

PAWS Giving Independence

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Paws Giving Independence

"saving a life to change a life"

Paws Giving Independence, NFP

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Social Media

Facebook: [facebook.com/PawsGiving](https://www.facebook.com/PawsGivingIndependence)

[Independence](https://www.facebook.com/PawsGivingIndependence)

Twitter: @PGIdogs

Instagram: @PGIdogs

Directors

Michelle Yuen, Brandi Weyers, Donna Kosner

Communication Chair

Jill Addy Wright

Training Chair

Laura Strauch

Event Chair

Linda Waible

Mission

We are an all-volunteer organization that trains rescue dogs to be shelter dogs who are placed free of charge with their recipient. The objective of PGI is to train service dogs to assist people with a variety of different disabilities while providing support to encourage independence. PGI educates the public to the benefits of service dogs and encourages animal rescue by obtaining many of our animals from shelters and rescue groups.

Vision

- To provide quality service dogs free of charge to adults and children;
- To provide exceptional canine health and overall well-being for our dogs;
- To create the highest-quality match between dog and handler;
- To develop a long-term relationship with our alumni and the community;
- To educate the public about service dogs through demonstrations.



Paws Giving Independence was founded by a pair of Bradley students in 2008 and has placed close to 100 dogs with those in need—all free of charge to the recipient! PGI's primary focus falls within the three following areas:

Mobility Service Dogs help by performing functions for a person that is limited by a disability—such as balance issues, wheelchair assistance, hearing or vision impairments.

Facility Dogs are trained to perform animal-assisted interventions at hospitals, medical facilities, nursing homes and other facilities. These dogs are trained to help and work with many people.

Facilitator Assisted Companion Dogs help individuals with disabilities or other developmental delays, and the parent/caregiver is certified to handle the dog.

And there are other organizations that help PGI towards our mission.

WAGS FOR MAGS

Bradley has supported PGI since day one and has a very active student-led organization that has teamed up with us to train service dogs to assist those with disabilities. "Wags for Mags" was launched in 2012 to involve students with the service dog training process. Bradley students participate as student trainers or foster homes for service dogs. Each student trainer is assigned a dog or dogs to work with during the week. During the time with the dog, the trainer goes through a normal routine of attending classes and running errands, while also teaching skills to the dog. The trainer is responsible for the dog for the duration of its visit on campus, and he or she must complete a training report at the end of the day.

INDY-PENDENCE SERVICE DOGS

Indy-pendence Service Dogs is a registered student organization at Illinois State University. Students from this program are chosen by PGI to foster and train dogs for service work.

HELPING PAWS

PGI has partnered with Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln and its Helping PAWS training program, an Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) program. The money for Helping PAWS comes from the items that ICI sells back to the public by making furniture, doing meat and milk processing, and printing work. The funds allow select prisoners to train PGI puppies while the trainer receives a certificate from the Department of Labor to help in the job search. This program has allowed PGI to expand the amount of dogs we have in the program with targeted training done 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Upcoming Events

Running with the Dogs

September 30, 2017

Junction City Shopping Center

How to Help

You can sponsor a service dog-in-training for a year for only \$100. We will send you updates as your dog goes through training and eventually gets placed as a service dog.

Financial support is appreciated as it helps us offset the largest organizational expense: veterinarian bills. If you are looking to become more involved, visit our website to find out how you can volunteer—or even better, become a foster family for a service dog-in-training!

Contact Donna Kosner at dkosner@givingindependence.org or (309) 839-2754 for more information.