



Client & Dog Team Graduation

Saturday, March 4th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Century Hall at Carrboro Century Center
Carrboro, NC



GRADUATE TEAMS



**Brianna Steidle
& Solo**
Medical Alert Dog Team

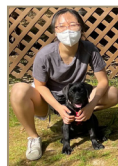


**Dorene MacKinnon
& Bryce**
Mobility Service Dog Team

Solo was born in the homes and care of Carolyn & Lynn Ikenberry, Stephanie Sacks O'Brien & Bob O'Brien, and Annchen Knodt. Solo's Young Puppy Trainer was Lilly Hyde. Solo was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC and Warren CI and his furlough trainers were Emily Atkins, Deb Cunningham, Elizabeth O'Melia, Dylan Pflingst, Emily Skywark, and Kristen Turner. Solo was named by Lynn Ikenberry in honor of Sharon Solomito Davidson.



Bryce was born in the home of Kim & Bob Christopher. Bryce's Young Puppy Trainer was Xueyang Li. Bryce was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC and Warren CI and her furlough trainers were Hannah Blake-Harris, Waka Kadoma, Audra Kosh, Dylan Pflingst, and Kristen Turner. Bryce was named by whelp home volunteers Kim & Bob Christopher.



GRADUATION PROGRAM

We ask guests to wear masks during the ceremony and while inside the Century Center. We have clients who are not able to be vaccinated or masked and you can help keep them safe! Restrooms are down the hall to the right of the stage.

Welcome

Heidi Cook, Board Chair

Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director

In Memory of Gretchen Aylsworth

Maria Ikenberry

At Both Ends of the Leash

Stuart Walling, Work Release Dog Trainer

Deb Cunningham, Program Director

Returning Client Speaker

Ella Virkler with Magpie

Leash Ceremony

Hanna Baum, Client Services Specialist

Graduating Client Speaker

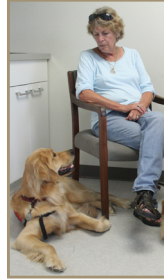
Brianna Steidle with Solo

Closing Remarks

Maria Ikenberry

We invite you to stay and mingle with our board, clients, and staff after the ceremony if you wish.

IN MEMORY OF



Gretchen Aylsworth

EENP Board member 2008-2017, 2018-2023

Gretchen was on Team EENP from the very beginning. When we called her just a month or so after forming the organization and asked her if she would be the board chair for this pie in the sky nonprofit we were starting, Gretchen laughed and said yes without hesitating.

She was a string of "first" and "most" for EENP. While taking on "first board chair" she became one of our first group of Puppy Parents, raising EENP's third dog, Ayla -- the first of many she had a hand in training.

She became our first recruiter, reaching out and bringing in board members, development committee members, donors, and volunteers. In connecting EENP with our community she is certainly the "most". It will be many years before anyone else can claim the title of "recruited the most board members" because Gretchen has it by a mile right now.

Gretchen was our first board member to term out, and she returned eagerly after a mandatory year off the board.

Gretchen was a diehard supporter of EENP and its mission in more ways than we can possibly share here. It was a shock to lose her in January. We'll never be able to replace her, nor do we want to. She leaves a big hole and will be missed dearly. *Thank you, Gretchen, for 15 years of service and connection.*



ABOUT EENP

Eyes Ears Nose and Paws partners people with dogs to improve lives.

We are a Hillsborough nonprofit that trains and places assistance dogs with people with disabilities. Our mobility service dog program trains and partners dogs with individuals with mobility impairments. These dogs assist with a wide variety of daily tasks, including retrieving dropped items, opening doors, and helping prevent and recover from falls.

The medical alert dog program provides dogs which are trained to detect and alert their human companions to changes in medical condition, to retrieve medical kits, and to seek outside assistance if necessary. Most of the dogs placed in this program are diabetic or seizure alert dogs.

Many of our puppies start their journey in the homes of our breeder caretakers, where a volunteer team nurtures our pups through their first eight weeks.

From there, our puppies move into the care of young puppy trainers, community volunteers who raise them until they are 6-8 months old. Young puppy trainers give EENP pups a strong foundation for their training as assistance dogs.

When pups are 6-8 months old, they move into prison where they are trained by the ABEL trainers, who do the bulk of the training of EENP's assistance dogs. The dogs rotate out of prison on furlough for one week a month for socialization and training in public and home settings. You can read more about ABEL on the reverse of this page.

When the dogs are ready for placement, our clients go through an intense two-week Client Training Seminar where they are matched with their assistance dogs. Graduation celebrates these new partnerships and the end of the long training journey. Thank you for joining us today to celebrate them!

We are now back to our pre-pandemic schedule of three graduations a year and invite you to put our upcoming graduation dates in your calendar now!

Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 11 am

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 11 am

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11 am

AT BOTH ENDS OF THE LEASH

We believe learning and service can happen *at both ends of the leash*, so we started a partnership with the correctional system where we teach incarcerated men to train our assistance dogs. The dogs receive full-time attention, training, and love, and the trainers are able to develop interpersonal, leadership, and job skills while giving back to the community despite their incarceration.

In the At Both Ends of the Leash (ABEL) program, dogs live in prison and are with their handlers 24 hours a day. ABEL trainers are not only taught how to train their dogs but are also coached in interpersonal and job skills including communication, planning, and leadership skills.

The newest phase of ABEL bridges the gap between our two medium security programs and work release with a minimum security program for trainers promoted out of the medium security program. This allows interested trainers to stay continuously engaged in the ABEL program from five or more years before release all the way through their release from prison.

The ABEL work release program further prepares ABEL trainers for reentry into our community once they complete their prison sentences. ABEL trainers qualify for work release by excelling as instructors while working in the ABEL program inside prison and meeting all the criteria required by the prison administration. They are hired as EENP employees and are able to save their wages for living expenses when they are released from prison.

Once hired, ABEL work release trainers are allowed to leave prison to work at the EENP office during the business day. They train EENP pups in public settings to prepare them for placement and lead classes with our volunteers and clients.

Special Thanks to...

Our ABEL partners: The NC Dept. of Adult Corrections, Caswell Correctional Center, Warren Correctional Institute, and Orange Correctional Center with special appreciation for their help in establishing and supporting the ABEL program.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Business Partners and In-kind Donors

Armadale Animal Hospital • Mediterranean Deli
Dr. Margaret Barr • Dr. Clare Bonifant • Dr. Kim LoGuidice •
Dr. Mari McLean • Dr. Katie Sizer

Graduation and Client Team Training Volunteers

Thank you for your help in making this a great event!

Charron Andrews • Emily Atkins • Drew Bersley • Tracy Bersley •
Hannah Blake-Harris • Kelli Cato • Charlotte Dunlap • Laura Dunne •
Deborah Gibbs • Jasmine Glancy • Katie Hargreaves • Sally Herndon
• Janet Hoshour • Carolyn Ikenberry • Liz Jones • Patrick Kelly •
Karman Kent • Audra Kosh • Dan Kuntzman • Madeleine Leeds •
Maya Levine • Xueyang Li • Wendy Marion • John Massimo • Lilly
Massimo • Allison McGuire • Julia McIver • Anne Montgomery •
Graeme Robertson • Tomas Robertson • Cindy Rose • Brenda Rosen •
Tom Smith • Jen Snider • Mateo Snider • AJ Walker • JoAnne Woodruff

Thanks to the people who keep EENP moving forward every day...

EENP's Board of Directors: Heidi Cook, Chair • Kate Giduz, Vice-chair • Anne Arwood, Secretary • Heather Bennett • Nori Comello • Caitlin Fenhagen • Mark Kleinschmidt • Jim Ward • Maria Ikenberry, ex officio • Gretchen Aylsworth, in memoriam

EENP's Staff: Hanna Baum, Client Services Specialist • Deb Cunningham, Program Director • Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director • Julie Remensperger, Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator • Stuart Walling, Work Release Dog Trainer

EENP's Young Puppy Trainers: Amber Aguirre • Tawny Erikson • Laura Fenn • Deborah Gibbs • Dan Kurtz • Mandy Morgan • Julie Nutter • Tom Smith • Samir Soneji • Lindsey White • Sarah Whittington

EENP's Furlough Trainers: Emily Atkins • Hanna Baum • Hannah Blake-Harris • Aaron Cook • Heidi Cook • Deb Cunningham • Adelaide Gordon • Katie Hargreaves • Waka Kadoma • Audra Kosh • Claudette Nitard • Dylan Pflugst • Nuvan Rathnayaka • Kate Santiago • Kristen Turner

EENP's Breeder Caretakers: Bob Christopher • Kim Christopher • Stephanie Sacks O'Brien

And **the ABEL trainers**, who are full-time professional volunteers. Their commitment to the mission is what makes our placements possible.

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