Purple Hearts continues to grow. We just celebrated the Grand Opening of our Fairbanks, Alaska, facility. The community support was incredible; we were honored to have many distinguished guests and the participation of FFA, the Chamber of Commerce, and other volunteers and supporters. Our Veterans' testimonials, and of course the dogs, stole the show. The Veterans offered a moving tribute to all in attendance. For some Veterans, addressing a crowd of more than 200, including members of the media, would have been impossible without the support of the Paws for Purple Hearts dogs. Let me tell you now: They shone!

With San Antonio and San Diego celebrating their Grand Openings in 2017, it is critically important that we ask for your continued support. Our operating expenses vary by location; however, on average, we require \$250,000 annually for each chapter.

As the Christmas and Holiday Season approaches, please remember the brave men and women who have served this Great Nation. For those suffering from the visible and invisible wounds of warfare or service, the Holidays present an array of challenges. Your generosity will improve and save the lives of Warriors when they need it most.

If the spirit of the Season touches you deeply, I hope you will consider donating to Paws for Purple Hearts and help us serve Veterans who struggle with the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Trauma, or any of the many kinds of Mobility Impairments that warfare can create.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

Paws for Purple Hearts is grateful to Kinross Fort Knox of Fairbanks, Alaska, for a generous donation.

Fairbanks Grand Opening (From Page 1)

Paws for Purple Hearts, provides greater mobility to people with disabilities — teaching them to run a sled dog team using adaptive dog sleds.

Paws for Purple Hearts Alaska is excited about expanding services to even more Veterans and Service Members in our new Fairbanks Facility. We are grateful to event sponsors and participants, including:

<i>Alaska Dreams</i>	<i>HooDoo Brewing Company</i>
<i>Alaska Universal Productions</i>	<i>Interior Graphics & Printing</i>
<i>Aurora Balloons & Decorating</i>	<i>Jo's Oven</i>
<i>Bad 2 Da Bone BBQ</i>	<i>Pawsitive Dog Training</i>
<i>Dry Cabin String Band</i>	<i>Roundup Steak House</i>
<i>Golden Heart Performing Arts</i>	
<i>Hard Eats Alaska</i>	



Above, Paws for Purple Hearts chief operations officer Dave Platte with Veteran Jeff Bizzarro. Right, chief executive officer Greg Sipple and volunteer Bev Byington.



Photos by Kimberley Maher

Ruby Snacks Alaskan Dog Biscuits
Silent Springs FFA
Squarebanks Face Painting

The Carlson Center
The Odom Corporation
Your Story Wedding and Event Planning

Paws for Purple Hearts Thanks Lauren's Lemonade Stand for Helping Veterans Get Service Dogs!



Lauren Austin, left, and Lexi Hackney poured more than 15 gallons of lemonade to raise \$800 for Paws for Purple Hearts at the 2016 Chickasaw Festival on the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma. Right, Lauren and Lexi pose with members of the Chickasaw Lighthouse Police Department. In addition to raising money, Lauren's Lemonade Stand helps raise awareness of Paws for Purple Hearts and the work it does for Texas Veterans!



Photos by Ryan Austin

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Progress Reports

From Virginia:

The Virginia crew has had a busy fall: Interviewing service dog clients, finding foster homes, presenting to local clubs, participating in CFC events, training with Veterans, and preparing for our fifth dog-in-training to arrive!

The dogs are growing and expanding their skill set each day. Their weekly visits to Poplar Springs Hospital in Petersburg Virginia touch many people.

We are excited to welcome three-year-old Patmon, a Lab-golden cross, to our group! We hope to place him early next year as a facility dog.

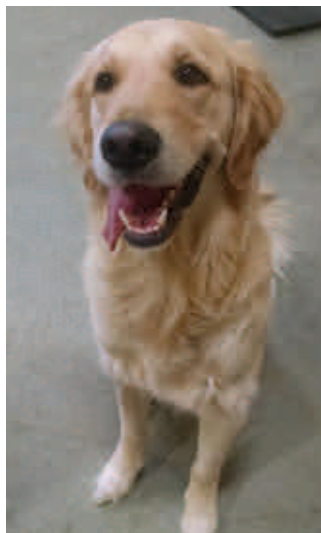


Photo by Alissa Berg

From San Antonio, Texas:

San Antonio pups-in-training Allison and Ruby have full social calendars. They've charmed the community — more than 2,000 costumed dogs and humans celebrating the relationship between pets and owners — at Bark in the Park, at the San Antonio Sunken Gardens. They also braved stormy weather to attend Dia de los Perros in support of Furi-end's Fund; and helped support pet adoption at Talk About It's annual Howliday Party. They even went to a Veterans Day event at a San Antonio Spurs game!



Photo by Lindsey Velasco