

PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



COMFORT THROUGH CANINES

Patriot PAWS, in conjunction with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, has a new outreach program called Patriot PAWS Cares.

In the aftermath of tragedies such as mass shootings, natural disasters or any other large-scale traumatic events, Patriot PAWS may be called upon to bring dogs to visit with victims, their families or even the first responders who were involved. The dogs in our program who are in training to become service dogs will, in this case, serve as therapy dogs, visiting those affected by the tragedy. People can pet them and hug them and, a least for a little while, have a respite from what they are dealing with. As anyone with a dog knows, wagging tails and puppy kisses are soothing balm to a troubled soul.

Patriot PAWS trainer, Krissy Jury, will oversee the program. Whenever a request comes in, either our Rockwall

or College Station campus will send a team of trainers and dogs, occasionally including other staff members with their facility dogs, to the site of the tragedy. The very first request received was to visit a DFW area high school that had lost a student in a family tragedy. Four Patriot PAWS dogs visited with over 200 students who had been the student's classmates. Afterwards, their teacher wrote, *"Today was SO special. I have cried and watched kids cry every day this week, until today. With the adorable dogs and kind trainers, the students laughed again. They smiled, and signs of happiness emerged. This was beautiful! Thank you for your generosity, kindness and love for (our) broken-hearted students and staff."*

At Patriot PAWS, wagging tails and puppy kisses are never in short supply, so we are both pleased and proud to be able to share them when needed.





LETTER FROM LORI

When the pandemic hit last year, forcing us to close our training center, I worried what would become of Patriot PAWS. Although our staff worked from home in order to keep things going, donations slumped, plus scheduled events and fundraisers were either canceled or postponed indefinitely, placing our financial future in jeopardy. And none of our dogs in training could be rotated, so we found ourselves in a kind of limbo all the way around.

In retrospect, the quote “O ye of little faith” springs to mind. I should have known that our wonderful supporters would come through for us. You didn’t forget about us, and more importantly, you didn’t forget about our disabled veterans. You enabled us to keep going, and, as you saw in our Spring newsletter, we were able to continue our mission and place dogs despite the many challenges at hand.

So, to everyone who supported us in 2020, I humbly thank you on behalf of the veterans whom we were able to serve. Your generosity made all the difference at a time when we, and they, needed it the most.

SPOTLIGHT

ON THE DALLAS ASSEMBLY OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Dallas Assembly of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew hosts an annual charity golf tournament benefitting Patriot PAWS. Even when the tournament had to be canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic, the Brotherhood still generously donated the entry fees. This year’s upcoming tournament will be their ninth! Please see page 4 of this newsletter for more details.



Tournament Director, Jim Vineyard, says that the Brotherhood chose Patriot PAWS Service Dogs as its primary outreach ministry since one of their objectives is to support disabled veterans, and Patriot PAWS was designed to do just that. *“The Assembly selected to manage an annual charity golf tournament to assist in meeting the financial goals and obligations of training and placing certified service dogs with disabled veterans. Many of us have witnessed the positive results of this organization’s mission. We are enthusiastic about continuing this relationship with Patriot PAWS.”*

Many thanks to everyone at The Dallas Assembly of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for continuing to stand with us! Your generous support helps us help those who have served and sacrificed for us all.

ELI’S CORNER

Technology never proved itself more valuable than when the pandemic shutdown occurred. Suddenly cut off from the world, our smart devices became lifelines to the outside, enabling us to work, attend classes and even buy groceries without ever leaving our homes. But while all those devices are great, they’re a poor substitute for being with a friend in purrrson.

Leo and I love to make our own fun, like playing hide and seek. No devices necessary, just places to hide. And Leo is a master at hiding, finding places to disappear into, then silently watching as others look for him. He’ll come out eventually, especially if it’s getting close to mealtime, so I never worry if I can’t find him. And with no batteries involved, the only recharging required is a cat nap, something I’m a master at.

OK, Leo, you can come out now...uh, Leo???

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli





DID YOU KNOW?

PATRIOT PAWS DOGS CHOOSE THEIR VETERAN

During Week 1 of a Patriot PAWS graduation, every veteran who is there to receive their dog works with every dog who is ready to be placed. The number of dogs is always greater than the number of veterans to help ensure that the best possible matches are made. The veterans are instructed by the trainers in the proper delivery of cues so they can work with each dog in turn while the trainers observe.

As the week progresses, the trainers look for signs in the dogs indicating that they have a favorite among the veterans. Signs can range from subtle, such as joyful body language when the dog is working with his favorite veteran, to obvious, when he can't stop looking at one particular veteran or even tries to go to that veteran out of turn on his own. Over the course of their two years of training, the dogs work with many people, most of whom are not actually disabled. Intuition tells the dogs that, unlike the others, this new person is genuinely in need, and they freely choose to serve him or her as if they realize that this is what they were meant to do. It is both amazing and beautiful to witness a dog discover his forever person and fall head over tail in love.

Friday of Week 1 is Matching Day, the most exciting event for everyone in the Patriot PAWS family, but especially for

those who had a hand in the dogs' training. Matching is the culmination of countless hours of hard work by the staff trainers, inmate trainers, DFW area puppy raisers and Texas A&M student puppy raisers. Each dog has a contingent of proud mamas and papas all anxiously waiting to find out if today is the day that he gets placed with a veteran.

To say that the veterans are excited and even a little nervous about receiving their dog is an understatement because most of them have waited years for this day to come. But the big moment finally arrives, and when each veteran's name is called, the staff proudly announces which dog is theirs. The dog's leash is then handed over to the veteran symbolizing the beginning of the new veteran/service dog team. Many happy tears are shed all around knowing that from this moment forward, these veterans' lives are changed for the better by the unconditional love and commitment of their new four-legged companions.

Coming up in our Fall issue, we'll have more inspirational stories of our service dog recipients. These placements are made possible by the generous support of you, our donors, so thank you for helping us better the lives of disabled veterans, four paws at a time.



CALLING ALL GOLF FANS!



The Dallas Assembly of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is hosting their ninth annual charity golf tournament benefitting Patriot PAWS Service Dogs Friday, September 24, 2021 at Firewheel Golf Park in Garland, Texas

The 2020 tournament had to be canceled because of the pandemic, but the fun is back on for 2021, and you can be a part of it!

NOT A GOLFER, OR CAN'T MAKE THE TOURNAMENT?

Your support is still needed!

Please consider sponsoring a hole or tee, or you can sponsor an active military member. Profits from the tournament will go directly to Patriot PAWS Service Dogs.

For more information on how to enter, become a sponsor, or on corporate sponsorships, please visit: www.brothersandrewdallas.org or www.brothersandrewdallas.org/bsta-store.

Missed our Spring newsletter?

No worries, it's archived on our website right along with all of our other previous issues. Just go to www.patriotpaws.org and click on News/Newsletters. You'll see how you helped us continue our mission during a pandemic.



SAVE THE DATE

10.16.2021

ROCKWALL HILTON – 6:30 PM



2021 **BEATLE BASH**

Benefitting
PATRIOTPAWS
SERVICE DOGS



Featuring The Fab Four

"The Best Beatles Show In The World!" —LA Times

a Rockin' Good Times Event

OUR SPONSORS:

PET SUPPLIES PLUS
Minus the hassle



Sponsorship opportunities — for more information call Patriot PAWS Service Dogs, Marissa Pittman, 972-772-3282

IN MEMORIAM

The Patriot PAWS Family's hearts go out to Veteran Tom Ward for the loss of his service dog, Maddy, and to Veteran Gary Fincher for the loss of his service dog, Memphis.

*Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.
— Author Unknown*

• 972-772-3282 •

Consider today what you can do to help us help them...



"The atmosphere here is unreal and reinforces the fact of how great it is to be an American veteran! What is really amazing is how the commitment of Patriot PAWS never ends. They are here forever for each veteran who receives one of their great animals..." — Arlie Matthews, 2016 Graduate

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

- We accept all major credit cards on our website at www.patriotpaws.org
- Cash, checks and money orders by mail or in person. **Address: 254 Ranch Trail**

Rockwall, TX 75032

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone
- Matching your employee's

donation

- Pledging for a 3-year period
- Becoming a PAWS ambassador
- Conducting a fundraiser
- Volunteering or becoming a puppy raiser
- If you are a Federal employee, you may make