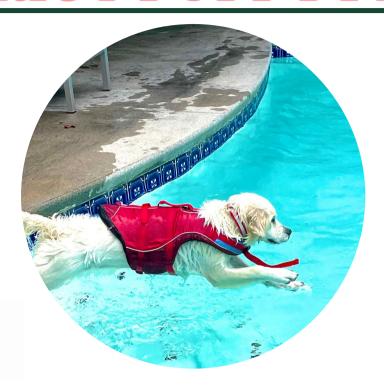




Something to Howl About

JULY 2022

# PATRIOT PUPPY PRESS



#### What's Inside

- More about our new teams
- Community Support
- Volunteer News and Notes
- Kennel News



Stan and SMSD Wiggles 5-17-22



Bradley and SMSD Jumper 5-17-22

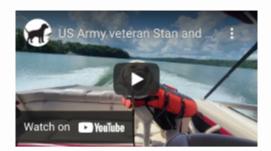
See page 2 to learn more about our latest teams.



### **Grateful for Community Support**

We are so very grateful for all of the community support we have. There are too many to list here but to name just a few (and in no particular order):
Tellico Village Womens Club (shown to the left).
The Gary Lindsey Memorial Fishing Tournament;
Fleet Feet Knoxville; Pull for our Vets; The Good Neighbor Shoppe; JROTC Bearden; JROTC Karns;
Seymour High School; Union Grove Middle School;
Grace Lutheran Church Knoxville and so many more!
These are in addition to the larger corporate partners who have been so generous.

# Two New Veteran Teams to Celebrate!



US Army and Afghanistan War Veteran Stan and SMSD Wiggles. Click on the image to the left to watch the training camp video OR copy and paste this address into your browser: https://youtu.be/pkgrtYO3uMs

US Marine Veteran Bradley and SMSD Jumper participated in their POL ceremony on May 17.
Click on the image to the right to see their Training camp video and tribute to SMSD Bella OR copy and paste this address into your web browser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?





v=TEAYpdliNlg

Watch the double Passing of the Leash ceremony here OR cut and paste this address into your web browser: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCsO9S4o-ko&t=1321s

# What's happening with our recipients?



Charley and SMSD Dagger in the news!



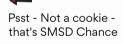
One Fort Campbell veteran is on a mission to share the healing powers of flowers A new horticulture therapy program at UT is helping veterans destress through gardening.

https://woln.org/gost/one-fort-campball-veteran-is-on-a-mission-to-share-the-healingpower-of-flowers/flocid-iwk4721V2s KIOcNwZ4ksCKk3i\_CFG550fplcyZ7mNng5f2fpWgg68f350gPc6kutm\_source=canva&utm\_m









These are cookies!! Another of our recipients, Cheryl, has started the Cookie Stack Bakeshop turning out beautiful and delicious cookies! Check it out:

https://www.facebook.com/search/top? g=the%20cookie%20stack%20bakeshop

Brad and SMSDJumper blazing new trails



Chuck Stewart, Author (with SMSD Sadie's help)



https://www.charlesastewart-officialsite.com/

### **KENNEL NEWS**

#### FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR CANINE PROGRAM MANAGER

Breeder Spotlight:
Country Goldens/ Breeder Traci Thompson
Graysville, Tennessee
www.countrygoldens.com

Country Goldens has been producing excellent Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers for the SMSD program since 2013. Country Goldens has contributed 26 mobility assistance service dog candidates to SMSD enabling us to gradually increase the number of deserving U.S. veterans served each year. 20 of these dogs graduated our training program and are currently serving their veterans well. 2 of these dogs are still in training. We appreciate all of our dedicated breeders but a special thank you is long overdue for Traci Thompson, her wonderful family who continue to contribute to the imprinting of each puppy inside of their loving home. We have included a couple of Country Golden puppy photos. See if you can properly identify who these precious puppies are!





It is hard to believe that we are 1/2 way through 2022 already! We have graduated 4 teams and are in the process of matching and pairing more dogs in training to veteran applicants. We currently have 26 dogs in training. Our most recent additions being 4 Labrador puppies and 1 Golden puppy. We continue to utilize Hooligan, our current ambassador dog and recently added 1 future ambassador dog in training. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers! We have also been able to assist several of our veterans this year by providing respite care for their dogs in need.

It continues to amaze me how so many of our volunteers selflessly give their time and effort to our mission. Our staff rarely has a need that can not be met!

As with every year there have been some highs and lows in our program thus far. We had to say goodbye to some of our older service dog partners, we have had a few disappointments along the way with dogs in training. Through it all, everyone in the organization pulled together as a family and lifted each other up.

We were blessed to have Dr. Millis and Dr. Ward from UT College of Veterinary Medicine come to our facility and provide preventative services to our dogs in training in the way of orthopedic assessments and eye exams.

Our staff continues to encourage new and existing volunteers to participate in training opportunities to enhance their dog handling skills. The future of our program depends on this! We are so appreciative of everyone who has inquired about observing and participating in classes, field trips for our dogs in training. As we move into the third quarter of this year, our volunteer application team and myself will be focusing on conducting annual team interviews and administering public access tests to our graduate teams.

Heather Wilkenson

#### We are happy to introduce our newest trainees!





reeders who make this possible!



Watch this video for a demonstration of "Help" by our Lead Trainer Susan Randall and Staff Trainer Laura Porter. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx8mXJi4CtU

# NEWS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TEAM



#### Volunteer Appreciation Picnic April 2022

This year we were able to hold our Volunteer appreciation picnic after missing it for 2 years due to COVID. We had about 160 attendees, It was held at the Bluebird Reserve in Lenoir City, which is a beautiful venue atop a hill with a gorgeous view of the valley. It was MC'd by DJ Steve Bartolone, who is an advanced foster for SMSDit Glory, along with his wife Joyce. Robin Richards created a lovely montage video of our volunteers in action which was fun viewing. We celebrated our volunteer anniversaries and recognized volunteers that fill the many roles required to keep SMSD running. If you were unable to attend, we missed you and hope everyone will be able to join us next April when we will gather in 2023.

### Spotlight on Barb Foss, Advanced Foster, Respite & Socializer

There are many dedicated SMSD volunteers and those that devote their time and energy to being an *Advanced Foster* make a significant contribution. **Barb Foss**, a volunteer since 2012, has welcomed 16 advance foster dogs into her home (not all dogs graduated). The list includes: Bella, Bearden, Stryker, Millie, ICE, Bogey, Thor, Max, Vanner, Dolly, Daggar, Toby, Tango, York, Beau and Jumper.

As Barb talks about the dogs, she has sweet stories about each one and the impact they had on her family. Barb said one of the challenges of getting a new foster is getting to know their needs, she takes great care to connect and bond with the dog so they become a team and focus on their training.

When asked what the experience is like to attend a POL for a dog she fostered, she says that it is emotional, she sits up front so she can see the moment the dog is handed over to their veteran. Seeing that end result, the connection between the dog and the veteran, is the ultimate reward.

During her 10 years as a volunteer, Barb has witnessed the evolution of SMSD, she speaks highly of all the SMSD Trainers and appreciates all the support and guidance they have provided. She talks about the kennel as her "second home." Barb is a humble and patriotic volunteer and shares the credit with the entire SMSD family, saying "it takes the whole community to prepare each dog for their life's purpose."

Comments from Susan Randall, SMSD Lead Trainer and Heather Wilkerson, SMSD Program Manager: Barb strives to make sure each dog she is responsible for training is perfect. She voices concerns about things that might have a negative impact on a veteran partner. When Barb completes her foster commitment to one dog, she is immediately ready for another dog. Barb has a calm and strong presence and is the first to lend a helping hand to any of the staff, volunteers, or dogs in need. Our favorite thing about Barb is her passion for the dogs, the veterans and the SMSD mission. Her contributions to this program shine through in our SMSD graduate teams.





### NEWS FROM YOUR VOI UNTEFR COORDINATOR TEAM

### Spotlight on Puppy Raising brothers - Simon & Jack Adams

Puppy raising is one of the MANY critical volunteer roles at SMSD. We are fortunate to have many incredible puppy raisers. We thank you all for your contribution. We want to spotlight 2 brothers, Simon & Jack Adams of Maryville who along with their Mom, Stephanie have raised two puppies. Simon, took on the responsibility of raising Slate when he was 13 years old. When asked what the biggest challenge of being a puppy raiser is – he said "keeping my eyes on him at all times." Talking with Simon he smiles when he talks about Slate and said he was a happy and joyful puppy. Simon made sure Slate was exposed to new sights and sounds, taking him out with his friends who thought it was very cool that he raised a SMSD puppy. Simon's proudest moment was when Slate passed his Canine Good Citizen test. Slate is now in Advanced foster preparing for his forever partner. Jack, 13 years old is training 9-month-old River. Jack, like Simon has a big smile on his face when he talks about the experience of raising a puppy. He said one of the biggest challenges is keeping the house "puppy safe" and the toughest skill to teach is "Down." Jack takes River with him to Youth Group to expose River to noises and teenagers in a high stimulus environment. They both expressed gratitude to the MANY canine transporters that bring the puppies to the kennel on their training days. They said one of the best parts of the experience is meeting all the members of the SMSD family.

Our own Cassie Krause, SMSD Trainer remarks: "The Team, that's what I call the Adam's family can-do attitude always brings joy to our program and I am thankful for their dedication to Smoky Mountain Service Dogs."

**Deb Sciaretta, former Board member and Puppy Raiser Coordinator, commented:** "From Day 1, I fell in love with this family. From the youngest, Gabriel to Grandma and Grandpa, their enthusiasm is amazing. Simon did a phenomenal job with Slate and Jack is rising to the occasion with River. Mom, Stephanie, cheerfully provides incredible support. We love this Family and thank them from the bottom our hearts!"





# Welcome New Volunteers

Justin Hendrix - Mowing Team Rose Redmund - Sewing Team Steve Schoenherr - Socializer Judy Smith - Transporter Joe Tedesco - Board Member



Welcome to our newest board member, Joe Tedesco. He has an extensive resume and a great passion for our mission. We are happy to have him aboard!Learn more about him on our website.

#### REMINDER

If you would like to observe advanced foster or puppy raising classes, email:smsdtrainers@smokymountainservicedogs.com

#### (Continued from page 1)

We could not accomplish our mission without your support and our pledge to you is that we will continue to be good stewards of your generous donations.

Every dollar or check, large or small, is most gratefully appreciated. Space precludes listing every donation received, but please know all are treasured.

Here is a sampling of photos of some of our supporters



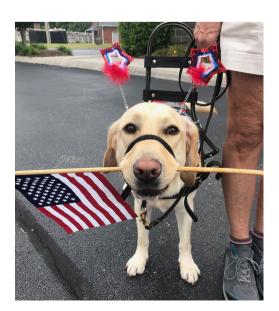






# 2022 Freedom Run

Thank you to Fleet Feet Knoxville for making SMSD their charity partner for this wonderful event. Plan to join us next year on July 4, 2023.







#### SMSD 2022 GOLF CHALLENGE

One hundred twenty golfers in 30 teams teed off in a shotgun start at 9 AM on Saturday, 25 June 2022 for the annual Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD) 2022 Golf Challenge at the Togua Golf Course in Tellico Village. Assisted by more than 60 volunteers, the event raised almost \$40,000 for the non-profit SMSD organization. From their humble start in 2016 when the event raised just \$9,000, the dedication of the organizers and volunteers hit a homerun today. Barry Corle, one of the event's co-chairmen, stated "this is one of the most popular golf events in Tellico Village!" The Golf Challenge is probably one of the most unconventional golf tournaments played on any of the Tellico Village courses. Barry is responsible for designing the 'challenges' on the course which includes sitting on a toilet while teeing from hole #13!

Romano Sims and John Fearn, both members of the SMSD Board of Directors, worked tirelessly finding sponsors. A team of eight volunteers organized the event, supported by 60+ volunteers to help execute the Golf Challenge.

Mortgage Investors Group (MIG) again was the principal event sponsor. Other continuing sponsors were Regions Bank, Patriot Investment Management, Chic-Fil-A of Lenoir City, Jackman Family Foundation, Brian and Sharon Wethington, Simmons Bank. New sponsors this year include Gary Henley Kitchens, Fidminterop, The Brethen Foundation and the Kukla brothers known as The Land Sharks. Finally, a special shout out to Gary Stuart and Edward Jones of Tellico Village who has supported this event since the first day. Thank you all!







Romano Sims



Contact your local county clerk to arrange pick up if you pre-ordered.

These specialty plates are now available to anyone with a car registered in TN. Check with your local county clerk's office.

Thank you to everyone for your patience during this lengthy project!

We recently updated our website a bit to give it a fresh look. We have added some new photos and video. Please take a look:

www.smokymountainservicedogs.org

Keep up with all the latest news.

Follow us on all the social media platforms. Click on any of the icons below to go directly to our page.

Send newsletter comments and suggestions to laurie.b@smokymountainservicedogs.org







