

Paws of Allegiance

Spring 2023 Newsletter - South-Mid Region



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New Year, New Beginnings

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Spring is the time for plans, projects, and new beginnings. As we continue into our 12th year as a charitable organization, we continue to grow and expand our reach to assist as many of our Warriors as possible. And while we are growing and changing, we want to highlight a significant change and achievement at our San Antonio site. We have recently moved into our newest facility on the Northwest side of San Antonio after calling the Southwest side home for the last five years. We are excited about this new step for our team and in a matter of weeks, we have already been welcomed by the community with open arms and with new friends.



We celebrated the grand opening of our new facility on January 28th, 2023, and were humbled to have had so many of our friends, family, volunteers, community partners, and Warrior participants join us to celebrate this new chapter for our San Antonio site. Our friends from Dos Perros Coffee also came to celebrate our big day by selling their fantastic coffee and delicious beignets. We look forward to all of the new memories and friendships we will be making, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for our San Antonio Team.



Dos Perros Coffee Serving Our Guests!



Senior Program Instructor Erica Horn & Linda Performing Lap

that comes through our doors. We are very quickly nearing our first year completed of this pilot program and can't wait to see what else is in store for us!

As a reminder, this pilot program will be ongoing for five years. While we are not receiving funding from the government for providing this program to Veterans, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support and financial contributions that we receive from community members and from donors like you!

PAWS Act Developments

It's time for another PAWS Act update! For those who may not already be aware, Paws for Purple Hearts is one of the few organizations selected to participate in the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) Act of 2021, passed by Congress and signed by the President. Of the five selected sites nationwide, two are from Paws for Purple Hearts, specifically: PPH San Antonio and PPH Alaska.

Since our last update about this pilot program, PPH San Antonio is halfway through Cohort #4 and has started Cohort #5. Our site has shown such great strides with these PAWS Act sessions that we have added an additional Cohort weekly session to help serve more of our Warriors. Through these weekly sessions, we've also had some participants come back as Volunteers and consistent supporters of our organization and mission. Many of our past participants even joined us at our Open House to celebrate our new facility! It has been such a great pleasure working and getting to know each person

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Major Pupdates!

Did you know that by the end of 2022, we had welcomed three new puppies to our San Antonio team? Well, say hello to Joy, Moore, and Penn! Joy arrived in San Antonio in September 2022, while Moore and Penn joined in October 2022. These three pups-in-training have helped make such a significant impact on our Warriors through our Canine Assisted Warrior Therapy® sessions.

Little Joy has already been implemented into our CAWT® sessions as well as our PAWS Act cohorts. While Moore and Penn are our youngest team members, they have already been getting their paws wet with session work and are officially participating in PAWS Act sessions with Cohort #5! These pups have big vests to fill, but they are quickly making waves with our Warrior participants.

Not only are these young pups jumping into sessions like champs, but they are also going out and about in the community taking part in our community outreach events and conducting training



Paws for Purple Hearts: Joy

on various field trips. Joy joined us in visiting the UTSA Center for Military Affiliated Students at the University of Texas at San Antonio and did wonderfully greeting all the student Veterans there. Meanwhile, Moore and Penn have been going on field trips to places like the pet store and even a Movie in the Park at the Tower of the Americas!

Do you want to stay updated on these pups and their journeys to becoming Service Dogs? Check out our Facebook page at @PPHSanAntonio, or on our Instagram at @pphsouthmid to stay updated with these puppies-in-training or any of our other Service Dogs-In-Training at our site!



Paws for Purple Hearts: Penn



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Paws for Purple Hearts

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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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