

Paws of Allegiance

Summer 2023 Newsletter - South-Mid Region



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

IN THIS ISSUE

TROPIC LIKE IT'S HOT!

¡VIVA LA FIESTA!

PAWS ACT UPDATES

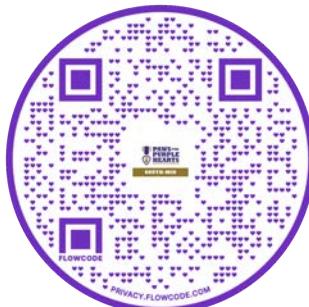
BIG GIVE IN 2023

Tropic Like It's Hot!

By: Dani Garroutte, Marketing & Communications Specialist

It's summertime again and we are gearing up for our 2nd Annual Warriors Cookout Fundraiser! Join us on August 5th, for some local BBQ, games, activities, a silent auction, and more! This year, we are partnered with Valor Healthcare and we were selected as the beneficiary for their 2023 Vets 4 Valor fundraiser!

We will also be holding a Resource Fair for our community partners to promote the services and programs they offer to our military community. We are looking forward to coming together with our volunteers, donors, staff, and friends, so don't hesitate and secure your spot now!



**Donate online through our
Amazon Gift registry!**



¡Viva la Fiesta!

By: Dani Garrouette, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Our PPH San Antonio team was excited to participate in Fiesta 2023! For those of you outside of the Alamo City, Fiesta is a 10-day annual celebration to celebrate San Antonio's rich and diverse history. Being a part of this community has allowed the PPH San Antonio team to take part in many of the events and festivities that revolve around Fiesta.

A little bit of history, Fiesta takes place each April to honor the memory of the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto, celebrating the diverse heritage, culture and spirit that is our beautiful city. It is a phenomenon unique to San Antonio, with

events happening all over town! From brightly colored outfits, to cowboy boots, to the unique tradition of Fiesta medals, everyone is able to sport and support their favorite organizations! With almost two weeks of events, the whole city comes together to make this celebration a success. Businesses, organizations, and MANY volunteers from all over the city help and host different events. From the Fiesta Oyster Bake to the Battle of the Flowers Parade, there are activities for everyone to enjoy during Fiesta. The highlight event for the San Antonio team was the Fiesta Pooch Parade, hosted by Therapy Animals of San Antonio. We loved sharing our story and resources with the community! This is the second year PPH San Antonio was able to participate in this event, and for the first time (certainly not last!), our very own Fiesta medals. These one-of-a-kind pieces, sponsored by our partner Cavender Cares, feature one of our Service Dogs-In-Training, Cavender!

We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to take part in this quintessential San Antonio tradition and have our first Fiesta medal! Be on the lookout for the 2023 Fiesta Season and medals! Which puppy do you think will be featured next?!



Chapman posing with our first ever Fiesta medal!

PAWS Act Update

By: Dani Garrouette, Marketing & Communications Specialist

It is time for a PAWS Act update! If you recall, Paws for Purple Hearts is one of the few organizations selected to participate in the "Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members" (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act of 2021 pilot program, passed by Congress and signed by the President. Of the five selected organizations, two Paws for Purple Hearts sites were selected: PPH San Antonio and PPH Alaska.

Since our last update of this pilot program, PPH San Antonio has officially completed one full year of the PAWS Act pilot program and has completed SIX cohorts! Our site has made such great strides with these PAWS Act sessions that we have added an

additional Cohort session to help serve more of our Warriors. Through these weekly sessions, we've also had some participants come back as Volunteers, Puppy Parents, and consistent supporters of our



Linda demonstrating the "Lay On" command.

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organization and mission. It has been such a great pleasure working and getting to know each person that comes through our doors. As a reminder, this is an ongoing pilot program and will continue through 2027. While we do not receive any funding from the government for providing this wonderful program, we are grateful for the continued support and contributions from community members like you!

Big Give in 2023

By: Martha Schoenewe, Site Manager

Walking in with his gaze averted and shoulders slumped, veteran Barrett* was a picture of quiet melancholy. From the time Barrett first interacted with our canines, his demeanor shifted and a spark ignited. By the end of that session, Barrett looked brighter and even stood taller, seemingly restoring his previous self. At that moment I knew that this year would be special.



Impacting the lives of veterans like Barrett is why we are all here, participating in the innovative family that is Paws for Purple Hearts. In that spirit, we are thrilled to share our inaugural Golden Giving VIP Event! This two-hour precursor to the 2023 San Antonio Big Give will be held on September 16th at the Boiler House at the Pearl. It offers a new opportunity to learn about the impact that our Service Dogs-In-Training have had on local veterans, while providing a means of intentional philanthropy.

Together with our partners at GM Financial, Cavender Cares, and the Boiler House at the Pearl, this major fundraising event features a silent auction, the chance to mingle with some of our Service Dogs-In-Training, and to meet some of the special veterans whose lives and hearts have been touched by our pups. We cannot let this opportunity for action fall to the deck.

We must embark on the mission to Give Big in order to assist the ever-growing number of veterans who need physical and mental health support. Our goals are ambitious, our mission is critical, and we need you to help make it happen. While you may not be here in San Antonio, we have your six! Follow our social media to fetch the link to our limited-time-only silent auction, and give big to the warriors who gave for us.

SIT to help:

- 🐾 Share our social media events (FB @PPHSanAntonio, IG @pphsouthmid)
- 🐾 Invite your friends and business partners to give
- 🐾 Teach others how PPH has impacted your life

*The name of the participant has been changed to protect their privacy.



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Paws for Purple Hearts

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San Antonio, TX 78249

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South-Mid Region

Regional Headquarters:
San Antonio, Texas (210) 526-0100

5119 Beckwith Blvd Ste 106 San Antonio,
TX 78249

Paws for Purple Hearts President & CEO

Lt. Col. Jeffery Camp (Retired)

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