



Client & Dog Team Graduation

Friday, May 28th, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
Farmers' Market Pavilion at River Park
Hillsborough, NC



GRADUATION PROGRAM

Restrooms are just across the drive, facing the pavilion. Please ask if you need help locating them.

Welcome

Heidi Cook, Board Chair

About the Ceremony

Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director

At Both Ends of the Leash

Grady Meredith

Returning Client Speaker

Zuzu and Tracy Bersley with Fella

Leash Ceremony

Deb Cunningham, Program Director, and
Heidi Cook

Graduating Client Speaker

Ryan Boselowitz with Dean

Closing Remarks

Maria Ikenberry

GRADUATE TEAMS



**Aurorah Arndt
& Hunter**
Mobility & Medical Alert
Team



**Ryan Boselowitz
& Dean**
Mobility & Medical Alert
Team



**Landon &
Tabatha Carroll
& Shasta**
Medical Alert Team



**Jasmine Glancy
& Jewel**
Mobility & Medical Alert
Team



**Julia Mickle
& Zoe**
Medical Alert Team

THE TRAINING TEAMS

Dean's Young Puppy Trainers were Rylie McKinnon and Bonnie Opdyke. Dean was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell Correctional Center and Warren Correctional Institute and his furlough trainers were Ash Humphrey, Elizabeth O'Melia, Nuwan Rathnayaka, Allison McGuire, Tracy Bersley, Audra Kosh, and Deb Cunningham.



Jewel's litter was born and raised in the home of Bob and Kim Christopher. Jewel's Young Puppy Trainer was Bonnie Opdyke. Jewel was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell Correctional Center and Warren Correctional Institute and her furlough trainers were Nuwan Rathnayaka, Ash Humphrey, Elizabeth O'Melia, Emily Atkins, Ann Farmer, Allison McGuire, Jen Gravrok, Carriella Starnes, and Tracy Bersley. Jewel was named by Lou Wegner in honor of Jewel Morris, the founder of Pet Philanthropy Circle.



Hunter's litter was born and raised in the home of Nicole Fouché and Carys Skillin-Fouché. Hunter's Young Puppy Trainers were Heidi and Aaron Cook, and Ash Humphrey. Hunter was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell Correctional Center and Warren Correctional Institute and his furlough trainers were Ash Humphrey, Elizabeth O'Melia, Emily Atkins, Irene Zellonis, Allison McGuire, Deb Cunningham, Ann Farmer, Carriella Starnes, and Tracy Bersley.



THE TRAINING TEAMS

Shasta's litter was born and raised in the home of Liz Jones. Shasta's Young Puppy Trainer was Ash Humphrey. Shasta was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell Correctional Center and Warren Correctional Institute and her furlough trainers were May Chen, Emily Atkins, and Allison McGuire. Shasta whelped one litter of future assistance dogs in the care of Stephanie Sacks O'Brien. Shasta was named by Leah Campbell and family in honor of Lake Shasta.



Zoe's litter was born and raised in the home of Nicole Fouché and Carys Skillin-Fouché. Zoe's Young Puppy Trainers were Savannah Lord, Rosi Goetz, Patrick Kelly, and Sara Callahan. Zoe was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell Correctional Center and Warren Correctional Institute and her furlough trainers were Nuvan Rathnayaka, Ash Humphrey, Heidi Cook, Emily Atkins, Waka Kadoma, Ann Farmer, Tracy Bersley, Deb Cunningham, and Carriella Starnes.



ABOUT EENP

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

We are a Carrboro nonprofit that trains and places assistance dogs with individuals with disabilities. Our Service Dog program trains and partners dogs with individuals with mobility impairments. These dogs are trained to 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, including using a specially designed phone to call for help. Most of the dogs trained in this program are Diabetic or Seizure Alert Dogs.

Our puppies start their journey with EENP in the care of Young Puppy Trainers, community volunteers who raise them until they are 5-6 months old. Young Puppy Trainers give EENP pups a strong foundation for their training as assistance dogs.

When pups are 5-6 months old, they move into prison where they are trained by inmates, 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.

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. Thank you for joining us today to celebrate them!

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 • Gretchen Aylsworth, Treasurer • Heather Bennett • Nori Comello • Caitlin Fenhagen • Mark Kleinschmidt • Jim Ward • Maria Ikenberry, ex officio

EENP's Staff: Deb Cunningham, Program Director • Jen Gravrok, Client Services Specialist • Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director • Allison McGuire, Lead Dog Training Instructor • Julie Remensperger, Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator

EENP's Young Puppy Trainers: Hannah Blake-Harris • Emilie Edgington • Lauren Harper • Laura Holmes • Lilly Hyde • Tracy Kelly • Thea Lance • Miranda Layne • Caroline Le • Xueyang Li • Mandy Morgan • Bella Vassos • Carrie Wang

EENP's Furlough Trainers: Emily Atkins • Hannah Blake-Harris • Heidi Cook • Deb Cunningham • Jen Gravrok • Waka Kadoma • Audra Kosh • Grace McDaniel • Allison McGuire • Elizabeth O'Melia • Dylan Pfingst • Nuwan Rathnayaka • Kristen Turner • Irene Zellonis

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

And **the ABEL trainers**, who are full-time professional volunteers. Their help has allowed EENP to double the number of dogs we have in training... and halve the wait time to be partnered with a dog, which directly benefits our clients.

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 inmates to train our assistance dogs. The dogs receive full-time attention, training, and love, and the inmate-trainers are able to develop interpersonal, leadership, and job skills while giving back to the community despite their incarceration.

Trainers joining the At Both Ends of the Leash (ABEL) program make an initial commitment of 18 months. The 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.

In September 2016, we increased the impact of our ABEL program by hiring our first work release trainer. The ABEL work release program is a critical link for preparing inmates in our program for reentry into our community once they complete their prison sentences. They are hired as EENP employees and are able to save their wages for living expenses when they are released from prison.

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. 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 Public Safety, Caswell Correctional Center, and Warren Correctional Institute, with special appreciation for their help in establishing and supporting the ABEL program. EENP's ABEL program remained operational throughout the pandemic!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Business Partners and In-kind Donors

Armada Animal Hospital • Dr. Clare Bonifant •
Hollywood Feed

Graduation and Client Team Training Volunteers

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

Charron Andrews • Gretchen Aylsworth • Rosette Barker
• Anna Beck • Catherine Blake-Harris • Tori Bobrowski
• Ashley Boyd • Jane Bruer • Elizabeth Christensen •
Caroline Christopher • Heidi Cook • Emilie Edgington
• Sydel Fisher • Austin Hepperla • Amanda Huber •
Carolyn Ikenberry • Patrick Kelly • Dan Kuntzman • Kathy
Kuntzman • Miranda Layne • Beth Lewis • Ellen Maxfield
• Abigail Mccollough • Amy Moulthrop • Dylan Pfingst •
Shiela Proudfoot • Brenda Rosen • Keith Sawyer • Emily
Skywark • Linda Song-Bradford • Valerie Soon • Connie
Strayhorn • Lucie Talikoff • Kristen Turner • Irene Zellonis

Our Deepest Gratitude

A very special thank you goes out to Josh Gurlitz, our
recently retired Board Chair, for 9 years of service
and for championing EENP through thick and thin. We
couldn't have asked for a more enthusiastic advocate
and we wouldn't be where we are without him!
