

Paws of Allegiance

Spring 2023 Newsletter - Southeast Region



IN THIS ISSUE

CAWT: WARRIORS
HELPING WARRIORS

GRADUATION FOLLOW
UP

STEWARDSHIP: PASSING
ALONG YOUR TIME,
TALENT, & TREASURE

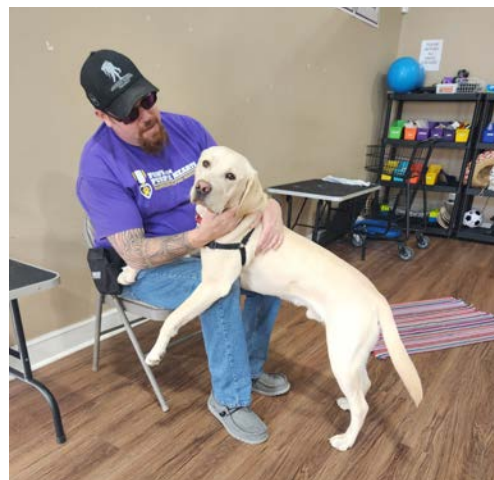
OUT & ABOUT

Canine Assisted Warrior Therapy®: Warriors Helping Warriors

By: Genevieve Timpone, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Here at Paws for Purple Hearts, we have a unique program known as Canine-Assisted Warrior Therapy® (CAWT®). Under the guidance of therapists and our Program Instructors, our Warriors facing trauma related challenges reinforce commands for our Service Dogs-In-Training.

Working with our dogs helps our patients with a Traumatic Brain Injury rebuild their memory recall by learning and repeating commands. Our patients' motor skills are strengthened by doing activities such as walking our dogs through obstacle courses and taking retrieved items from their mouths.



**Veteran Jay with Service
Dog-In-Training Nemo**

Our dogs are a calming presence our Warriors with PTSD can focus on when feeling anxious. Warriors are paired with the same dog each session to help them relearn how to bond and build personal connections. Simply petting our dogs soothes their nerves and releases chemicals, such as oxytocin, that promote healing.

One of our CAWT® participants, Jay, says, "I cried in the parking

lot after my first session - because the chaos that raged constantly in my head was... quiet....I'm forever grateful for the lessons that have been imparted upon me by those furry angels. PPH has saved my life more than once and I'm moved to tears when I think about the difference they've made for me and other Veterans like me."

Through CAWT® sessions, our Warriors find healing through helping! Not only do our Warriors benefit from the therapy themselves, they feel a greater sense of purpose knowing that they are training a "Battle-Buddy" for a fellow wounded warrior. Thanks to the generous support from people like you, we are able to provide Canine-Assisted Warrior Therapy® for free to our Warriors!

Graduation Follow Up

By: Genevieve Timpone, Marketing & Communications Specialist



Kenneth and Hicks Visiting our Ruther Glen Facility

Back in October, we held our Client Training and Graduation/Pairing ceremony for two of our Service Dogs. Now, four months later, we interviewed our Warriors to see how our dogs have impacted their lives.

Arriaga was placed with Retired Army Major Joe in

Alaska. Joe says, "Arriaga has been a positive influence in my life. He's made me feel a lot better and a lot happier in general. I have less anxiety when going out to the store and having him there with me. He's fitting right in, he and my other lab are buddies. My Kids love him, but know not to distract him while he's working, but the moment I take his vest off he's another member of the family."

Hicks was placed with Kenneth, a retired Master Sergeant in the Marines. Kenneth says, "As with any relationship the bond is developing. We're learning more about each other. Hicks is learning more about my idiosyncrasies. When I'm in my workshop I get focused on my work and get over tired and can easily injure myself with my tools. Hicks will get off his cot and nudge my leg and follow me around until I take a break. During stressful situations he diffuses tension. Unsolicited, Hicks got me my wheelchair when I was limping."

We're so proud of Arriaga and Hicks! They worked so hard through training and now they are serving their highest purpose of helping America's Warriors!

Stewardship: Passing Along Your Time, Talent & Treasure

By: Board Member Lt. Col. Jeffery Camp

There are many examples on social media of people paying it forward. The idea of paying for another's coffee or food order may make some feel better about their day; however, I would suggest a longer-term commitment. Instead of one moment of 'paying it forward', how about a life time of paying it forward?

While many think that giving to others means giving money, I am going to suggest that it is more than that. When was the last time you donated your time or your talent? While it is true that all organizations need monetary donations to survive, many need your time and talents. While giving money provides some instant gratification, making a longer commitment by volunteering your time and talents can be even more rewarding.

Follow Paws for Purple Hearts on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram

Many charities need help collecting used items like clothing, blankets or canned goods. You can make a difference by donating your time to help collect needed supplies, handing out information pamphlets, cleaning up kennels or socializing puppies. All of these activities take time and help your charity by saving them money. So, if you would like to make a lasting 'pay it forward' consider being a steward of your local charity. By donating your time and talent, you can make a difference to people all over the world.



Staff and Volunteers at our Virginia facility

Out & About

By: Danielle Stockbridge, Virginia Site Manager

While you all know how important training top-tier Assistance Dogs and providing our industry leading Canine-Assisted Warrior Therapy® is to Paws for Purple Hearts, there's a third part to our mission that we value just as highly: educating the public about the important role dogs play in helping Warriors along the road to recovery. These past few months, our Southeast team has been so lucky to have had the opportunity to do just that.

In November, Booth, a two year old black labrador retriever and her trainer, Senior Program Instructor Heather Martin, traveled to Nashville, Tennessee

Follow Paws for Purple Hearts on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram



Instructor Mami and Jeanette at the Caroline County Polar Plunge

with board member Lt. Col. Jeffery Camp to help at The Wilkow Majority for the Veteran's Day Fundraiser. They were greeted by a line out the door of people celebrating our Veterans. The team had the opportunity to share Paws for Purple Hearts programming while learning about the other amazing resources available for our Warriors. It was an honor for PPH to be invited on such a large broadcast.

In February, Jeanette and David watched from the sidelines as several of our volunteers and staff members took a cold swim into Lake Land'or. The Caroline County Polar Plunge is a community event that focuses on educating the public about all the hard work being done by nonprofits in the community. We were so excited to join this event for the first time this year and so thankful to spread the word of our mission to support America's Warriors!!





Paws for Purple Hearts

7404 Commerce Way, Unit D
Ruther Glen, VA. 22546

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #470
SANTA ROSA CA

Paws for Purple Hearts Board of Directors

Mark Quattrocchi, Chairperson
Dave Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer
Bonita Bergin, PPH President/CEO
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Camp (Retired), Member
Col. David Rabb (Retired), Member
Rob Rutherford, Esquire, Member
Roy Hurd, Member
Col. John Lemondes (Retired), Member

Facebook: @pphVirginia
Instagram: @pphSoutheast

Southeast Region

Regional Headquarters:

7404 Commerce Way
Ruther Glen, VA 22546
Unit D

(804) 589-0077

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.



To donate, text PURPLEPAWS to 707070 or visit www.paws4ph.org/donate