



HELPING PAWS

SUMMER IMPACT STORY

MEET THE VICTORY LITTER



On Saturday, March 2, 2019, Helping Paws and Breeding Dog Harper welcomed the Victory Litter— five adorable Golden Retriever puppies! At the Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital, Harper’s caretakers, Cheryl and Allen Pankow and Helping Paws staff oversaw a healthy birth. Melanie and Doug McLean cared for the Victory Litter for two months, after which the litter was placed with their Foster Home Trainers. Did you know that Foster Home Trainers get to name their puppies?! The only catch is it has to start with the same letter as the litter name. Our Foster Home Trainers came up with Vanek, Vega, Victor, Vinnie, and Violet. Adorable puppies deserve adorable names. Thank you to our new and repeat Foster Home Trainers who will care and train these puppies for the next two and half years.

A tender moment with Lloyd Hagemo was captured by his wife Brenda. Lloyd, a repeat Foster Home Trainer, fell asleep on top of a dog bed as he was comforting Vinnie, their new service dog in training, during the first night in his new home. The Hagemo’s other service dog in training, Jerry, joined Lloyd as he slept on the floor.

“By teaching me how to train Jerry, Helping Paws showed me exactly how I could make an incredible difference. The tremendous satisfaction I feel, when seeing the impact Jerry makes, loving and assisting his new partner, is beyond what I could have ever imagined. When asked to train a second pup for this amazing program, I gave them an immediate “yes!” Now with our new service dog in training, Vinnie, we have already set off on our new path!”

-Lloyd Hagemo



VANEK



VEGA



VICTOR



VINNIE



VIOLET

SPRING TEAM TRAINING



After two and half years of training, each dog meets and works with a number of prospective recipients. Once a match has been made, the recipient and service dog undertake a three-week “Team Training” period to learn to work together. At the end of April, Helping Paws conducted its Spring 2019 Team Training classes. This session focused on individuals with physical disabilities as well a courthouse facility dog.

In what some may call fate, Brenda and Lloyd Hagemo’s other service dog in training, Jerry, was matched with Corbett Laubignat this Spring. One dog is welcomed into their home just as another transitioned into a working service dog.

“Jerry is such a priceless gift. He is always eager to pick up items that I may have dropped or need to access and he loves assisting me with taking off my jacket every morning at work. He bridges the social divide between people who experience disability and people who have yet to experience disability. Allowing for authentic interactions and meaningful relationship building opportunities. It’s amazing when I shift from being the person in the chair to the person with the dog. Priceless!”

-Corbett Laubignat

Other matches from this Spring 2019 Team Training class are Tom Hallada with service dog Juneau, Gerald Piotter with service dog Jewel, and Molly DePrekel with Finnegan as a facility dog. Thank you Foster Home Trainers Lyn and Tom Davis, Brenda and Lloyd Hagemo, Barb and Peter Hutchinson, and Corrine and Steve McCuskey for your years of service and commitment to the Helping Paws mission.