



# Client & Dog Team Graduation

Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.  
Century Hall at Carrboro Century Center  
Carrboro, NC



# GRADUATE TEAMS



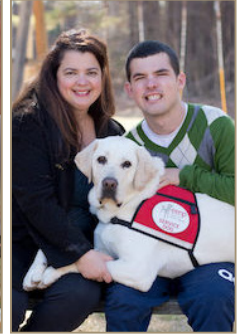
**Mimi Caplan & Rocky**  
Medical Alert Dog Team



**Matthew Nanney, Jessica Pickerell, & Freund**  
Medical Alert Dog Team

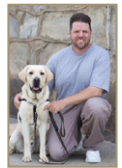


**Mili Robertson, Graeme Robertson, & Bing**  
Mobility Service Dog Team

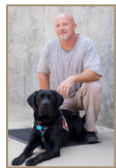


**Ian Rhoades, Gina Rhoades, & Milo**  
Dual Service Dog Team

Rocky was born in the home of and named by Bob & Kim Christopher. Rocky's Young Puppy Trainer was Laura Holmes. Rocky was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC and his furlough trainers were Hanna Baum, Hannah Blake-Harris, Dan Kurtz, Dylan Pfingst, Kate Santiago, and Kristen Turner.



Freund's Young Puppy Trainer was Hunter Matthews. Freund was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC and Warren CI and his furlough trainers were Emily Atkins, Heidi Cook, Deb Cunningham, Madeline Gress, Audra Kosh, Dylan Pfingst, Mugdha Polimera, Nuwan Rathnayaka, and Kristen Turner. Freund was named by donor Mitch Cunningham.



Bing's birth and early rearing was in the homes and care of Carolyn & Lynn Ikenberry, Stephanie Sacks O'Brien & Bob O'Brien, and Annchen Knodt. Bing's Young Puppy Trainer was Lauren Harper. Bing was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC and Warren CI and his furlough trainers were Emily Atkins, Hanna Baum, Deb Cunningham, Deborah Gibbs, Logan Hartley, Dylan Pfingst, Nuwan Rathnayaka, and Kristen Turner. Bing was named by the McGuire family in honor of Max and Ruth Bingham.



Milo was born in the home of Emily Fuller. Milo's Young Puppy Trainer was Lana Camille. Milo was trained by the ABEL trainers at Warren CI and his furlough trainers were Emily Atkins, Heidi Cook, Deb Cunningham, Ann Farmer, Molly Fogel, Adelaide Gordon, Jen Gravrok, Logan Hartley, Audra Kosh, Lilly Massimo, Claudette Nitard, Elizabeth O'Melia, and Nuwan Rathnayaka.



# GRADUATION PROGRAM

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*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

Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director

## At Both Ends of the Leash

Deb Cunningham, Program Director

## Returning Client Speaker

Margarita Escaler with Lilly

## Leash Ceremony

Hanna Baum, Client Services Specialist

## Graduating Client Speaker

Mimi Caplan with Rocky

## Closing Remarks

Maria Ikenberry

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

# 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.

The ABEL work release program is a critical link for preparing ABEL trainers 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.

The next phase of ABEL will bridge the gap between our medium security programs and work release with a minimum security transitional program.

## Special Thanks to...

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



# ABOUT EENP

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

We are a Chapel Hill nonprofit that trains and places assistance dogs with people 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 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 inmate-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.

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 2023 dates in your calendar now!

Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 11 am

Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 11 am

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 11 am

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Business Partners and In-kind Donors

Armada Animal Hospital • Dr. Clare Bonifant

## Graduation and Client Team Training Volunteers

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

Pat Adams • Charron Andrews • Emily Atkins • Tracy Bersley • Catherine Blake-Harris • Clare Bonifant • Jane Bruer • Elizabeth Christensen • Betsey Christian • Meade Christian • Heidi Cook • Perry Dowd • Kendall Ellis • Margarita Escaler • Laura Fenn • Deborah Gibbs • Adelaide Gordon • Sarah Grieco • Katie Hargreaves • Tanya Horning • Carolyn Ikenberry • Audra Kosh • Dan Kurtz • Maya Levine • Alison Marquis • Allison McGuire • Claudette Nitard • Gina Rhoades • Carol Richards • Brenda Rosen • Stephanie Sacks O'Brien • Eden Schertz • Madeline Sussman • Lucie Talikoff • Kim Talikoff • Leslie Weaver • JoAnne Woodruff • Alyssa Zhao

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:** Hanna Baum, Client Services Specialist • Deb Cunningham, Program Director • Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director • Julie Remensperger, Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator • Stuart Walling, Work Release Programs Assistant

**EENP's Young Puppy Trainers:** Deborah Gibbs • Tom Smith

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

**EENP's Breeder Caretakers:** Bob Christopher • Kim Christopher • Stephanie Sacks O'Brien • and a major assist from Annchen Knodt!

And **the ABEL trainers**, who are full-time professional volunteers. Without their exceptional hard work, leadership, and dedication we would not have been able to continue training and placing dogs through the pandemic. All of the dogs graduating today were born during the pandemic and trained in ABEL while EENP staff were only able to provide phone support.

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