



2025

ANNUAL
REPORT

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Friends, Partners, and Members of our paws4people® Family,

At paws4people, every year tells a story, not just of the dogs we train but of the people whose lives are changed because a community chose to show up with compassion, patience, and belief in something bigger than themselves.

This past year, we witnessed moments that remind us why our mission matters so deeply. We saw children gain confidence they once thought impossible, veterans regain independence, and families rediscover stability and hope, all because a carefully trained dog stood beside them as a constant and steady partner. These outcomes are never accidental. They are the result of thousands of intentional acts including early morning training sessions, late night care, volunteer dedication, donor generosity, and the unwavering commitment of our staff and trainers.

We also continued to strengthen the foundation behind the mission. From expanding training opportunities and community partnerships to enhancing the care and development of each dog in our program, our focus has remained clear. We aim not only to grow, but to grow responsibly and sustainably. Our work depends on consistency, standards, and people who believe that excellence in preparation leads to life-changing placement.

What makes paws4people unique is that our dogs are not trained in isolation. They are raised, guided, and supported by a network of individuals who invest their time, energy, and hearts into every stage of development. Host families, volunteers, donors, alumni, and partners form the bridge between potential and impact. Because of you, each dog enters the world prepared not only with skills but with emotional resilience and connection.

Inside this report, you will find more than milestones and numbers. You will find stories of trust rebuilt, confidence restored, and independence gained. These stories belong to all of us.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains steadfast to uphold the highest standards in Assistance Dog training, to reach more individuals in need, and to ensure every placement is thoughtful, intentional, and lasting. The need continues to grow and so does our responsibility to meet it with integrity and care.

Thank you for standing beside us and believing in the power of a well trained dog to change a life.

With gratitude,



Kyria Henry Whisenhunt
FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SPONSORS

BEST IN SHOW

Tom & Amy Opie

CHAENEY DORMITORY



BRIELLE PUPPY
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Jersey Mike's SUBS

SPONSORS

TOP DOG



**ROBERT
IRVINE
FOUNDATION**



NEW LEASH ON LIFE



Joy Smith



The Simmons Family
Foundation



Jack &
Brenda Tulley



SPONSORS

LEADER OF THE PACK

Beau Rivage Member
Guest Association

*Floral Parkway
Animal Hospital*

The Graeser Family
Doug Dobbins



**RAYMOND
JAMES**



The Epperly
Foundation



dogtopia foundation
fetch it forward

Richard & Paula
Challenger
Leslie Roberson

PAWSITIVE PARTNERS

Shane & Meredith
McCumbee
The Cynthia & George
Mitchell Foundation
Richard Morgan
Lindsay Orem Family
Brian & Donna Shiro
George & Paulette Zimmerman
Cape Lookout Shootout



Judy Girard
Jerry Beal
Leah Kelly
Thomas Kunath
The Marilyn
Lichtman Foundation
Patrick Warren



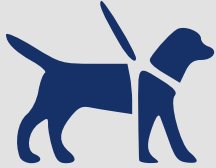
THRIVE FAMILY
DENTAL

SPONSORS

OFFICIAL TRAINING VENUES



IMPACT SNAPSHOT



27

DOGS PLACED



46

NEW PUPPIES



230

ACTIVE TEAMS
SERVING THE UNITED
STATES & CANADA



3

NEW PROGRAMS



605

OUTINGS



55

INMATE
TRAINERS



210

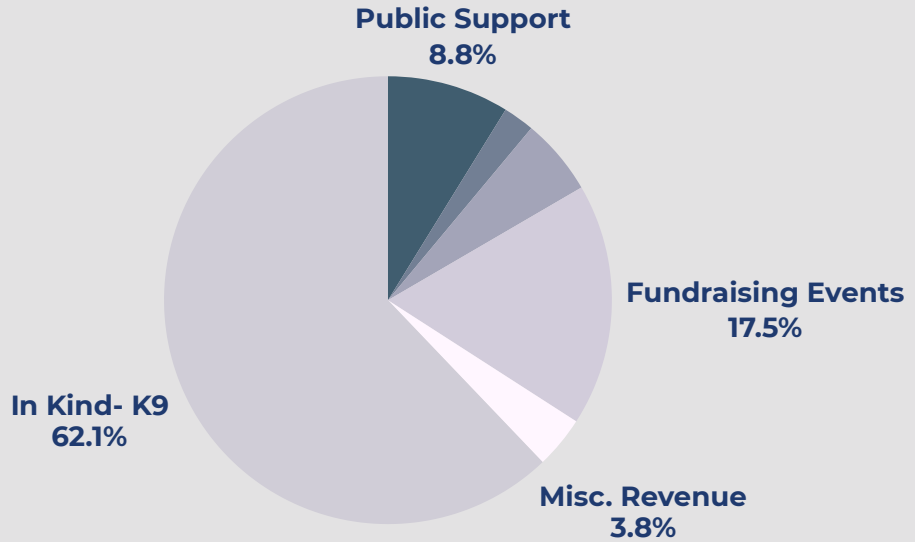
VOLUNTEERS &
STUDENT TRAINERS



BY THE NUMBERS

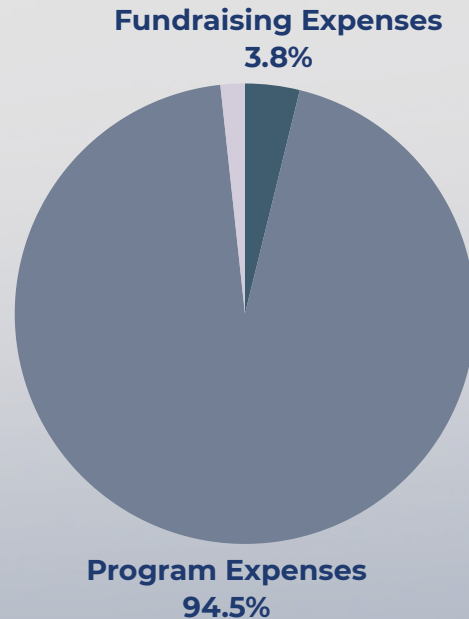
Public Support \$566,100
Government Grants \$143,800
In Kind Goods & Services \$353,300
Fundraising Events \$1,115,100
Miscellaneous Revenue \$240,100
In Kind - K9 \$3,959,800

Total Revenue
\$6,378,200



Program Expenses \$5,202,200
General and Administrative \$94,400
Fundraising Expenses \$211,000

Total Expenses
\$5,507,600



BY THE NUMBERS

Assets

Total Current Assets [Cash & Investment]	\$1,214,000
Total Canine Assets, Net	\$13,412,400
Total Property & Equipment, Net	\$2,807,100
Total Assets	\$14,433,500

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities [Accounts Payable & Notes Payable]	\$748,200
Notes Payable, Net of Current Portion [Mortgage]	\$1,610,800
Total Liabilities	\$2,359,000

Net Assests

Without Restrictions	\$15,061,000
With Restrictions	\$13,500
Total Net Assests	\$17,433,500



GRANTS



4 OTHERS FOUNDATION

For the fifth consecutive year, the 4 Others Foundation has shown extraordinary support for our paws4vets™ placement program, awarding a **\$30,000** matching grant in 2025. Their generosity, combined with contributions from our community of individual donors, ensures more veterans are paired with customized Service Dogs who provide support for diagnoses such as PTSD, Moral Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, and more. This partnership truly transforms lives, offering our nation's heroes companionship and healing that makes a lasting difference.



LANDFALL FOUNDATION

The Landfall Foundation awarded **\$10,000** to support our Facility Dog Placement Program and launch a pilot in New Hanover County. This initiative introduces part-time Facility Dog placements with credentialed professionals, therapists and educators, delivering goal-directed interventions on a flexible schedule. By increasing access while reducing resource demands, this pilot is helping us explore a scalable model to bring the benefits of Facility Dogs to even more communities.

GRANTS

NEW HANOVER COUNTY NON-AGENCY FUNDING

We secured a **\$35,000** grant from New Hanover County to support the Facility Dog Placement Program. This funding enables the training, care, and placement of Facility Dogs with local organizations, where the dogs provide goal-directed interventions for adults and youth experiencing trauma, stress, or anxiety. Facility Dogs are integrated into structured, goal-directed interventions utilizing task training and skills, not simply emotional support or comfort. These dogs support clinical, educational, and/or performance objectives.

WILMINGTON ROTARY

A **\$2,000** grant from the Wilmington Rotary Club supported the creation of a dedicated, sterile, and secure environment for our youngest Assistance Dogs In-Training, from birth to six weeks old. This space enhances neonatal outcomes, strengthens biosecurity, and ensures consistency in early development, providing a safe and nurturing foundation for puppies who will go on to serve individuals with diverse needs.

MARILYN LICHTMAN FOUNDATION

The Marilyn Lichtman Foundation provided a **\$5,000** grant to expand our Assistance Dog programs. These funds support the training of additional dogs, the development of new resources, and the delivery of customized services to clients with diverse needs, with special attention to veterans. Their support helps us meet growing demand and extend the life-changing impact of our dogs to more individuals.



DOG OF THE YEAR

2026 WINNER IS... CASH

paws4people® launched the fourth annual 2026 Dog of the Year Contest. The search was on yet again for the Dog of the Year! Beginning on December 1st and ending on midnight on New Year's Eve, 67 participants entered their pups and told us why they should become the Dog of the Year.

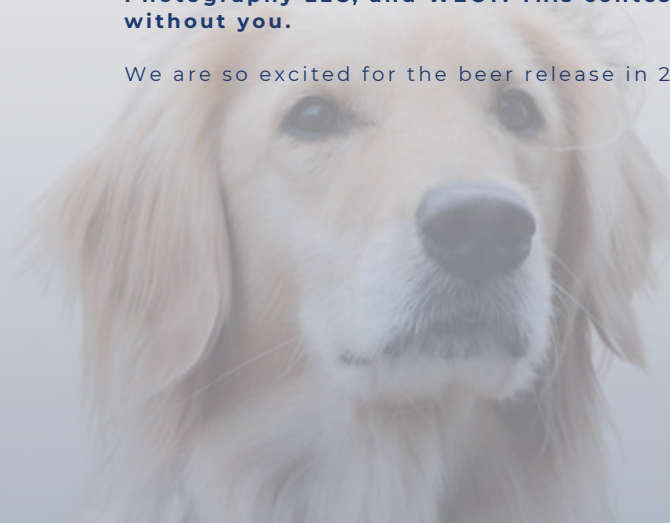
This year we expanded the contest to dog rescues across the state and each dog entered selected an organization of choice. The organization of choice won \$5,000 from the contest.

At the contest end, the most pup-ular dog, CASH, was the winner of the contest with 5295 votes! Cash is a 4-year-old Golden Retriever from Topeka, KS who loves working and meeting new people. CASH selected paws4people as his organization.

This virtual contest raised over **\$21,248** and directly benefited paws4people's mission. CASH received many fantastic prizes including his characterization on a limited run of Wrightsville Beach Brewery IPA can! This is the first year that the Dog of the Year is featured on the Wrightsville Beach Brewery IPA can! CASH also received a \$500 cash prize, \$100 gift certificate to Wrightsville Beach Brewery, a mini photography session valued at \$400 by Samantha Ann Photography LLC, a framed commemorative artwork of beer can label, & PNG files of artist Larry Bellamy's renderings of the winning dog and special recognition at a Brewery event.

A special thanks to our wonderful contest sponsors Wrightsville Beach Brewery, Brunswick Beer & Cider, Samantha Ann Photography LLC, and WECT. This contest would not be possible without you.

We are so excited for the beer release in 2026!



A white dog, possibly a Weimaraner, is sitting on a brick path in a university setting. The dog is looking upwards and to the left. In the background, there are trees and a brick building. The image is overlaid with two white arrow-shaped callouts containing the words 'MISSION' and 'VISION'.

MISSION

VISION

SPOTLIGHT

WHEN OUR VILLAGE SHOWED UP

This spring, paws4people faced one of the most difficult moments in our organization's history.

Several of our young puppies became critically ill with an unidentified condition. Despite decades of experience, strict health protocols, and immediate veterinary intervention, the symptoms progressed rapidly and required intensive diagnostics, hospitalization, and around-the-clock medical care.

In a matter of days, our focus shifted from routine development and training to fighting for the lives of future service dogs.

What happened next reminded us why this mission has never belonged to just us. Our community responded immediately. Donors, volunteers, alumni, partners, and supporters across the country rallied around puppies they had never met but already loved. Messages poured in. Veterinary teams from Eastern Carolina Veterinary Medical Center and Floral Parkway Animal Hospital worked tirelessly. People shared, gave, encouraged, and stood beside us while outcomes were uncertain.

Because of that support, we were able to pursue advanced treatment, continue care without hesitation, and keep hope at the center of every decision.

These puppies are not simply part of our program. They are future partners for children with disabilities, veterans, and individuals working toward independence.

This community made sure their journey did not end before it began.

Moments like this reveal the true strength of paws4people. Our mission is built on training and placement, but it is sustained by compassion. When challenges arose, our village did what it always does - showed up.

To everyone who stood with us during this time, thank you. Your support did more than help us through a crisis. It protected future partnerships and the lives that will one day be changed because you cared when it mattered most.



SPOTLIGHT

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In 2025, paws4people's Community Engagement Committee continued to strengthen and expand our connection with the communities we are honored to serve. Composed of 23 dedicated volunteers and clients, this passionate group has become an essential extension of our mission, generously giving their time, energy, and personal stories to help advance our work.

Over the past two years, the Committee has played a vital role in expanding our reach and deepening our impact. Their commitment to outreach and education has allowed us to show up consistently and meaningfully across our region, not only increasing awareness of our programs, but fostering authentic relationships built on trust, transparency, and shared purpose.

Thanks to their dedication and hard work, paws4people participated in more than 50 additional third-party community events in 2025 alone. From local festivals and corporate gatherings to school visits and civic events, these opportunities significantly increased our visibility while creating powerful moments of connection. At each event, Committee members proudly represented our organization, answered questions, shared personal experiences, and helped others understand the life-changing impact of assistance dogs.

Beyond numbers, the true impact of the Community Engagement Committee lies in the relationships built with potential clients, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community partners. Their presence has strengthened our network of support and ensured that more individuals are aware of the services, hope, and empowerment paws4people provides.

We are deeply grateful for every member of the Community Engagement Committee. Their leadership, enthusiasm, and unwavering belief in our mission continue to help us grow our impact and extend the reach of paws4people throughout our community and beyond.



SPOTLIGHT

FAYETTEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

This year we are extremely blessed to have been given the opportunity to place Fayetteville Fire Department's first Crisis Response Facility Dog. This milestone for both the department and our organization marks an important step in supporting firefighter mental health and wellness. This program was implemented to provide a tool to aid first responders following critical incidents, during periods of elevated stress and anxiety.

GRIFFITH officially became a member of the Fayetteville Fire Department in July and has touched countless lives since then. Since his induction to the department, GRIFFITH has contributed to improved morale, increased openness and communication surrounding mental health conversations, and provided additional support following traumatic calls.

This placement reflects our continued commitment to supporting first responders through evidence-based, animal interventions that enhance resilience and overall well-being within the department and surrounding communities.

Building on the success of this initial placement, paws4people is excited to move forward with placing two additional Crisis Response Facility Dogs with the Fayetteville Fire Department in 2026, further expanding support for personnel.



SPOTLIGHT

A LEGACY THAT WILL OUTLAST THE GAME

For nine years, REMINGTON showed up to the ballpark as part of the team; not as a mascot and not as a spectator, but as a partner.

As Carolina Baseball's rehabilitative Facility Dog, REMINGTON stood beside athletes through injury, pressure, and recovery. He retrieved baseballs before games, carried water to umpires, and greeted fans with a wagging tail. But his real work happened quietly behind the scenes. When a player struggled, REMINGTON sat with them to provide deep pressure therapy. When nerves ran high before surgery or rehabilitation, he anchored close. His presence changed the environment long before a single word was spoken.

Trained from birth through [paws4people](#), REMINGTON learned advanced obedience, retrieval tasks, and public access skills so he could confidently navigate stadiums, hospitals, and crowded campus spaces.

REMINGTON could sense anxiety and emotional distress and would gently lean into the person who needed him, offering mental health support when it mattered most.

Players credit him with helping them through some of the hardest moments of their careers. One athlete recovering from a season-ending injury described REMINGTON as a constant source of good energy and a safe space during rehabilitation.

Off the field, his impact reached even further. He supported grieving travelers, helped children through medical procedures, and turned fear into calm simply by resting his head in a lap.

Now, after nearly a decade of service and thousands of lives touched, REMINGTON is retiring from his working role at Carolina.

His job may be finished, but his work is not.

Every partnership he supported, every athlete he steadied, and every moment of confidence he helped restore represents the true purpose of an assistance dog. REMINGTON demonstrated that performance is not only measured in wins and losses. Sometimes it is measured in resilience, healing, and the courage to keep going.

REMINGTON leaves behind a legacy that extends far beyond the field. He showed a generation of athletes what partnership looks like and reminded all of us that strength sometimes arrives on four paws.

Thank you, REMINGTON, for the lives you changed and the hearts you steadied. Your impact will be felt long after the final inning.



EVENTS

AZALEA FESTIVAL

paws4people was proud to continue its cherished partnership with the North Carolina Azalea Festival, an enduring collaboration that beautifully blends community celebration with our mission to train and place life-changing Assistance Dogs. Our partnership provides incredible socialization opportunities while engaging thousands of community members. Our Assistance Dogs in training participated in a variety of beloved festival events, including the Jingle Brunch with Santa, the Seahawk Sun Run on the campus of UNCW, the Annual Pet Royalty Contest, the Airlie Luncheon Garden Party, the iconic Azalea Festival Parade and the Street Fair Children's Area. New this year, our puppies also greeted guests at the Celebrity Reception, creating even more meaningful connections. Through this partnership, paws4people proudly raised over **\$9,000** in support of our mission. We are especially proud to celebrate the Azalea Festival's 2025 achievement of receiving a Gold Pinnacle Award from the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) for Best Event Within an Existing Festival, recognizing the Pet Royalty Photo Contest. This prestigious honor underscores the impact of creative, inclusive events that celebrate the human-animal bond, an impact we are grateful to be part of. paws4people extends our heartfelt thanks to the North Carolina Azalea Festival for its continued partnership, support, and shared commitment to community, compassion, and connection.



DERBY 4 DOGS

On Saturday, May 3rd, supporters gathered at The Terraces on Sir Tyler for the 11th Annual Derby4Dogs, presented by Gaskins Gibson Wealth Capital. Guests enjoyed festive Derby-inspired cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and an exciting silent and live auction, alongside a lively Puppy Derby. The afternoon was capped off with a live viewing of the Kentucky Derby, creating a memorable atmosphere filled with friendly competition and celebration. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, guests, and community partners, the 2025 Derby for Dogs raised over **\$100,000** to directly support our mission. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this event such a success. Congratulations to "Fast and FELICITY" for winning this year's Puppy Derby, and special thanks to First Bank, FELICITY's puppy sponsor, for their support in helping make this moment possible



EVENTS

PORT CITY HIGHLAND GAMES



On Saturday, May 31st, we held our 4th Annual Port City Highland Games fundraiser to benefit our paws4vets program. With over 1,000 spectators, this marked our most successful Highland Games event yet raising over **\$20,000**. We want to extend a special thank you to the Scottish Society of Wilmington, our presenting sponsor Jeff Gordon Chevrolet, Flying Machine Brewery for providing the beer, as well as all other sponsors and volunteers who made this event happen.

7TH ANNUAL CRAB FEST

Longtime paws4people supporter Lindsay Orem and her family hosted their 7th Annual Crab Fest on June 7 in Sneads Ferry, NC. The event featured bushels of crabs and beer generously provided by East Coast Agency, along with popular prize baskets supported by The Preserve at Tidewater neighborhood. The 2025 event raised **\$5,072**, bringing the seven-year total to **\$22,367** an extraordinary demonstration of community generosity and a meaningful investment in the paws4people mission.



HEROES FIRST
FOUNDATION

HEROES FIRST FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

We were grateful to be a part of the 16th Annual Heroes First Foundation Golf Tournament. This year, we were represented by Relationship Development Officer Rob Maino with Service Dog LUCILLE, and Volunteers Annette Graybush and Angie Walters with FELICITY, CAPRI, and EMMY. We are proud to announce that **\$50,000** was raised for our paws4vets program, specifically, the Carol Mitchell Memorial Fund.

EVENTS



WINE, WOMEN & SHOES

On October 15th, paws4people proudly presented its 3rd Annual Wine Women & Shoes fundraiser at the Wilmington Convention Center. More than 360 guests came together for a memorable evening of fashion, fun, and giving, complete with curated wine tastings, a designer marketplace, and a seated program showcasing a live auction and fashion show. Heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors and the many donors, vendors, volunteers, and Shoe Guys whose passion and fundraising efforts made the evening a success. Together, they helped the event reach its fundraising goal, raising more than **\$100,000** to further the paws4people mission.

IRON BOW GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are truly grateful for the Iron Bow Technologies team as they are supporting our paws4people mission for the ninth year in a row. paws4people Relationship Development Officer Cathy Demeroto attended alongside paws4vets Clients Randy Powers with LAYLA, as well as In-Training Puppies BOXWELL, CHURCHILL, and MARSH. This year Iron Bow's generosity exceeded all expectations with a grand total of **\$72,000!**



WARRIOR SALUTE GOLF TOURNAMENT

paws4vets Client Scott Graham, USAF Veteran, and his Service Dog LEIA attended a holiday dinner with Mike Reilly and his team at Warrior Salute. Warrior Salute has supported our paws4vets program at the New Leash on Life sponsor level for the last seven years, and we continue to be humbled by their amazing support. This year's donation from their annual fall golf tournament yielded **\$35,000**. Thank you so much, Mike and team!

EVENTS



HONOR WALK

November 9th, we hosted our Second Annual Honor Walk fundraiser presented by Liberty Healthcare. We were thrilled to have such a beautiful and sunny day for our walkers who honored our nation's Veterans on their 4-mile walk from O2 Fitness to Eagles Dare. This year's top individual fundraiser, Rob Maino, contributed over \$2,000, as well as the top team, Canine Cougars. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised nearly **\$10,000** in support of our paws4vets™ program, placing Service Dogs with Veterans and Military Dependents.

A TAIL OF TRIUMPH: REUNION & GRADUATION

On Saturday, November 22nd, we celebrated our 14th Annual Family Reunion. We celebrated the accomplishments of 28 Service, Facility, Assistance Dog Type II, and Emotional Support Client/Dog teams. Our UNCW Assistance Dog Training Program students were presented with stoles for completing the Minor, and certificates for those who've finished the four courses. Crisis Response Team Haili Conn & GRIFFITH also had the honor of graduating and being recognized for their hard work as our first Crisis Response Team in the Fayetteville, NC Fire Department! That evening we hosted Wine and Wags at our headquarters, ADDIE'S Way, and it was filled with fun, food trucks, and music! Congratulations to all Client and Student graduates! Thank you to everyone that helped make this weekend possible.



LESLIE ROBERSON RAFFLES

We are incredibly grateful to Leslie Roberson for her outstanding support of paws4people. Through her leadership and generosity, Leslie independently organized and facilitated a community raffle, raising nearly **\$10,000** in support of our mission. By engaging her neighbors in RiverBluffs and extending fundraising efforts to events at Riverside Kitchen, she rallied her community around a shared purpose, changing lives through the power of Assistance Dogs. In recognition of her incredible impact, Leslie was given the honor of naming a future Assistance Dog, RALLY. We are deeply thankful for Leslie's initiative and for the unwavering support of the RiverBluffs community in advancing our mission.

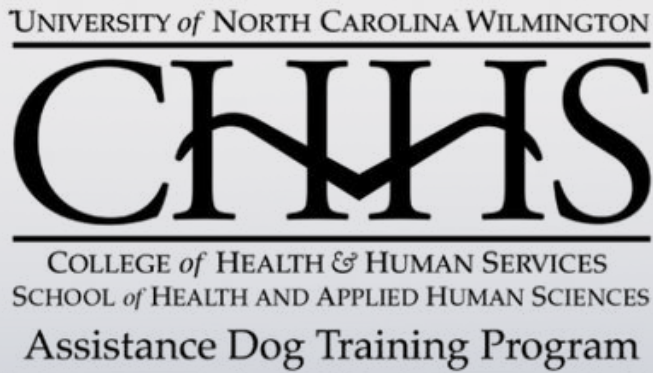
PROGRAM UPDATES

UNCW - ASSISTANCE DOG TRAINING PROGRAM MINOR (ADTP)

The Assistance Dog Training Minor offered at UNCW continues to be some student's highlight of their college career. The program is the first-of-its-kind, focusing on teaching students how to train Assistance Dogs in the public, the impact that they can have on an individual with a disability, as well how they can be utilized in a professional setting. The program provides students with experience in training Service and Facility Dogs, as well as providing an optional, in-depth course to learn more about Facility Dogs, which will inform their future professional practice as recreation therapists, social workers, mental health practitioners, health care providers, and teachers.

UNCW Facts & Stats

- 1,924 students have taken at least 1 course in the ADTP
- 427 students have completed the ADTP
- 133 students have completed the ADTP Minor
- 206,940 service learning and training hours since the beginning of the program
- 63 alumni of the program have received an Assistance Dog from paws4people.



PROGRAM EXPANSION

EXPANDING THE FUTURE OF ASSISTANCE DOG TRAINING

In 2025, paws4people was proud to launch a new partnership with Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) to create the Fundamentals of Assistance Dog Training (FADT) program. This innovative workforce development initiative provides students with hands-on education in the specialized field of assistance dog training while supporting the continued development of dogs in our program.

Through a series of structured courses, students learn the foundations of canine behavior, puppy development, task training, and client integration. As they progress through the program, students also gain practical experience working alongside paws4people® trainers and dogs in training, preparing them for careers across the animal care and assistance dog industries.

This partnership reflects our commitment to strengthening the future of the assistance dog field while expanding opportunities within our own community. By helping train the next generation of professionals, we are not only supporting career pathways for students but also ensuring that more highly trained assistance dogs can reach the individuals and families who need them most.

CAPE FEAR
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



PROGRAM EXPANSION

HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

In 2025, paws4people expanded our Host Family Program to create more opportunities for community members to directly support the development of our Assistance Dogs. Previously focused primarily on short-term weekend hosting for young puppies, the program now includes additional ways for volunteers to play a meaningful role throughout a dog's development.

Our new midterm hosting opportunities allow volunteers to support dogs between approximately four and ten months of age. During this important stage, dogs benefit from increased public access exposure, real-world socialization, and confidence-building experiences that prepare them for advanced training and future partnerships.

We also introduced long-term hosting opportunities for our breeding dogs, providing stable home environments where these important members of our program can live while continuing to contribute to the future of paws4people.

This expansion reflects our commitment to both canine welfare and community involvement. We are incredibly grateful to the host families who open their homes and hearts to our dogs.

Their support helps shape confident, well-prepared Assistance Dogs and plays a vital role in the life-changing partnerships our program creates.



PROGRAM EXPANSION

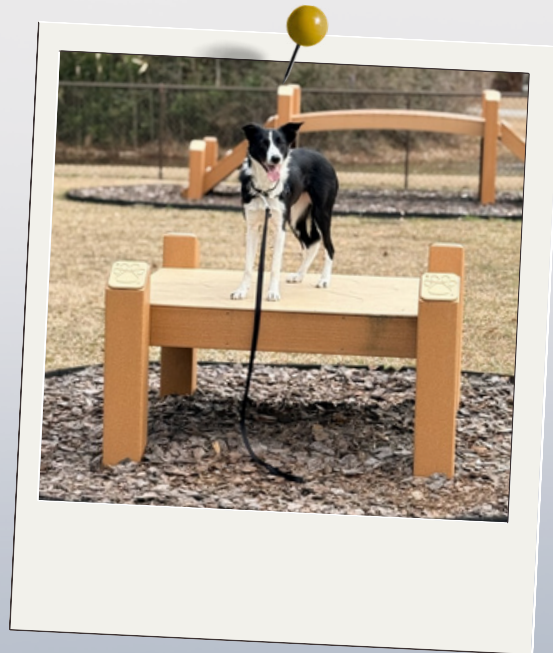
PRIVATELY OWNED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

paws4people continues to expand access to high-quality Assistance Dog training through our Privately Owned Certification Program, which allows qualified individuals to work with their own dogs while receiving guidance and assessment through our training team.

Rather than providing full-service training for privately owned dogs, this program focuses on integrating well-trained, mature dogs and their handlers into our structured team training environment. Participants refine advanced public access skills and demonstrate their dog's ability to perform disability-mitigation tasks that support their individual needs.

Through this program, teams participate in an extended training relationship with paws4people®, ensuring that both dog and handler meet the behavioral, task, and public access standards required for successful service work.

By offering this pathway, paws4people is able to support more individuals while maintaining the high training standards that define our mission. The program reflects our ongoing commitment to education, responsible training practices, and empowering individuals with disabilities to build effective partnerships with their dogs.



ADDIE'S WAY UPDATE

BRADIE TRAINING CENTER

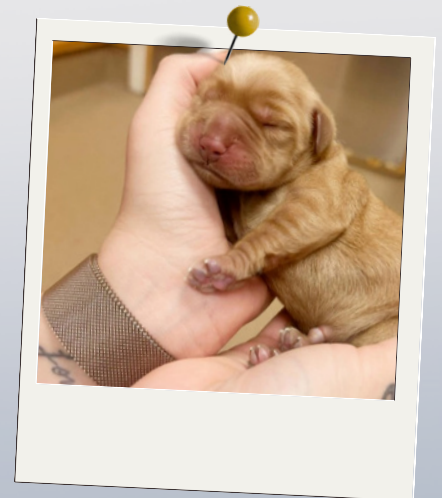
paws4people is grateful to announce that, thanks to the NC General Assembly Grant, we are nearly fully shovel-ready for the future BRADIE Training Center.

The BRADIE Training Center will be a dual-purpose facility, featuring a large, climate-controlled space for year-round service dog training, while also serving as a versatile venue for larger events and classroom use, allowing us to expand the reach and impact of ADDIE'S Way.



BRINKLEY WHELPING CENTER

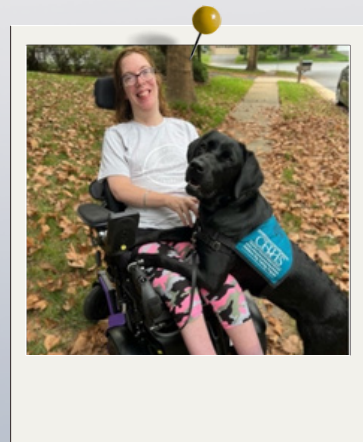
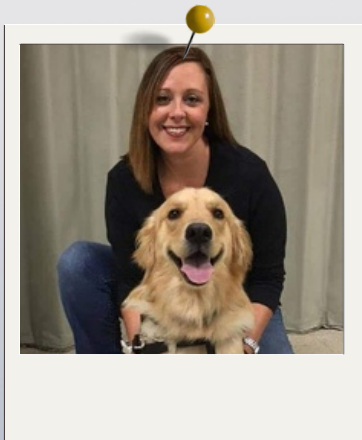
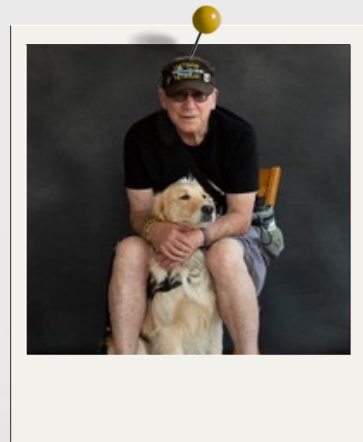
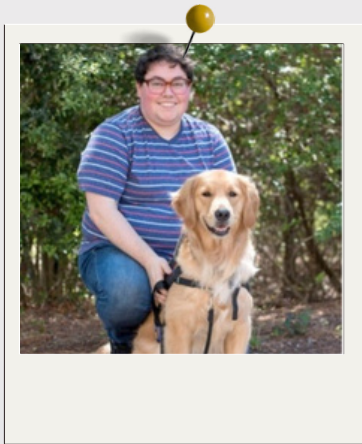
This year we were excited to announce the BRINKLEY Whelping Center! The BRINKLEY Whelping Center will serve as a specialized part of paws4people Foundation dedicated to nurturing our expectant mom dogs through the final stages of pregnancy, whelping, and early puppy development! Here, each litter receives round-the-clock care, socialization, and monitoring from birth through 6 weeks of age, ensuring they grow healthy, confident, and ready to begin their journey toward becoming future Assistance Dogs!



ADDIE AWARDS

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 (SDOTY), paws4vets Service Dog of the Year (SDOTY), paws4people Facility Dog of the Year (FDOTY), and People’s Choice.

- paws4people SDOTY: Ari Bernsten & WARREN
- paws4vets SDOTY: Nick Travis, USA Veteran & EMBRY
- paws4people FDOTY: Dawn Cook, MA, LCMHC& RUPP
- People’s Choice: Rachael Wessel & LANDERS



OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We are proud to recognize several outstanding members of the paws4people community whose dedication and commitment have made a lasting impact on our mission this year.

Lauryn Shilt - ADTP Volunteer of the Year

For more than three years, Lauryn has been a dedicated part of the Assistance Dog Training Program, always stepping in wherever needed. She has played a role in the development of countless Assistance Dogs, building meaningful connections along the way.

Donna Demaio - Volunteer of the Year

Donna's unwavering support, reliability, and willingness to serve wherever needed embody the heart of paws4people®. Her impact is felt across many areas of the program, and we are deeply grateful for her continued dedication.

Emma Parrish - Intern of the Year

Emma has demonstrated a strong work ethic, a passion for learning, and a genuine commitment to our mission. She has embraced every opportunity to grow and contribute, making a meaningful impact during her time with us.

Shelby King - Host Family of the Year

Shelby has provided an exceptional foundation for dogs in training through consistency, patience, and care. Her commitment plays a critical role in preparing our dogs for lifelong partnership and success.

Deedee G. - Outing Supervisor of the Year

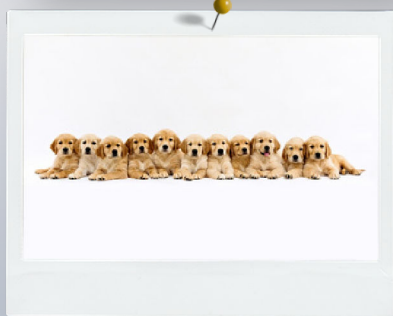
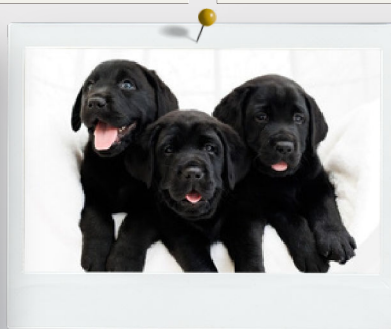
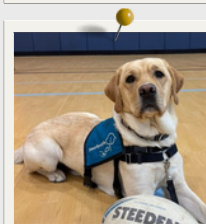
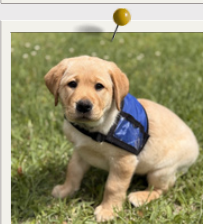
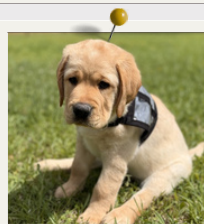
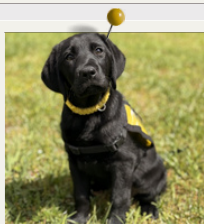
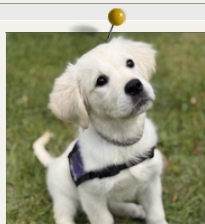
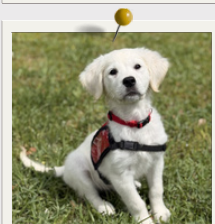
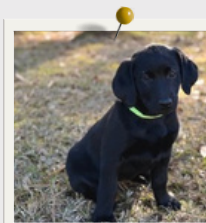
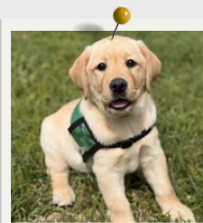
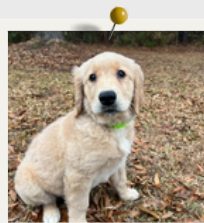
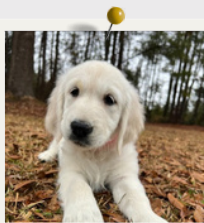
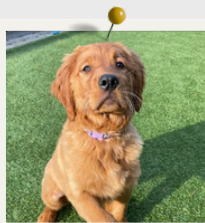
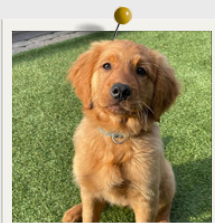
Deedee has shown exceptional commitment to socialization and community engagement, creating meaningful real-world training opportunities. Her efforts help build confident, adaptable puppies while strengthening connections within the community.

Kylee Pehrson - K9 Trainer of the Year

Over the past two years, Kylee has grown into an Advanced K9 Trainer, making a meaningful impact in the development of our dogs. Her dedication, leadership, and growth continue to stand out.



NEW ADDITIONS



MOMENTS THAT MATTERED



THANK YOU



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