

Something to Howl About

JULY 2025

PATRIOT PUPPY PRESS



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We can't say often enough how grateful we are for the support of our community. We are blessed to be the recipients of so many community businesses and clubs and groups. Shown below is just a very small example of some of that support.

Left to right donations from the Good Neighbors Shoppe; REO Business Builders, Tellico Village Pickleball Club, and the TN State VFW. We could fill pages and pages with our supporters and each one is appreciated. Along with monetary donations, we have also received many thousands of volunteer hours over the years as well as goods and services from businesses and volunteers.

Our pledge to you is that we are committed to be good stewards of your donations, treat our clients and our canines with respect and provide the care and support they deserve.

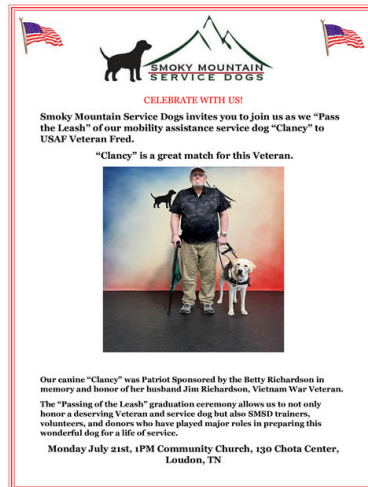




RECIPIENT NEWS



Jack and Hank **Training Camp**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mB4s6um28DE&t=9s>
POL <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ln6PJHeFTA&t=3102s>



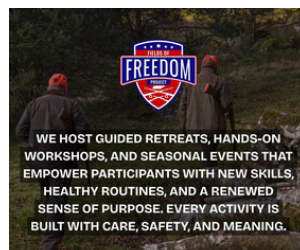
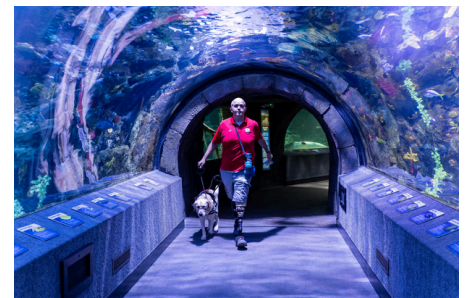
Fred and Clancy **Training Camp**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHCBGIApWyY>
POL https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLq7ocKJm_4

We are happy to have two recipients to celebrate this quarter. If you missed the invitations, please follow us on Facebook or sign up for our MailChimp list
<https://smokymountain servicedogs.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=99b30cab2dbdc552917d90545&id=415560297d>
 See the links to the Passing of the Leash Ceremonies on YouTube.



Jumper and Brad are on the go as always. Recent adventures include the Newport Aquarium, photo shoot with the amazing MaryMasonPhoto, Jurassic Quest, Seven Islands Birding Park and many, many more! Many thanks to "Mrs. Brad" for all the great photos.

We always love to hear from recipients and see pictures of you with your SMSD and hear what you're up to!



Eric and SMSD Duke have embarked on a new venture and would like to hear from fellow veterans to share his vision.
<https://www.fields-of-freedom.com/>

KENNEL NEWS

FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

Heather Wilkerson

Spring has jumped into summer here at SMSD and we have been busy with pairing our dogs in training with new applicants, conducting team training camps, and watching our puppies grow and learn.

I would like everyone to help us welcome our two newest staff trainers, Emily Hodges and Maylee Demling! These fabulous ladies are already making a positive impact on our team! Both joined us in June. They are already making solid connections with our dogs in training.

Melissa Marti will be moving into her new position as a Client Services Coordinator this month. She will be a valuable asset for our clients and service dogs. Congratulations Melissa!



Emily (L) and Maylee with Mike Kitchens at Passing of the Leash

Welcome to Smoky Mountain Service Dogs - we are glad you are here!

Check out the Smoky Mountain Service Dogs YouTube page to see a wealth of training videos and demonstrations by our excellent training staff. Here is the web address for just one excellent lesson:

How Treat Delivery Impacts the Reinforcement Zones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGHF7qHPMRk>



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Thank you to Carla Navas who served as Volunteer Director for several years. She is now working on the Client Services Team - more to come on her new role next issue.

Welcome to our new Volunteer Director, Renee King. She and her team work hard to be sure we have the volunteers needed to keep our mission ongoing.

Volunteer Coordinators: Joyce Bartolone, Deb Lathrop, Anne Cloud, Barb Spate
Deb Sciaretta, Puppy Raiser Coordinator
Kathy Monaghan - Transport coordinator
Ellen Furlong - Respite Coordinator



How lucky we are to have the Volunteer Puppy Partners on our team! This group of enthusiastic, committed UT students work hard to raise awareness, raise puppies, socialize, fundraise and many other tasks.



Look at these awesome volunteers lining up to wish SMSD Hank well on his journey with Jack, another deserving veteran.

Another fun time at the 2025 Freedom Run. Plan to join us next year - July 4, 2026.

Welcome

Welcome New Volunteers!
We are glad to have you join our mission

Colin Kropf - Community Events
Barbara Newman - Transporter
Angela Sherry - Transporter
Robert "Bob" Wise - Transporter
Denise Rotunda - Transport Team

Peggy Crowden - Transporter
Olivia Judd - UT Socializer
Linda Garza - Transporter
Ginna Lewis - Transporter



2025 SMSD Golf Challenge a Success!

The 2025 Smoky Mountain Service Dogs Golf Challenge was held this past June 28 at the Toqua Golf Course. We were greeted by warm sunny weather and enthusiastic golfers who supported our mission! Thanks to the hard work of the SMSD Golf Committee who met for six months, the over 70 course volunteers who worked out in the sun, and the Toqua facility team who coordinated the carts and fed us, the Challenge ran smoothly and without a hitch.

Our goal was to raise \$30,000 and to make sure everyone enjoyed the day, and we were successful on both counts!

We owe a special thanks to the golfers and to all our sponsors, especially our primary sponsor Chick-Fil-A, for supporting our endeavors. We have been blessed to have so much support in the Challenge, which is one of our two major fund raisers along with Nights For Patriots. Thank you all! We hope to see you next year!

Your SMSD Golf Challenge Committee: John Nametz, John Fearn, Michelle Ham, Neil Cowley, Barry Corle, Joe DeCesare, Renee King, Carla Navas, Dick Shusha, Tom Bradley,



Thank you to our Kroger shoppers! From March 1 to May 31, you generated \$176.77 - That is more than enough to feed FOUR of our dogs for that 3-month period with no cost to you. Sign up now if you are a Kroger shopper.

Would you like a copy of our latest brochure? You can find it on our website under the "About Us" tab.

<https://www.smokymountain servicedogs.org/about-us/>

Our Specialty License Plates are available now through your county clerk. You can change at any time during your renewal cycle without any penalty



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

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