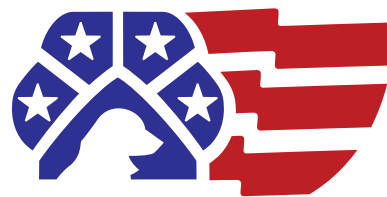


PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

WIN! Patriot PAWS recently entered into an agreement with the *SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center* in Dallas to evaluate rescued dogs as potential service dog candidates. Dogs meeting the criteria are fostered by Patriot PAWS for a time period of thirty days during which they receive basic foundation training and temperament testing. If a dog is deemed suitable to continue in the service dog program, the dog will enter into our prison program for additional training. If the dog is not deemed suitable, it will be returned to the SPCA having received basic training and a temperament evaluation making it potentially more adoptable to the general public. The first dog acquired by Patriot PAWS under this new agreement is a male black Lab mix named Rocky who is currently in the service dog training program.



WIN! The agreement that Patriot PAWS has with the *Texas Department of Criminal Justice* to teach carefully-screened female inmates to train service dogs continues to give the participating offenders skills they can use to make a living once they are paroled. Patriot PAWS currently employs two of the paroled trainers, and many others have gone on to work in dog-related fields as dog trainers, groomers or kennel workers. Additionally, the recidivism rate among the paroled trainers is substantially lower than the state average making the program an even bigger success.

WIN! The very reason that *Patriot PAWS* exists is to better the lives of disabled veterans through the assistance and love of a service dog. Restoring physical and emotional independence, dealing with PTSD issues and lessening the burden of care on family members are only some of the many ways that a service dog can change the life of a disabled veteran for the better.

Giving rescued dogs a chance to serve, teaching inmates to train dogs and making the lives of disabled veterans better...it's a **win-win-win** scenario for everyone involved, and Patriot PAWS would like to thank everyone who helps to make it all possible!





LETTER FROM LORI

One of my favorite stories is about a little blind boy who was sitting on some steps with a hat by his feet and a sign that read,

**I am blind.
Please help.**

There were only a few coins in the hat. A man walking by stopped and put some coins in the hat. He then picked up the sign, turned it around and wrote something on the back before placing it back by the hat and walking away. Soon, the hat began filling up as more and more people stopped to help the little boy. The man who had changed the sign later walked back by, and the little boy, recognizing his footsteps, asked him, "Are you the one who changed my sign? What did you write?" The man answered, "I said what you said but in a different way. I wrote,

**Today is a
beautiful day, but
I cannot see it.**

Both signs told people that the little boy was blind, but the second one made them feel fortunate that they could see. The moral of the story is to be thankful for what you have and to help those in need. Whether with coins or with service dogs, helping someone in need is a good way to make any day a beautiful day. You just have to see it with your heart.

VETERAN MICHAEL BARNER AND MARTI

Army PFC Michael "Gechee" Barner of Los Angeles, CA, served two tours in Vietnam. He was wounded multiple times while there including suffering a traumatic brain injury. He was also exposed to Agent Orange which has resulted in severe neuropathy causing poor balance and frequent falls. Additionally, Michael suffers from PTSD-related issues including anxiety, flashbacks and grief and numerous other physical ailments including losing consciousness due to low blood pressure.

In May 2013, Michael received service dog Marti, a female black Lab. Marti has brought Michael a sense of responsibility and regularity to his life. She senses when he is in pain and understands that he must take his medication and wait for it to work before he will feel well enough to play with her or take her outside. Marti also understands that when Michael's legs are hurting, the heat from her body lying across his legs makes



them feel better. When they are out walking, Marti puts herself in front of Michael at curbs to keep him from falling off them into the street. Michael says that since getting Marti, he feels that he is truly home for the first time since coming back from Vietnam and that he finally has a family...Patriot PAWS.

ELI'S CORNER

Most would agree that summer unofficially starts with Memorial Day in May, reaches its highlight with Independence Day in July and ends with Labor Day in September. But somewhere among all the barbecues and fireworks and sales at the mall, the reasons for these holidays seem to get lost. I mean, how many of us actually stop and take a moment on Memorial Day to think about all those who gave their lives to preserve our freedom? And why do we watch fireworks on Independence Day? Is it solely for our entertainment, or is it to commemorate those "bombs bursting in air" that we sing about in our National Anthem? Perhaps we identify most with Labor Day, our day to celebrate the American worker, because that includes most of us, even dog trainer cats like me.

Now, I'm a Texas cat and proud of it, just as I'm sure you have pride in your home state. We have friendly sports rivalries between our states, and we even

speak with different accents (me-ow, y'all), but we're all Americans. We share a common history of hard-won and hard-preserved freedom thanks to all of our brave men and women in uniform, past and present, which is why Patriot PAWS serves disabled veterans in every state, not just Texas. No matter which state they're from, those in uniform serve all of us, and all of us owe them a debt of gratitude.

So this summer, enjoy all those barbecues, fireworks and mall sales, but also take a moment to remember those who serve or have served because they're the ones who make them all possible.

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli





VETERAN TOM WARD AND MADDY

Marine LCpl Tom Ward lives in Myrtle Grove, NC, with his wife, Mary. Tom suffers from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) which is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS has already taken his upper body strength, but Tom is determined to keep moving and remains optimistic. After hearing about Patriot PAWS from another PAWS recipient at an ALS forum, he decided to apply for his own service dog to help him have as many tomorrows as possible.

In May 2013, Tom received service dog Maddy, a female yellow Lab. According to Tom, "Every single day, Maddy brings me joy. Maddy not only eases that sense of hopelessness but adds a wonderful new dimension. For example, when I need my hat, she gets it for me. When I drop things, and I do drop things often, she picks them up for me. More than anything, I love it when Maddy 'tells' me I'm tired and I need to sit down before I squander too much energy. She is this man's best friend. Thank you, Patriot PAWS."



VETERAN BRAD MITCHELL AND T-BOONE

Sgt. Bradley (Brad) Mitchell has been in the Army for six years. He served two tours in Afghanistan where he was a unit commander and was awarded a Bronze Star. He is currently an Army Reservist and lives in Tryon, OK with his wife, Tabitha, and two sons, Malachi and Stetson.

During his first tour, Brad was in the vicinity of a number of bomb blasts and suffered a traumatic brain injury that he was unaware of until symptoms in the form of seizures surfaced during his second tour. Brad also suffers from PTSD and a sleep disorder. His hope in getting a service dog was to become independent again and get back the part of his life that his injuries took away.

In May 2013, Brad received T-Boone, a male yellow Lab. T-Boone has given Brad a sense of security which allows him to now sleep several hours straight through and more easily go into crowds. He also has the confidence to be alone knowing that T-Boone will seek help if he has a seizure. "T-Boone is so smart and has already done so much. I don't know what we would do without him."

VETERAN DUSTIN DEWEERD AND GUNNY

Army SPC Dustin Deweerd of Dallas, TX, served in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He suffers from PTSD-related issues including anxiety attacks, blood pressure spikes and poor sleep. Dustin lived alone, so when he heard of Patriot PAWS through a VA doctor, he decided to apply hoping that a service dog would not only help him in dealing with his PTSD issues but be a sort of natural medicine



VETERAN DELANO SMITH AND CORYE

Army SGT Delano Smith lives in Radcliff, KY, with his wife, Melissa. Delano served in both the Gulf War and Iraq. He was in multiple explosions which left him with a traumatic brain injury resulting in balance issues and migraines. Delano also suffers from severe PTSD issues including nightmares and flashbacks triggered by everyday lights and noise. He heard about Patriot PAWS through Wounded Warriors.

In May 2013, Delano received service dog Corye, a female black Lab. During the initial graduation work sessions at the training center where each veteran works with each dog who is available for placement, Delano had a flashback triggered by a camera flash. Corye bolted to him to distract him and bring him back to the present making it evident that Corye had chosen Delano as her person to serve. Since receiving Corye, Delano says, "I have really bonded with Corye, she...keeps me calmer than I used to be." Corye has helped Delano tolerate a lightning storm and a flashing light on a cell phone and has made it possible for him to spend longer periods of time playing with his children and even to go bowling, things that he once found difficult because of the noise. "Thank you all from the very center of my heart."

by the company he would provide.

In May 2013, Dustin received service dog Gunny, a male yellow Lab. According to Dustin, "Gunny has made it a joy to live in my house. I feel as though he has leveled me out...and has made me more calm...I feel as though our bond is strong and becoming stronger. Gunny is truly amazing. I had no idea he would be so loving."

SPOTLIGHT ON RECENT FUNDRAISERS

FEBRUARY

A jazz concert by Jennifer Smith, with special guest Boy Katindig, was held at the MCL Grand Theatre in Lewisville to benefit Patriot PAWS.

MARCH

Office Interiors Group (OIG) held a silent auction and happy hour benefiting Patriot PAWS. Linda Hood also paid a visit to the training center and used her office interior design skills to map out new furniture for the newly renovated trainers office for which OIG donated the furniture. Now we have a very comfortable and functional space in which to work while training, planning and preparing dogs for graduation.

MAY

Once again, the annual benefit for Patriot PAWS was held with auction and fundraising efforts by Frances and Kenneth Caplinger of the VFW Post 4011 in Greenville, TX.

JUNE

Two charity golf tournaments were held benefiting Patriot PAWS in June.

The Dallas Assembly of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew held their second annual Patriot PAWS Charity Golf Tournament with Patriot PAWS as the sole beneficiary. 100 golfers participated and major sponsors included Fritz Industries, Standardized Controls, Petco Foundation/Petco Marketing, Allies in Service, Roger Staubach and Southwest Airlines. Business sponsors included Accurate Signs, American National Bank, Aussie Pet Mobile Grooming, J&J Landscapes, Pet Mobile Pet Hospital, Riddell Plumbing, Rockwall Marine, Soulman's BBQ, Subway, Supercuts Mesquite, Triple A Muffler Complete Car Care, Verma Family Dentistry and Willard Heating & Air. Patriot PAWS recipient Mike McHale and his service dog Cappuccino were in attendance and demonstrated for those present the many things that a service dog can do.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association TX23-1 Chapter also held a golf tournament with Patriot PAWS as a beneficiary. Approximately 200 golfers participated including a number of local celebrities.

Patriot PAWS would like to thank all of the hosts, sponsors and participants of these fundraisers for their generosity and support. Call our Business Development Coordinator for ideas and promotional materials for your fundraiser.



JAZZ IS READY FOR GOLF AT THE SUMMER TOURNAMENTS

WHO IS PATRIOT PAWS SERVICE DOGS?

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Through our program disabled veterans, who receive service dogs **free of charge**, regain lost independence and emotional stability. Prison inmates, who have an active part in training the service dogs, have the opportunity to learn a new vocation and give back to society while incarcerated. Rescue and shelter dogs are given a new lease on life and will help to change people's lives. Caring for one of our dogs-in-training can cost up to \$30,000. **Only through tax-deductible donations are we able continue our mission of helping disabled veterans.**

DONATE TODAY AT: WWW.PATRIOTPAWS.ORG

We accept all major credit cards (online or over the phone), cash, checks and money orders. A return envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience.

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone with a donation (remember to send us information so an acknowledgment can be sent)
- Matching your employee's donation
- Pledging for a 3-year period
- Becoming an ambassador
- Conducting a fundraiser
- Volunteering or becoming a puppy raiser

PATRIOT PAWS SERVICE DOGS IS LOCATED AT 254 RANCH TRAIL, ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75032
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT PATRIOTPAWS.ORG
OR CALL **972-772-3282**

