

Paws of Allegiance

Summer 2022 Newsletter - South-Mid Region



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A Cavendar Pupdate

By: Dani Garrouette, Advancement Associate

It is high time for an official Cavendar Pupdate! As some may know, our San Antonio site has an exceptional puppy that joined our team earlier this year. We welcomed this sweet Golden Retriever puppy to our site at the beginning of March from an outside breeding group called Millennium Golden.

The fantastic couple that runs this program were gracious enough to allow us to purchase one of their puppies to add to our team. Not only that, our community partners at Cavender Cares were beyond thrilled at the prospect of our site getting a new puppy, they offered to sponsor him and cover some of the treats and toys that were purchased for him. Because of their generosity, we chose the name "Cavender" for our newest team member and, needless to say, he is a very well-loved boy by the entire PPH and Cavender Cares family. Cavender currently works with his primary trainer, Bella, and has made fantastic progress in such a short amount of time. He loves meeting new people, continuing the fight against sticks and leaves, and playing with all of his doggy friends. Cavender also loves crunchy snacks and taking a



Cavendar at our San Antonio Site

nap while laying on his back, all paws in the air. All this being said, he has been an amazing addition to our Canine-Assisted Warrior Therapy ® sessions. All of our participants love working with him, not just because he is our only “golden boy,” but because his personality brings them so much joy. Our entire San Antonio team is incredibly excited to have him here and we can’t wait to see how much he progresses down the road.

The Big Give 2022

By: Dani Garroutte, Advancement Associate

It’s almost here! The Big Give is quickly approaching, and we are so excited to participate again this year. The Big Give is South Central Texas’ 24-hour day of online giving fueled by the power of generous donors, creative nonprofits, social media, collaboration, and more. The goal of the Big Give is to support local nonprofits committed to making South Central Texas a great



place to live, work, and play. We are grateful to have an opportunity to participate in this online fundraising event once again. This year The Big Give will take place from 6 p.m. Thursday, September 22 through 6 p.m. Friday, September 23, so mark your calendars! We plan to host all kinds of activities, games, live videos, and more on our social media platforms. Be on the lookout on

our Facebook page at @PPHSanAntonio, or on our Instagram at @pphsouthmid to stay up to date with our schedule and activities. We hope to see you then!

Nothing Says Summer Like A Cookout!

By: Dani Garroutte, Advancement Associate



We’re nearing the end of summer, but it’s not too late to have a cookout. We are hosting our very first Summer Cookout Fundraiser! Join us, on August 20th, for some local Bar-B-Q, games, activities and more! We are inviting our community partners and friends to come out as well to promote the services and programs they offer to our military community. We are looking forward to coming together with all of our volunteers, donors, staff and friends, so don’t hesitate and secure your spot now! Registration for this event is free, but if you would like to donate to our organization please feel free to check out our Amazon Gift Registry on our Facebook page at @PPHSanAntonio or at our QR code below. This cookout is open to all members of the community, so bring your friends and

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family. Let's celebrate this summer with good food, fun times, and great people! We hope to see you there!

PAWS Act: Groundbreaking Opportunity

By: Claire Richardson, National 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 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 Servicemembers" (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



**Ruther Glen
Dog-In-Training, David**

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!

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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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