

The Pilot Bight



OPEN YOUR HEART FOR CLOSED EYES



12th Annual Pilot Dogs OSU Tailgate was a great success!

On October 20th, Pilot Dogs hosted our annual tailgate party for the OSU at Purdue game. While the game wasn't pretty, everyone still had a great time. We had around 160 people show up for fun, food, and drinks. The food was delicious, sandwiches and sides from Graze Seasonal Market Grill & Catering and homemade cookies and cupcakes by Lauren from Patterson Veterinary Supplies. The Buckeye Blend Quartet entertained us before the game and at halftime. The quartet performed the classic OSU songs, along with some of their originals including several about everyone's favorite Ohio State Coaches. At the end of the halftime, several participated in the Script Ohio. From the event and the Silent Auction, we were able to raise \$10,000!

A big thank you to our sponsor, PNC. Thank you to all those who donated to the Silent Auction, including: Columbus Metropolitan Quilt Guild 2018 In Memory of Marcia Early, Dawn Dent, Elford, Grove City Family Dentistry, Hollywood Casino, Jay & Toni Gray, Dr. Lisa Lowery, Myra Tewksbury, Nancy McGuire, Pam Miller, Pat Walters, Sheila Straub, Steve Hoyt, Thurn's Specialty Meats, Inc., Westchester Golf Course, and Women's Board of Pilot Dogs, Inc.



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2018 PILOT DOGS COLLECTIBLE ORNAMENT

The 2018 Pilot Dogs Collectible Pewter Holiday Ornament is now available! This year's ornament features the

Golden Retriever.

Each ornament was handmade by Woodbury Pewter in Woodbury, Connecticut. This is the fourth in a series of seven ornaments that will feature each of our breeds.

Limited available! \$20/ornament.

You can purchase from our website www.pilotdogs.org or mail a check or cash to:

Pilot Dogs, Inc.
625 West Town Street,
Columbus, OH 43215

If mailing a check or cash, please be sure to specify it is for the ornament. Ornaments will be mailed out within one week of receiving your order.



LIONS CORNER

USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM

The 2018 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum was held in Columbus, Ohio on September 19th to the 22nd. This is a yearly Lions Club Leadership training convention and it is the largest. Thousands of Lions come from all over to attend training sessions and to network. Pilot Dogs had a booth and a demonstration area set up to offer blindfold walks throughout the weekend.

Jay Gray, Executive Director held a session to talk to the Lions about Pilot Dogs. Jay brought Marvin Gaye, a current student, along with his new Pilot Dog to share his personal story. This is Marvin's second Pilot Dog. Later that night, Jay presented a slideshow at the dinner and told the Lions more about our history and program.



Top Left: Pilot Dog blindfold demonstration

Top Right: Pilot Dog Poodle sitting in front of Tobi, our blow up mascot

Bottom Left: Pilot Dog Graduate Marvin Gaye speaking to Lions members

Bottom Right: Our Pilot Dog booth and banner

Above: 2018 Golden Retriever Collectible Ornament

15TH PILOT DOGS GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

The outing at New Albany Links Golf Club turned out to be a great success. We had a total of 17 groups golf with us. There were several competitions, including one of the favorites, The Blindfold Putt. In this competition, the putter puts on a blindfold while the team lines the putter up. The longest putt made with the blindfold wins a prize and bragging rights. Dinner of BBQ was served afterward, and we handed out prizes. The winning team was awarded gift cards and the coveted Pilot Dogs Red Sweatshirt, which rivals that of the Masters Green Jacket. The winners were Bobby Reed, Joe Klemann, Stephen Hamilton, and James Kreps. Special thanks to our sponsors: Elford, Krieger Ford, Priority Designs, Stemens Mertens Stickler, Winkle Green & Company, Myra Tewksbury, Tom Webber, North Summit Lions, and the Alumni Association of Pilot Dogs.



Staff Spotlight: Dawn Dent

Dawn Dent was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio with three sisters. She graduated from Bishop Ready High school and then moved to California for a year. For a couple years, she was in the insurance and mortgage business but soon left to help out with her family business. The business dealt with heavy machinery and was called Muth Brothers Company. Eventually, they dissolved the company.

Dawn's early memories of Pilot Dogs was when she would take the bus to downtown Columbus to go shopping. She remembers seeing the brick building with the German Shepherd Head on it. When she first started working at Pilot Dogs, it was cleaning the kennel. She was just getting started in the Apprentice Trainer Program when the job became too demanding with a newborn at home and a husband that needed to travel for work.

Several years later, Pilot Dogs reached out to Dawn to see if she was interested in filling the position of Kennel Manager. Dawn said yes and has been the Kennel Manager for the last 18 years.



change Pilot Dogs living with her on her farm. Now, she has one of our retired hearing dogs, a mixed breed rescue, and three rescue cats.



Above: Dawn Dent
Left: Dawn with a Pilot Dog in Training

Her favorite things about working at Pilot Dogs are, of course, the different dog breeds and their personalities. Dawn first became familiar with the Doberman Pinscher breed by working here and now it is her favorite breed. Dawn loves witnessing the changes the dogs go through, throughout their training. Dawn really enjoys the medical side of her job. With the new veterinarian clinic, she is able to see all kinds of procedures and learns something new almost everyday. Plus, having a veterinarian on staff makes her job a lot less stressful.

Over the years, Dawn has opened her home to several of our older retired dogs and dogs with medical issues. At one point in time, she had seven retired and/or career

PICK OF THE LITTER



Pick of the Litter Movie is a Documentary that follows the journey of a litter of puppies from another guide dog school. Cameras follow the pups from birth to their puppy raisers home, to formal guide dog training, and if they are lucky to graduation. The Columbus Film Festival held a screening for the documentary and invited Pilot Dogs to sit for a Q&A after the film. Jay Gray, Executive Director happily attended and answered viewers questions on August 11th. In the audience, were a few puppy raisers, a guide dog user, Pilot Dogs staff members, and dog fans. The movie was only available on select dates at the Gateway Film Center. On a rainy afternoon in September, the Pilot Dogs staff and volunteers were treated to a fun movie outing to check out the documentary.

Puppy Raiser Spotlight: Mike & Kathy Green



Above: Mike & Gilbert in Kennel lobby
Right: Mike and Gilbert practicing a sit during obedience

Kathy and I are raising our fourth pilot puppy; in the order they were: George, Josie, Gerald, and Gilbert. We are empty nesters that decided our house was too clean and handsome. What we really needed was a puppy to eat our best plants, chew our furniture, trample our shrubbery and generally make the house extra hairy. Kidding aside, there has been a confluence of things that lead us to Pilot Dogs. First, we are dog lovers and raise our own Labs. Then oddly enough, hosting foreign exchange students when our children were still living with us, introduced us to Mark and Barbie Williams, who have raised at least 13 Pilot Dogs. Apparently that planted a mental seed, such that when we moved to downtown Columbus from the burbs, Pilot Dogs was practically in our backyard. Who doesn't want a puppy? And, how hard could it be? Combine our ignorance of puppy raising, knowledge of the program and proximity to Pilot Dogs plus the satisfaction of helping someone visually impaired with a life companion, and we suddenly are raising our fourth puppy. Even with the heart-breaks returning each puppy, we know it's worth it.



Student Spotlight: First time Pilot Dog Graduate Kali

My name is Kali and I have been legally blind since birth. Due to my visual impairment, I began receiving services such as O&M, VI, independent living, etc at an early age.



When I was 16, I decided to look into getting a guide dog for myself. After researching schools, I decided to apply to Pilot Dogs after meeting one of their previous students. We spoke about Pilot Dogs and his personal experience there and about how his guide dog was performing since graduating. After meeting the previous student, I started corresponding with the staff through email.

I arrived at Pilot Dogs in May of 2018, that's when I met my beautiful Pilot Dog Sandy!!! I can't say enough fabulous things about her, she's fantastic at her guide work and so well mannered both in and out of harness. Sandy has opened my world up immensely!!! Sandy made me a much more confident traveler and she adds a social aspect to my life that wasn't there before. Sandy and I both love having new experiences and traveling to new places. We reside in Nacogdoches, Texas on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University, while I pursue a bachelor's degree in Human Services. We both love the college life for sure, Sandy along with myself are members of the sorority "Sigma Phi Lambda" at Stephen F. Austin State University!



There aren't enough words that can express my gratitude to Pilot Dogs and the puppy raisers for my sweet Sandy. Everyone involved with Pilot Dogs are incredibly amazing individuals. You all continually change the lives of countless individuals. My life will forever be changed because of my Pilot Dog Sandy.

The Adventures of Tobi

Our blow up mascot, Tobi, has been busy this year. He attended several events, including our Golf outing (far right), the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, and many parades. Most recently, he donned his Santa hat, decorated the truck with lights and participated in the Canal Winchester Holiday Parade (right).



PUPPY OUTING TO PRIORITY DESIGNS

Earlier this year, we had two large litters of puppies born around the same time and were in desperate need of puppy raisers. Priority Designs contacted us to let us know that a few employees might be interested in raising for us. Priority Designs, a longtime supporter of Pilot Dogs, helped us design and build Tobi, our blow up mascot. So, we packed up two puppies to head out and give a talk about our Volunteer Puppy Raising program. We were optimistic, but if we didn't get someone to sign up to raise a puppy, it would at least be a good socialization opportunity.

While we talked to the employees, the Labrador and the Golden Retriever enjoyed scratches from everyone. Since the office designs all kinds of things, there were many large, strange looking objects, and the puppies were not even phased.

It was the Lab puppy's lucky day! One of the employees decided to take her home that afternoon and raise her. His wife and child were very excited and signed up for our Obedience class. A couple weeks later, another employee took home one of our poodle puppies!

We are always in need of Puppy Raisers, that will keep a puppy in their home, from 9-10 weeks old until they are about 12-14 months. We have a veterinarian on staff and offer obedience lessons at our facility. If you are unable to use our facilities, we do cover vet costs and a stipend for an approved obedience course. If you would like to know more, please call us at 614.221.6367 or email puppydepartment@pilotdogs.org.



*Left: Four employees pose with the Lab and Golden Puppies
Right: The puppies in the car on the way to Priority Designs*





FUTURE PILOT DOGS EVENT

3rd Annual Bexley Lions Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser- February 8th, 2019

16th Pilot Dogs Golf Outing - TBD

12th Annual OSU Tailgate Party - Sept 14th, 2018 Time TBD



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