

# Paws of Allegiance

Summer 2022 Newsletter - National Office



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## PAWS ACT: A Groundbreaking Opportunity

By: Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate

Many of our readers know Paws for Purple Hearts is dedicated to Veterans and our programs are exclusively offered to them, but this year we are taking it one step further from participating in the PAWS Act. You are probably curious as to what the PAWS Act is all about and what it entails? Well we are here to break it down and give you all a glimpse into



Ruther Glen  
Dog-In-Training, David

the science behind our Service Dog Programs! The PAWS Act was brought about by a new bill enacted by Congress and signed by the President of the United States. It had previously been presented to Congress back in 2016 and has gone through many reconstructive changes over the last six years. It is now called "Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members" (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act. This act requires the Veterans Affairs Administrations to implement a five-year program that offers Veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder the opportunity to train with Service Dogs as a portion of their complementary health program. This allows eligible Veterans registered through the VA health care system that have been recommended by a professional mental health care

official to participate in the therapy offered through programs such as ours. Of the five sites authorized, two of our sites out of the five were selected: PPH Alaska and PPH San Antonio! PPH agreed to participate in this five year volunteer program to help prove just how life changing these dogs are to our Veterans and why it is important to continue to promote the Service Dog Industry. Within this five year training program through the VA, our two facilities are proving to the world and our government that Service Dogs do make a difference in the lives of wounded Warriors which has been our mission from the very start.

Paws for Purple Hearts and the other organizations within this PAWS Act are here to show through various studies and research over the course of these five years just how much it matters. We cannot wait to share with you more on this phenomenal opportunity and the impact that it will make. Since we are receiving no funding from the government for providing this program to Veterans, we are more grateful than ever for contributions to our organization from donors like you!

## East Coast Expansion

By Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate



Emma Coenen with Bergin Dog

Paws for Purple Hearts has grown enormously since its founding 11 years ago, and as it continues to grow, we are proud to announce our East Coast expansion!

With our most recent extension being built in our Northwest region of Tacoma, WA, we are also working to build a brand new site in Detroit, MI this fall. Bergin University of Canine Studies Associates Graduate Emma Coenen will be leading this expansion as Senior Program Instructor! Emma has spent the last couple of years since her graduation working for Bergin University of Canine Studies, as well as Good Dog! Service Canines, which has given her the perfect experience to head this move and continue to grow our reach into regions previously untouched! We are proud to be able to bring our programs to Veterans in the North-mid Region and offer new Service Dogs to those who need them most. When we asked her about the new site she said, "I am extremely excited to bring Service Dogs to the Detroit area and continue to grow this industry in an area that could really benefit from it. Looking forward to it!"

We could not be more excited to serve this area, so if you are interested in volunteering, puppy parenting, or just stopping by to see the new location, let us know and we will be happy to show you around! Keep an eye out for a PPH van in your area as we continue to expand nationwide!

## Summertime Pups

By Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate



PPH L Litter at Three Weeks

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At our National Office in Penngrove, CA, we spend months preparing for the birth of our pups so that when they are eventually ready to be delivered, both vet staff on site and the mom are as comfortable as possible. After the birthing process comes the fun part!

We spend the first two weeks getting to know these new babies and learn their little personalities as they continue to develop. You may not think it, but even at just a few days old these newborn puppies can have such a large impact on our lives. Their personalities begin to shine and traits start to develop! Once their eyes and ears are open, we get to start their training! At just three weeks, these puppies are getting ready to learn the most basic commands that will set them up for success in their careers as Service Dogs in Training. With the help of puppy parents, staff, and volunteers, these puppies are going to have a lot of help growing into a fully fledged Service Dog!

## 11 Year Celebration

By Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate

With the month of June coming to a close, the Paws for Purple Hearts team is wrapping up a number of different events! As many of you know, we are celebrating our eleventh year as an organization and have been participating alongside our volunteers and donors in an 11 mile walk-a-thon called Pawsitive Miles for Positive Minds. This fundraising event has opened many doors to wonderful conversations with our volunteers and created connections with our communities. We have been so grateful to see you all march alongside us during this month to help continue to support our mission!

Internally, many of our employees got into the spirit of the fundraiser and were eager participants in celebrating this massive milestone. In these 11 years, it is extremely important to recognize how far we have come as an

organization, especially as we continue to grow into new regions of the country.

Our fundraiser this year was about more than connecting with our community, though, it was also about promoting a healthy mindset, encouraging everyone to take a step away from their world and get outdoors for some mental health time. Through exercising outdoors with others, you can greatly improve your mood and overall day, as well as growing closer with other PPH supporters!

It is a rare treat when we get to join in the fun with our volunteers and donors and we loved getting to meet all of you. We are extremely grateful for all those that participated and want to extend another thank you to everyone who came out and walked those 11 miles!



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**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.**



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