



Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Summer 2012

Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Pablo, Ray, Tally, and Tripp!

Pablo, a male black Labrador raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner, graduated from GEB's Heeling Autism Program. Glynis shared the following comments. "Pablo's soft and obedient manner was not suited to the demands of guiding, but well suited for being a companion to a child with autism. He was placed with Bill and Eileen O'Connor and their family to assist their daughter Erin. He fits right in and also provides lots of entertainment for their three young sons Will, Patrick, and Jay." Pablo was the Tanners 7th GEB puppy, Timberlyne/Legion Road Animal Clinics were his veterinary sponsors, and the Tanners were his food sponsors.

Here is what the O'Connors wrote about Pablo joining their lives:

"Pablo, a three year old Black Lab, joined our family in October. He is a graduate of Guiding Eyes for the Blind's extraordinary Heeling Autism Program. Erin adores her constant companion and the feeling appears to be mutual. When not strolling, tethered together, to town they can be found kissing on the couch amidst a sea of books. While he is very much Erin's charge, Pablo has brought immense joy to everyone. The boys are thrilled to have another ball-playing brother and mom and dad are happy to have a ten-and-under who responds to commands. As Pablo demonstrates daily, wonders never cease, while patience, love, and wet sloppy kisses know no bounds."



Erin O'Connor with Pablo



Ray, a black male Labrador raised by Glynis and Rick Tanner, has graduated as a guide in the June 2012 class. He was paired with Justin Hull, 31, a newlywed who returns home with Ray to Omaha, Nebraska. Justin was born with Retinopathy of Prematurity and has been blind since birth. He works as a Customer Services Sales Representative for Marriott, enjoys traveling, working with technology, spending time with family and friends, and listening to music. Increased mobility and independence are only two of the things Justin looks forward to with his new guide dog; the relationship and companionship he has formed with Ray is another aspect that Justin finds important.

Justin told the Tanners that he felt very lucky to have received Ray, who he finds responsive and playful, but who can settle quickly and stay quietly at his feet during meetings – an essential need for his busy job. His wife has a small collie at home and Justin is looking forward to having Ray meet his playmate. One of the reasons Justin selected Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Justin Hull with Ray

was because of their willingness to answer his many, many questions. Ray was the Tanners 8th GEB puppy, Timberlyne/Legion Road Animal Clinics were Ray's veterinary sponsors, and the Tanners were his food sponsors.

Tally, a female yellow lab raised by the Echols family, graduated in the June 2012 class. Chris Echols writes, "Our family had the great privilege of attending Tally's graduation in June. She is no longer a southern bell but a New Yorker living in Brooklyn! Our family had such a wonderful time getting to know her partner named Myrna Votta. We learned that Tally and Dominique, raised by Kristen Shamblin, will soon get to visit as their partners are friends. What a small world we live in.

Seeing Tally provided such wonderful closure to this whole process. Although we miss her so much it hurts, we know that she is loved and doing what she was meant and wants to do. She and Myrna make a beautiful team. If anyone has an opportunity to go to graduation please take advantage and go, it just melts your heart." Chris, Rick, Emily, Ryan and Karo Echols

Tally's vet sponsor was Armadale Animal Hospital in Raleigh, and her food sponsor was the AKC in Raleigh.



Myrna Votta and Tally with Ryan, Chris, Rick, and Emily Echols

Tripp, a black lab raised by Paul Huebner, Graduated from Guide Dog School on Saturday, April 28, 2012. Paul shared the following. "Tripp's graduation was a wonderful event. First, Tripp looks great!! When I touched him I remembered how beautiful his coat is and how strong his body is. He is in excellent condition - and still giving kisses!



James Leach and Tripp

After the ceremony, and before I could get to Tripp and Jimmy (Tripp's new person), a member of Jimmy's family came halfway to greet me. The first thing he said, after "thank you" was that Jimmy has never been happier.

In the hours I spent with Tripp and Jimmy after the ceremony, Jimmy told me how he and Tripp bonded instantly. He told me how well they walk together. He told me how much he loves Tripp. I did not cry during the afternoon, but I did sniffle when Jimmy told me he brushes Tripp every day.

Jimmy and I exchanged contact information and I left with an invitation to visit Tripp and Jimmy at their place. Tripp and Jimmy fly home on Friday. Tripp's new home is a horse farm in southern Kentucky with two ponds and a creek (and horses.)"

Tripp's vet sponsor was Pinetree Veterinary Hospital in Aberdeen. Paul was Tripp's food sponsor.

Tally and Tripp were donated by Sherry and Don Dodson, *and of course Reveille.*

Puppy Updates: Where are they now?

Crystal, a female yellow lab raised by Nancy-Kerr Jennings, has been released from training and is being adopted by Nancy-Kerr. Crystal's vet sponsor was Hickory Tree Veterinary Clinic, and Nancy-Kerr was her food sponsor.

Jan, a female yellow lab raised by Rhea and Mark Vogelhut, recently passed her in-for-training test. Jan's food sponsor was 4 Paws Holistic in Charlotte and her vet sponsor was Mixed Pet Veterinary Hospital also in Charlotte.

Jax, a male black lab raised by Gordon Lymon, recently passed his in-for-training test. Gordon was Jax' food sponsor and Lakewood Veterinary Hospital of Mooresville was his vet sponsor.

Murphy, a male black lab raised by Katie Soost and family, has been released from training and is being adopted by the Soost family. Murphy's vet sponsor was Carpenter Animal Hospital in Cary, and the Soosts were his food sponsors.

Newton, a male yellow lab raised by Irene Cucurullo and family, recently passed his in-for-training test. Newton's vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital and the Cucurullo family is his food sponsor.

**Wow, a parrot
who likes puppies!**

**Guiding Eyes Puppy, Kenneth, meets
Cracker Jack while visiting new
raisers, Rudy and Lisa Bukovnik!**



Sidney Leads an Interesting Life

GEB Guide Sidney, the 6th dog raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner, had the opportunity to stay at their home for several months in the early spring whilst his partner, Mario Bonds, filmed Glee Project 2 in Los Angeles. Due to the strenuous hours and minimal down-time, Mario was not able to take Sidney with him, and had to rely on his cane and an assistant for mobility. He very much missed his faithful guide! After filming completed, Sidney has accompanied Mario on their press-tour. Glee Project 2 airs on the Oxygen Channel; to catch a glimpse of Mario, here is a link to a short performance:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8a-01NKK0A>.

Nina Meets her Food Sponsor!

Nina, being raised by Irene Cucurullo and family, had the honor of meeting her food sponsor, Doris Newsome Thompson in Wilmington, N.C. As you can see by the picture it was "LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT" for both Nina and Doris!!!

Doris Newsome Thompson is the National Corresponding Secretary of the National Society Southern Dames of America & Organizing President of the Southport, NC Chapter.

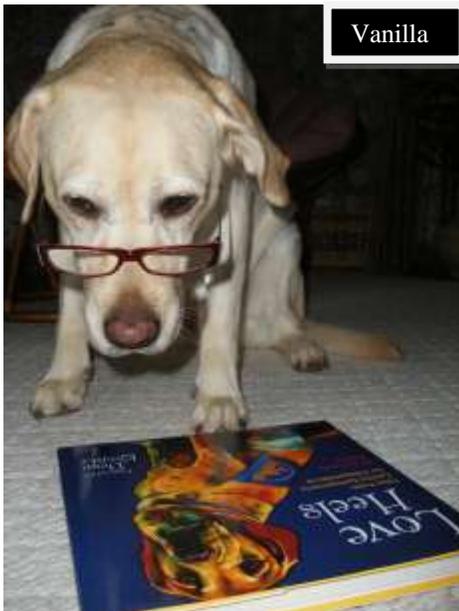
Doris wrote the following message to Irene and Nina...

"Our members are excited about meeting you and Nina and so happy to be involved in this WONDERFUL program." Doris has invited Nina and Irene to attend their Southport, NC Chapter meeting in August.



**Doris Newsome Thompson
meets Nina!**

The Southport Chapter of the National Society Southern Dames of America, Inc.



Vanilla

The North Carolina Puppy Raising Program of Guiding Eyes for the Blind wants to sincerely thank the Southport Chapter of the National Society Southern Dames of America, Inc. for their generous support by being food sponsors for two puppies coming into our program. Also, another chapter member, Dick and Dame Doris Newsome Thompson are currently food sponsors for Nina, being raised by Irene Cucurullo. We so appreciate their generosity and support!

The Southport Chapter of the National Society Southern Dames of America, Inc. is collecting eyeglasses and cases as a donation to the Lions Club. We will have a box at our next Evaluation on July 26, 27, 28 if any of our volunteers would like to donate their old glasses to this great cause. Also, Irene Cucurullo will be glad to collect them at any class. It will be fun to give back to this generous group of women!

Thanks so much!

**You never know who can use
your old eyeglasses.
Please help us give back!**

The TFS Justice Fair

Irene Cucurullo and Nina attended the TFS Justice Fair. The organizer of the event contributed the following comments. "The TFS Justice Fair helps children learn how to live out their faith by witnessing how others make that faith come alive in the world. Irene Cucurullo and her guide dogs have been a part of our fair since its beginning six years ago. This year Nina helped our students understand how people are given dignity through the use of guide dogs. Irene and her dogs are always a huge learning experience for our students and teachers alike."



Nina visits the TFS Justice Fair

A Big THANK YOU to Kay Jackson!

Kay Jackson has worked very hard over the last 15+ years to serve the NCPRP by being our Puppy Sitter Coordinator. She has coordinated sits, very often on short notice, to see that our raisers had the sitters they needed when they had scheduled and sometimes immediate unscheduled absences. It is a critical job with our program and Kay has done a great job! We sincerely thank her for her dedication to the raisers and puppies of the NC Puppy Raising Program.

Kay has now decided to resign her position in order to do some well-deserved traveling. She just didn't feel she would be around enough to provide the support in this function that the program needs. We thank her, again, for watching out for us on that front, too!

It is rare that we have had one of our key team members continue on in their role after they were unable to raise puppies but Kay has done just that for years! An experienced raiser, she just realized that her work schedule would not permit her to continue being a puppy raiser. She still continued on for so long giving to the program and the raisers. For this Kay, we sincerely thank you so much.

We will miss Kay but are delighted she and Glenn can take the time, and enjoy the travel that they so richly love to do and deserve. Please be safe, travel well and far, and enjoy your time; but return to see us whenever you can.

Thanks, again, Kay!

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 26, Friday, July 27 & Saturday, July 28, 2012
Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

DATE	PUPPY	RAISER
Thursday 7/26		
4:30-6:30 PM (Jane)	New Puppy **	Mehl
6:00-8:00 PM (Kevin)	Luster	Shamblin
7:00-8:30 PM (Jane)	Kenneth	Metros
Friday, 7/27		
11:30 AM-12:45 PM (Jane)	Nina	Cucurullo
1:00-2:30 PM (Jane)	MacBeth	Newcity
2:30-4:30 PM (Kevin)	New Puppy **	Haynes
4:30-6:30 PM (Kevin)	Parson	Huebner
6:30 PM	Dinner for Team	
7:00 PM	Meeting for Team	
Saturday, 7/28		
8:30-10:30 AM (Kevin)	Pilgrim	Harmeson
10:00-11:45 AM (Jane)	New Puppy **	Bukovnik
12:00-12:45 PM	General Meeting	
1:00-3:00 PM Kevin)	Gaffney	Coney-Pacious
2:30-4:00 PM (Jane)	Micah	Bryant

**** Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph Saturday morning or with someone on Thursday or Friday. Please let Sherry know if you can't make it on Saturday if you need a photo.**

PLEASE REMEMBER to bring your evaluation DVDs (new puppies will get their new DVD's at the eval)

Raisers, please be a little early for your evaluation as we may be running ahead of schedule. Thanks!

DIRECTIONS to the EVALUATIONS

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

Driving Directions to Raleigh Church of Christ for the 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.

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.guidingeyes.org)!

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2012

July 26-28, 2012

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 1-3, 2012

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2013

January 31 - February 2, 2013

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

May 2-4, 2013

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

August 1-3, 2013

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 7-9, 2013

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist 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

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

North Carolina Puppy Raising Program

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www.guidingeyesnc.org



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program

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