



PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS

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HELLO, and welcome to our special-edition, e-version only, Summer 2020 newsletter! As the senior Feline Tolerance instructor, I have been chosen as spokescat to relay to you all the news from Patriot PAWS, so here it is, straight from the horse's, uh, cat's mouth!

It's certainly not news to anyone that 2020 is turning out to be far from a normal year, but the good news here at Patriot PAWS is that, through it all, we have continued to go forward with our mission of training service dogs for disabled veterans. As the pandemic unfolded, some difficult decisions had to be made very quickly, including furloughing a number of employees and temporarily discontinuing volunteer work on campus. Although the admin building was closed, the kennels remained open with a handful of dedicated staff and our awesome veterinarian, Dr. Rhonda Phillips, caring for the dogs and continuing with their training. Administrative matters were handled by staff from home, both our Dallas-Fort Worth and Texas A&M volunteer puppy raisers continued to care for and train their assigned dogs, and our inmate trainers continued to train the dogs in their care at the prisons. My assistant, Leo, and I took up temporary residence in the isolation section of the kennels, appropriately dubbed "kitty city", where we continued to have a paw in the training.



After our governor here in Texas began to reopen the state in phases, Patriot PAWS reopened when allowed, first with staff only, then later with a controlled number of volunteers on campus at any one time, and always while observing CDC protocols for the safety of everyone involved. The past few months have been a struggle that isn't over yet, but we are determined to continue with our mission, despite this unforeseen setback and its long-term repercussions.

Although this special-edition newsletter looks different from our newsletters you have come to know, we would be remiss to not turn the "Spotlight" on a very special group of volunteers who went above and beyond all expectations during this trying time.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Texas A&M Student Puppy Raisers

Patriot PAWS owes a huge debt of gratitude to our Texas A&M student puppy raisers for stepping up and going above and beyond during the pandemic shutdown. When students left campus for Spring Break in March, no one had any idea that they would not be returning for the remainder of the semester. Our student puppy raisers had 40 Patriot PAWS dogs in their care at the time and suddenly found themselves at home with nowhere to go to socialize the dogs. And since some had left town for the break, several of these students took on the responsibility of more than one dog in lieu of returning them to the training center in Rockwall. These dedicated young people, besides continuing their classes online from home, not only continued to care for the dogs, but also came up with some highly creative ways to continue the dogs' training. We are beyond grateful for all their hard work and ingenuity at a time when we needed it the most.



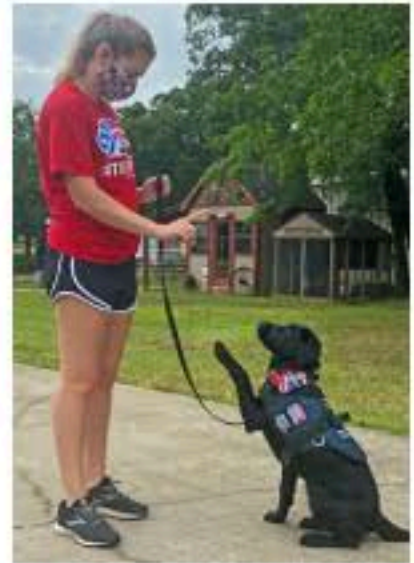
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We'd also like to give a special shout-out to our six graduating seniors:

Valerie Cantu Angelica Frazer Sam Gonzalez

Victoria Meddaugh Yessica Garcia Ochoa Charlie Thompson

Congratulations and best wishes from your Patriot PAWS family!!



And now, our Founder and Executive Director, Lori Stevens, would like to say a few words.



I hope that everyone reading this has stayed safe and well over the past few months.

When it became apparent that the pandemic was turning the world as we knew it upside down, Patriot PAWS went into crisis mode. I had to furlough employees and tell volunteers to not come to our campus until further notice. I locked the doors and hoped for the best.

It is said that there is no "I" in "TEAM", which I have found to be true, because it was only through teamwork that the kennels stayed open, and all of our dogs, wherever they were at the time of the shutdown, were cared for and trained for the duration. Meanwhile, the business of running the organization was handled by staff members working from home. We are truly blessed to have some of the most dedicated staff and volunteers anywhere, and I am thankful for them all.

We also have a host of loyal supporters, so to everyone who has continued donating to us during this difficult time, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Also, many thanks to the special May online giving event, North Texas Giving Tuesday Now, and to Carry The Load for once again allowing us to partner with them at their Memorial Weekend event, virtual this year because of the pandemic.

Things will get better, of that I have no doubt, but in the meantime, we must continue with our mission. God Bless You all, and I hope that you will continue with us on our journey as we strive to better the lives of disabled veterans, four paws at a time.

Lori Stevens

The old adage, "*When the going gets tough, the tough get going*", is as true now as ever. These past few months have seen everyday people step up and become heroes, putting others before self and restoring our faith in humanity. But the unprecedented blow to our economy has negatively impacted donations to non-profits, and Patriot PAWS is no exception. Scheduled demos and events, both of which are major components of our fundraising, were canceled or postponed for the foreseeable future, and monetary donations have been greatly diminished. Now, more than ever, we are grateful for each and every dollar that we receive in support of our mission. Today's disabled veterans were yesterday's "tough" who "got going" when needed, and now, their needs must not be forgotten. We must continue, come what may, to work to provide the four-legged lifelines they so desperately need, but, **we can't do it alone. We need your help.**

As our nation's birthday approaches, may we all take a moment to reflect upon what it means to be American and be grateful to live in "The Land of the Free" and "The Home of the Brave". We live in the land of the free because of the brave, so please, stand with us now, and **do what you can** to help us help those who have served and sacrificed for us all.

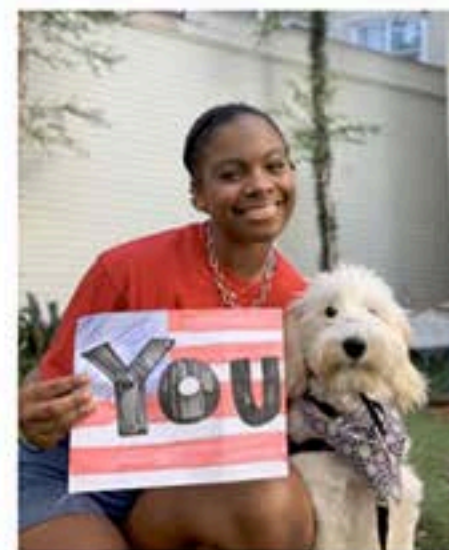
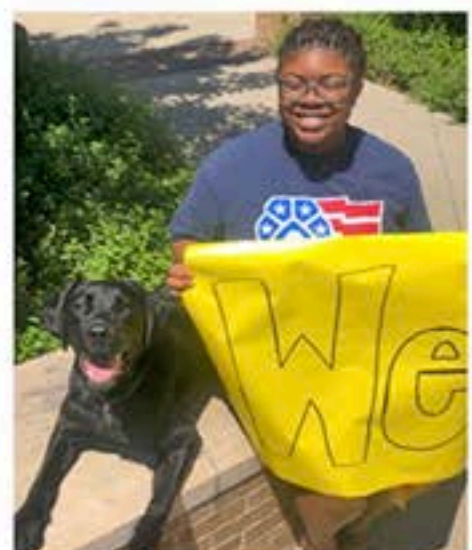
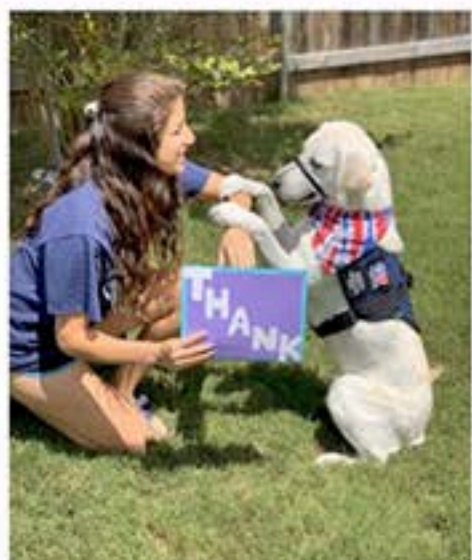
May you all stay safe and well.

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli



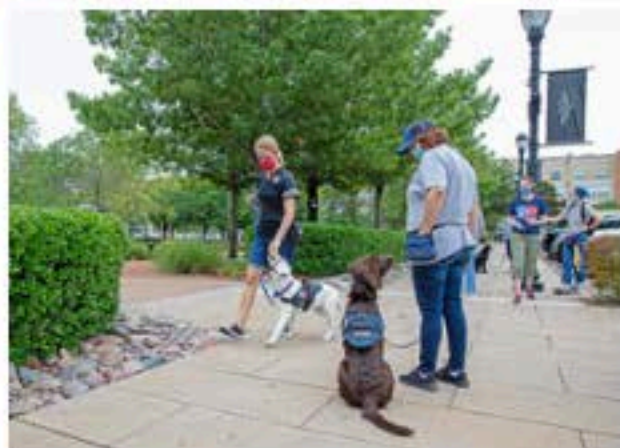
THANK YOU!



DALLAS/FT. WORTH PUPPY RAISERS WORK DURING SHUTDOWN

THANK YOU to all of our DFW puppy raisers for keeping the dogs in your care on track during the shutdown. You are an essential part of our dogs' training, and we couldn't do it without you!

Our DFW puppy raiser program is on the path to some exciting changes to come. Patriot PAWS Founder and Executive Director, Lori Stevens, whose first love is, and always has been, dog training, will head the revamped program and is in the process of developing even more innovative activities and challenges for the dogs and their puppy raisers. There's a lot of fun ahead to report, so stay tuned!



ENGRAVED BRICKS FUNDRAISER (can be personalized)

4" x 8" Brick = \$150 each

12" x 12" Brick = \$250 each

Replica Display Tile of your Brick = \$100 each

Interested in a Curved Bench?

Please call Sharon Satterwhite at 972-772-3282 to discuss cost and placement options.



To place an order for a Brick Garden item, visit

www.patriotpaws.org/brickgarden where you may pay online, download an order form OR call 972-772-3282 to ask to have an order form mailed to you.

NOTE: All proceeds from engraved brick and bench orders will be used in support of our mission to train service dogs for disabled veterans.

Other Easy Giving Options



Set up your
Kroger Plus Card with
Charity #IF940



Set up your Tom
Thumb Rewards Card
with Charity #11819



Use your Combined
Federal Campaign
giving for
Charity #35710



Set up your Amazon
account to support
Patriot PAWS every
time you shop!

You can mail a check made payable to "Patriot PAWS" to:
Patriot PAWS, 254 Ranch Trail, Rockwall, TX 75032

To make a secure donation online, visit www.patriotpaws.org/donate where you may charge your gift using Visa, MasterCard, American Express or use your PayPal account, or just call 972-772-3282.

Contributions to Patriot PAWS may be tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

WANT TO READ MORE...

Want to catch up with what happened last year? Every past Patriot PAWS newsletter is archived on our website. Just go to www.patriotpaws.org/newsletters and click on News/Newsletters to read what you've missed and see how we've grown!

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OR

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