

# Puppy Prints



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North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2005

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## **Congratulations to the NCPRP's Latest Graduates: Eddie, Gaston, Hanley & Jules!!!**

In February and March of 2005, Eddie, Gaston, Hanley and Jules graduated from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Eddie and Hanley both graduated from the Home Training program in January. Eddie's was raised by Carol Deeley and family and his vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal and the Deeley's were his food sponsor. Hanley was raised by Wendy & Jim Bierwirth and his vet sponsor was Pet Housecalls and his food sponsor was the Bierwirths.

Gaston graduated in February and is now living in New Orleans and Jules graduated in March and is now living in Washington, DC. Below are the graduation profiles for Gaston and Jules who were part of graduation ceremonies at Guiding Eyes. Profiles of each graduating class are posted on GEB's website ([www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org)).

### **Jenice Heck & Gaston**

February's graduating class included two ACTION (Accelerated Client Training Option) students, the first of whom is Jenice Heck from New Orleans, Louisiana. Jenice first chose to come to GEB through research on the Internet. Now she is returning for Gaston, her second dog. (She brought her former four-legged pal along with her to be placed in GEB's Adoption Program.) Jenice was termed legally blind at birth as the result of Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (a gene deficiency). Now 32, Jenice is married and is happily three months pregnant with her first child. Self-described as outgoing, a bit stubborn but compassionate, Jenice feels that she has achieved most, if not all, of her life goals. After training at Louisiana State University Medical Center, she became a Licensed Occupational Therapist and Practitioner. She then earned her Masters in Mass Communications from LSU at Baton Rouge and is currently employed as Program Coordinator of Adult Education and Community Relations for The Light House for the Blind. Jenice's new dog, Gaston, is easygoing, playful and a good worker. She is certain he will enable her to travel about with more confidence and greater ease when they are home in Louisiana together. Jenice describes GEB as "top-notch quality - the very best there is." She added, "The trainers know what they're doing, are totally dedicated, and really deliver the goods."



Jenice Heck & Gaston

*Gaston was raised by Danny and Walt Overcash of Mooresville, NC. Gaston's vet sponsor was Lakewood Veterinary Hospital and the Overcash family was his food sponsor.*

### **Peter Altschul & Jules**

An ACTION (Accelerated Client Training Option) student, Peter Altschul, from Washington DC, grew up as a "local boy," attending schools in nearby Pleasantville, New York. Peter has been blind since birth (cause undiagnosed) and



Peter Atschul & Jules

has returned to Guiding Eyes for the Blind to claim his fifth dog, Jules. He recounts that his knowledge of Braille was passed on to him through his mom who studied and obtained the requisite skills and then taught them to her son. Yeah, Mom! Peter was hard pressed to describe his own personality, so we switched the question to: "What sort of people do you seek as your friends?" That brought a quick response, which actually mirrored his own persona: those who have a sense of humor, who are sharp, street smart, have high energy, and are committed to a goal in life. Enabling Peter to reach his goals in life were his studies at Columbia University, where he earned a Masters Degree. Focusing on Organizational Psychology, Peter's current employment is helping organizations to be more effective by conducting training sessions to enable them to deal with issues such as conflict management, diversity, etc. He also serves as a member of the American Council for the Blind. Citing the excellence of GEB's instructors in knowledgeable and careful dog-to-student partnering, Peter states that Jules is a great match for his own personality: "He's smart, a great worker, and is pro-

active." Peter recalled that a bonding was most evident when they first met, whereupon Jules impulsively had jumped up onto his new master's lap. Peter does admit to some needed moments of relaxation and enjoyment. He loves music and as a percussionist appreciates not only listening to a beat, but also creating his own arrangements, using a variety of styles. Peter's connection with Guiding Eyes for the Blind came as a result of its close proximity to his hometown when he claimed his first dog 26 years ago. But more than that, he says, "This is a terrific school. I am very blessed to have had their dogs. I have also been fascinated to observe how GEB works. It is a true model of how all organizations should be conducted."

*Jules was raised by Susan Shinn and family of Charlotte, NC. Jules' vet sponsor was Randall Veterinary Hospital of Mooresville and the Shinn family was his food sponsor.*

## Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppy!

**Cora**, a female black lab, is being raised by first-time raiser Nancy Inger of Oriental, NC. Cora's vet sponsor is Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital and Cora's food sponsor is The Bean of Oriental, NC.

## Where are they now?

**Cheyenne**, a black female lab raised by Kristin Shamblin of Knightdale, NC, has recently been released from training due to lack of confidence. Cheyenne has been adopted by Kristin and will be pursuing a part-time career as a therapy dog. Cheyenne's vet sponsor was Neuse River Animal Hospital and her food sponsor was Diversified Systems of Raleigh.

**Dan**, a yellow male lab raised by Trudy & Will Pendergraft of Chapel Hill, NC, has recently been released from the puppy raising program for medical reasons. Dan has been adopted by Trudy & Will and will also be pursuing a part-time career as a therapy dog. Dan's vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, NC and his food sponsor was Southern States of Carrboro, NC.

**Debbie**, a female yellow lab, raised by Jackie and Bob Schmidt of Merrit, NC, has passed her in-for-training test and is in training up at Guiding Eyes. Debbie's vet sponsor was Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital and her food sponsor was the Schmidt's. Jackie and Bob provided the following about Debbie:

*As we get ready to take Debbie north for her IFT there are so many things I still want to tell her and do with her. I am not sure I am ready to give her up just yet. I keep thinking maybe for just a little while longer. I am missing her already and she hasn't even gone. I am spending more quality time with her. I make it a point to love her just a little more each day and each time I touch her but somehow it still does not seem enough. I know, I know, when we signed on for this we knew we would be giving her up but that doesn't make the hurt any less. The only thing that keeps us going is knowing what she is destined to be and do. She will make someone wonderful eyes. She is loving and caring and will guide someone so well,, so well. We know she will make it, we just know it. But if she doesn't she will be welcomed home with open hearts and arms. Debbie may you be and do what you were meant to. We love you.*



Debbie

**Kristoff**, a black male lab raised by Laura Stoddart and family of NC, recently passed his in-for-training test with flying colors. Kristoff's vet sponsors were Academy East Veterinary Clinic of Fuquay Varina and Lake Hickory Veterinary Hospital of Granite Falls, NC and his food sponsor was the Stoddart Family. Kristoff and the Stoddarts were recently featured in their local newspaper!

**Madison**, a black female lab raised by Chris Echols and family of Raleigh, NC, has officially become a brood for the breeding program. Madison's vet sponsor was Armadale Animal Hospital of Raleigh and her food sponsor was the Echols family.

**Maisey**, a black female lab raised by Kathie Rysanek of Raleigh, NC, recently passed her in-for-training test with flying colors and was evaluated for the breeding program. Maisey is currently in training to become a guide dog. Maisey's vet sponsor was Six Forks Animal Hospital and her food sponsors were Kathie and Bill Rysanek.

**Othello**, a black male lab, has recently joined the home of Donoan Leonard, a graduate student at NCSU. Othello's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh and his food sponsor is Karissa Davan.

## **In Loving Memory**

### **Tasha**

January 31, 1991 - January 11, 2005

**Tasha**, a female chocolate lab raised by Mary Jane Gibbons, recently passed away. Tasha was a GEB brood and had a wonderful home with Kathleen VanHavere Bruno. Tasha was O'Malley's mother, who was also raised by Mary Jane. Tasha's vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal Hospital and her food sponsor was Ray & the late Jackie Goertz.

### **O'Malley**

July 23, 1992 - March 16, 2005

**O'Malley**, a black female lab raised by Mary Jane Gibbons, recently passed away. O'Malley was a faithful guide dog and was then adopted by Mary Jane. O'Malley's vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary, NC and her food sponsors were Ray & the late Jackie Goertz.

### **Bristol**

July 12, 1994 - February 1, 2005

**Bristol**, a black male lab lovingly donated to the puppy raising program by Denim Dodson, recently passed away. Bristol was raised by Sharon Cooke and family and upon his release from GEB was adopted by the Cooke family. Bristol's vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary, NC and his food sponsor was the Cooke family.

### **Kim**

April 25, 1996 - February, 2005

**Kim**, a female lab and faithful guide dog, was raised initially by the Mueller family of Raleigh and then by Elizabeth Oliverio of Virginia Beach, VA. Kim's vet sponsors were Boulevard Animal Hospital of Raleigh and Acredale Animal Hospital of Virginia Beach.

## **We Want YOU! At the Triangle-Area Puppy Classes!**

- Who:** Puppy Raisers, Puppy Sitters, Friends of GEB and potential volunteers  
**When:** Wednesday evenings at 7PM  
**Where:** Variety of locations throughout the Triangle  
**How:** E-mail Trudy Pendergraft at [trudybp@hotmail.com](mailto:trudybp@hotmail.com) to be added to the puppy class e-mail distribution list to receive information about the date, time and location of upcoming puppy classes!

### **ATTENTION ALL PUPPY RAISERS:**

Please bring an accurate reading of your puppy's weight to the next evaluation and don't forget to fill out a Quarterly Evaluation Report ([www.guidingeyesbcweb.org](http://www.guidingeyesbcweb.org))!

## EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and SATURDAY, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

<b>Friday 4/22</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
2:30 PM	Roxy	Piron
3:00 PM	Newton	Cooke
3:45 PM	Wisdom	Echols
4:15 PM	BJ	Rosenthal
5:00 PM	Rocky	Bennett
5:30 PM	Vanilla	Shamblin
6:00 PM	Breezy	Fellows
6:30 PM	Rainbow	Jackson
<b>Saturday 4/23</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
8:30 AM	Othello	Leonard/sitter
9:00 AM	Lenny	Barnett
9:30 AM	Benny	Geiner
10:00 AM	Opal	Piron
10:30 AM	Lucas	Neve
11:15 AM	Belinda	Quesenberry
12:00 PM	<b>General Meeting and Lunch</b>	
1:00 PM	Ralph	Overcash/sitter
1:30 PM	Sherman	Haynes
2:00 PM		
3:00 PM	Cora*	Inger
4:15 PM	Dustin	Spain
5:00 PM	Ogden	Schmidt

\* Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph by Rick Tanner near time of General Meeting (not during, please). If you can't make it then, please discuss with Sherry or Sharon.

### **Driving Directions to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Raleigh for the Spring Evaluation:**

From I-95: Exit onto 64 West/Raleigh. New Hope Rd intersects Hwy 64 approx. 5 miles from the Knightdale water tower. Look for an Exxon and turn right at the traffic light. Continue for approx. ½ mile. St. Marks will be on your left, just beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> traffic light.

From 440 Beltline: Exit onto 64 East/RockyMount. New Hope Rd crosses Hwy 64/New Bern Ave at the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light where you will turn left. Look for an Exxon on your left just before the intersection. Travel approx. ½ mile. St. Marks will be on your left, just beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> traffic light.

## UPCOMING EVENTS - 2005

April 22-23, 2005

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

August 5-6, 2005

Raleigh Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC

November 11-12, 2005

Evaluation, location TBD

## MISSION STATEMENT

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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

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Guiding Eyes for the Blind

North Carolina Puppy Raising Program

P.O. Box 37202, Raleigh, NC 27627

Raleigh Area: Sharon Cooke 919.677.8365

Charlotte Area: Julie Haynes 704.821.6521

Western Area: Mary Jane Gibbons 828.926.3501

Area Coordinators: Sherry&Don Dodson 919.642.0185

**WEBSITES:** [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org)

[www.guidingeyesnc.org](http://www.guidingeyesnc.org)

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**P.O Box 37202**

**Raleigh, NC 27627**