



# (NAME THIS NEWSLETTER)\*



## Something to Howl About



Advanced Foster Dogs Jewell and Duke

### What's Inside

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- Name this Newsletter!
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- Puppy Raisers Needed
- New Facility Tour
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\*NAME THIS NEWSLETTER! We want to hear from you! Email with your ideas and suggestions for what to name our newsletter and what you would like to see in future issues. Send your submissions to [laurie.b@smokymountainservicedogs.org](mailto:laurie.b@smokymountainservicedogs.org).



We were so pleased to present US Army Veteran Cedric with his SMSD Beau at their Passing of the Leash Ceremony held February 12.

To see their journey, please watch the training camp video on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7z-DbD8hs>

### Volunteer Spotlight

The Raker Family (Andee, Joel, Mason & Axel) are puppy raisers and also have hosted SMSDs in their home for weekends

Andee and Joel have two sons, ages 10 and 15. Axel loves mountain biking, building forts, rock climbing and archery.

Mason is a busy freshman who rows six days a week at Atomic Rowing in Oak Ridge. He is an ardent outdoorsman, loves his church youth group and works for a sheep farmer.

Andee's husband Joel works for ORNL, is an avid homebrewer, and meat smoker. Andee is a homeschool mom who loves horses, muscle cars and dogs, of course.



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Back Row: John Fearn, Steve Rieth, Carla Werner, Chris Sanders, Mike Kitchens  
 Front Row: Pat Chappell, Deb Sciaretta, Romano Sims, Laurie Birt, Suzy Kitchens  
 (not pictured - Judy Handley)

## Board of Directors

- Mike Kitchens - Chairman
- Romano Sims - Vice-Chairman
- Pat Chappell - Secretary
- Steve Rieth -Treasurer
- Suzy Kitchens - Chair Emeritus, Veteran Liaison
- Carla Werner - Board Member
- Judy Handley - Board Member
- Debra Sciaretta - Volunteer Director
- Laurie Birt - Community Events Director
- John Fearn - Board Member
- Chris Sanders - Board Member

We are pleased to welcome our newest board member, Chris Sanders. Chris currently oversees Business and Programmatic aspects of an international collaborative program: a Deep Space Satellite Experiment Mission to Mars for the UAE and the Univ. of Colorado at Boulder, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. He is an Aerospace Program Management Professional and a 34-year Air Force Veteran. He and his wife Diane Vest reside in Tellico Village. We are looking forward to the experience and skills he brings to SMSD.

Puppy Press News



**Blaze**



**Duke**



**HALO**



**Hondo**



**Grizzly**



**Blair**



**Jazz - Slate - HALO**



**Jazz**



**Wiggles**

### Welcome New 2021 Volunteers:

- Serena Archer - Puppy Raiser
- Don Caldwell - Sketch Artist, Clean Team
- Kathy Caldwell - Clean Team
- Cathy Garrett - Respite
- RuthAnn Hunnicutt - Respite
- Melissa & David Marti - Puppy Raisers
- Chris Sanders - Board pf Directors
- Anastaia Kelly - Socializer (UT)



### Thank you for FIVE years of volunteer service!

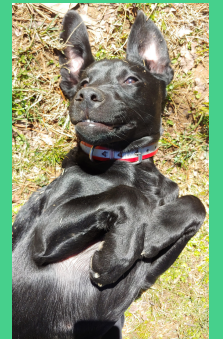
- Gale Frana - Foster, CE, R
- Kathy McKay - CE/S
- Ken McKay - CE/S
- Barbara McVeety-GW
- Jane Mocilac - Foster
- Jeanette Steel - S
- Fran Stewart - CE/S
- Gayle Thomasson - Canine Vests
- Sharon Walker - CE

# ***PUPPY RAISERS WANTED***

Cutest puppy ever seeking kind individual, couple or family willing to take me home until I am 10-12 months old and teach me the foundation skills needed to become a mobility assistance service dog for a wounded veteran. Must be willing to attend weekly classes, report on my progress and take me with you so I can get socialized and comfortable in different environments. My professional trainers are available 24/7 to provide support and advice. Veterinary care, food and equipment are supplied - you provide lots of love, training treats, and a willingness to learn from my trainers. Children and other pets in the house are not a bar to taking me into your home. Your reward will be the wonderful feeling of helping one of America's heroes, lots of gratitude and appreciation, and pride in knowing you are a part of making a difference.

If you are willing to share the puppy love, fun and glory, and you have a friend or family member that would like to partner with you, we can work with you to plan a co-fostering arrangement that works for both of you.

We would love to talk with you - please email [deb.s@smokymountainservicedogs.org](mailto:deb.s@smokymountainservicedogs.org) or call Deb Sciaretta at 845-206-8267.



If you have not had a chance to tour the new facility, click [here](#) to see a virtual tour.

Our thanks and appreciation to  
Jim Goyert - Building Project Mgr.  
Darrell Wilkerson - Facility Mgr.  
Bill Taylor - Board Architect





With all of these activities and work, the Raker family still finds time to raise puppies for SMSD. It is truly a team effort as the entire family participates in raising their foster puppies. Andee was thrilled to find SMSD and even more excited that they were specifically training dogs for wounded Veterans. The family has a deep love and respect for our military and SMSD seemed the perfect fit. Andee's time with us began in 2016 when she fostered their first SMSD puppy, Boomer. At that time, puppy classes were held at (Canine Program Manager) Heather's kitchen table. Boomer is now an awesome service dog and was teamed with a deserving veteran in October 2019. Their second puppy, Clutch, is now 3 and enjoying his "career change" as Andee's constant shadow and companion. They are currently fostering Bentley, a 4-month-old Labrador Retriever. Bentley is confident, smart, social and a sweetheart. His favorite time of the day is in the early morning when he spends coffee hour with Joel and Andee and has their undivided attention as the boys and other

animals are all asleep. People always ask how she is able to raise a puppy and then give it up. "It's different when you know that the dog doesn't belong to you. Our entire family has so much appreciation for the sacrifices made by military members. Some small sadness on our part isn't a big price to pay in exchange for knowing we have contributed in a small way to the well-being of a great American." Her favorite part of puppy raising is having a new puppy in the house! The entire family loves everything about puppy raising. "It is incredible to see the puppy's development over the year." Andee appreciates lessons with (Staff Trainer) Cassie and the 24/7 access to help whenever needed. They have been very impressed with how the organization is managed as a whole, especially through the building project year.

**Thank you, Joel, Andee, Mason and Axel for all you do for Smoky Mountain Service Dogs!!**

**Never miss important news**

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