

Paws of Allegiance

Spring 2022 Newsletter



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Big News

As you already know, Paws for Purple Hearts has been operating as the first organization of its kind offering Assisted Canine Warrior Therapy® and Top-Tier Service Dogs across the country. We have been operating since 2006, when founder and CEO, Dr. Bonita Bergin, began a research program at Bergin University of Canine Studies alongside the Menlo Park Veterans Administration Medical Center. Our mission at Paws for Purple Hearts is to help improve the lives of America's Warriors facing a variety of mobility challenges and trauma-related conditions by providing Service Dogs and therapeutic

programs. Throughout the years, we have continued to add regions around the United States and are excited to continue that growth. This brings us to our big news: **In 2022, we plan to open three brand new campuses to help us achieve our goal of spreading our reach within your area!**

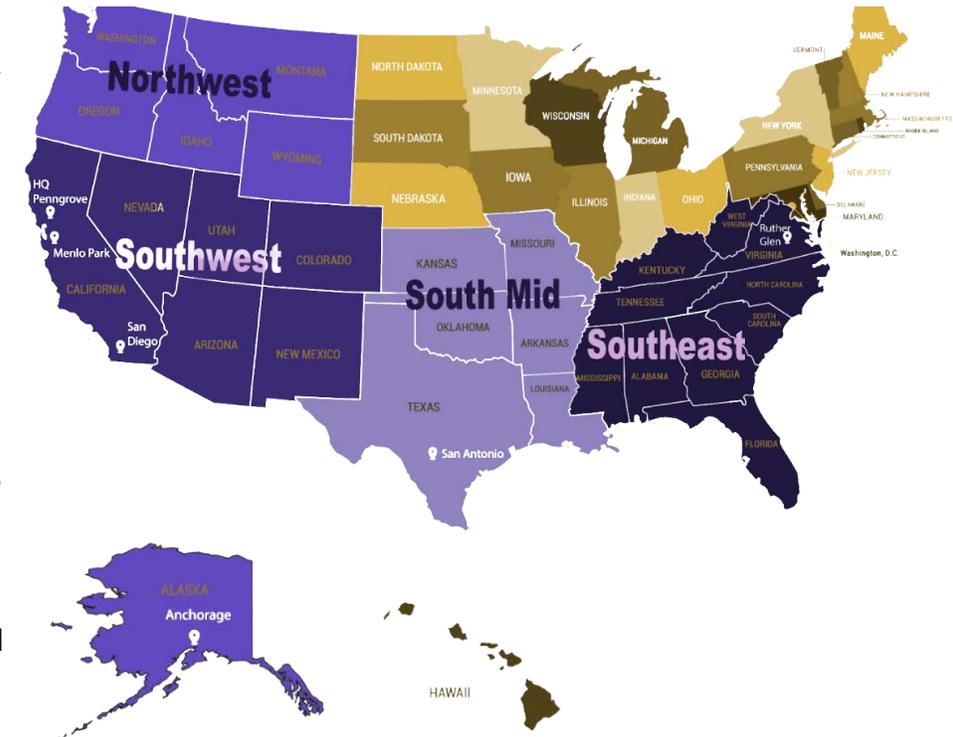
Pawsome Expansion

As Paws for Purple Hearts expands to provide services to Warriors throughout the United States, we are excited to announce the opening of our new Northwest Regional field site in the Seattle/Tacoma, Washington area, and planned expansion in both the North-mid and Northeast regions of the United States.

Many of our donors, volunteers, and readers know that Paws for Purple Hearts has already been serving the Northwest region through our Anchorage, Alaska operation. The implementation of Canine-Assisted Warrior Therapy® and Assistance Dog placement in the Northwest has been extremely successful. However, the need our Warriors have for these life-changing programs is larger still. For this reason, Paws for Purple Hearts is proud to bring its programming to the large military community in these underserved regions.

The new Northwest facility will be led by Cassidy Cooley, a Veteran and Master of Science Graduate from Bergin University of Canine Studies, who brings years of assistance dog experience to the area; alongside PPH Advancement Associate Claire Richardson, who are both thrilled to serve the WA area.

With the expansion to the Northwest in place, we have our eyes and hearts set on creating two more campuses in 2022 to begin offering much needed services to the North Central Lake area and the Northeast coastline of the United States (areas in yellow and brown). Our goal is to offer world-class Service Dogs coast-to-coast and border-to-border. This plan takes us one step closer to realizing that dream. So keep an eye out, you may see a PPH van in your area soon!



Success Story

It's impossible to overlook the support and security these dogs bring to the Servicemen and Women who come to PPH for Canine Assisted Warrior Therapy or a Service Dog. An example of this hope can be seen through Veteran Jason in Alaska who regularly attends our CAWT sessions in Fairbanks. There were no options for animal therapy in AK until PPH moved in and offered our programs to the region.



Jason at our AK Facility

As Jason says, "It is amazing what working with the dogs can do to one's attitude and emotional state. My favorite part then is just being able to learn how to train service dogs for other Veterans. So I highly encourage this program to other Veterans."

Wrap Up

Paws for Purple Hearts is incredibly honored and excited for what lies ahead. Between developing our regions and continuing to graduate new Service Dogs, our future is bright! Very soon, we will carry on with our expansion into the North-Mid and Northeast regions of the United States in order to continue to best serve America's Veteran population. We're also celebrating our first year as an ADI (Assistance Dog International) Accredited Member and can't wait to continue to flourish alongside them. Thank you for all your support!

All articles written by Paws for Purple Hearts Advancement Associate Claire Richardson

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