



## **Kiley and Rory Smith**

Rory Smith has come to Guiding Eyes for the Blind from Atlanta, Georgia to take home his first dog, Kiley, a black and tan female Lab. GEB was recommended to him by his mobility instructor because the school serves people with multiple disabilities. Rory, now 28, has had a long history of physical problems starting with inflammation in the eyes, cataracts, corrective eye surgery, glaucoma and progressing to a fused hip and later a hip replacement caused by rheumatoid arthritis. He describes Kiley as a playful, affectionate dog who is obedient, a hard worker and wants to please. He knows that Kiley will enable him to be independent, to exercise more and to travel with confidence. She will be a tremendous positive force toward his physical well being. Rory's last traffic walk in White Plains left him exuberant. "What a partnership Kiley and I have! I would never go to another school and you can quote me on that!"



*Kiley's vet sponsor was Pet House Calls of Raleigh and her food sponsors were the Bierwirths.*

## **Glacier and Jose Infante**

Jose Infante, the second Special Needs student in this class, came to Guiding Eyes for the Blind from Santa Rosa, California for his first dog, Glacier, a bewitching female yellow Lab. Jose was born with Ushers syndrome, and by the time he was three years old, a notable loss of both his hearing and sight was recognized. Jose was descriptive and vocal in his response to questions and went into great detail about his journey through youth. By the age of 30, Jose said that he had lost most of his sight but was still able to read large print. Jose, now 52 years of age, came to GEB as the result of the advice of a blind and deaf friend, Nick, who had come to GEB for help himself. Jose was by then totally convinced that GEB was the one and only school for him. He was subsequently impressed with the visit of a GEB representative during which he performed a "Juno" walk that would assess his mental/physical aptitude and ability. Jose knows that Glacier will give him confidence as he ventures out into the "wonderful world beyond his living space." Speaking with enthusiasm of GEB, he said, "I love it here. From the training to the food, everything is great." Jose describes Glacier as being "beautiful, friendly, happy, and a constant worker" and knows that he and Glacier have bonded. He especially loves to sense the beat of her rapidly thumping tail and her sloppy kisses that greet him early each morning. By now, Glacier also knows that she can claim Jose's attention by placing her paw in his lap. In speaking of his training at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, he says that Ellin tells him "to be patient, that everything will get better, faster and easier with time." He is so grateful for such understanding and patient training and knows it will affect his life significantly.



*Glacier's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital and her food sponsor was Art Lockwood of Raleigh.*

## **K-9 Newton Graduates, 118<sup>th</sup> Patrol Dog Troop of Connecticut State Police** **By Sharon Cooke**

Every puppy comes to us with high hopes and unanswered questions. Countless miles of walking, endless hours of obedience training and socialization, and an immeasurable amount of love hopefully prepare our young charges to lead a blind person into the world.

The bundle of fur that awaited a ride to our home in Cary, NC was one of the cutest puppies I had ever seen! He actually looked more like a bear cub than a puppy and, even at the tender age of 8 weeks, he was calm, thoughtful,

and somewhat serious. Newton never made a sound in his traveling crate and, amazingly, he let me sleep through the night in a hotel. It is no wonder that, by the end of our 12-hour journey, I was in love---again!

What started as a family joke became the overriding question for Newton: Do you think he'll be more of a "Fig" or a "Sir Isaac"? Within a few months, we discovered Newton at the top of the stairs with a ball. He would drop it down the stairs and study the result before retrieving it and repeating the process. It was obvious that he was testing his namesake's theories of time, motion, and relativity. From that moment, we respectfully knighted him "Sir Newton." Oh, what a personality!

Weeks turned into months and we discovered another side to our loving, calm, laid back German Shepherd. He seemed to have a button that, when activated, turned him into a rather intense personality and we learned what "prey drive" actually means. With Jane's help we tried our best to disconnect that switch but, alas and alack, we were never completely successful. It was to be Newton's ticket to an alternate career and we had to face the disappointment that he was not going to be a guide dog.

New questions come when Jane tells you that your puppy is going to be released. It's so easy to feel like a failure. But, we've learned through the years that our real job as puppy raisers is to provide these special dogs with the training and the environment to reach their fullest potential. Sometimes they just don't have it within themselves to do guide work. With this realization, we were offered the opportunity to send Newton to Connecticut State Police. We knew he needed a job and we loved the idea that when he wasn't working he would live with his partner as a member of a family. So we sent our very special boy into the world of law enforcement with some degree of concern and many new questions. Questions like: Will his new family love him enough? Will his "partner" understand him? Can he do the work of a Connecticut State Police Patrol Dog?



Imagine our joy when, several weeks into training, Trooper Dan Sliby called to let us know about Newton's progress. He and the other members of the class had even dubbed Newton a "thinking dog" and imagined him speaking with an accent like a British professor. Ironically, overriding the laid back side and learning how to flip Newton's other switch (the one we had worked so hard to disconnect) was one of Dan's biggest challenges through training. In fact, Dan later shared with us that the first day he met Newton he wouldn't have given him a chance of graduating. Always full of surprises, Newton made a big impression when, on the day of his tracking test (an area in which he had struggled) he practically "pulled Dan out of his boots" as he covered a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile track in 3 minutes to find a missing person! I don't know who was prouder of Newton, Dan or us.

The final question about whether we had made the right decision by not bringing Newton back home to live with us was answered when we received pictures of Newton and his new family. The shots of him curled up in bed next to Dan's young daughter convinced us that he was in the perfect place. Newton had a job, a person to whom he could be devoted and a loving family. We couldn't have asked for more!

And so we found ourselves sitting in the auditorium of the Police Academy in Meriden, CT on a grey, wet, and cold morning December 29, 2005 waiting for the graduation of our very special German Shepherd from the 118<sup>th</sup> Patrol Dog Unit of the Connecticut State Police. Through the ceremony we learned about the high failure rate of both handlers and dogs. Fourteen weeks of demanding and intense training in the areas of Obedience, Evidence Recovery, Handler Protection, Building Search, Tracking, and Aggression take their toll on both humans and canines.

Dan and Newton's accomplishment became even more impressive especially considering Dan's first encounters with Newton.

After the ceremony we were actually able to visit with Dan, his family and Newton. It was thrilling that Newton had not forgotten us. It was even more heartwarming to see his devotion to his new Daddy. We eventually said our good-byes and left knowing that once again the puppy we had raised had found the perfect place for himself. A chapter in our lives was closed. Or so we thought . . .

Just 3 days later, we received an update from Dan. It seemed that the first night on the job Newton enthusiastically tracked down a bad guy who had stolen some property and was hiding in the bushes. To make the story even sweeter, Dan said that Newton was out of the truck and on the track before he could even get his harness on! Kudos to them both but especially to Dan who didn't give up on a dog that seemed an unlikely candidate for police work. Instead he has spent countless hours figuring out what makes Newton tick and providing him with the love and direction to excel in a very important job.

And so, we now await the arrival of our next puppy and the questions begin again.

*Newton's vet sponsor was Western Wake Veterinary Hospital of Apex and his food sponsors were Al & Norma Burgeron of Burlington, NC.*

## **Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!**

**Fanya**, a female black lab, is being raised by Caryn Fellows, who will soon be moving back down to NC from up North. Fanya is Caryn's 2<sup>nd</sup> GEB puppy!

**Osage**, a male black lab, is being raised by Wendy and Jim Bierwirth of Raleigh, NC. Osage is the Bierwirth's 7<sup>th</sup> GEB Puppy and is the son of Finesse who Wendy and Jim raised as a puppy! His vet sponsor is Pet House Calls of Raleigh and the Bierwirths are his food sponsor.

**Verna**, a female black lab, is being raised by Kay and Glenn Jackson of Raleigh, NC. Verna is their 7<sup>th</sup> GEB puppy and is the daughter of Glacier who Kay and Glenn raised as a puppy! Her vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh and the Art Lockwood of Raleigh is her food sponsor.

## **Where are they now?**

**Benny**, a male yellow lab raised by Dana Geiner and family of Raleigh, NC has recently passed his in-for-training test with flying colors! Benny's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh and his food sponsor was the Geiner family.

**BJ**, a female yellow lab raised by MR Rosenthal of Pawley's Island, SC has recently passed her in-for-training test with flying colors! BJ's food sponsor was MR Rosenthal.

**Cora**, a black female lab, has recently joined the home of Kathie and Bill Rysanek of Raleigh, NC. Cora is the Rysanek's 3<sup>rd</sup> GEB puppy! Cora's vet sponsor is Six Forks Animal Hospital in Raleigh and the Rysaneks are her food sponsors. Cora was previously raised by Nancy Inger of Oriental, NC, Robin Stern of Cary, NC and Donovan Leonard of Raleigh, NC. Cora's previous vet sponsors include Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital and Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary. Her previous food sponsors were The Bean of Oriental, NC, Robin Stern & Donovan Leonard.

**Dustin**, a black male lab, has recently joined the home of Sharon and Andy Cooke of Cary, NC. Dustin is the Cooke's 8th GEB puppy! Dustin's vet sponsor is Western Wake Veterinary Services of Apex and the Cookes are his food sponsors. Dustin was initially raised by Allison Spain of Greenville, NC. While in Greenville, Dustin's vet sponsor was Animal Hospital of Greenville and his food sponsors were Allen and Donna Spain.

**Madison**, a black female lab raised by Chris, Rick, Emily and Ryan Echols of Raleigh, NC, has been released from the breeding program and has been placed into training. Madison's vet sponsor was Armadale Animal Hospital of Raleigh and her food sponsor was the Echols family.

**Maya**, a female lab raised by Peter and Lynn McNamara of Charlotte, has been released from GEB due to medical reasons. Maya will permanently join the home of the McNamaras. Her vet sponsor was Weddington Animal Hospital of Matthews, NC and the McNamaras were her food sponsors.

**Ogden**, a male golden retriever raised by Bob and Jackie Schmidt of Oriental, NC, has recently been released from GEB due to lack of confidence. His vet sponsor was Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital and his food sponsor was Kathy Bates of Oriental, NC.

**Opal**, a female black lab raised by the Anderson family of Apex, NC, was released from training at GEB and has started training with the Canadian Guide Dog School. Her vet sponsor was Apex Animal Hospital and her food sponsor was the Anderson family.

**Othello**, a black male lab raised by Donovan Leonard of Raleigh and initially by Karissa Davan of Raleigh will be graduating from the ATF in Front Royal Virginia on April 12<sup>th</sup>!! Othello's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh and his food sponsor was Karissa Davan of Raleigh.

**Roxy**, a female black lab raised by Susan Piron & Joe Brown of Lake Gaston, NC, was recently released from training, and she has started a new career in arson detection in North Carolina with Jerry Webster! Roxy's vet sponsor was Pine Hollow Animal Hospital of Warrenton, NC and her food sponsor was CAPP (Citizens for Animal Protection of Warren County) of Macon, NC.

**Ulrika**, a female lab/shepherd mix, has recently joined the home of Margot Bennett and family of Cary, NC. Ulrika is the Bennett's 5th GEB puppy. Ulrika's vet sponsor in Cary is Gentle Care Animal Hospital and her food sponsors is the Bennett family. Ulrika was initially raised by Kristen Wiltse of Concord, NC. While in Concord, Ulrika's vet sponsor was Coddle Creek Animal hospital and her food sponsor was Kristen.

### **In Loving Memory**

#### **Lansing**

June 6, 1996 - January 13, 2006

**Lansing**, a male lab raised by Danny and Walt Overcash, recently passed away. Lansing was lovingly adopted by Matt and Dana McConaghy of Ventia, PA. Lansing's vet sponsors were Parkway Animal Hospital of Fairfax, VA and Alpharetta Animal Hospital of Alpharetta, GA.

#### **Marcus**

February 16, 1995 - November 4, 2005

**Marcus**, a male lab raised by the Mueller Family of Raleigh and lovingly adopted by Dr. Peter and Jill Wise of Cary, recently passed away.

## NCPRP FUNDRAISER!! READ ALL ABOUT IT and HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!!

This **FEBRUARY**, Restaurant Starlu in Durham, NC has generously selected the North Carolina Puppy Raising Program of Guiding Eyes for the Blind to be the 'Bottles of Change' recipient organization! Each month Restaurant Starlu designates a red and a white wine, available by the glass and the bottle, as their Bottles of Change selection. For every glass and bottle of that wine Restaurant Starlu sells, they donate \$.50 (per glass) and \$2.00 (per bottle) to the month's charity. Restaurant Starlu also has an enormous wine bottle for patrons to drop pocket change, bills or checks made out to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

In addition, on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>**, Restaurant Starlu will donate **15% of the check total** for those who present this coupon!! Feel free to print out as many of these as you'd like and pass them out to your friends and family!!

Puppies in training who have their coats and who are well-behaved are welcome to accompany their raisers who would like to dine in the restaurant! Chef/Owner Sam Poley and his wife Stephanie are dog enthusiasts and will shower them with attention!

### Restaurant Starlu

3211 Shannon Rd, Durham, NC 27707, (919) 489-1500, [www.starlu.com](http://www.starlu.com), **Directions:** [www.starlu.com/directions.html](http://www.starlu.com/directions.html)

Many thanks to Chef/Owner Sam Poley and his wife, Stephanie Poley!!!!!!!!!!

COUPON

COUPON

COUPON

COUPON



bottles  
of  
change

Restaurant Starlu has selected Guiding Eyes for the Blind as the Bottles of Change organization for the month of February 2005. All month long, a portion of the proceeds from select wines will be donated to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Also, on Monday, February 6th, 2005, present this card at Restaurant Starlu and 15% of your check total will be donated to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.



3211 Shannon Road • Durham, NC 27707 • (919) 489-1500 • [www.starlu.com](http://www.starlu.com)

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUTH RAISERS!!!!

Three \$2,000 scholarships will be rewarded to encourage youth, who have raised a puppy for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, to pursue an education in any field of study at an accredited college, university, technical or trade school. To be eligible, applicants must be a senior in high school or college student continuing education in the Fall 2006, must have been a primary participant in raising two Guide Dog puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and must pursue an education in any field of study at an accredited college, university, technical or trade school. Applications due June 1, 2006! More information will be available soon on visit: <http://cdc.guidingeyes.org/>.

### In Loving Memory

The NCPRP is very sad to just learn of the passing of our good friend and puppy raiser, Jesse Dawkins on January 9, 2006 in Washington, NC. Jesse had been in failing health for quite a few years but it is such sad news to those of us who have been around for quite a while and remember his quiet devotion to all the dogs he and Olga raised. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Olga and their daughter, Vel. We have also learned that their dogs, Umbra and Stanza, who were both in the program but released, have also died. Olga and Vel, we are thinking of you with love!

## EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, February 17<sup>th</sup> and SATURDAY, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Raleigh Church of Christ

<b>Friday 2/17</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
10:30 AM	Fanya **	Fellows
11:30 AM	Pancho	Cucurullo
12:15 PM	Lucas	Neve
1:00 PM	Karo	Echols
1:45 PM	Cora **	Rysanek
2:30 PM	Dominique	Shamblin
3:15 PM	Elaine	Vignovic
4:00 PM	BREAK	
4:15 PM	Lava	Barnett
5:00 PM	Ulrika	Bennett
5:45 PM	Verna **	Jackson
<b>Saturday 2/18</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
8:00 AM	London	Smith
8:45 AM	Osage **	Bierwirth
9:30 AM	Oreo	Tanner
10:15 AM	Velvet	Burkett
11:15 AM	O'Shea	Quesenberry
NOON	LUNCH & GENERAL MEETING	
12:45 PM	Ralph	Overcash
1:30 PM	Jeeter	Haynes
2:15 PM	Jewel	Gilleland

\* Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph by Rick Tanner

### Driving Directions to Raleigh Church of Christ for Winter Evaluation:

#### From I-440:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS: 2006

### February 17-18, 2006

Evaluation, Raleigh Church of Christ

### May 5-6, 2006

Evaluation, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church,  
Apex, NC

### August 11-12, 2006

Evaluation, Raleigh Church of Christ

### November 10-11, 2005

Evaluation, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church,  
Apex, NC

## 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.

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## 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

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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**North Carolina Puppy Raising Program**

**P.O Box 214**

**Pittsboro, NC 27312**