



paws4people®  
ASSISTANCE DOGS  
TRANSFORMING LIVES

# TRAINING THE DOGS THAT TRANSFORM LIVES



WE SPECIALIZE IN TRAINING CUSTOMIZED  
ASSISTANCE DOGS FOR THREE GROUPS:

**Children and adolescents** with physical, neurological, psychiatric, or emotional disabilities. Proper training and employment of an Service Dog may allow a child to independently perform tasks that are standard for his or her peers. Over time, this reduces the necessity of over-dependence on adults and aids, thus allowing the child to grow and mature more independently. We believe this is the very essence of independence, and one of the most important roles of an Service Dog.

**Professionals:** paws4people's inception focused on utilization of Facility Dogs. We continue to have a focus on Facility Dog placements, and are always looking for new and innovative opportunities to employ specialized Facility Dogs in professions such as therapist's office, dental practices, fire/police departments and more. We look forward to new ideas and many more "firsts" and pilot programs within this field!

**Veterans, Active-duty Service Members, and Civilians** with Trauma-Based, Chronic/Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (C-PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), Moral Injury (MI), and Sexual Trauma (ST). Many recipients have "invisible disabilities" so that their use of a Service Dog and access to public venues is questioned more readily than a handler whose disability is visible. It is important for people to recognize and understand that these dogs, when employed correctly and within the confines of the law, are providing invaluable services to their users by assisting them in their recovery and returning to their previous lifestyles. This is yet another example of priceless, well-deserved independence.

## The Mission of paws4people

The mission of paws4people is educating and empowering people to utilize Assistance Dogs to transform their lives. The organization provides certification, insurance (health & liability), and support for the client/dog teams for the entirety of their career.



**paws4people  
foundation  
has more  
than 450+  
working  
teams,  
placing dogs  
nationwide.**

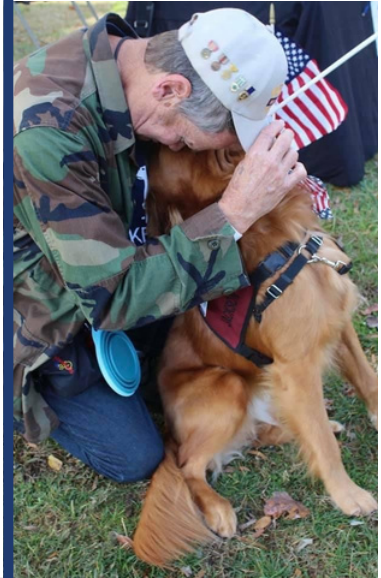


# PUBLIC ACCESS TRAINING

- The rest of the Assistance Dog's training is spent customizing its skills for the needs of that particular client and generalizing the behaviors to all public places. This takes place with the upper level students at our UNC Wilmington/paws4people Assistance Dog Training Program. Students in their final year of this unique academic program complete the Assistance Dog's Public Access Training on UNCW's campus and all around the Wilmington community.

# TRANSFER TRAINING AND POST-PLACEMENT CARE

- We believe creating a successful team requires more than just teaching the recipient to be a dog handler – they must learn to use the dog as an assistive medical device. Therefore, our transfer training process is much longer and more detailed than some, and is customized for each client's need. We focus on quality over quantity.
- Our teams must re-certify annually to ensure they uphold our high standards for training, behavior, and utilization.



## Why We Are Different

While there are many organizations who share our goal to enhance human lives with canine love, we have found no other training program matches the selectiveness, variety and qualifications of the paws4people programs. Most organizations focus on either hospitals, nursing homes, schools, or Service Dog placements. Our mission's multiple components are unique in providing diverse groups of citizens with a menu of programs from which they can select the one that best meets their needs - impacting individuals and communities.

# NUTRISH® FEEDING PARTNERSHIP REQUEST

**At paws4people® foundation**, the health and wellness of our dogs is foundational to our mission. We understand that premium nutrition is paramount to their success; and therefore, it is of ultimate importance to us.

**We are seeking a partnership with Nutrish® to elevate the nutrition of our world-class Service Dogs for those who need them the most.**

By becoming our Official Dog Food Sponsor, paws4people will feed Nutrish® exclusively to all of our Service Dogs In-Training.

Furthermore, all graduates will continue to feed their Service Dog Nutrish® for the entirety of their career - building a nationwide team of Nutrish® ambassadors.





# NUTRISH® FEEDING PARTNERSHIP REQUEST

**Our Need:** paws4people® places approximately 50 teams per year - a combination of Service Dog Teams, Facility Dog Teams, Assistance Dog Teams, and Emotional Support Dog Teams. To accomplish this, we have approximately 100 dogs in training at all times, ranging from birth through placement. We are seeking an exclusive, annual dog food & training treat provider for these 100 Assistance Dogs In-Training.

This can be accomplished by allowing paws4people® to become a Nutrish® Feeding Partner, and directly providing the dog food needed; *or* by becoming a \$50,000 sponsor, which funds will be used for our commercial purchase of Nutrish® at each of our training locations.

**Sponsorship Benefits:** paws4people® takes great pride in recognizing and highlighting the partners that make our mission possible.

- Recognition as Official Dog Food Sponsor across all paws4people platforms to include website, social media, & newsletter.
- Recognition as Official Dog Food Sponsor at our annual Reunion Graduation event.
- Selection of two Service Dog Teams each year. Your logo will be displayed proudly on their client webpage, as well as permanently on their Assistance Dog's vest, which you will have the honor of presenting to the team at their graduation.
- Opportunities for marketing initiatives and promotional content creation with Service Dog Teams.
- All graduates will continue to feed their Assistance Dog Nutrish® for the entirety of their career - building a nationwide team of Nutrish® ambassadors.



# A RELATIONSHIP WORTH THE INVESTMENT



## CORY W.

Cory has been a part of the paws4vets family since 2014. In 2014 Cory retired from the Marine Corps as a Gunnery Sergeant and soon after realized he was experiencing symptoms of PTSD, TBI, and Moral Injury. Cory reached out to paws4vets in an effort to give his girl's their dad back.

When he took SAMPSON home, Cory had the desire to live life to the fullest, and was able to graduate with his Master's Degree. Cory credits SAMPSON for saving his life and giving his daughter's their father back.

In 2021 when SAMPSON retired, Cory met his successor dog PEYTON. PEYTON helps carry on SAMPSON's legacy in facilitating Cory's newfound successes. Cory holds a job working with Veterans who are facing mental health issues and substance abuse challenges. PEYTON is able to attend work alongside Cory, as well as help Cory continue to build his family - he has now welcomed a wife and two step-daughters into his home.

# PEYTON

# A RELATIONSHIP WORTH THE INVESTMENT



## HATTIE

MEREDITH M. ON BEHALF OF AARON M.

In January of 2010, we met Aaron for the very first time in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He was five and a half months old, and very weak. Aaron weighed only eight pounds, but his smile lit up the room. But the smile couldn't hide how sick he was, and after we got back to North Carolina, we embarked on a more than two-year journey to nurse him back to health. Thanks to the help of a team of amazing physicians, incredible therapists and the support of family and friends, he has made huge leaps. Aaron's daily life is the same as most children his age. He laughs, plays, dances, and gets into mischief. But he doesn't talk. Aaron is severely impacted by Apraxia of Speech. Apraxia of speech is an oral motor speech disorder affecting an individual's ability to translate conscious speech plans into motor plans, which results in limited and difficult speech ability.

Aaron has very little expressive speech, which is extremely frustrating for him. Aaron gets therapy daily. He receives occupational, physical, speech and hippotherapy. In the summer of 2013 we met the trainers from paws4people at a local event. We talked to them about the possibility of an Assistance Dog for our family. Then, over Labor Day weekend of 2013, we got the call that Aaron could meet the Assistance Dogs in training during the December 2013 bump. That was the most amazing news! We drove almost 9 hours to West Virginia to meet the dogs, and Aaron and HATTIE bonded after spending a few minutes together. Aaron and HATTIE are an incredible team. HATTIE assists Aaron in the community, during therapy sessions, makes school visits and travels with our family. We are beyond thrilled to have HATTIE on our team!



# A RELATIONSHIP WORTH THE INVESTMENT



## APRIL C.

April is a U.S. Navy Veteran who completed four combat tours in Iraq (2006-2008). April was assigned to a forward field hospital in Northern Iraq. There she flew Medevac missions and performed triage duties. She witnessed hundreds of Soldiers, Marines, and Iraqi children die. Due to her seminary training, she was assigned the job of attending to the "unsavable," aiding and comforting them until they died. Says April, "I used to remember some of their names; now it's just a terrible blur."

During her second tour, April's Medevac crew was ambushed by insurgents after they landed to pick up wounded Marines. Her Crew Chief pushed her to the ground just as he was struck by several bullets. Her Crew Chief died as he fell over her. Later during this tour, April was injured and, while heavily medicated in the field hospital, she was raped. April reported the incident and received NO support from her senior enlisted command. April then completed two more rotations and deployments.

## RIGGS

In late 2008, April separated from the Navy and was completely broken. Over the next two years, she tried everything: individual therapy, group therapy, countless medications, dosages, and combinations. She became desperately depressed and suicidal. As April says, "I was at the end of my road – there was just no hope left."

April became a paws4vets client in late 2010 and, in November 2011, April bumped with her Service Dog, CLAIRE. In January 2021, April accomplished a long-standing personal goal by visiting Arlington National Cemetery to pay her respects to her Crew Chief, with the support provided by CLAIRE at her side. In 9 years of working with CLAIRE, April was able to reengage with her family, obtain her Master's Degree in Licensed Professional Counseling (LPC), and pursue a career working with sexual trauma survivors.

In 2020, April bumped with her successor Service Dog, RIGGS, and while she continues working with sexual trauma survivors, she is now pursuing her Ph.D. in Community Counseling at Liberty University.



# A RELATIONSHIP WORTH THE INVESTMENT



## GRANT S.

Days after graduating from college, Grant had a diving accident that resulted in a C5,C6 Quadriplegia. Grant attended an extensive in-patient rehabilitation program where they had therapy dogs that would often visit the patients. It was these dogs that made Grant think a Service Dog would be a great tool to help him as he continues his road to recovery. In Grant's mind, the combination of his hard work and determination, his parent's unwavering support, and the unconditional love of a Service Dog will help him regain his independence and get him back to leading a full and happy life!

Grant began working with UTAH, a hard working and motivated Golden Retriever, in 2022. UTAH will walk beside Grant every day, helping to retrieve items out of his reach, pushing buttons to help open doors, and will help with transitions, using the brace command. These two are an incredible team, and there is nothing they can't do!

UTAH is a Tribute Puppy named in honor of SOC Christopher George Campbell, USN (KIA).

# UTAH

# A RELATIONSHIP WORTH THE INVESTMENT



## ALIYA W.

Aliya is a student at Iowa State University. She is diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder and PTSD. She often has panic attacks that come on suddenly, causing her to hyperventilate. She has trouble being in crowded places, experiences hypervigilance, and often has nightmares, which keep her from a good night's rest. Aliya knows her education is important, but finds that her anxiety keeps her from maintaining her class schedule, and participating. WINDSOR helps mitigate Aliya's anxiety and ensure she is enjoying her college years by paying attention in crowded places, alerting Aliya to people approaching, performing deep pressure therapy, and interrupting negative behaviors.

Since having WINDSOR home, Aliya has been able to strengthen the relationship with her families, and has begun presenting to students and therapists about the benefits of Psychiatric Service Dogs. Aliya is actively pursuing her dream of starting a nonprofit to help other individuals who are living with mental health challenges. Her goal is to use this platform to carry on the memory of her brother, who unfortunately completed suicide.

# WINDSOR

The mission of paws4people is educating and empowering people to utilize Assistance Dogs to transform their lives.



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