



paws4people®

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022



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Welcome

2022 proved to be a very productive year for the paws4people team. Among many accomplishments, some key highlights include: establishing a new donor database, hosting our largest ever Derby4Dogs fundraiser, and completing renovations for our CHAENEY Dormitory Building.

I am pleased to say that we have now surpassed the \$1M revenue mark for six consecutive years. This year we proudly graduated 31 Assistance and Facility Dog Teams, exceeded \$150,000 in fundraising support from Derby4Dogs, and hosted over 10 clients for Intervention Transfer Training® in our newly opened CHAENEY Dormitory Building.

Over the past 23 years I have watched paws4people grow from a “mom and pop” grassroots company with no employees and minimal Clients, to an internationally Accredited organization with over 20 full and part-time employees, serving more than 1,200 Clients nationwide.

I am eternally grateful for all the hard work every Client, employee, volunteer, and supporter has put into the paws4people family.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyra".

Grants



WOUNDED WARRIOR SERVICE DOG PROGRAM GRANT

For eight consecutive years, paws4people has been the proud recipient of the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program (WWSDP) Grant through the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. The WWSDP is a competitive grant program that supports nonprofit organizations committed to connecting Service Dogs with Veterans and Service Members. This year's grant was awarded in the amount of \$734,864 in support of 12 Veteran Client/ Dog Teams.

NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DIRECTED GRANT

For the first time ever, paws4people was the recipient of a \$350,000 state funded grant toward our programming. This grant was advocated by Senator Michael Lee. Senator Lee and his son, Sawyer, visited paws4people National Headquarters in October.

We are so grateful for the support of Senator Lee and that he took time out of his busy schedule to visit our Campus. We look forward to expanding our programming in North Carolina, which includes deepening our relationship with the NC Department of Corrections.

Financial Report

For the most recent financial data, please visit our website at www.paws4people.org

4 OTHERS FOUNDATION GRANT

For the second year in a row, paws4people was the recipient of a \$10,000 matching grant from the 4 Others Foundation. Thanks to generosity of our paws4people Clients, family, friends, and supporters, this year's grant money will be put towards building and launching an ADDIE'S Way website in 2023. We look forward to having a digital platform to showcase our headquarters' campus to the world.

Dog of the Year

paws4people hosted our first annual Dog of the Year Contest beginning in November with an end date and time of midnight on New Year's Eve. Participants from all over the country were able to nominate and vote for their dog and tell us why they should be the Dog of the Year.

Josie!

When the clock struck midnight, Josie, a rescue mutt who was adopted in Charlotte, NC from the Humane Society, was dubbed the official 2023 Dog of the Year. Josie received more than 5,700 votes in the contest. This first ever, fully digital contest raised over \$30,000 in support of our mission and programs.

Josie is now the spokesdog for the Dog of the Year contest, after beating out more than 121 other dog entries. Josie received several prizes, including an artist drawing of the winning dog featured on the label of a limited run of Wrightsville Beach Brewery Pale Ale Beer can, \$500 cash prize, \$100 gift certificate to Wrightsville Beach Brewery, mini photography session valued at \$400 by Samantha Ann Photography, a framed commemorative artwork of the beer can, PNG files of artist Emma Gay's renderings of the winning dog in black and white and in color sent digitally via email, and special recognition at a Brewery event.

We look forward to the beer release in early 2023.



Special thanks to our Dog of the Year event sponsors: Wrightsville Beach Brewery, Brunswick Beer and Cider, WECT, Samantha Ann Photography LLC and all those who participated in this contest.

Robert Irvine Foundation has contributed \$50,000 towards our paws4vets program!



Spotlight

ROBERT IRVINE FOUNDATION

This year paws4people was grateful to bring on the Robert Irvine Foundation as a New Leash on Life Sponsor. The Robert Irvine Foundation supports and strengthens the physical and mental well-being of service members, veterans, first responders, and their families. This year Robert selected two paws4vets teams to receive \$25,000 each towards their Awarded Pay-it-Forward (PIF) goals: Zack McNew, USA Veteran (ret.) with his Psychiatric Service Dog BENTLEY, and LtCol Mike Manocchio, USMC (ret.) with his Psychiatric Service Dog MENJI.

In May, Robert and his team visited our ADDIE'S Way campus to learn more about our programs and to present Zack and BENTLEY with their Red Vest to make them a fully certified team. While visiting our Puppy Development Center, Robert fell in love with a female chocolate lab, who was later named COOKI, in honor of a nickname Robert gained in the chef world. We look forward to watching COOKI learn and grow, and one day bump with a Client to transform their life.

Then in November, paws4people staff members Kyria Henry Whisenhunt and Danielle Cockerham traveled with Zack and Mike to the 5th Annual Beats 'N Eats fundraiser in Philadelphia. With a six-course meal provided by world renowned chefs and three talented musical performances, this sold-out night was enjoyed by all 350 attendees. As a sponsored team, Mike and MENJI were able to join Robert on stage to receive their official Red Vest. We continue to be humbled and grateful of the support by Chef Irvine and his foundation.

Foundation Events



300+
Attendees



Derby4Dogs

Our 8th Annual Derby4Dogs Charity Garden party, presented by MC Mortgage Group Bank, was our most successful to date, netting over \$150,000 in support of our mission and programs.

This sold out event took place at Cape Fear Community College's Union Station. It was a night to remember filled with sponsored race puppies, signature drinks, a viewing of the Kentucky Derby, our first ever live auction, and our always extravagant silent auction.

2023 will see new and exciting additions to our annual Derby4Dogs event.



Netting over
\$14,000!

Annual Family Reunion & Graduation

The first weekend in November was filled with pomp and circumstance as we celebrated our 11th Annual Family Reunion and Graduation on the beautiful UNCW campus.

On Friday evening, we hosted Wine & Wags at our National Headquarters, ADDIE'S Way, which included an evening full of great conversation, food and drink, as well as our Annual Rally Competition.

Highland Games

The first annual Port City Highland games, benefiting the paws4vets program was held in Wilmington NC, and we hosted over 1,000 spectators.

The games included heavy athletics, vendors, clans, kids' games, cattle dog demonstrations, and more!

We are proud to announce that this year's games contributed over \$15,000 to our paws4vets program, and we are looking forward to an even bigger and more successful 2023 Highland Games.

Netting over
\$15,000!



Veterans Day 5K

On November 7th, 2023 we hosted our 14th Annual 5k & 1 Mile Fun Walk presented by Active Care Chiropractic. We had over 250 participants compete in person at The Pointe at Barclay in support of our paws4vets Placement Programs.

250+
Participants



Other Events

Paws on Parade

Through our partnership with the Azalea Festival, we hosted our 3rd Annual Paws on Parade Fundraiser at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater. The event included a Canine Court Pageant, several local pet vendors, and the final performance from a popular local band, L Shape Lot.



Heroes First Golf Tournament

After 13 years of sponsorship, we continue to be humbled by the financial support of the Heroes First Foundation through their annual golf tournament fundraiser in Braselton Georgia. This year Heroes First chose to sponsor two new Veteran Client/Dog Teams: Andrew Doble with his Service Dog GABLE and SFC Branden Davenport, USA (ret.) with his Service Dog BROOKLYN. paws4people staff members Terry Henry, Danielle Cockerham, and Kevin Kirk traveled to Georgia to personally thank the Heroes First Foundation and over 200 supporting golfers who make training teams like Andrew and Branden possible.

We are appreciative of Heroes First and their continued annual support in the amount of \$85,000 this year. Within the last 13 years, Heroes First Foundation has given over \$1M to our paws4vets program.



**\$85,000 raised
for our paws4vets
program**

Warrior Salute Golf Tournament

Randy Powers, USAF Veteran with his Service Dog MORGAN, Christopher Twohig, USMC Veteran with his Service Dog MCLELLAN, and Cpl Seth Eure, USMC (ret.), Director, Client Training, along with his Service Dog HARRIS, attended the Warrior Salute Charity Golf Tournament at the Reston National Golf Course in Reston, Virginia, benefitting our paws4vets program.

The paws4vets teams were able to introduce many tournament attendees to Service Dogs and were able to educate the public on the benefits associated with ADI Accredited Service Dogs. The money raised will go towards supporting two new Veteran Client/Dog Teams.

We remain grateful to Warrior Salute for their continued annual support and their \$26,000 donation this year.



**\$26,000 donated
for our paws4vets
program**



ADDIE Award Winners

Each year we are honored to present the ADDIE Awards to the paws4people Dogs who exemplify the “BEST” in one of the following categories: paws4people Service Dog of the Year Under the Age of 18, paws4people Service Dog of the Year Over the Age of 18, paws4vets Service Dog of the Year, and paws4people Facility Dog of the Year. This year we were excited to add on a new award for People’s Choice, where supporters around the country were able to vote for the winner in this category.



Aaron McCumbee & HATTIE
AD-PND-STP



Ava Smith & DAPHNE
AD-PND-MAD



SSgt Will Craig, USMC (ret.) & JETTY
AD-MED-PSY



Victoria O'Connor & NORAH
FD-PFD



Heather Schild & DECLAN
FD-CAE

Volunteer Spotlights

Our volunteers play a critical role in the success of paws4people. Many students and community members engage in weekly activities to support both our Puppy Development Center and our UNCW Assistance Dog Training Program. This year we were thrilled to announce special recognition awards to the following people: Leslie Roberson, Stephanie Burney, Sarah Connor, Ali Mendoza, and Shannon Coyle. **We could not do it without you!**

Legacy Teams

paws4people remembers and honors all of our Dogs who have passed away throughout the year. Visit this link to watch a heartfelt video created by a staff member to honor their legacy.

Or Visit Their Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@paws4people780>

Click here
to watch on
YouTube.



ADDIE'S Way

This year, our main focal point at the ADDIE'S Way campus was our CHAENEY Dormitory building. We furnished 10 rooms, which ultimately allowed over a dozen Clients to be able to take advantage of this space and maximize their training journey throughout the year. In having an on-site space for Clients to stay, they are now able to train for up to two weeks at a time, as opposed to our traditional three-day once per month ITT sessions.

In addition to private bedroom space, a commercial kitchen, a small common area for eating, and a beautiful courtyard, this building also boasts a multi-purpose room, which we were able to utilize for several student training sessions, client seminars, community events, fundraisers, and even our staff holiday party.

Our goal for 2023 is to finish furnishing this dormitory space so that as our staffing grows, we will be able to grow to a full capacity of 12 bedrooms.

New Additions & Acquisitions



Days Well Spent



Sponsors

paws4people places each of our highly-trained, customized, life-changing Assistance Dogs at no cost to their client and we couldn't do it without the support of those listed below. From the bottom of hearts and with wagging tails, thank you!

Top Dog Sponsors



New Leash on Life Sponsors



Judy Girard

Sandra Wilkerson

Joy Smith

Leader of the Pack Sponsors



Brian & Donna Shiro

Pawsitive Partner Sponsors



Anne Spychala
Family Charitable Foundation



The Smuck Foundation

Slick McNeil

Official Service Sponsors



Samantha Ann
PHOTOGRAPHY



WARD AND SMITH, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Sponsors

Official Training Venues



Official Dog Food Sponsors



Official Product Sponsors



Official Hospitality Venues



Marietta, OH



Wrightsville Beach, NC



CONTACT US



(910) 632-0615



info@paws4people.org



1121C-324 Military Cutoff Rd
[Mailing Address Only]

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FACEBOOK

[@paws4people](https://www.instagram.com/paws4people)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terry Henry - Permanent Trustee Co-Founder, Chairman

Kyria Henry Whisenhunt - Permanent Trustee, Founder, Vice-Chairman

Lt. Col. Mark George, USMC (ret). - Regular Trustee

George Zimmerman - Regular Trustee

William Cameron II - Regular Trustee

Donna Shiro - Regular Trustee

Dr. Chris Lantz - Regular Trustee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kyria Henry Whisenhunt, MAHS

Terry Henry

Cece McConnell, MACL

Danielle Cockerham



EIN: 54-1948479