



Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Summer 2017

Congratulations NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Hilda and Jack!

Anthony & Hilda (from the profile of the May graduating class)

"Coming to Guiding Eyes for Hilda, my first guide dog, has probably been the most inspiring experience of my life," says Tony. Born with Proliferative vitreoretinopathy, a condition that prevents a detached retina from healing, Tony lost his right retina at the age of two and underwent over 50 surgeries on his left eye. He was legally blind for most of his childhood. At the age of nine, an accident led to the complete loss of sight in his left eye as well. "But I never let anything stop me," says Tony, now 20.

Like most kids, Tony enjoyed playing sports and video games. But after his father bought him a guitar, he discovered his true passion is making music. Tony began spending hours in the basement practicing, ultimately sharing his talents as a vocalist and guitar player through talent shows, choir, and other venues. His first band, which Tony formed as an 8th grader, played all across his home state of Michigan.

Nowadays, Tony collaborates with other musicians online, writes his own lyrics, and plays a variety of instruments. He also enjoys working on the production side of things as an audio engineer. In addition to music, Tony loves to travel and to share positive thoughts and ideas online through blogging.

What's next? College might be in the cards, thanks in part to Hilda, a black Lab. "She's already motivated me to go back to school," says Tony. "And I want to travel with her, too—I want to take her around the world."

Congratulations to Hilda's puppy raisers, The Walker Family!



Hilda was raised by Tommy Walker and family. Her vet sponsor was Coats Veterinary Hospital in Rocky Mount, NC and the Walkers were her food sponsors. Tommy shared the following perspective on raising Hilda.

As a raiser, I went into this experience fully aware that we were a temporary home for Hilda. Our family was committed to making a positive difference for someone and helping Hilda reach her potential to choose the right job when she "grew up".

But when Kerry and Sherry let us know that Hilda had an IFT date, the lump in my throat let me know that I had been fooling myself for the past 12 months. I found myself fighting back tears when I'd try to tell people that she had a test date. As Leigh and the kids took their turns saying goodbye to that special dog, the tears started. They continued through our last weekend together in Patterson, in the kennel at Yorktown Heights and in the break room after her IFT.

On the long drive back to NC, I looked down at the empty floor mat on the passenger side and realized just how much she had been a part of our lives. We were together almost every day at work, in the car, at home and out around town.

When we got word that Hilda was graduating (and moving to Alaska!), I had mixed feelings. Part of me thought that this would be a rare opportunity and someone from our family needed to attend. The other didn't want to go back and experience the heart wrenching emotion of saying goodbye all over again.

In the end my oldest son, Jack, and I went to NY for the graduation. The emotions did come back, but there were tears of joy and pride mixed in. We met Tony and heard what a difference Hilda had already made for him in three short weeks. Witnessing the graduation in person was powerful, and getting a chance to congratulate Hilda and her new partner brought some needed closure.

Thanks to all of you for sharing in our journey and for the love and sacrifices you make for GEB and those special dogs.

Sincerely,

The Walkers



Jabriel & Jack

Jack, raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo, graduated in July. His graduate, Jabriel, is a young man from Port Orange, FL. Jabriel feels like "he and Jack bring out the best in each other"! Jack's vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital and his food sponsor was Mrs. Doris Thompson.

Jack's Journey



Puppy Updates: Where are they now?

Amie, a yellow female lab, raised by Brian and Debra Davis and Gail and David Parrish, recently passed her In for Training test! While with the Davis family, they were Floral's food sponsors and Mayfair Animal Hospital in Cary was her vet sponsor. While with the Parrish family, they were Floral's food sponsors and Falls Village Veterinary Hospital was her vet sponsor. Mosquito Authority and Trinity United Methodist Church were also sponsors for Amie.

Gail said of Amie's IFT, "We were so proud of her. She didn't even do any of her goofy moves. And she was only vaguely interested in the little dog. That surprised me. She was glad to see us after the test but was more interested in the little pups they were bringing in for the raisers to take home with them. I thought about snatching one for myself!

We did get to see Brandy (Guiding Eyes for the Blind Heeling Autism service dog) Sunday morning. What a joy! She has the sweetest family. When we arrived, she sniffed my hand and went wild...jumping, licking, "talking." She didn't notice David at first, but when she did, she ran back and forth between us. The parents, Emily and Darrell, said they had never seen her so excited. She never left our side. She lay with her head in David's lap and followed me like my shadow.

I think little Oscar was afraid we were there to take Brandy. He kept saying, "Brandy's my dog". But he got over that soon. Needless to say, I left there with black hair all over me, but I didn't care. Emily told me that Oscar's progress had skyrocketed. I could have stayed all day with them, but with four children under the age of eight, they're pretty busy.



Gail and David Parrish with Amie



Gail and David with Brandy and her family

Malley, a male German Shepherd raised by Paul Huebner, is retiring as a stud. Malley has produced 33 puppies for GEB. He has offspring in the U.S, U.K. and France. He may also have puppies for other schools in Israel and Europe.

He lives in retirement in Patterson, New York in a wonderful home on the edge of the “Great Swamp”. He lives there with his daughter, Kayla, and GEB Hadley. He passes his days with his favorite pastime - playing Frisbee.



NC Puppies on Facebook and Instagram

Meghan Blanton has updated the NC Region Puppy Raiser Facebook and has created an Instagram account. Meghan said, "It's a great way to spread awareness, share puppy updates and keep graduates informed - so I'd love your help!"

If you have pictures that you'd like posted, please email them to me, along with some info that I can use to create a caption (ex. where your puppy was, what he/she was doing, etc.). The more descriptive it is, the better for graduates who may be following our page. I'd like to post a few times a week, so please keep the cute pictures & updates coming!"

If you have a personal account and would like to follow along, please search for the following...

Facebook Page: Guiding Eyes North Carolina Puppy Raising Region

Instagram: Guiding Eyes North Carolina / @guidingeyesnc / #guidingeyesnc

Animal Blessings to be Held in Raleigh

Millbrook Baptist Church – Sunday, September 24th at 4:30 p.m.

In recognition of the special role that companion animals play in many of our lives, Millbrook Baptist Church will hold its 6th Annual Blessing of the Animals and fundraiser for Second Chance Pet Adoptions, on **Sunday, September 24th at 4:30 p.m.** (A rain date is set for Sunday, October 1st also at 4:30 p.m.) The service is open to the public and their animal companions. Following a brief service, animals in attendance will be offered an individual blessing. Animals of all types are welcome provided they are on a leash/lead or otherwise restrained, have current vaccinations as required by law, and have no communicable diseases. Those who have lost a pet may bring a collar, toy, photo, or other reminder for a blessing of memories. The service will be held on the grassy area in back of the church located at 1519 E. Millbrook Road in Raleigh. Please consider bringing a donation of money, cat and dog food, toys, cleaning supplies, paper towels and bedding for Second Chance Pet Adoptions (located at 6003 Chapel Hill Road, Raleigh -- <https://www.secondchancenc.org>).

Millbrook Baptist Church thanks the volunteers of Guiding Eyes for the Blind for the important work that you are doing and extends a special invitation to this event to you and your guide dogs in training.

Saint Mary's School – Sunday, October 8th at 6:45 p.m.

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL INVITES FRIENDS AND RAISERS OF GEB TO ATTEND THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8th, FROM 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Caroline Costello, puppy raiser, sent the following invitation. Our chapel at Saint Mary's School has a blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 8th from 6:45 p.m. -7:30 p.m. outside of the chapel. Our chaplain blesses the animals and the entire boarding community (150 students) will be there to witness the ceremony. There is time for students to remember lost pets and they may light a candle for their lost animal. This is open to the Saint Mary's Community and campus residents, as well as the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Community puppies and their raisers, and other dogs. The girls would love to socialize with the dogs afterwards.

There will be plenty of parking at 900 Hillsborough Street in the front circle and field to the side. The chapel is right next to the front circle.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Puppies Explore Marla Dorrel Park in Cary Great Exposure, Great Fun!



EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sept. 21, Friday, Sept. 22, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017
Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

DATE	PUPPY	RAISER
Thursday, 9/21/17		
~ 6:30 PM	Baja	Tamara Flinchum
Friday, 9/22/17		
11:00 AM	Danielle	Daniels/sitter- Anja
1:00 PM	Drake	
2:30 PM	Lunch for the team	Out of building
4:00 PM	Polo	Paul Huebner
5:30 PM	Jenga	Hannah Matthews
Saturday, 9/23/17		
8:30 AM	Jed	Scott/Carol Kennedy
10:30 AM	Pax	Jim Harmeson
12:30	Lunch for the team	In building
1:30	Dahlia	Meghan Blanton

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2017

September 21-23

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 30-December 2

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

MISSION STATEMENT

"Guiding Eyes for the Blind is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. We are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals for greater independence."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEBSITES: www.guidingeyes.org
www.guidingeyesnc.org



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