



Puppies
Behind
Bars

Puppies Behind Bars

Autumn 2017

Celebrating
Twenty Years of
Puppies Behind Bars!



Commissioner Anthony Annucci thanking Glenn Close for her support of Puppies Behind Bars



(Left to right) Gilbert Molina, III, Glenn Close, Master Sergeant Len Fallis with Chuck, Commissioner Anthony Annucci, Lieutenant Anthony Lordo

Photos: Mary Hilliard

The Constant Stars

There's a stir that ripples through a crowded New York party when a star is spotted. At the 20th-anniversary bash for Puppies Behind Bars, that ripple might have meant that people had just noticed the presence of the evening's host, Glenn Close, who was currently knocking them dead on Broadway in *Sunset Boulevard*, or one of her friends—Tommy Tune, say, or Christian Slater. At other moments, you had to look down to see what the fuss was all about, perhaps clued in by a glimpse of a wagging tail.

By now it's a signature of a P.B.B. event: the presence of several Labrador retrievers, who invariably end up stealing the show. And the night of Monday, May 8, at the Bryant Park Grill, was no exception.

Over the past two decades, aspects of P.B.B.'s work have shifted, responding to changes in the world around it. After 9/11, the founding goal of teaching prison inmates to raise guide dogs for the blind gradually segued into the double mission of raising service dogs for wounded veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq, with the Dog Tags program, and bomb-sniffing dogs for law enforcement. Since 2007, P.B.B. pups-in-training have visited homebound senior citizens (the Paws & Reflect initiative) and since 2012 they've helped comfort victims at the Manhattan District Attorney's office. The most recent innovation, in 2015, is the Scaife Family Foundation Early Socialization Center, in upstate New York, where puppies get essential attention and stimulation between birth and the eight-week mark, when they enter the prison training process.

Throughout, one constant has remained—the dogs, and their ability to transform lives.

Since 1997, more than 5,000 inmates have been accepted into the program, which currently operates in six prisons, to begin the demanding task of raising a working dog. The vast majority of those men and women have found themselves changed forever. For most, it's been their first chance to give back

to the society they harmed, a rare experience of trust, pride, and love. Many of those puppy-raisers have been paroled, and some dozen have gone on to hold jobs at P.B.B. when they left prison.

That May evening, while more than 400 guests thronged the restaurant, Close—whose commitment to P.B.B. over the years has been a mainstay of the organization's outreach—introduced a panel that mirrored the dogs' impact across a range of lives. Anthony Annucci, who runs the New York State prison system, talked about the mission of rehabilitation. Annucci, like his two predecessors in the job, Brian Fischer and Glenn Goord, has been a firm proponent of P.B.B.'s work; indeed, Goord, the commissioner who gave his blessing in 1997 to a fledgling program at Bedford Hills prison, went on to serve as chairman of the P.B.B. board of directors after his retirement.

The guests also heard from Master Sergeant Len Fallis, who served in Iraq from 2005 to 2006, coming home with post-traumatic stress disorder. Fallis was teamed with his P.B.B. service dog, Chuck, in December 2016, and moved the crowd with his account of how Chuck has helped him heal.

Then Lieutenant Anthony Lordo, Commander of Icon Security and Canine Unit at the Statue of Liberty, described the work of the explosive-detection canines at the country's most-visited national monument. P.B.B. dogs have provided security there, as well as at countless high-security places around the world, from the Washington Monument to the Jordanian/Syrian border.

Lastly, Gilbert Molina, III, who served 19 years of a 15-to-life sentence for murder, and was a puppy-raiser in the Otisville Correctional Facility until his parole in 2010, recalled how the program opened his eyes—and his heart. Molina has been a dedicated employee of P.B.B. ever since his parole in 2010.

As the members of the panel spoke, occasionally a woof or two could be heard from the audience. Well, of course the dogs felt they needed to chime in. The party was, ultimately, about them.

Paws for Applause

In our twenty-year history, we have been very lucky to make – and keep – lots of friends. We delight in how many volunteers have stayed with us for years, how low our staff turnover rate is, and how many supporters keep giving to us year after year. Developing relationships is something very important to who we are as people and as an organization.

One of our earliest supporters was the designer Nicole Miller and the CEO of her eponymous company, Bud Konheim. Years ago Nicole designed three hand-embroidered dog collars for us, which were auctioned at one of our cocktail fundraisers, and this year, to celebrate our 20th, she and Bud have offered to give a cocktail party for us in their SoHo store, on October 17th, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. If you did not receive an e-vite to it, please contact us so we can e-mail it to you.

In addition, they have designed two products to sell in the store and on their website, with 100% of the profits going to Puppies Behind Bars. It sure is nice to have creative friends who are also so generous! Supplies are limited, so please order early.

And speaking of long-time friends, Diane Roth, whose father graduated from West Point and who has always supported our men and women in uniform, has also been supporting Puppies Behind Bars for years. On September 29, 2016 she hosted a cocktail party in her women's clothing boutique, L'Armoire, in New Canaan, Connecticut, to raise enough money to sponsor a dog. The event, which featured wine, hors d'oeuvres and live music, also included Nora Moran, our director of Dog Tags, and volunteer Priscilla McCord, talking about our work. "Justice" came with them to show a few commands and give a lot of kisses to the many people who turned out to support Diane and Puppies. They raised more than \$10,000 for us and introduced us to many new friends. Thanks, Diane!



Photos: courtesy of Nicole Miller



Photo: Rachel Lampen



Clockwise from upper left: Nicole Miller with canine admirers; Custom iPhone case (fits iPhone 6, 6s, and 7), retails for \$20.00; Custom Dog Bowl (100% stainless steel engraved with P.B.B. logo), retails for \$40.00; Diane Roth (Owner, L'Armoire), Priscilla McCord (Puppies Behind Bars volunteer), Christine Ranhosky, and Nora Moran (director of Dog Tags) with "Justice"

Please accept my donation for:

- Routine veterinary care for one puppy for a year (\$850)
- One service-dog vest with patches (\$100)
- A new sleeping crate (\$85)
- Food for a puppy for one month (\$70)
- Hands-free lead for a service dog trainer (\$30)
- New toys for one puppy (\$10)
- Other amount: _____

Check enclosed

(Please make checks payable to Puppies Behind Bars)

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Puppies Behind Bars

263 West 38th Street, 4th floor
New York, NY 10018

Twenty Years of Puppies Behind Bars!



1997



October 1997 First PBB class in the Bedford Hills women's prison



November 1997 First two PBB puppies arrive (generously donated by Guiding Eyes for the Blind), to be raised as guide dogs

1998



January 1998 Three more puppies arrive from Guiding Eyes, bringing us up to five puppies and ten inmates in this first prison



September 1998 Open in the Fishkill men's prison

1999



January 1999 First four puppies enter Fishkill



August 1999 First guide dog, Lucie, graduates

2001



April 2001 Open in the Edna Mahan women's prison in Clinton, New Jersey



September 2001 Hire our first former "puppy-raiser" to work in our NY office



Guide dog Victoria with Willie

2002

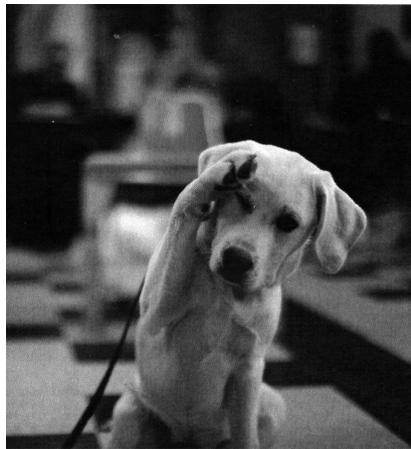


May 2002 Start raising explosive-detection canines

2006



January 2006 Open in the Otisville men's prison



April 2006 Stop raising guide dogs and start raising service dogs



June 2006 Start of Dog Tags: Service Dogs for Those Who've Served Us



June 2006 Start Paws & Reflect, our homebound elderly visitation program in New York City

2008



(Left to right) Sondra Gilman, Celso Gonzalez-Falla, and dear PBB board member Joan LaCaille



February 2008 First service dog paired with Iraq war veteran

2012



April 2012 Zoe inducted into the United States Army as Sergeant First Class and deployed to Afghanistan



November 2012 Open in the Downstate men's prison

2013



February 2013 Dogs start going down to Manhattan District Attorney's office weekly to comfort victims of abuse. Pictured here Cyrus Vance, Jr., Manhattan DA, with "Justice"

2015



May 2015 Scaife Family Foundation Early Socialization Center opens

2016



May 2016 First litter of service dog puppies whelps at the Scaife Family Foundation Early Socialization Center

2017



January 2017 Open in the Wallkill men's prison

Puppies Behind Bars trains prison inmates to raise service dogs for wounded war veterans and explosive-detection canines for law enforcement. Puppies enter prison at the age of eight weeks and live with their inmate puppy-raisers for approximately 24 months. As the puppies mature into well-loved, well-behaved dogs, their raisers learn what it means to contribute to society rather than take from it.



Puppies Behind Bars

263 West 38th Street, 4th floor
New York, NY 10018



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Twenty Years of Puppies Behind Bars photos courtesy of: Andrea Baker, Puppies Behind Bars, Judy Goldman, Karen Hallett, Chad Leclair, Brian Murphy, Valerie Shaff, Peggy Vance