



# Client & Dog Team Graduation

Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.  
Great Hall at Passmore Senior Center  
Hillsborough, NC



# GRADUATE TEAMS



**Kyla Greenhut  
& Myrtle**

Mobility Service Dog Team



**Sarah Soetermans  
& Professor**

Medical Alert Dog Team



**Trish Gilbert  
& Crumpton**

Mobility Service Dog Team



**Zoe Dingle  
& Simon**

Mobility Service Dog Team

Myrtle's Young Puppy Trainer was Katelyn Santiago. Myrtle was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC and Warren CI and Orange CC and her furlough trainers were Hanna Baum, Hannah Blake-Harris, Deb Cunningham, Deborah Gibbs, Waka Kadoma, Audra Kosh, Angel Melos, and Kate Santiago.



Professor was born in the home of Stephanie Sacks O'Brien with help from Annchen Knodt. Professor's Young Puppy Trainer was Dan Kurtz. Professor was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC, Orange CI, and Warren CI and his furlough trainers were Hanna Baum, Hannah Blake-Harris, Deb Cunningham, Deborah Gibbs, Adelaide Gordon, Madeline Gress, Elizabeth O'Melia, Nuwan Rathnayaka, and Kate Santiago. Professor was named by EENP in memory of whelp home volunteer Bob O'Brien.



Crumpton's Young Puppy Trainers were Brenda Keppel and Xueyang Li. Crumpton was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC, Orange CC, and Warren CI and his furlough trainers were Emily Atkins, Hanna Baum, Aaron Cook, Heidi Cook, Deb Cunningham, Waka Kadoma, Audra Kosh, and Nuwan Rathnayaka. Crumpton was named for the CCC ABEL staff liaison Lindsay Crumpton in gratitude for her work to keep the ABEL program running smoothly through the pandemic.



Simon's Young Puppy Trainer was Hannah Tuckman. Simon was trained by the ABEL trainers at Caswell CC and Warren CI and his furlough trainers were Emily Atkins, Hannah Blake-Harris, Deborah Gibbs, Adelaide Gordon, Waka Kadoma, Claudette Nitard, and Kate Santiago. Simon was named by Gretchen Ayslworth in recognition of the bridge over troubled water we all needed coming out of the pandemic.



# GRADUATION PROGRAM

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## Welcome

Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director

## At Both Ends of the Leash

Deb Cunningham, Program Director

Stuart Walling, Dog Training Instructor

## Returning Client Speaker

Ann Farmer with Henry

## Leash Ceremony

Hanna Baum, Client Services Specialist

## Graduating Client Speaker

Sarah Soetermans with Professor

## Closing Remarks

Maria Ikenberry

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

*Restrooms are through the doors to the right of the stage. There are tissues on the information table.*

# 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 invite you to put our upcoming graduation dates in your calendar now so you can join us again!

Saturday, June 29, 2024  
Saturday, November 2, 2024  
Saturday, March 1, 2025

# 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.

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 prior to 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 • Dr. Margaret Barr  
Dr. Clare Bonifant • Satsuki Scoville Photography

## Graduation and Client Team Training Volunteers

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

Amber Aguirre • Tracy Bersley • Josh Blair • Clare Bonifant • Crissy Chen • Dawn Erikson • Ann Farmer • Mark Farmer • Deborah Gibbs • Katie Helms • Sally Herndon • Amilda Horne • Carolyn Ikenberry • Patrick Kelly • Dan Kuntzman • Dan Kurtz • Maya Levine • Lauren Pavlis • Kristen Pfungst • Derek Schmidt • Alyssa Schoaff • Carriella Starnes • Ann Wease • Ken Wease • JoAnne Woodruff • Colleen Zinn

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

**EENP's Board of Directors:** Heidi Cook, Chair & Treasurer • Kate Giduz, Vice-chair • Emily Atkins, Secretary • Heather Bennett • Margarita Escaler • Caitlin Fenhagen • Mark Kleinschmidt • Annchen Knodt • Dan Kurtz • Jim Ward • Maria Ikenberry, ex officio

**EENP's Staff:** Hanna Baum, Client Services Specialist • Deb Cunningham, Program Director • Maria Ikenberry, Executive Director • Angel Melos, Program Assistant • Stuart Walling, Training Instructor • ...and special thanks to Laura Fenn, MVP ABEL Volunteer

**EENP's Young Puppy Trainers:** Stoel Burrowes • Tawny Erikson • Margaret Este • Laura Fenn • Evelyn Gandy • Deborah Gibbs • Adelaide Gordon • Alex Jones • Carolyn McShane • Diana McShane • Claudette Nitard • Julie Nutter • Dawn Rasinske • Johnny Rasinske • Cindy Rose • Allie Rupkalvis • Sunshine Scoville • Tom Smith • Beth Vickers

**EENP's Furlough Trainers:** Emily Atkins • Hanna Baum • Heidi Cook • Deb Cunningham • Deborah Gibbs • Adelaide Gordon • Waka Kadoma • Audra Kosh • Angel Melos • Claudette Nitard • Elizabeth O'Melia • Dylan Pfungst • Kristen Pfungst • Nuwan Rathnayaka

**EENP's Breeder Caretakers:** Bob Christopher • Kim Christopher • Aaron Cook • Heidi Cook • Mandy Hitchcock • 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.