

Paws of Allegiance

Spring 2023 Newsletter - Southeast Region



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Expanded Services for Those Who Have Served

By: Genevieve Timpone, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Thanks to the generous support from our donors, Paws for Purple Hearts continues to grow and serve more of our Warriors! We recently added a new group to our Canine-Assisted Warrior Therapy® program for blind and low-vision Veterans! In partnership with VISOR -Visual Impairment Services Outpatient Rehabilitation- from the Richmond VA, Warriors attend five weekly therapy sessions with our Service Dogs-In-Training where they reinforce the training of our dogs as well as develop skills for personal independence and reintegration into the community and family environment. These sessions are individualized with a Program Instructor and dog being paired with each participant.



David with VISOR Canine Assisted Warrior Therapy® Participant

During these sessions, Warriors relearn how to build emotional bonds in a safe environment through touch, grooming, and interaction with our dogs. Participants build confidence navigating through obstacle courses, and utilizing Service Commands such as having our dogs press buttons and retrieve items. Warriors are guided through anxiety reduction techniques, through our Canine Massage for instance, and through our PTSD-related commands such as “nudge” in which our dogs will nudge their handler displaying anxiety to break negative trains of thought, and “lay-on” where our dogs will apply calming, full body pressure to the Warrior. The impact of interacting with dogs on mental health and overall quality of life cannot be overstated, and we are excited to be able to offer another form of accessible therapy for our Warriors with low vision!

Puppy Parents Open Their Hearts & Their Homes!

By: Genevieve Timpone, Marketing & Communications Specialist

As Paws For Purple Hearts continues to expand, we are training more and more Service Dogs at a time. Although this allows us to serve even more Warriors, it also means we have an even bigger need for more Puppy Parents! Puppy Parents are wonderful volunteers who house our Service Dog-In-Training over each weekend and holidays.

Depending on the stage of the dog’s training, Puppy Parents may be given a “Service Dog-In-Training” vest that allows public access to places such as grocery stores and restaurants. Puppy Parents are provided with training in care and handling of our dogs as well as with all the food and supplies that they may need over our dogs’ stay.



Booth Alongside Puppy Parent Carolyn

Being a Puppy Parent is a big, but very noble responsibility. If you feel the call to open up your home to one of our Service Dogs-In-Training, please visit paws4ph.org/volunteer.

Please know that you will be an invaluable part of preparing our Service Dog-In-Training for their ultimate goal of serving a Warrior in need. We think the world of you!



Booth on a Field Trip with Puppy Parent Carolyn

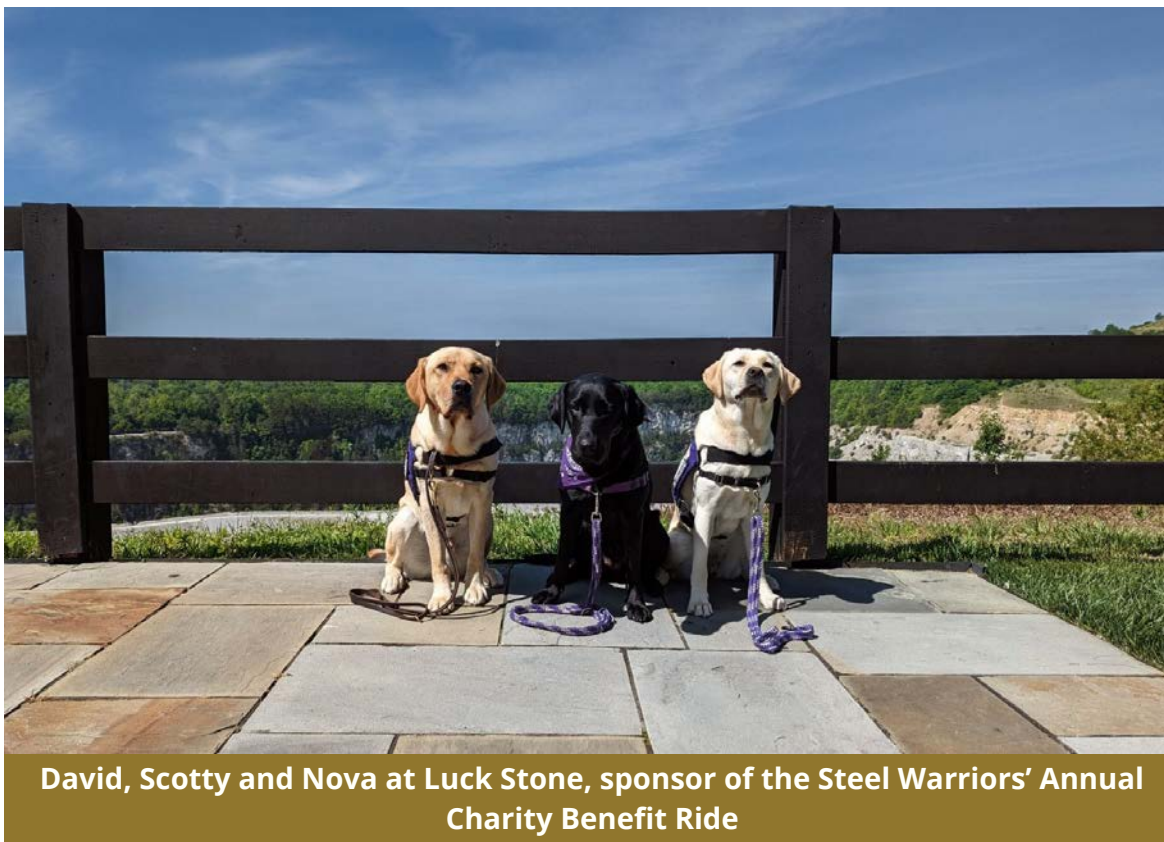
They give the dogs experience living in a home environment away from their trainers, exposure to interacting with new people, and some well-deserved rest and relaxation after a week of training!

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

PPH Pups Shaking Paws with the Public!

By: Danielle Stockbridge, Virginia Site Manager

Paws for Purple Hearts Service Dogs-In-Training are a ray of sunshine in the community with their sweet demeanors and purple vests. This Summer, our dogs have been out and about enjoying meeting the public while helping to teach people about the valuable impact a Service Dog can have on Veterans.



In April, Jeanette and Delta tackled the Charlotte Tunnels to Towers Climb in remembrance of the climb our first responders made at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. In May, Nova, David and Scotty joined the Steel Warriors for their annual Charity Benefit Ride. The group raised an incredible \$5,000 in support of Paws for Purple Hearts programming. On Memorial Day, the dogs of PPH Virginia held their tails high walking in The Directors of the American Veterans Center's National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. It was an incredible way to honor those military members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

This Summer, you'll be able to find our dogs at the Old Irish Brogue in Falls Church, Virginia, the Whiskey Creek Golf Course in Ijamsville, Maryland, and Spring Arbor in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Keep an eye on our website at paws4ph.org for up to date information about these and other PPH events in your area!



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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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