



**Prison Pet Partnership Program**

Washington Corrections Center for Women  
9601 Bujacich Road NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

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  - Lisa & Dan Hardebeck
  - Anonymous
  - Simon
  - Eric & Lisa Moore
  - Rosey
  - John & Patricia Jerkovich
  - Miss Brenda
  - 13 years young
  - Stephen & Mary Ruthertford
  - Duke
  - Max & Cody
  - Vida Perra
  - Wally
  - Linda Thompson
  - My beloved Max & Triny
  - Rise M. Powers
  - Moose
  - LeAnne Redding
  - Louie
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  - Sam
  - Mozart
  - Linda Ferris
  - Russell & Margie Aoki
  - Lisa & Dan Hardebeck
  - Simon
  - Anonymous
  - Simon
  - Happy Birthday!
  - Pam & Angelo Ianello
  - Rosey
  - John & Patricia Jerkovich
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United Way  
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# Paw Print Press

A Prison Pet Partnership Publication

SUMMER 2013

VOL.12 NO.3

## Celebrating growth by Grace Van Dyke

Confidence. Independence. A sense of self-worth and identity.

These were the recurring themes as friends and supporters of Prison Pet Partnership gathered on June 21st to celebrate the accomplishments of the previous year.

The evening opened with a moving speech from PPP kennel worker and trainer, Chris Burley. It was an especially poignant address as it came less than a month before her release (see the offender corner of this issue!).

Our next speakers, Ashlee Eddy and her mother, Carol, have been members of the extended PPP family since Ashlee was first partnered with her first service dog, Leif. "When you're a disabled child, you don't have any confidence, and you never think you're good enough as all the other kids," Carol said, speaking of Ashlee's experience growing up. "After having Leif, she knew the difference. Of what it was like to be independent. She knew, when she had Leif, what all of these freedoms were that we all experienced. When she lost Leif, she didn't have that

independence that [PPP] worked so hard to achieve for her... And, I couldn't give it back to her. The only people who could give it back to her were all of you and everything you went through to create another wonderful dog."

This year, PPP acknowledged 16 women who completed the Basic Pet Care class. This entry-level class is offered to offenders as a pre-requisite for employment at PPP. Additionally, we recognized 18 women for completing the Basic Obedience class. This introductory training class is a new pre-requisite for participation in the training program.

We celebrated the placement of three new service dog teams and one active therapy dog teams. As mentioned, Ashlee Eddy returned for her second Seizure Response Service Dog, Hurley.

Pat Madden also returned to PPP to be partnered with his second Seizure Response Service Dog after his first dog passed away earlier this year. Pat's new partner Seamus was happy to fill the paw prints in his new job!

## Volunteer Spotlight by Mollyrose Sommer

Margie and Russell have been volunteering with PPP for a little over 6 months. Offenders, staff and other volunteers have pulled me aside to tell me how much they enjoy

working, speaking and spending time with the Aoki's! I asked Russell to share their story and he had this to say...

"In July of 2011, Margie and I adopted our first dog "Sammie"; an abandoned, insecure, scared, floppy eared, brindle mutt from the Pierce County Humane Society. With time and TLC, we watched her turn into a confident, happy dog. At the same time I noticed other things in our life change; Margie's chronic health conditions improved, Saturday breakfast with Sammie took priority over emails. After a couple of months, we wanted to help other shelter dogs. We ran into a PPP volunteer at a local store and we signed up to see what it was all about.

It wasn't long until we learned that helping shelter dogs at PPP was only a fraction of what the program was about. In our first 6 months



## Prison Pet Partnership extends a well-earned congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped make this graduation a big success!

This was Rachel Bishop's first time receiving a Seizure Response Service Dog but she formed a quick and solid bond with her new canine partner, Grant.

Additionally, Prison Pet Partnership welcomed back Paroled Pet Naudia and Therapy Dog Eeyore. Eeyore was placed as a companion Therapy dog with the Karsh family during the past year.

Prison Pet Partnership extends a well-earned congratulations and thank you to everyone who, in their own way, helped make this graduation a great success.

## WishList

### For kennels & grooming:

- cat litter
- cat food (wet and dry)
- gallon containers of bleach
- fabric for scarves
- soft dog beds
- SURF laundry soap

### For Service Dog Program:

- gift cards to animal or office supply stores
- Kongs
- dog treats
- post-it notes
- dog food



Russell and Margie Aoki with their rescued dog Sammie.

thank you!

#### Mission Statement

**Prison Pet Partnership enriches the lives of inmates, homeless animals and the community through the human-animal bond.**

#### Board of Directors

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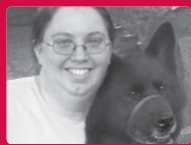
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Mollyrose Sommer  
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#### Advisory Committee

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## A note from the director

We kicked off this beautiful summer with the graduation of three service dogs and one therapy dog. In addition to celebrating the dogs that graduated, women offenders graduated from our basic pet care class and some from our basic obedience class. So what is in store for the rest of the summer and into the fall? Besides getting out into the sunshine at our outreach booths, our offender groomers will be gearing up for their first International Pet Groomer's certification tests.

Also in store for this year is a remodel. Our building is divided by a wall which makes it challenging to have large training classes, and provide enough space for our groom room. Soon, the building committee will begin planning to meet the needs of a growing program particularly with grooming certification and providing opportunities for more offenders to get involved in the program as dog trainers. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

And speaking of opportunities, PPP is always looking for individuals willing to serve on subcommittees of the board. In addition to the building committee, other committees include: finance, marketing and fund development. If you have a special interest or talent in any of these areas but do not want to commit to serving on the board, please contact us!

Wishing you a safe and sunny summer! *Beth Rivard*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

### Dugan Foundation's Woofstock

**August 3rd** – University of Puget Sound

### Puyallup Fair

**September 7th & 8th** – Puyallup Fairgrounds

### Gig Harbor Midday Rotary's Harbor Hounds\*

**September 14th** – Gig Harbor Waterfront

\***Please note** due to the construction downtown, Donkey Creek Park will not be open for this year's event so be sure to register early! PPP dogs will still be out and about and our booth will be open! If you have never attended before, be sure to check out their website at [www.harborhounds.com](http://www.harborhounds.com).

## INMATE CORNER

### PPP offender employee releases!

July has been an exciting month here at PPP as we prepare for the release of offender employee Chris! Chris started with our program in December of 2007 beginning in the kennels and eventually working her way to becoming one of the best service dog trainers we have on staff. During her time with the program Chris has helped place countless service, therapy and paroled pets into the surrounding community. PPP is very excited for Chris to begin her new life on the outside as she has received a scholarship through the PPP Inmate Scholarship Fund to earn her Veterinary Technician degree. Chris is looking forward to starting classes and finding employment in the veterinary field!

At the PPP service dog graduation in May of this year, Chris was the offender speaker and had this to say. "Overall, for those of us that are willing to work on ourselves and grow and heal, this program not only creates a space to do this for the dogs but also for us. I don't know of any other program in this institution that you not only get to nurture an animal, at the same time you are nurturing yourself and growing. I can't wait to get out there and continue to be a part of it." We here at PPP will miss you Chris but know you are moving on to bigger and better things. We look forward to watching you grow and succeed in your new life beyond the prison walls.

**Good luck Chris!**



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Chris with PPP dog Uno.

## Bark and Bid 2013 Wrap Up by Rachel Keeler

It's hard to believe another Bark and Bid has come and gone! Bark and Bid 2013 has turned out to be our greatest success yet and we have all of you to thank for that. In total

we raised over \$65,000 that will go directly to the Prison Pet Partnership and its programs. The evening event, which was held again at the Tacoma Convention Center, was a magical

night filled with bidding, eating and chatting with friends of the program. It was also a chance to see three graduates of our program and hear how they have been doing since their release from prison. Mary, CeCe and Autumn shared wonderful stories of their successes working in the animal care and grooming industry. It was a pleasure to see them again and to hear how the program played an influential part in their success after incarceration!

We would like to take this opportunity to send a big THANK YOU to all who support our program! To our donors – without the special items you give

to our program we would not be able to raise the needed funds to run the Prison Pet Partnership. To our attendees – you make the night something to remember! We are finally able to put faces to names and meet many of our regular boarding and grooming clients as well as service dog teams. And lastly to our sponsors – with your generosity we are able to take all of the money raised during our event and put it directly toward program development. Bark and Bid has always been a special night thanks to all of you... We could not do this without you!



*A gaggle of PPP volunteers dressed to the nines joined Grace, our intern Sae, and a host of program dogs for a quick photo op before the night took off!*

**Have a knack for party planning?  
Want to give back to your community in a fulfilling and joyful way??**

Prison Pet Partnership is calling for volunteers to assist with our **AUCTION PLANNING COMMITTEE** for next year's event! Opportunities can include procurement, decorations, contract liaison, sponsorship coordinator – and many more! Have a blast getting to know staff and other volunteers and create a night that your community will never forget!

## A time to celebrate and reflect on a great year by Mollyrose Sommer

"There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction" – Winston Churchill

Prison Pet Partnership took this quote to heart this year, changing a longstanding tradition; we like to think it was in the right direction!

This year we were thrilled to partner with Pen Met Parks and host our annual volunteer potluck picnic at the newly refurbished Sehmel Homestead Park! We took over the

pavilion with over 20 of our dedicated volunteers, board members and our three service dog clients who were mid-process of their service dog training. It was a real treat to sit down with such a diverse group to relax and meet family members, and celebrate in all of the joys of placing three seizure response dogs with such wonderful clients.

PPP wants to thank our volunteers and volunteer board members for all

of their dedication over the past year – if we could have a party for you every day we would! We want to say a special thank you to Eric Gunther at Pen Met Parks for all of his efforts in helping us host a great evening – we look forward to working with you in the future!



*Interns past and present gather for a photo op. Joining them are paroled pet Naudia (owned by our intern Stephanie) and current paroled pet Fiona!*



### Dog Days of Summer 2013

Don't forget the four-legged member of your family!

## August 10th & 11th

This 15 minute studio session includes choice of 1-5x7 or 8x10 print (1 pose) for a \$30 donation.

Limited times available. Call today to schedule your session!  
Saturday will be in Gig Harbor, Sunday will be at my studio in Graham

Proceeds support the Prison Pet Partnership







[www.latitude47photography.com](http://www.latitude47photography.com)  
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**PPP IS  
GOING GREEN**

Please let us know if you would like to receive our newsletter via email rather than snail mail, or be removed from our mailing list.

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