

Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Fall 2006

Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: B.J., Maisey, Rocky and Sherman!

B.J., Rocky and Sherman recently graduated from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Maisey recently graduated from the Canadian Guide Dog School. Stories about each of their graduations are below.

B.J. Graduates from GEB

B.J., a female yellow lab, was raised by MR Rosenthal of Pawley's Island, SC. While MR was not able to attend B.J.'s graduation in July, she was able to view the ceremony via a DVD. Below is Guiding Eyes' profile of B.J.'s new life partner, Christopher Smith.

Christopher Smith and B.J.

Portland, Maine is the home of Christopher (Chris) Smith, who at the age of 37 has come to Guiding Eyes for the Blind for his third dog, B.J. Citing a frightening experience of a close encounter with an automobile, he turned to his mobility instructor for a solution to his fear. Acquiring a dog from GEB was highly recommended, and Chris is happy that he took that advice. Chris is self described as being one who goes with the punches, is happy and outgoing and will always be your friend. He is most happy with his ability to readily adapt to his surroundings. Chris, a high school grad, is adept with the computer and has successfully trained others, as well. Chris credits his mom with inspiring him to succeed in life. "She taught me that if I wanted something accomplished, I should do it myself. She was always there for me, in bad times and good and would consistently remind me that everything's going to be O.K." Chris is presently working as a receptionist for an insurance company which provides him with bus transportation both to and from his home. Home is where his heart is, though, and it is there that he loves to spend time searching the web, listening to music from the 80's and continues to seek additions to his impressive collection of culinary knives. Chris, as a child, wanted to be a chef and although that dream never came true, he still loves to cook, and favors his foods "hot and spicy." Speaking fondly of B.J., he describes her as "still a pup" in her eagerness to play, but she understands the difference between work and play. When at work, she takes her job very seriously and is an excellent guide. Chris feels that B.J. will allow him much more independence. Already they have bonded. He says that B.J. actually "whispers" to him when she is beside him with her head resting under his chin. "Everyone here at Guiding Eyes for the Blind treats you like you are a member



Christopher Smith and BJ

of the family. I like that." Chris' greatest current challenge is to win his battle over possible impending kidney failure.

Rocky Graduates from GEB

Rocky, a male yellow lab, was raised by Margot Bennett and family of Cary, NC. Rocky graduated from Guiding Eyes' Home Training Program in June. The Home Training Program is for experienced guide dog users who have extenuating circumstances which prevent them from coming to Guiding Eyes for the Blind's campus in NY.

Connie Petrillo and Rocky

Margot provided the following about Rocky and his new partner Connie:

This is a nice 'relaxed' picture of Rocky with his new partner, Connie Petrillo. Connie lives in Depew, NY, which is right outside of Buffalo. We are so proud of Rocky! Connie said he is adjusting well and loves to work and has become quite adept at swimming and playing Frisbee. He has taken over the house and apparently has his own room with a bed and a window! His favorite spot outside is in this bench seat with Connie where he can keep an eye out on all the things going on. He is well loved and taken care of. The Bennetts are thrilled to be in contact with Connie and look forward to seeing them work together!



Connie Petrillo and Rocky

Rocky's vet sponsor was Gentle Care Animal Hospital and his food sponsor was the Bennett family.

Sherman's Graduation by Julie Haynes

Sherman, a male black lab raised by Julie Haynes and family of Indian Trail, NC, graduated from GEB in July. Sherman now resides in Charlotte, NC with Michael Kidada, a professor at Johnson C. Smith University where he teaches psychology, statistics and research methods. Julie wrote the letter below:

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share with you a very special event. Words do not easily describe the full range of emotions that accompany this event but you all have played an important role in its making and I want you to know how much I appreciate what you have helped to accomplish. Sherman came to me in October 2004, a sweet, lovable, black bundle of fur. With him, came the promise of a wonderful adventure. One on which my family had embarked through Guiding Eyes for the Blind with 3 previous pups who all have won our hearts. He came with a wonderful team of people at GEB, and here locally, who provide us not only the training and tools but the friendship and emotional support needed to get through the ups and downs of puppy-raising. And with our veterinary sponsor, who has provided excellent medical care for all of our Guiding Eyes pups. He also came with the generous support of a person whom I had yet to meet. She wished to honor her friend and coworker who had recently passed away. In his memory, she and her friends chose to join in our efforts by providing not only the funds to purchase Sherman's food, but also his name, and their unending support and enthusiasm for what we were doing.

Wesley Chapel Elementary School, where I had only recently been hired as a teacher assistant, welcomed Sherman and our Guiding Eyes for the Blind program in our 2nd grade class. Here we encountered teachers, staff, parents and students who were not only cooperative but instrumental in helping to shape Sherman's behavior and confidence

as he became a weekly participant at the school. There have been many businesses, libraries, and other community venues that have allowed us access. Even strangers we met along the way whose interest and support gave way to more socialization opportunities for our pup. And, of course, the family and friends who have always given their unconditional support and encouragement.

A year later, Sherman returned to Guiding Eyes for his next phase of training. Parting was not easy. As puppy raisers, we often remind ourselves that it is much like raising our children, preparing them as best we can, and sending them on to their next step along life's journey. We give our pups guidance and patience and in return we get their unconditional love. We are proud of them and know that they are returning to good hands. The trainers and staff at Guiding Eyes provide excellent care and help each dog reach its full potential. For some, this means learning to safely guide a visually impaired individual providing them greater personal freedom, independence and dignity; an awesome responsibility for a truly noble creature. So many have been a part of this process; this labor of love.

In July, I was fortunate to travel with two of my children to Guiding Eyes in New York. We observed a touching ceremony full of talent and emotion and gratitude. And full of promise. Our lives have been enriched. We have made a wonderful new friend and Sherman has truly "graduated" as he takes his place beside his new partner who happens to be a University professor! We wish for them a smooth and safe journey, always.

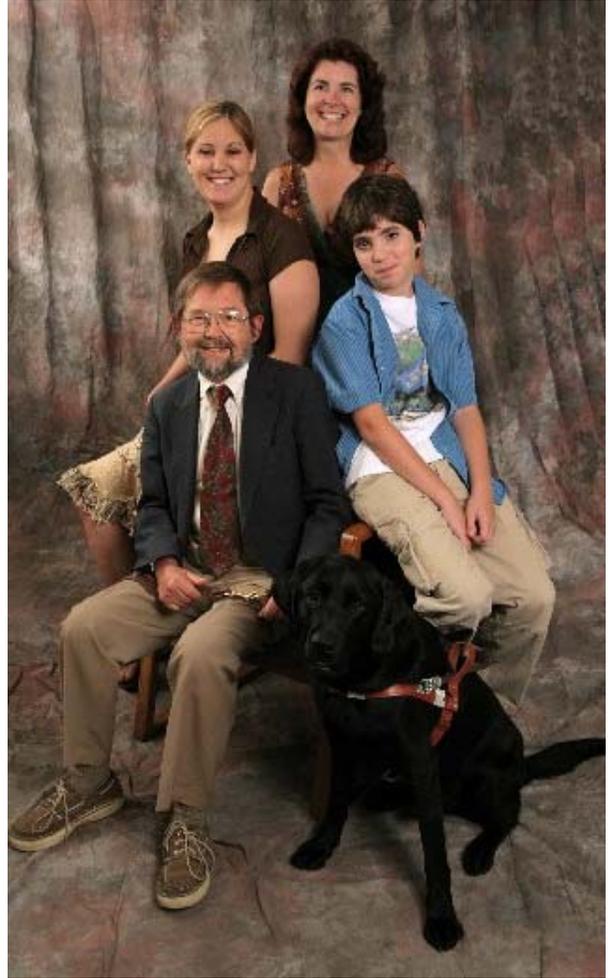
On Friday, October 13th, Mike and Sherman came to Wesley Chapel Elementary school and we were able to reunite our previous two years' classes (who helped to raise Sherman) to join our current second grade class for this very special visit. Mike talked about his experiences being blind and working with a guide dog. It was such a treat for all of us to spend time with both of them!

Sherman's vet sponsor was Animal Care Hospital of Matthews, NC His food sponsors were Diana Brown, Gina Bartlett and Rick Gutierrez, who sponsored Sherman in memory of their friend and co-worker Larry Pannell.

Maisey's Graduation from the Canadian Guide Dog School by Kathie Rysanek

Maisey, a female black lab, raised by Kathie and Bill Rysanek of Raleigh, recently graduated from the Canadian Guide Dog School. Kathie provided the following story about Maisey's new career.

Maisey graduated Saturday, September 23 from the Canadian Guide Dog School. Her new partner, Fran Tanner, is a vivacious, bundle of energy...all 96lbs. 4'10" of her. Fran has 2 degrees from the University of Guelph in Ontario. She lives in Oshawa, Ontario, which is a small General Motors town 40 minutes outside of Toronto. She has 2 jobs.



Michael Kidda and GEB Sherman with puppy raisers (l to r), Andrea, Julie and Alex Haynes.

She is an event planner and she gives motivational speeches and sensitivity sessions to groups learning to interact with the disabled. She is involved with conservation and wetlands preservation. She serves on an 18 member Board of Directors at City Hall in Oshawa. Their job is to create and write by-laws for government to make sure that buildings and laws are always favorable to the disabled.

Fran has been diabetic and insulin dependent since the age of 3. She lost sight in her right eye in 1984 and in her left eye in 1985. She has hearing loss in her left ear. She said that she feels very fortunate that she could see for so long since she knows what everything looks like. She was a joy to talk with and I liked her immediately. Maisey is her 4th guide dog, all of whom came from the Canadian Guide Dog School. Maisey is going to have a fun life, she is going to work hard, and she will never be bored. She may be the one trying to keep up with Fran!!

Maisey's vet sponsor was Six Forks Animal Hospital and the Rysanek's were her food sponsors

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!

Fresca, a male black lab, is being raised by first-time puppy raiser Katie Filkins of Elon College in Burlington, NC. Fresca's vet sponsor is Elon Animal Hospital and her food sponsor is Katie. Katie provided the following about Fresca: *Fresca loves pretending to be a college student and taking daily walks to Elon University. More often than not, a fellow student or faculty member tells me that getting a puppy kiss is exactly what they needed that day!*



GEB Fresca

Nino, a male German Shepherd, is being raised by Dana Geiner and family of Raleigh. Nino is the Geiner's 3rd GEB puppy! Nino's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital and his food sponsors are Dana & Rob Geiner. Dana provided the following about Nino: *Nino is a sweet puppy who since he arrived, won the hearts of all of the cul-de-sac kids. They are always asking to see him and pet him. He just wants to please you, and tries his best which is all I ask. He loves to watch the girls play softball and I am sure he would like to get out there and play. He loves everyone he meets and wants to play with all of the dogs he meets no matter their size. He is a wonderful puppy and I have to keep reminding myself and the kids that he is ONLY 5 months old. He has a lot more growing and learning.*



GEB Nino

Paige, a female Golden Retriever, has recently joined the home of Jane Vignovic of Cary, NC. Paige is Jane's 2nd GEB puppy! Paige's vet sponsor is Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro and her food sponsor is Jane. Paige was previously with the McCarthy's of Matthews, NC. While in Matthews, Paige's vet sponsor was Mercy Animal hospital and her food sponsor was Roseanne Bateman, Principal of Wesley Chapel Elementary School in Monroe.

Powell, a male Golden Retriever, is being raised by Patricia and Sally Neve and family of Durham, NC. Powell is the Neve's 2nd GEB puppy! Powell's vet sponsor is North Paw Animal Hospital of Durham and his food sponsors are Rick and Sue Copland of Hillsborough. Patricia provided the following about Powell: *Powell is a very sweet and smart puppy (of course, since he is Lucas' nephew). Anybody who saw him as a little puppy fell in love with him instantly. He's very quiet and laid back, but loves to play hard when given the opportunity.*

Sheldon, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Brenda & Jerry Quesenberry of Franlin, VA. Sheldon is their 11th GEB puppy! Sheldon's vet sponsor is Southampton Veterinary Clinic and Brenda & Jerry are his food sponsors.

Sidney, a male black lab, is being raised by Rick & Glynis Tanner of Carrboro, NC. Sidney is their 5th GEB puppy! Sidney's vet sponsor is Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill and the Tanners are his food sponsors.



GEB Sidney

Where are they now?

Dominique, a female black lab raised by Kristen Shamblin of Knightdale, NC, recently passed her in-for-training test! Dominique's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital and her food sponsor was Diversified Systems, Inc.

Jewel, a female black lab raised by Belvie Gilleland of Lexington, NC, was recently released from Guiding Eyes for medical reasons. Belvie has adopted Jewel. Jewel's vet sponsor was Jordan Veterinary Clinic and her food sponsor were Grace Episcopal Church and Lee-Anne and Bill Distler.

Oreo, a female black lab raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner of Carrboro, NC, recently passed her in-for-training test and is being evaluated for the breeding program. Oreo's vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill and her food sponsors were the Tanners.

Osage, a male black lab, recently joined the home of first-time raisers Jim & Luan Harmeson of Sanford, NC. Osage's vet sponsor is Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro and the Harmeson's are his food sponsors. Osage was previously raised by Wendy Bierwirth of Raleigh, NC, where his vet sponsor was Pet House Calls and the Bierwirths were his food sponsors.

O'Shea, a male black lab, raised by Brenda and Jerry Quesenberry of Franklin, VA, recently passed his in-for-training test. O'Shea's vet sponsor was Southampton Veterinary Clinic and Brenda & Jerry were his food sponsors.

Velvet, a female black lab, raised by Reba Burkett of Advance, NC, recently passed her in-for-training test and is being evaluated for the breeding program. Velvet's vet sponsor was Animal Hospital of Clemmons, NC and her food sponsor was Children's Ministries of Clemmon's United Methodist Church.

Ulrika, a female Labrador/German Shepherd cross from the Netherlands, was recently released from training at GEB due to a medical condition. Ulrika is being adopted by his first puppy raiser, Kristen Wiltse, of Nashville, TN. Ulrika was also raised by Margot Bennett and family of Cary, NC. Ulrika's vet sponsors were Gentle Care Animal Hospital of Cary and Coddle Creek Animal Hospital of Concord, NC.

In Loving Memory

Atlas

November 29, 1997 - August 4, 2006

Atlas, a male yellow lab raised by Jon Hunt of Chapel Hill, recently passed away. Atlas was a beloved guide and died suddenly from cancer. Atlas's vet sponsor was Battleground Veterinary Hospital of Greensboro and his food sponsors were Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Hunt of Winston Salem, NC.

Chester

September 22, 2002 - July 19, 2006

Chester, a male lab raised by Fran and Bob Gelb, recently passed away. Chester's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital and his food sponsors were the Gelbs.

Martin

February 26, 1991 - July 21, 2006

Martin, a male lab raised by Ed and Sue Warner, recently passed away. Martin was released from GEB and was adopted by Amy and Carlos Alfaro. Martin's food sponsor was Mr. & Mrs. Luckwaldt at Pinewood Kennels and his vet sponsor was Mayfair Animal Hospital.

Wallis

August 28, 1992 - August 11, 2006

Wallis, a male lab raised by Pat and Bob VanBuren, recently passed away. Wallis was a beloved guide. Wallis's vet sponsor was Oberlin Road Animal Hospital and his food sponsor was Tim Brooks of Raleigh.

Many thanks to Lizzie Cato for Making New Puppy Coats!

As part of a Girl Scout project for her Silver Award, Lizzie made 4 new coats, which had a new design. Lizzie attended many puppy classes to get puppies to 'model' the coats so she could ensure the right fit. Thank you for all of your hard work!

Donate to GEB When Shopping at Food Lion!

LionShop & Share is the easiest, most convenient way to raise money for your local not-for-profit organization. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

If anyone is interested in participating, please go to the Food Lion website listed below and click the 'Select an Organization' button. In the pop up window, select NC as the State, Pittsboro the City, select Guiding Eyes for the Blind as the Organization and then follow the instructions to link your MVP card. Many thanks to Kristen Shamblin for setting this up!

<https://www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopandShare/secure/RegisterMVPCards.asp>



Lizzie Cato with Dan modeling the new coat

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, November 10th and SATURDAY, November 11th, 2006
 Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 1200 N Salem St. Apex, NC 27502

| Friday 11/10 | PUPPY | RAISER |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11:30 AM | Rambler | Cooke |
| 12:15 PM | Wilbur | Cucurullo |
| 1:00 PM | Powell | Neve |
| 1:45 PM | Paige ** | Vignovic |
| 2:45 PM | Onslo | Meek |
| 3:30 PM | Fresca ** | Filkins |
| 4:30 PM | BREAK | |
| 5:00 PM | Osage | Harmeson |
| 5:45 PM | Verna | Jackson (with Sue) |
| 5:45 PM | Will | Griffith |
| 6:30 PM | Nino | Geiner |
| 6:30 PM | Elway | Piron (with Sue) |
| 7:15 PM | Louie | Dickey |
| 8:00 PM | Toma | Davan |
| Saturday 11/11 | PUPPY | RAISER |
| 9:00 AM | Iota | Wiles |
| 9:45 AM | Sidney | Tanner |
| 10:15 AM | New Pup ** | Ames |
| 11:00 AM | Sheldon | Quesenberry (with Sue) |
| 11:15 AM | Walt | Shinn |
| 12:00 NOON | SHORT General Meeting | |
| 12:30 PM | Winifred | Blackledge |
| 1:15 PM | Van Gogh | Overcash |

* Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph by Rick Tanner (b/f general mtg)

Driving Directions to Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Apex for the Fall Evaluation:

For those going West on 64, continue past the exit for MacGregor Village, go through the light at Lake Pine, and through the light at Laura Duncan Road. Take the next exit, which is marked Downtown Apex and turn left and the bottom of the exit ramp (Stock Builders will be right in front of you) onto Old Apex Road. Go to the stoplight and turn left onto Salem Street (Davis Drive will come in on the right), you will go under 64 and the church will be on the left about 2/10 mile.

For those going East on 64, take the exit after the NC 55 (Apex, Durham) exit -and exit at the Downtown Apex exit. Turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Salem Street and the church is 2/10 mile on the left.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2006-2007

November 10-11, 2006

Evaluation, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church,
Apex, NC

February 9-10, 2007

Evaluation, Location TBD

May 4-5, 2007

Evaluation, Location TBD

August 17-18, 2007

Evaluation, Location TBD

November 9-10, 2007

Evaluation, Location, TBD

MISSION STATEMENT

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is dedicated to enriching the lives of blind and visually impaired men and women by providing them with the freedom to travel safely, thereby assuring greater independence, dignity and new horizons of opportunity.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

North Carolina Puppy Raising Program

P.O. Box 214, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Raleigh Area: Sharon Cooke 919.677.8365

Charlotte Area: Julie Haynes 704.821.6521

Area Coordinators: Sherry&Don Dodson 919.642.0185

WEBSITES: www.guidingeyes.org

www.guidingeyesnc.org

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P.O Box 214

Pittsboro, NC 27312