

PATRIOT PUPPY PRESS



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Night for Patriots

Our annual Night For Patriots silent auction and dinner fundraiser was held this year on October 5 at The Venue in Lenoir City. Highlights included our Keynote Speaker US Marine Lt. Gen. Ron Bailey (Ret) and SMSD Recipient Speaker US Army CW4 Charley Jordan (Ret). We were fortunate to have ten of our past recipients in attendance. After a lively start to bidding at the silent auction, the colors were presented by UT Army ROTC.

Vocal Point performed the National Anthem and later on invited us to join in “God Bless the USA.”

We are always pleased and honored when our friend US Army Capt. Bill Robinson (Ret) is able to attend and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Volunteer Chairman Mike Kitchens acted as Master of Ceremonies and US Army Col. Joe Tedesco (Ret) reminded us of the significance and symbolism of the Missing Man Table.

As with any event of this size, it takes many hands to make sure everything runs smoothly and all the pieces fall into place.

(Cont. on page 5)



RECIPIENT NEWS



Three new teams graduated this quarter! Many congratulations to Scott and Goose; Lydia and Clayton; Cristy and Triscuit. Welcome to the SMSD family. Search YouTube for the Smoky Mountain Service Dogs page to find the videos for training camps and the Passing of the Leash ceremonies.



Cristy & Triscuit
9-9-24



Scott & Goose
8-23-24



Lydia & Clayton
10-18-24

The video recordings from Passing of the Leash ceremonies, training camp videos and much more are available on our YouTube Channel.

Please visit and subscribe to see all of our content. Most of the POLs are live streamed so if you can't make it in person next time, tune in and watch live!



Brad with
General Bailey
at Night for
Patriots



Charley speaking
at Night for Patriots

Charlie got married!! Congratulations to you both!! And also to SMSD Dagger.



It's hard to believe that we have already wrapped up 3 quarters of 2024. It was great to see the support from so many volunteers during our annual Night For Patriots fundraising event this month. It was also great to hear testimony from one of our recipients during this event and to have the opportunity to visit with many of our other recipient teams!

Speaking of teams I would like to provide a quick update. We currently have 47 active service dog teams. We had a couple of service dogs retire and unfortunately we also lost a couple of our canine heroes this year to cancer. We anticipate closing out the remainder of this year with a couple more new service dog teams.

The last quarter of this year will also bring us some new puppy recruits from Hero Labradors. It's always fun to welcome the puppy wagon! We appreciate the hard work that the volunteer coordinator team has done to recruit new puppy raisers! We are also appreciative of all existing puppy raisers and are looking forward to seeing the new promotional video that was recently recorded which will contain interviews from some past and present puppy raising families!

The kennel will turn over again soon with juvenile-aged dogs and we look forward to getting them started on their core mobility skills training.

Our advanced foster dog families have done such a great job preparing their assigned dogs for our new applicants and I can't believe how great these dogs look and how polished their skills are. Hats off to those of you that serve in this capacity.

The canine transport team has continued to expand and have really stepped up to the plate with getting our dogs and puppies in training to and from UT to be socialized with our student group UT Puppy Partners.

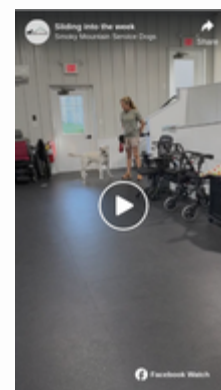
The UT Puppy Partner Students are also working diligently to provide public education about service dogs and recently held a fundraising activity to benefit SMSD.

Overall, the program has continued to be blessed with the spirit of giving from the 200 plus volunteers, and our staff has continued to raise the bar with the training of our dogs. I could not be more proud.

The last quarter of this year will certainly be busy. I will be assisting the Board of Directors with preparing the reaccreditation prepaket submission for our 2025 annual accreditation while simultaneously ensuring that we are in compliance with the 2024 Wounded Warrior Service Dog Project awarded to us last year. We recently submitted a proposal to continue with this research-based project again in 2025. The purpose of the project is to establish best practice standards for the service dog industry. The results of the project will be reported to congress and will help to identify the needs of our veteran population and active duty service members. It is an important project that we are passionate about participating in. The project is a collaborative effort among approximately 30 other service dog programs across the US, Assistance Dogs International, and the International Guide Dog Federation.

In closing, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contribute so much to the mission of SMSD. We continue to be blessed and to provide blessings to our veterans and first responders.

Heather Wilkerson



In addition to their superior training skills, did you know our trainers put a lot of content on YouTube? Head over to https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=smoky+mountain+service+dogs. All of the training camp videos you've seen at a Passing of the Leash are created and produced by our trainers. In addition, you will find a lot of great training tips and lessons. They do their best to make lessons fun and engaging for the dogs AND volunteers. Thank you Susan, Laura, Melissa and Miranda!!!

NEWS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TEAM

SPOTLIGHT ON THE TRANSPORT TEAM

The SMSD Transport team was started several years ago to transport puppies to and from a puppy raiser home to the kennel for puppy training day. Recently, with the implementation of the UT Volunteer Puppy Partner program, the transport team has stepped up their activity level to include transporting puppies to socialize with students who are responsible for providing important environmental and social exposures on the UT campus. We have approximately 29 transporters who handle up to 60-65 transports each month.

The SMSD Training Staff Words of Appreciation to the Transport Team

Our puppy raisers, staff and UT student socializers depend heavily on the Transport Team to shuttle dogs to and from various locations. Some transport needs involve long distances to ensure that our dogs have a mode of transportation to reach their designated locations.

Thanks to the idea of Patty Jazayeri to assume the management from the trainers and the superior organization and communication of the Transport Team Leader, Kathy Monaghan with our staff and volunteers, the process of scheduling has been seamless. Kathy does an amazing job collecting the transporter's availability and putting together a schedule. With the increased volume of transport needs, we recently added another volunteer transport coordinator, Linda Wicklund, to assist. Thanks to the Transport Team volunteers we are able to recruit and retain puppy raisers that we would not otherwise be able to attract.

A Note of Thanks From Laura Porter, Staff Trainer managing the UT Volunteer Puppy Partner Program

Kathy Monaghan is the keystone to our transport team. Her ability to organize the ever changing needs of SMSD and assemble the schedules and time tables is incredible. Every time I contact her about a change or additional need she take it in stride. So many things at SMSD would not be possible without Kathy, Linda and our amazing transport team.

A Special Thank you from Kathy Monaghan, Transport Coordinator

The transport team is an amazing group that goes above and beyond to ensure all SMSD puppies are taken where they need to go safely and in a timely fashion. Our transporters spend hours on the road to get a puppy from the puppy raiser to UT's campus and home again. Our team has so many dedicated individuals.

Transport Team

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Cathy Carpenter | Sahar Lotfi |
| Cathy DeBoer | Jim Lyons |
| Petra Dilling | Jenni Mathews |
| Becky Emmerson | Holly Momberger |
| Beth Engel | Kathy Monaghan |
| Dolly Figiel | Carla Navas |
| John Forcum | Doug Orton |
| Jim Goyert | Barbie Stevenson |
| Amber & Nick Hageman | Cindy Stepp |
| Tim & Vanessa Hallihan | Stu Wicklund |
| Neil Hersh | Larry Benson |
| Patty Jazayeri | Mike Hammack |
| Jim Jeswald | Karen Michniacki |
| | Nancy Piller |

Welcome 3Q 2024 SMSD Volunteers!



James Bolon, Board of Directors



Thank you to all of the auction donations and congratulations to everyone who won the bidding on their favorite items. We are very grateful for all of our sponsors. They help make this a successful event that we hope you enjoy.

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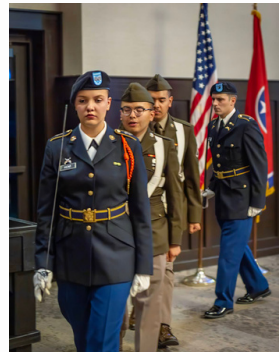
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Terry Scariot, John Kelly, Save A Warrior



Would you like to keep up with what's happening at SMSD in between newsletters? **Sign up for MailChimp** and get notified of important events like an upcoming Pasing of the Leash or Golf Challenge Registration? Sign up on our website - home page, right panel "sign up for latest news" - so you won't miss out.

SMSD Clancy has a message for you



Yes, you can still get a SMSD Specialty License plate for your vehicles registered in the State of TN. They are available at your local County Clerk's office and will be prorated so you don't have to wait until your current plate is due for renewal.

Last quarter income from license plates received 10/28/2024 Total Payment \$10,720.80



[HTTP://SMOKYMOUNTAIN SERVICEDOGS.ORG/](http://smokymountain servicedogs.org/)

Send comments, suggestions and critiques to Laurie.B@smokymountain servicedogs.org