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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Summer 2008

Congratulations NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Paige, Sidney, and VanGogh!

Wayne (Chuck) Miller & Paige (from the profile of the April 2007 graduating class)

Former Marine will keep marching with first Guiding Eyes dog



Chuck Miller with Paige and Jane Vignovic

Chuck Miller, 56, a native "Maine-iac," was diagnosed in 1977 with retinitis pigmentosa. He had served three years in the Marine Corps, then attended the University of Southern Maine, first earning a B.A. in Business, followed by a B.A. in Sociology. He was employed as Assistant Vice President and Mortgage Manager for a division of Fleet Bank. He later served as a board member of the consumer advisory committee of Iris.org.

Paige was raised by Jane Vignovic. Her vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, and Jane was her food sponsor. Paige was started by 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. Jane was able to attend graduation and spend an afternoon with Chuck. She provided the following information about Paige and Chuck. *Paige is working in Maine with her new partner, Chuck Miller. Since retiring, Chuck has kept busy with woodworking projects. He is such a kind gentleman and has a wonderful sense of humor. He regards Paige as effective, warm and affectionate; with an independent mindset that he anticipates will give him limitless opportunities to expand his world. He never missed an opportunity to express his appreciation for Paige. Chuck used to have pet golden retrievers, and he said being matched with Paige felt like winning the lottery.*

Mario Bonds & Sidney (from the profile of the April 2007 graduating class)

Radio broadcaster and musician strives for excellence

Mario Bonds came to Guiding Eyes from Maryland for his second dog, Sidney. The youngest of nine children, Mario lost his sight in 1996 as the result of morning glory syndrome, a progressive disease of the optic nerve. Mario now lives with a surrogate mother; and with a twinkle in his eye, reports that he's shopping for a girl who can "put up" with him. Mario is, in his own words, a "high maintenance, high energy," 20-year old who strives for excellence in all aspects of his life.

Mario entered George Mason University at the age of 17, majoring in Broadcast Journalism, with a minor in Spanish. A self-taught musician, his talents are many: he is an actor; sings; and plays the piano, guitar, organ, and drums. He works on a regularly broadcast radio program and has built his own popular web site.



Mario Bonds and Sidney

When speaking of Sidney, Mario says they both share high expectations and that Sidney's "I'll do whatever you say" attitude has bonded them. "These people at Guiding Eyes really know what they're doing and take pride in what they have accomplished professionally: I admire that."

Sidney was raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner of Carrboro, NC. His vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill, and the Tanners were his food sponsors. Glynis shared the following information about their GEB dogs. **GEB Sidney was selected to guide for Mario Bello in the ACTION Program for people who have previously had guide dogs. They left the center before the April graduation and work together in Baltimore, Maryland. Sidney was our fifth dog raised for GEB, and our second ACTION Guide (the other is GEB Jordan). We have also raised two broods (GEB Unix, Sidney's Mom, and GEB Oreo), and one State Trooper (GEB Badger).**



Sidney and Mario in Training

Although Sidney was Mario's second guide dog, he and Sidney spent two weeks working together in New York with their trainer to make sure they were a good match before heading home to Maryland.

Cynthia Hoff & VanGogh (from the profile of the April 2007 graduating class)

Church parishioner, Lion, and massage therapist seeks new horizons of opportunity

Cynthia Hoff, at age 51, came from Illinois to Guiding Eyes for her first guide dog, VanGogh. Her sight began to diminish at age seven because of macular degeneration. Cynthia came to Guiding Eyes on the advice of her mobility instructor. When Cynthia was interviewed by a Guiding Eyes staff person who was also a graduate she quickly understood that a dog could give her the freedom she sought.

Cynthia's occupational interests have led her into three very distinct fields: she spent years as a busy mother of three (now 25, 23 and 20), was employed as a skip tracer assistant, and today is a massage therapist. She is an active parishioner in her local Catholic diocese, loves singing in her church choir, and is a member of the local Lions Club. In her spare time Cynthia loves to work in her vegetable and flower garden.

Cynthia appreciates VanGogh's anxious-to-please, faithful and obedient personality. She anticipates that with VanGogh at her side, her horizons will be broadened. She describes Guiding Eyes as a "wonderful family-oriented program."

VanGogh was raised by Danny Overcash of Mooresville, NC. His vet sponsor was Lakewood Animal Hospital of Mooresville, and Danny was his food sponsor. Danny shared the following about VanGogh and his graduation. April 2008 saw me on the long drive to NY, again, for a graduation at GEB...just eleven months after Ralph went out into the working world. What a thrill! This time VanGogh was the honoree. It was such a wonderful ceremony. Guests were entertained by a video diary of the class, including first day jitters, meeting their new partners, working with the trainers and relaxing in the break room during "down time." It was an insightful look into the lives of the students; the work, the fun, the serious and the silly. After a stirring ceremony, the raisers were honored. I was pleased that Jane



Cynthia Hoff with VanGogh and Danny Overcash

Russenberger was recognized as a co-raiser of VanGogh. I am so grateful for the solid start she gave him and was glad it was acknowledged.

Cynthia Hoff and VanGogh appear to have been made for each other. Even their coloring is complimentary. Cynthia is bubbly and sweet, and loves VanGogh to bits! He is her first guide dog. They flew home to Chicago the next weekend. In an e-mail, Cynthia praised VanGogh for his handling of the airports and flying. Fortunately the seat next to Cynthia was empty so VanGogh had a little extra room. As he is not a small dog, I am sure he needed every inch of it. Last I heard, VanGogh has settled in well and has added a new, and welcome, dimension to Cynthia's life. I hope for more good reports.

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!



Dreamer – Look at the size of those paws!

Dreamer, a male German Shepherd, is being raised by Jane Vignovic. Dreamer is Jane's 3rd GEB puppy. Dreamer was donated to GEB by Suzanne Clothier from her brood, Rain, and Guide Dogs for the Blind stud, Kennedy. Jane is enjoying her new puppy, and shared the following anecdote about him. **Dreamer is an extremely large puppy with an extremely sweet temperament. He is laid back and is especially skilled at finding an air conditioning vent within seconds. He is quite dramatic, so he provides lots of laughs - especially when combined with his lack of coordination.** Dreamer's vet sponsor is Jordan Lake Animal Hospital in Pittsboro, and his food sponsor is Elise Weinrich of Durham.



Erin and Shadow - Best friends!

Erin, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner. Erin's vet sponsor is Timberlyne Animal Clinic in Chapel Hill, and the Tanners are her food sponsors. Glynis provided the following update on Erin. **Erin, our 6th dog and first blond, has settled nicely and has mastered numerous commands including "Go Place" - such a handy one! She has been swimming a few times which is her favorite sport. Here (see picture) she is with her best friend, Shadow, swimming in the Roanoke River headwaters to Kerr Lake.**

Glen, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Karissa and Kiley Davan. Glen's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital in Raleigh, and his food sponsors are the Davans.

Gwenyth, a female yellow lab, is a home change dog being raised by Christopher Meyer. Gwenyth is Chris' first GEB puppy. Gwenyth's vet sponsor is Boulevard Animal Hospital in Raleigh, and Chris is her food sponsor.

Where are they now?

Elway, a male yellow lab raised by Susan Piron and Joe Brown, was released from training. He recently started a new career with the Connecticut State Police Department. Elway's vet sponsor was Pine Hollow Animal Hospital of Warrenton, NC and his food sponsor was Citizens for Animal Protection (CAPs) of Warren County.

Iota, a male black lab raised by Laura Wiles and family, has recently transitioned into the GEB autism training program. Iota's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital, and the Wiles were his food sponsors.

JW, a male yellow lab started by Kristen Shamblin, and raised by Will and Trudy Pendergraft, was released from training and was lovingly adopted by the Pendergrafts. JW's vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, and Will and Trudy were his food sponsors.

Nino, a male German Shepherd raised by Dana Geiner and family, was released from training and adopted by a loving family. Nino's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital, and his food sponsors were Dana and Rob Geiner.

Ocala, a female black lab raised by Leigh Ames and family, recently passed her in for training test. Ocala's vet sponsor was Poplar Animal Hospital of Concord, and her food sponsor was Bovis Lend Lease of Charlotte, NC.

Oz, a male black lab raised by Jim and Wendy Bierwirth, recently passed his in for training test. Oz' vet sponsor was Pet House Calls of Raleigh, and his food sponsors were the Bierwirths.

Paloma, a female yellow lab raised by Kay and Glenn Jackson of Raleigh, NC, was recently released from training. She is being considered for arson detection work in NC. Paloma's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital, and her food sponsors were Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh.

Powell, a male Golden Retriever raised by Patricia and Sally Neve of Durham, NC, was released from training and happily adopted by the Neves. Powell's vet sponsor was North Paw Animal Hospital of Durham, and his food sponsors were Rick and Sue Copland of Hillsborough, NC.

Ruffles, a female black lab started by Barbara Cuddy of Calabash, NC, is being finished by a raiser in New York. While with Barbara, her vet sponsor was Seaside Animal Care of Calabash, NC and her food sponsors were Barbara's son-in-law and daughter, Mack and Eileen Price of Kennesaw, GA.

Sheldon, a male yellow lab raised by Brenda and Jerry Quesenberry, has been released from training and adopted by a nice family. Sheldon's vet sponsor was Southampton Veterinary Clinic, and Brenda and Jerry were his food sponsors.

Visa, a female yellow lab raised by Jim and Luan Harmeson, recently passed her in for training test. Visa's vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, NC. Her food sponsors were the Harmesons.

Withers, a male yellow lab raised by Sandy Meek and family, recently passed his in for training test. Wither's vet sponsor was Rim Road Animal Hospital of Fayetteville, and the Meek's were his food sponsors.

In Loving Memory
Corsair
4/23/1994 – 4/7/2008

Cosair, raised by Marie and Gary O'Neil, died on April 7, 2008. Corsair was released due to a medical problem and adopted by the O'Neils. His vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital and the O'Neils were his food sponsors.

Old Friends, New Friends!

Dominique, raised by Kristen Shamblin...

Kristen provided the following story about Dominique. Dominique is a guide dog in Brooklyn, NY. She was lucky to have been placed with a fabulous partner, Karen Berger. Karen and her husband Arthur adore Domi and are very grateful to have her. Domi has an exciting life in the city, where she accompanies Karen to work three days a week by walking to the bus stop, then riding the bus the rest of the way to work. Karen is a psychotherapist, so Domi spends her days seeing patients, and getting lots of love and attention from her favorites. On weekends, Karen and Arthur take Domi to visit friends with fenced yards so she can play Frisbee and just be a dog. Domi has an excellent life!

Fortunately for me, Karen and Arthur are happy to stay in touch and share pictures and stories about Domi and her life in NY. In June, they brought her to NC so they could meet the people who touched Domi's life when she was a puppy, and Domi could see all of her old buddies. We had a wonderful weekend together. Domi was thrilled to be at her NC home. She knew where she was, and remembered everyone, including her old friends from work and puppy class. She spent the night at my house, ran in my yard, played with her "big sisters" Cheyenne and Vanilla, and acted like a puppy with her new friend Roz. She was so happy to be with us.

The best part was on Sunday when Karen and Arthur got ready to leave (I know that sounds bad, but read on). Karen brought Domi to NC, but in the back of her mind she had a little fear that Domi would not want to go home with her. She thought a house with a yard and three other dogs versus an apartment with a terrace and no other dogs might just be difficult for Domi to leave. Domi fooled and delighted her because when it was time to go back to the airport, Domi gave me goodbye kisses, and cheerfully hopped into the car with Karen. While Karen and I both had tears in our eyes, we could not have been happier; Karen because her concerns were for nothing, and me because I knew Domi was where, and with whom she was meant to be.



Dominique (GEB guide dog), Cheyenne (GEB released), Vanilla (GEB released), and Roz (GEB Pup on program)



Dessert Social

Please join us for a dessert social during our General Meeting on Saturday, August 9th. Bring your favorite dessert and your sweet tooth, and take this opportunity to meet fellow raisers, sitters, and friends of Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

ATTENTION ALL PUPPY RAISERS:

Please bring your DVD and an accurate reading of your puppy's weight to the next Evaluation (if you did not have it for the Quarterly Raiser Report) and don't forget to submit the Quarterly Raiser Report (www.guidingeyesbcweb.org)!

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, August 8 and SATURDAY, August 9
Raleigh Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC

Friday 8/8	PUPPY	RAISER
12:45 PM	Oslo	Cucurullo
1:30 PM	Dreamer **	Vignovic
2:30 PM	Jody	Jewell
3:15 PM	Sanka	Neve
3:45 PM	Teresa	Echols
4:30 PM	Roz	Shamblin
5:15PM	Wynett	Wiles
6:00 PM	Glen	Davan
6:45 PM	Justice	Geiner
Saturday 8/9	PUPPY	RAISER
8:00 AM	Vance	Piron
8:45 AM	Sandy	Flinchum
9:30 AM	Sahara	Carey
10:15 AM	Erin	Tanner
11:00 AM	New Puppy **	Austin
12:00 PM	GENERAL MEETING AND DESSERT SOCIAL	
1:30 PM	Oberon	Overcash
2:15 PM	Adonis	Waddell
3:00 PM	Gwenyth **	Meyer

** Beside Pup's name indicates photo needs to be taken around the General Meeting time. If you cannot have your picture taken at that time, please make arrangements to have one taken at another time.

DIRECTIONS to the SUMMER EVALUATION

**Raleigh Church of Christ
911 Barringer Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27606**

Driving Directions to Raleigh Church of Christ for the Summer Evaluation:

From I-440:

- Take exit 1C, Jones Franklin Rd and drive North approximately 0.35 miles.
- Turn Left onto Barringer Dr and the church building will be on the Right about 0.11 miles.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2008

August 8-9, 2008

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 7-8, 2008

Evaluation, Apex, NC
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

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

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