

# Paws of Allegiance

Fall 2022 Newsletter - National Office



**PAWS FOR  
PURPLE HEARTS**  
WARRIORS HELPING WARRIORS®

## IN THIS ISSUE

**FALL-OWING OUR NEXT  
BIG STEPS**

**A GLIMPSE INTO THE DOG  
WORLD**

**11 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**EXTENDING GRATITUDE**

## Fall-Owing Our Next Big Steps

By: Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate

As many of our readers know, we have officially opened two new sites in the United States, located in Detroit, MI and Tacoma, WA. These two sites have already begun cultivating connections in their areas and branched out into their respective communities. Training has been well underway with Senior Dog Instructor Cassidy and Ericson at the Tacoma site, but Senior Dog Instructor Emma Coenen and Trainer Holly Hinote have just started training with their PPH puppies Lois and Nelson! It is so exciting to watch these loving pups grow into incredibly intelligent Service Dogs in training alongside their trainers and even more wonderful to see the relationships they are building with new volunteers.

Another incredible announcement from our National office, two new litters of puppies were born in the span of 48 hours with a total of 17 puppies! The first of our two soon-to-be mothers to begin labor was black labrador Iris who delivered six black labrador puppies and one yellow labrador puppy, all healthy and squirmy! Soon after she was finished with her delivery, golden retriever Nestle began to deliver

Rosie and Her Puppies



her ten black lab and golden retriever puppies. Our talented vet staff on site were beside them throughout the entire process to ensure everything went smoothly and the moms were as comfortable as possible.

As we wrap up the 2022 calendar year here at Paws for Purple Hearts, we are proud of the progress we have made and thrilled to step into 2023 where we hope to expand even more. Through providing our services to as many Warriors as we can throughout the country, we cannot wait to share with you what we have in store in the years to come!

## **A Glimpse Into the Dog World** By Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate



**Shinya Kawasaki and His Canine Brandi**

Paws for Purple Hearts is composed of hard working individuals who all play a key role in making sure our organization runs smoothly and efficiently, but one of the most important roles and responsibilities is run by one unique man, Shinya Kawasaki. Shinya is our Dog Program Director, meaning he facilitates and manages all of the dogs that are at each of our seven facilities. Earlier this year, Shinya was promoted to this role this year after being at PPH for six years. Having grown up with dogs for the bulk of his life, finding relief of his own from his childhood dog helped inspire him to grow into the amazing PPH

employee he is today.

Working out of our National Office, Shinya's work is constant and, as you can imagine, incredibly busy. A normal work week in this position can look like many different things, from compiling reports from the various sites on dog updates to helping deliver puppies at any given time.

A key element for this role is being a major dog lover. No position in this company can be done without having a soft spot for our furry friends, but Shinya knows the ins and outs of Service Dogs more than most. As a Bergin University of Canine Studies graduate, he moved on directly from his position as a student to an employee of the University before being hired at PPH. For over a decade now, Shinya has dedicated his life to helping animals through the earthquake that displaced many animals in his hometown in Japan back in 2011 to today where he ensures only the highest quality Service Dogs are placed.

There is no small role within PPH, but Shinya's is by far one of the most crucial to our day to day operations and we want to take this opportunity to showcase his efforts within our institution. Thank you Shinya for all of your hard work and dedication to keeping Paws for Purple Hearts at the forefront of the Service Dog Industry!



**Shinya With His Son Zen and Dog Brandi**

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## 11 Years of Service

By Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate

Over the course of the last 11 years, Paws for Purple Hearts has been proud to place over 100 Service Dogs to our nation's Warriors and have held over 15,000 sessions with VAs all over the country. Now, in our eleventh year, we have seven sites with multiple trainers, dogs, and staff to continue to provide the highest quality services and Service Dogs. On our birthday this year, all of our regions celebrated virtually and in person through our amazing walk-a-thon that allowed all of us to meet with our supporters! As this year comes to a close, we want you all to know how appreciative we are of those who came out and continue to support all our hard work!

## Extending Gratitude

By Claire Richardson, Advancement Associate



Bay Area Service Dog-in-Training Oakley

It's not often we as an organization are able to personally thank our donors, volunteers, and involved individuals that do so much for us every

every day. Whether you are a monthly donor or a one time donor, the donations you make help every single one of our sites around the country continue to graduate high-quality Service Dogs to our nation's Warriors. We thank you tirelessly for these contributions that you continue to make to ensure that our mission develops into new regions and flourishes in the years to come.

It takes dedication and hard work to be a Paws for Purple Hearts volunteer, especially when it comes to puppy raising and being a crucial part of our Service Dog in training process. From dinners to painting, you all show up and come out to support our cause and we are immensely grateful. It is no small feat to be a PPH volunteer and we hope you can see how important you are to our staff.

And to those who simply see us at events and inquire about our organization, thank you for learning more about who we are and sharing any of that information to your friends and loved ones. It is you that helps spread awareness of our mission and allow new people to hear about our opportunities for volunteering and donating. Even if it is just a simple follow on our social media accounts, you are now becoming a part of the PPH family and we are so glad to have you here.

So, thank you to all those involved with us. We hope you know how important you are to all of us here at Paws for Purple Hearts and we cannot wait for you to join us as we head into the new year.



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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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