



Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Winter 2014

Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Kenneth, Parson, and Ray!

Anita and Kenneth (From the profile of the November Graduating Class)

Californian Anita returned to Guiding Eyes for the Blind to be matched with Kenneth, her second guide dog. Her vision loss is due to retinitis pigmentosa. Anita is a graduate of Hunter College's music program and has sung on Broadway in Hello Dolly and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. She also performed in a Lincoln Center revival of South Pacific, where she met her husband. She enjoys theatre, concerts, reading, taking cruises and spending time with her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. Anita finds life to be "more open with a dog;" she continues to enjoy the freedom and active life that comes with having a wonderful guide and companion.



Anita and Kenneth

Kenneth was raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo, Valerie Metros and Matthew Bonds, and Katie Soost and family. His vet sponsors were Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital in Raleigh, Four Paws Animal Clinic in Chapel Hill, and Carpenter Animal Hospital in Cary. His food sponsors were Dick and Doris Thompson of Leland and Kathie Rysanek of Raleigh. Irene shared the following about Kenneth.

"Several weeks before Kenneth's graduation in October, we were able to visit him at the training center. As you can see it was a wonderful reunion! We wish him the best of luck in California where he continues his journey as guide dog."



Irene Cucurullo with Kenneth

Jessica and Parson (Provided by Puppy Raiser Paul Huebner)

Jessica and Parson graduated from guide school at a ceremony at Guiding Eyes for the Blind on November 2, 2013. On Sunday morning, November 3, Jessica, Parson, and their trainer, flew home to Jacksonville, FL., to begin their work acclimating to their new life together. Jessica, a 25 year old woman, has retinitis pigmentosa in addition to a slight learning disability. Parson is going to help her navigate her life, better. Jessica and her parents hope she will begin attending a new school, in a year or so, that will help Jessica begin to live independently.

Jessica and her parents did not plan to get a dog from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Originally, they picked another school, closer to their home. That school did not have a special needs program. A special needs student is one who has multiple disabilities, one of which is vision impairment. Guiding Eyes for the Blind is one of a few guide schools worldwide that has a full time, dedicated, special needs program.

Jessica could have had Guiding Eyes for the Blind staff come to her home in FL and complete all her training there. Instead, Jessica and her parents decided it would be better for Jessica to go to school at Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Jessica told me that until she went to

Guiding Eyes for the Blind she had never met another visually impaired person. At Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Jessica and 8 others, from all over North America, and of varied backgrounds, all learned the same lessons together. Among her classmates getting their first guide dogs was an 88 year old veteran of WWII.

Parson was raised by Paul Huebner and Rob Hambrick. Parson's vet sponsors were Pinetree Veterinary Hospital in Aberdeen while he was with Paul and Northwoods Animal Hospital in Cary while he was with Rob. Paul and Rob were his food sponsors.



Jessica and Parson

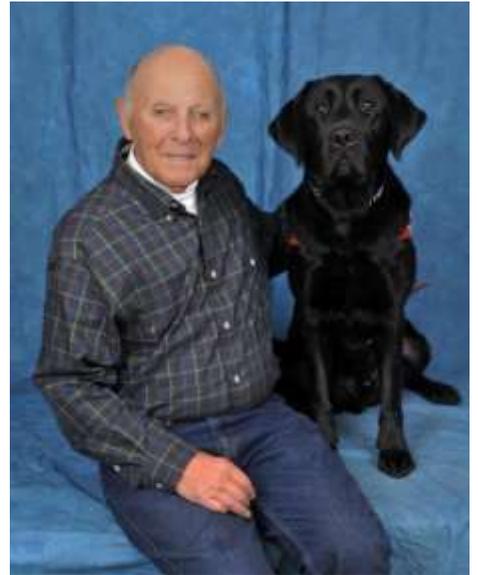


Paul and Ray (From the profile of the November Graduating Class)

Paul Ellner lost his sight due to progressive macular degeneration. In October, he came to Guiding Eyes for the Blind from Connecticut to receive his first guide dog, Ray. After serving in the US Navy, Paul was commissioned as a reserve officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. He was assigned to the National Disaster Medical System and organized relief efforts and taught lectures on biological weapons. In addition, he flew search and rescue missions for the Civil Air Patrol.

That road eventually led him to professor emeritus at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he taught microbiology and pathology. On four occasions, the medical students voted him “Teacher of the Year” and “Outstanding Lecturer.” Additionally, Paul directed the Clinical Microbiology Service at Presbyterian Hospital. There he received the Sonnenwirth Award in Clinical Microbiology (1992).

Now 89, Paul is focused on writing fiction and enjoying his retirement through exercise and yoga. Ray will make it much easier for him to get around his community. Paul has been extremely impressed by Guiding Eyes for the Blind; he finds the trainers knowledgeable and kind, and he feels the staff is extremely driven to help people to succeed.



Paul and Ray



Paul, Ray and Extended Family

Rick and Glynis Tanner, Ray’s puppy raisers provided the following. “Paul and Ray were part of a new program at Guiding Eyes for the Blind that works with older graduates who live in rural and semi-rural environments. These pairs have different challenges, such as roads with no sidewalks. Paul and his wife Cornelia live in a multi-generational community in Connecticut that comprises 474 living units on 235 acres, with 6 miles of roads and 2 miles of walking trails in wooded areas.

Some updates from Cornelia: "Paul is so happy with Ray, me too ... His first night at home was perfect. He loved the crate (don't they all?) and even with the time change, was absolutely fine! Such a great dog. ... First night in a hotel. Ray did great without his crate ... Paul and Ray are doing great! Ray loves the snow and bounded in our dog run with glee with a foot of powder underneath!! Our son's new puppy, Cooper, has become fast friends with Ray. He ignores the puppy stuff and Cooper is over the top with his new buddy..."

Ray was the 8th dog raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner in Carrboro. Rick and Glynis were Ray's food sponsors. Legion Road/Timberlyne Animal Clinic was his veterinary sponsor.

Meet the New Puppies!

Coal, a black male lab, is being raised by Irene Cucurullo. Coal is Irene's 11th Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. His food sponsors are Doris and Dick Thompson of Leland, NC and his vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital. Irene said, "Santa delivered 14 pounds of "COAL" to the Cucurullo home in December. COAL looks up to his big brother Quentin who is teaching him skills to help achieve his long term goal of becoming a guide dog."



Coal



Quinten teaching Coal the ropes!

Landis, a black male lab, is being raised by Tamara Flinchum. Landis is her 5th Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy.

Tamara provided the following introduction. “Landis (born 8/21/13) arrived in NC a few days prior to Halloween. He was a great trick-or-treat surprise for released dogs – Shelby, Sandy and Fenwick. They’re still trying to figure out if he is a treat or a trick! Landis has a very pleasant personality and is very eager to please. He’s already learned to make the appropriate moaning response while in staff meetings at work. He also loves tiny spaces to curl up – like his toy basket at our office. Landis' vet sponsor is Northwoods Animal Hospital, and his food sponsor is Arthur Berger of New York, NY.”



Landis and Friends (Shelby, Sandy, and Fenwick)

Nathan, a black male lab, is being raised by 1st time raiser, Yvette Neel and family.

Yvette says, “Nathan is a spunky black lab who is always looking for an adventure. He is our first Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. We picked him up in Richmond, VA on November 8. He's a smart boy who loves to learn. Our vet sponsor is The Veterinary Hospital of Davidson. His food sponsor is the Neel Family.”

Noel, a yellow female lab, is being raised by 1st time raiser Daniel Mulcahy and family. The Mulcahy's are his food sponsors and East Lincoln Animal Hospital is his vet sponsor.

Teresa Mulcahy introduced Noel as follows. "Noel is a super sweet yellow lab who joined our family on November 7th. East Lincoln Animal hospital is her vet sponsor and we are so grateful to them for the wonderful experience we had with Dr. Andrew Pierce. Noel loves naps, water, toys, and splashing in puddles. She is quick to please and very attentive to detail. She loves visiting the YMCA and the beach! Her primary raiser is 16 year old Daniel Mulcahy, but the whole family enjoys working with sweet Noel."

Sweet Little Siblings



Nathan



Noel

Puppy Updates: Where are they now?

Harrison, a yellow male lab, raised by Julie Haynes and family, recently passed his in-for-training test. Harrison's vet sponsor was Animal Care Hospital of Matthews and his food sponsor was Rosanne Bateman also of Matthews, NC.

Mackie, a yellow male lab, raised by Ting Hu and Luke Yen, and Lisa and Rudy Bukovnik, recently passed his in-for-training test. Mackie's vet sponsors were Six Forks Animal Hospital of Raleigh and Legion Road Animal Clinic of Chapel Hill. Mackie's food sponsor was the Southport Chapter of the Southern Dames of America.

An Opportunity to Give to Guiding Eyes....

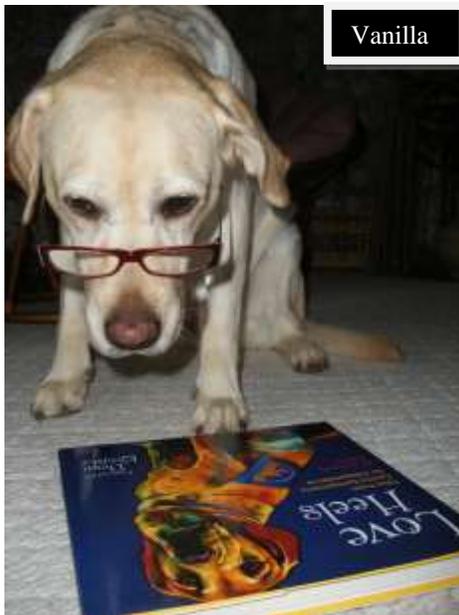
Smile.Amazon.Com

Puppy Raiser, Jo Anne Wiles, recently learned about a new way to shop and give to Guiding Eyes for the Blind at the same time. If you shop at amazon.com, you may now log into a new website, smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com and Amazon will make a charitable contribution to the organization of your choice. Everything else is the same. Those with Amazon Prime still have it when going through smile.amazon.com. The contributions are then made through the Amazon Smile Foundation to the designated charities.

Just go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> then search for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Inc. and select them. For qualified purchases (most are) Amazon will donate 0.5% to Guiding Eyes. This is a relatively new program. There is an article in USA Today that explains it in more detail.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2013/10/30/amazon-smile-charity-donations/3309017/>

Any group that is registered as a 501(c)(3) organization with the IRS can sign up to receive donations from Amazon Smile.



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

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 several puppies in our program. Also Dick and Dame Doris Newsome Thompson, have sponsored many puppies individually. We so appreciate their generosity and support!

The Southport Chapter of the National Society Southern Dames of America, Inc. collects eyeglasses and cases as a donation to the Lions Club. If any of our volunteers would like to donate their old glasses to this great cause, please bring them to Irene Cucurullo at class or at an evaluation. It will be fun to give back to this generous group of women!

Thanks so much!

NEW DATES FOR SPRING 2014 EVALUATIONS

The Spring Evaluations will be held June 5-7, 2014 due to a scheduling conflict. Please mark your calendar with the new dates!

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 6, Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8, 2014
Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

REVISED 1/21/14

DATE	PUPPY	RAISER
Thursday, 2/6/14		
4:00 PM	Coal **	Cucurullo
5:30 PM	Quentin	Cucurullo
7:30 PM	Brandy	Parrish
Friday, 2/7/14		
11:00 AM	SAS	Huebner
1:00 PM	Landis	Flinchum
3:00 PM	Chaz	Gore/Tanner
5:00 PM	Jewel	Sulzbach
7:00 PM	Harpo	Coney-Pacious
Saturday, 2/8/14		
8:00 AM	Jeremiah	Harmeson
10:00 AM	Noel	Mulcahy
12:00 NOON	General Meeting and lunch	
1:00 PM	Nathan	Neel
	Jane leave for airport	

**** 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 USB flash drives that you were given at the last evaluation. We won't have that many extra ones so we will need you to remember to bring it. Thanks so much!

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: 2014

February 6-8, 2014

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

June 5-7, 2014

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

July 31 - August 2, 2014

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 13-15, 2014

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

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