PwP Success Story
Update on Stephanie and Frisco

Frisco has been my new service dog since July. He is sweet, fun and helpful. Frisco is young, energetic and smart. He has made me safer and more comfortable with my MS. He walks with me wearing his harness giving me better balance, picks up things I drop and braces to help me out of sitting positions. Most exciting is that Frisco can bring me the telephone! I slipped in the bathroom and was home alone. I called him to bring me the phone and he was right there with it! I was able to call for help. The many people who are currently enjoying a better quality of life are only able to do so because of Paws with Purpose. Many thanks to all the dedicated trainers and volunteers who make this possible. Thanks to PWP and all who helped me have this wonderful boy.

Assistance Dogs International

For some time, PwP has been working hard to become a fully accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI), which sets industry standards for the training and placement of service dogs and offers a rigorous accreditation process to organizations seeking to implement and maintain high standards and best practices. In October, PwP completed a two and a half day on-site review by an ADI accreditation assessor who interviewed volunteers, board members, recipients, as well as staff and inmates at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women in Pewee Valley. This month we learned that the ADI accreditation committee has approved PwP as a fully accredited member! We are the only ADI accredited service dog program based in the state of Kentucky.
Meet Our New Puppies!

Paws with Purpose is part of the ADI Breeding Cooperative (ABC) which allows us to work with other Assistance Dog International (ADI) member organizations that are breeding dogs for assistance dog work. As a member of ABC, we have greater access to puppies with sound medical backgrounds and even temperaments suitable for a career as an assistance dog. In May, PwP hosted Bea, a pregnant yellow Labrador retriever from the Guide Dog Foundation. Bea stayed at the home of one of our volunteers where she gave birth to six beautiful pups. When the puppies were 4 weeks old, they went with momma Bea to the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) early socialization and the beginnings of basic positive reinforcement training. Once they were weaned at 8 weeks old, Bea returned to the Guide Dog Foundation. Three of Bea’s pups stayed with PwP in our training program and the other three littermates went to other ADI member service dog organizations. Our PwP volunteers were on the scene those first four weeks helping 12 hours a day to make sure Bea was getting proper exercise and nutrition and that the puppies were gaining weight, receiving lots of positive stimulation and making good developmental progress.

Meet the “K” puppies -- Kenzie, Kansas and Kona, their siblings and mother, Bea

Just before Bea’s litter was born, PwP received three golden retriever pups – our “J” puppies – from the ICAN service dog organization in Indianapolis. Meet Juno, Jersey and Jackson.

Jackson & Juno

Puppy Sponsorship

Paws with Purpose recently began an exciting new sponsorship program open to companies who want to make a difference in the community while letting the public know that they are supporting the work of PwP by displaying their corporate logo on the puppy’s training vest. Because our puppies in training are socialized each weekend in a variety of different venues, such as parks, restaurants, the malls and grocery stores, they are very much in the public eye. Our first puppy to be sponsored is Kona through the Sam Swope Family Foundation. If you want more information about how your business can be involved, please contact our office – 502 689-0804 or info@pawswithpurpose.org
New Programs

VA Pet Assist

The veterans’ Pet Assist program is part of Therapeutic and Supported Employment Services at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center. Pet Assist works alongside Mental Health Services to provide additional outpatient treatment to veterans suffering from Trauma-and Stressor Related Disorders, and Anxiety Disorders. The focus of Pet Assist is to develop recovery tools through the use of canine training and group psychotherapy.

The vision of the Robley Rex VA Pet Assist program is to enhance the lives of veterans and serve as a recovery tool that may promote motivation for recovery, allowing more emotional support to be experienced, and overall self-awareness. Furthermore, it is envisioned that the program and its stakeholders will ignite a movement in the local community to bring together those resources that will not only reduce the stigma of mental illness, but also enhance the notion that recovery is real. It is hoped that the Services for Veterans and Community Pet Services will benefit from this partnership.

Home of the Innocents

In October, PwP began a Pilot Program with Home of the Innocents. PwP dogs in training work with children in the residential program at the Home. These children reside at the home for brief or long term stays depending on their individual situations. Our program serves these clients as a recovery tool that may promote motivation for increased social skills, emotional support, and self-awareness. This program is geared toward children suffering from the trauma of abuse, abandonment and neglect. Paws with Purpose provides volunteer trainers and dogs to teach basic dog obedience training skills with the Home of the Innocents clients to use as supportive therapy.
PwP is the 2015 recipient of the [give]502 Grant

[give]502 was founded in 2013 by a group of young professionals who want to help local non-profits. Each member gives $502 a year and the money is pooled to help a local charity. It was a lengthy and thorough process starting with the grant application, an onsite visit to one of our training classes and then a presentation to the entire [give]502 membership. Paws with Purpose was thrilled and honored to receive the [give]502 grant this year. This grant will allow our organization to expand the scope of our services in the community.
Our Generous Donors for 2015

Your generosity allows us to continue to train and place assistance dogs for adults and children with physical disabilities in the Kentuckiana area free of charge. Thank you to each of you, from each of us.

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MDRT Foundation
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