



Paw Print Press

A Prison Pet Partnership Publication

SPRING 2011

VOL.10 NO.2

PPP's Service Dogs-in-Training bring ease and joy to local young readers by Kathy Joyce, Volunteer



Prison Pet Partnership's dogs-in-training regularly visit nursing homes, stores, restaurants, movie theaters, walking trails and the homes of our dedicated volunteers.

Since the beginning of the year four of our red-vested canines – Mia, Ziggy, Elvis and Quinlan – are seen regularly at our local Boys and Girls Club after school "Power Hours" reading program which is designed to help students in grades 1 to 5 complete homework and increase their reading ability. These youngsters take turns reading to their "doggy audience."

William Rico and Jacob Begin, both seniors at Gig Harbor High School, are doing their required senior project by attending PPP classes, helping dogs to be comfortable in various social situations such as being in groups of people of all ages, and being good citizens so they can be placed as service and therapy dogs. While the inmate trainers teach dog skills they need to be effective assistance dogs PPP, volunteers such as Jacob and William take time to help dogs practice their skills among the public.

When I approached Heidi Gerling, Program Director at the Boys and Girls Club, she immediately saw the benefit of pairing kids and dogs as reading partners. Jacob, Will and I

assist students when they need help with unfamiliar words, oral reading fluency and comprehension. Our dogs provide a non-judgmental presence and comfort to the young kids. Many student readers pet dogs the whole time they are reading. Both dogs and kids spend quality time giving and receiving affection.

One fourth grader was reading a "Magic Treehouse" book to Mia. Mia was so relaxed with him that she was sound asleep but he dutifully showed Mia the pictures anyway. Sage, a second grade reader, told Elvis and myself that she wasn't a very good reader. Elvis and I listened and I helped her with unfamiliar words in a beginning chapter book. At the end of our reading time she said she really liked reading to Elvis because "he is such a good listener and likes looking at the pictures." She was transformed from an uncertain reader to a confident one in 15 minutes, thanks to Elvis. (And Elvis really appreciated the lamb jerky treat that Sage gave him in thanks!)

Jacob recently said to me that, "training the dogs to read with the kids is very rewarding" as opposed to just walking the dogs around the Harbor. Soon we hope to have two other student volunteers join us so more dogs can be frequent visitors.

Seven year old reader Jackson was ecstatic when I told him that he can read more than once to the dogs after all of the readers have a turn.

The Hope Center, a clinic for health and dental care, is at the entrance to the Boys and Girls Club and frequently children who are waiting for their appointments ask if they can pet our dogs. Sometimes kids who are afraid of a medical visit seem more relaxed after being able to visit with our dogs. I think Mia, Ziggy, Elvis and Quinlan also look forward to these visits – I swear I can see a smile on their faces after all the attention they get!



PPP thanks Kathy, William, and Jacob, along with Heidi Gerling for starting such a successful partnership for our dogs. And to all of the student readers at the Boys and Girls Club – keep up all of the great work that you're doing, we're so proud of you!!

WishList

For kennels & grooming:

- Pedigree Large Breed Dog food
- gallon containers of bleach
- fabric for scarves

For Service Dog Program:

- Purina Pro Plan Chicken and Rice
- Kongs
- dog treats
- lightly used manual wheelchairs

..... **thank you!**

A million thanks to Christy – one of our devoted volunteers



Christy and Geoff found each other through PPP!

Christy has been volunteering with the Prison Pet Partnership for over 6 years. She began assisting our program by socializing our dogs, taking them into public to aid in their training to become service and therapy dogs. Christy was the primary volunteer for four of PPP's dogs – she was responsible for making sure they had a certain number of hours out of the

prison each week, scheduled vet appointment for these dogs, and kept a running record of their progress. Two of the dogs she worked with, "Dawby" and "Selter" became working service dogs, another, "Apollo," was adopted by a wonderful couple in Tacoma, and the last one, "Geoff," she adopted herself! For the past three years Christy has been assisting PPP with Paroled Pets – our dogs that go up for adoption. Christy spends countless hours sifting through applications, setting up "meet and greets" with families, and taking the dogs to their new homes (not to mention hours on the phone assuring new owners that they are doing a great job with their new family member!).

When asked about her experience with PPP Christy said: "I started finding homes about three years ago and haven't looked back! It is the most

rewarding thing I've ever done. There are times when I feel too busy or the weather is bad and I may not feel like making a long drive to a new potential family. However, when I leave that sweet dog for the last time in their forever home with their new loving family, it truly fills my heart with such joy!

.....
A huge thank you to Christy for all of the hard work and effort she puts into all of our dogs!

I also have the opportunity to work with other PPP volunteers at public events, and in the search for forever homes for our paroled pets. I have made lifelong friendships and feel so blessed to be a part of this program."

Mission Statement

The Prison Pet Partnership rescues and trains homeless animals to provide service dogs for people with disabilities, and operates a boarding and grooming facility that provides vocational education to women inmates.

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A note from the director

Spring is synonymous with renewal and revitalization. PPP dives into the season with a budding new project and a rejuvenation of our governing body. The Mission Creek project has completed its first phase of Pet Care Technician Classes and is now on to dog training classes. New board members bring a jolt of inspiration to an already talented and dedicated board.

Nicole Ribiero started with PPP in January and began teaching dog obedience classes at Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW) in February. Nicole comes to PPP with extensive dog training skills and her resourcefulness has already helped us receive donations of much needed supplies to support the service dog program. Welcome Nicole!

Welcome new board members! John Davies, a long time PPP volunteer and owner of PPP demo dog, Tonka, brings his enthusiasm for PPP and business expertise to the boardroom. Ralph Flick is an attorney and educator whose community involvement includes volunteering at his children's schools and the Gig Harbor Midday Rotary (host of Harbor Hounds!). Jennifer Pomeroy is a dog-loving, Gig Harbor native, a graduate of University of Washington and a Certified Public Accountant. The strengths of each individual on our board help PPP to prosper today and in the years to come.

All of us at PPP are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for renewal and growth that will better serve our constituents- rescued dogs, offenders, our clients and the community!

Beth Rivard



PLEASE HELP NELSON FIND A HOME

Nelson is a young active dog who knows his basic obedience commands such as sit, down, stay, kennel, wait and come. He is potty trained and up to date on vaccines.

Nelson is looking for a dog savvy owner who is willing to continue working on his obedience training. To meet Nelson please contact Nicole at nribiero@doc1.wa.gov

Socialization is key

by Mollyrose Sommer

Perhaps one of the most important parts of Prison Pet Partnership dogs' training is their socialization in public. Without this piece of the puzzle, the dogs would not learn how to behave appropriately in places like restaurants, doctor's offices and larger stores such as Target and Costco. It is a great opportunity for our community to meet our dogs in training, learn more about PPP, and become better educated about Assistance dogs and the services they provide for people with disabilities.

We could not get our dogs out into public without our group of dedicated volunteers. They quickly learn that working with service dogs in training is not just as easy as taking a well trained dog out for a walk – oh no! Working with service dogs in training requires a lot of patience and thinking on your feet. What do you do when the dog you have out at Fred Meyer decides to help himself

to a sample platter of cheese, for instance? How do you keep from having the dog pull you to greet every dog on the street? We work hand in hand with our volunteers to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge and problem solving skills to take our dogs into the big bright world outside of the prison fences.

One regular visit we take into the community is a bi-monthly trip to four different retirement and assisted living residences in Gig harbor. A group of volunteers take our dogs out to Cottesmore of Life Care, Olympic Alzheimer's Residence, Sound Vista Village, and Clare Bridge at Shoreline every other Wednesday for some dog-loving time. This is a wonderful opportunity for our dogs to practice their Therapy Dog skills; sitting still while they are pet, putting their heads in people's laps and even practicing their command "kiss" (a quick lick on the cheek).

Important information to know about service dogs in public:

- When you see a service dog or service-dog-in-training it is important not to distract it
- Always ask the handler if it is okay to approach before engaging with the dog – some people may ask that you refrain from petting the dog. This is their right, as a distracted service dog can be detrimental to the handler's health and safety
- If your personal dog is not a service dog for you, please do not take him/her into stores. This can lead to stores unwillingness to allow service-dogs-in-training through their doors (public places are not required to allow access to service-dogs-in-training – we are at their mercy!)

Prison Pet Partnership

9601 Bujacich Road NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98332

PH 253-858-4240

FX 253-858-4674

PrisonPetPartnership.org

You're invited to the 8th annual

Bark and Bid

Saturday, May 21
4:00 - 7:00PM
 Afifi Shrine Event Center
 815 South Vassault Street, Tacoma

auctions • light supper • cash bar

Featuring a presentation by Bill Nerin, author of
A Couple Faces Death: My Life After Anne

Act fast! We sold out last year!

Deadline is May 8 • Space is limited.

Please return the enclosed card to reserve your seat. > > >

REGISTRATION CARD

TICKETS \$40 individual or \$320 per table (party of 8 + free bottle of champagne!)

- ☐ I would like _____ individual reservations at \$40 each: \$ _____
- ☐ I would like _____ table reservations at \$320 each: \$ _____
- ☐ I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution: \$ _____
- ☐ I have an auction item for donation, please contact me!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like a reservation confirmation: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please make checks payable to "Prison Pet Partnership" or "PPP."

Mail reservation form, list of additional guests and check in the enclosed envelope to:
 PPP – Bark and Bid PMB 433 5114 Pt Fosdick Dr NW Gig Harbor, WA 98335-1733

Orders must be received by May 8. Paper tickets will not be issued. Reservations will be held at the door. All proceeds to benefit the Prison Pet Partnership. Questions? Please visit prisonpetpartnership.org or send an email to barkandbid@yahoo.com or call 253-858-4240.

Everybody wins: Local attorneys face off for charity

On Thursday, March 10, Pierce County prosecutors and members of the local defense bar held a charity match of dodge ball.

PPP had several volunteers and dogs present to root for the defense (attorneys). Loud music, a boisterous crowd – complete with vuvuzelas – and a spirited game of dodge ball proved an excellent opportunity to work our dogs in a crowd. At half time, Beth and Mollyrose gave a brief talk and demonstration while our volunteers and dogs worked the crowd.

After 15 grueling sets, the prosecutors edged out the defense attorneys to take the win. Despite the loss, PPP received a donation of nearly \$900 from the defense attorneys, while Lawyers Helping Hungry Children received a donation of close to \$1,800.



We are thrilled to welcome Nicole to the PPP staff!

Meet our new team member, Nicole!

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself... I am the newest addition to the Prison Pet Partnership team as the Mission Creek Training Assistant. I have over 10 years of hands on training experience and have worked as a K9 handler for both the US Navy and the Department of Defense. I am very vested in my community and have donated countless hours volunteering for area rescues,

and have recently started my own rescue called "Project Buddy". I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts and a Master's Degree in Behavioral Medicine from North Central University, where I focused my studies on Canine Behavior. I have also completed two Dog Training certificate programs; one through the United States Air Force Academy

and a separate certificate program through Penn Foster College. I have a passion for dog training and a strong dedication to community and animal rescue. You can find me Tuesdays and Fridays at Mission Creek where I will be teaching a group of 14 inmates to build a strong foundation of obedience training for our potential Service and Therapy dogs.

GET INVOLVED WITH PPP!

If helping socialize our dogs-in-training sounds like a great opportunity for you, please get started by filling out our Volunteer Application which you can find on our web site at www.prisonpetpartnership.org!

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Prison Pet Partnership Program
Washington Corrections Center for Women
9601 Bujaich Road NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332



*Help us open the
doors of opportunity!*

May 21 Bark and Bid

REGISTRATION INSIDE

Thank you Donors!! Gifts and in-kind donations received
December 16 - March 1, 2011.
If your name is misspelled or omitted, or you wish to be acknowledged differently, please call 253-858-4240.

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Betsy Jean Gustafson
Bailey
Kristine & Mike Hall
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Shert Hinds
Tressie & Jessie
Laura & David Idler
Quincy Boy
Suzanne & John James

David
Jo Jensen
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Blake - his loving heart
and gentle soul
Frances Pennell
Chue
Janine Perdew
My beloved Max
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Bela
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Martin
James & Carol Rohrscheib
Louie
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Chicho
Allison Smith
Ebony, Newt, Hudson, Sydney
& Mitchell
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Billy Bob
Donna Swick
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Marcia Ver Hey
Rose & Dale
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Mark Blitzer
Vickie, Annie May
& Tasha Brockavich
Dave & Liz Brockavich
Cassidy - my coyote
attack survivor!
Deborah Chenuault
Willow
Brad Nelson & Gretchen Peters
Rosey
John & Patricia Jerkovich

Boarding friends and
groomers for Max & Minnie
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Bandit
Judy Knight
Rachel
Marilynn S. Malay
Dan Moffett & Lily
Nancy Moffett
Mary Jane Monk
Sandra Monk
Nikki Jensen
Patricia Mossberger
Jake
Janine Perdew
Mary & John Mackey
Sara Pettes McWilliams
Bayside Animal Lodge and
Harbor Animal Hospital
Laurie & Paul Snyder
All who serve and all in need
William & Ann Weinschenk

