

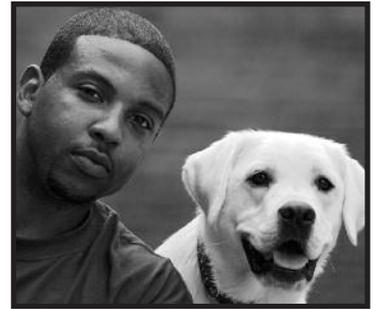
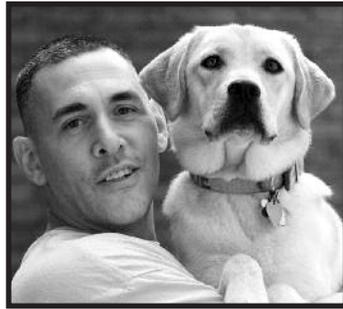
Puppies Behind Bars

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PHOTOS BY RADHIKA CHALASANI

TRAINING INMATES TO RAISE SERVICE DOGS FOR THE DISABLED AND EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Winter 2010-11

The Honor of Their Company

YOU COULD HAVE HEARD A PIN DROP AS CHRIS Fesmire rolled his wheelchair across the stage at the AXA Equitable Center, on November 8, to receive the “diploma” that certified him and his service dog, Glenn, as having completed their training. But when he commanded his canine companion to salute, a paw immediately went up, and the crowd let out a collective “Awwwww.” Fesmire was the first of four wounded soldiers—the others were Avneesh Arora, Geoff Ames, and Jonathan Winchester—who braved the stage at P.B.B.’s annual benefit, men whose lives had been shattered by war and whose salvations were now lying quietly at their sides in an auditorium in mid-town Manhattan.

P.B.B. president and founder Gloria Gilbert Stoga had already spoken about the courage the soldiers showed during 15 days of work with the inmate puppy-raisers at the Mid-Orange

Correctional Facility, while the dogs went from being puppies who loved their raisers to being working dogs who love their soldiers. “It was about halfway through our prison training,” she said, “when one of the inmates came up to me and, with tears in his eyes, said, ‘It is amazing how quickly they’ve bonded with the soldiers and marines. Do you think the dogs know that these guys need them even more than we do?’”

Then New York State’s Commissioner of Corrections, Brian Fischer, whose wholehearted support for P.B.B.’s Dog Tags program for wounded veterans has been invaluable, handed over the ceremonial reins to author Sebastian Junger. Junger, who broke sales records in 1997 with *The Perfect Storm*, spent six months embedded with U.S. forces in Afghanistan for his latest book, *War*, and the new documentary *Restrepo*. He described the sacrifices that soldiers make for

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH BARRACLOUGH

Rite of Courage: The ceremony at P.B.B.’s annual benefit

THE HONOR OF THEIR COMPANY
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each other and for their country, urging that America “do a better job of supporting warriors who’ve returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.” Each soldier and dog came to the podium, where Junger gave them an acknowledgment of their training as a team.

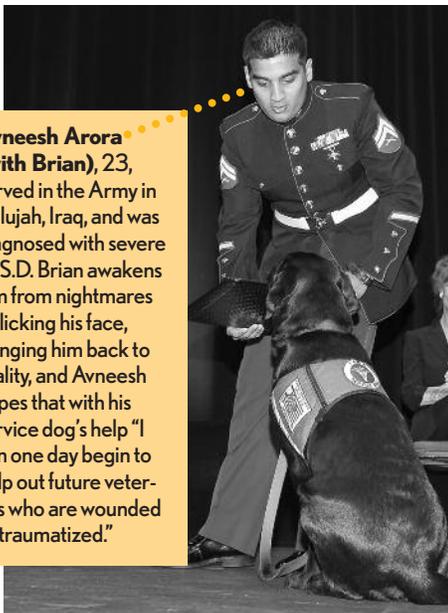
Providing service dogs that are trained to perform more than 90 commands, helping with everything from laundry to post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D.), is P.B.B.’s commitment to meeting Junger’s challenge—to doing that better job of supporting the troops after they come home. Fesmire, who lost both



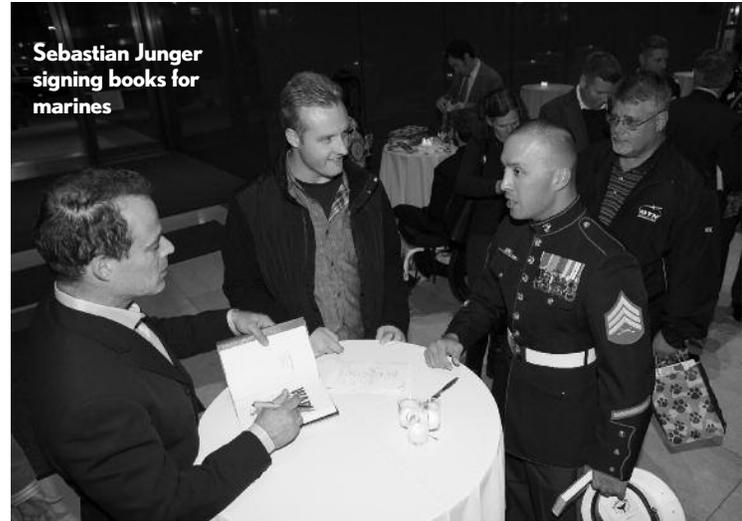
Geoff Ames (with Oprah), at 51, has served more than two decades in the military, most recently in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan as a chaplain assistant. He lives alone, with traumatic brain injury and P.T.S.D., but knows that Oprah can call 911 if he needs help, and will lie by his side until it arrives.



Chris Fesmire (with Glenn), a 32-year-old retired Marine sergeant, lost both of his legs while serving as a fire-team leader in Al-Anbar province, Iraq. “Having Glenn is giving me a lot of hope and optimism about the future,” he says. (For more see the main article.)



Avneesh Arora (with Brian), 23, served in the Army in Fallujah, Iraq, and was diagnosed with severe P.T.S.D. Brian awakens him from nightmares by licking his face, bringing him back to reality, and Avneesh hopes that with his service dog’s help “I can one day begin to help out future veterans who are wounded or traumatized.”



Sebastian Junger signing books for marines

legs above the knee in Iraq, offered a telling glimpse of what a dog like Glenn can do for a wounded warrior, above and beyond anything an instructor can teach. Less than two days after he began his training with Glenn, he and Ames and P.B.B. staffers went out to eat. As they approached the restaurant, a family with two little girls was leaving. The kids saw Fesmire

and Ames with their dogs and started yelling, “Mommy! Daddy! Look at the dogs! Look at the doggies!”

As he told the inmates at the prison the

ALL P.B.B. BENEFIT PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH BARRACLOUGH

Dressed to the Canines

OCTOBER IS A BUSY MONTH FOR THE women of the Community Clothes Charity (C.C.C.) of Wayne, Pennsylvania. Each year, volunteers sort, price, and label thousands of designer pieces, and oversee their sale to the general public for the benefit of a different charitable organization. Puppies Behind Bars was honored to be chosen as recipient of the funds from the 2010 sale.

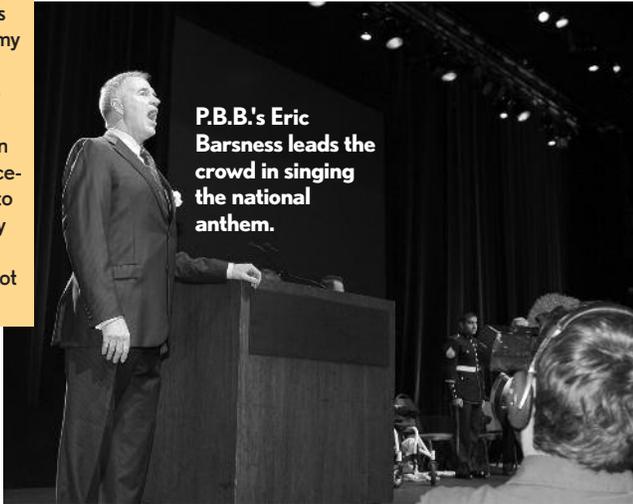
C.C.C.’s roots are in New York City, where Mrs. Lytle Hull expanded the work of the Musicians Emergency Fund to provide professional concerts and musical therapy for wounded American veterans in 1942 through the Hospitalized Veterans Service. Nancy Sloane Coates extended the concept to Philadelphia in 1956, raising funds by holding

parties and a small annual designer clothing sale. When the U.S. government took over funding for musical therapy for the veterans, the women of the Pennsylvania branch of the organization decided to continue their clothing sale with a new focus on local charities. In 1977 they reorganized as Community Clothes Charity. In the years since, the sale has grown from a one-day event in a private house to a three-day public sale in the organization’s new home at Eagle Village Shops in Wayne. Dozens of charities, from hospitals to summer camps for disabled children, have received millions of dollars.

With the selection of P.B.B.’s Dog Tags program as beneficiary this year, C.C.C. returned to their original mission of sup-

port for wounded veterans. Clothing donations came from C.C.C. fans in the Philadelphia area as well as from P.B.B.’s supporters in New York. They gave items ranging from Chanel handbags to an Armani gown designed for Sophia Lauren. Christian Dior Couture, Lafayette 148, Nicole Miller, Jil Sander, and Oscar de la Renta were among the companies that donated new clothing. Zac Posen generously sent more than 200 items. A long line of eager shoppers waited outside the door each morning of the sale. Be on the lookout for next year’s event, October 27–29, 2011. It’s sure to have fantastic designer clothing at bargain prices for another great cause. (communityclothescharity.org)

• **Jonathan Winchester (with Henry)**, 39, was last deployed as an Army reservist in Farah, Afghanistan, and medically evacuated with P.T.S.D., traumatic brain injury, and back displacement. "Just being able to look into the eyes of my new friend will give me the comfort that I am not alone," he says.



P.B.B.'s Eric Barsness leads the crowd in singing the national anthem.

The evening ended with a show of appreciation to Rick Dean and his explosive detection canine, Larry, for the security work they have been doing both at home and abroad, to help keep American civilians and troops safe.

But P.B.B.'s celebrations weren't over yet. In Colorado, two more wounded warriors, both with P.T.S.D., were completing their training: Bill Shea with Joy, and Mande Finney with Moses. Just as Gilbert Stoga and Nora Moran had done in New



Board members Glenn Goord and Brian Fischer

York, instructors Janet Bayless and Michelle Penfold spent two weeks working with the soldiers, who graduated on November 12. Shea, who served as an Army engineer in Iraq, immediately gained confidence from his new service dog: "Joy is always watching out for me," he reported back. "I am sure that my wife and children will love having their husband and daddy there for them

"When I saw those girls jumping up and down and going on about the dogs, for the first time I was the guy with a dog, instead of the guy without legs."

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more often." Finney, an Army cook who was hospitalized after serving in Kuwait, feels the same way: "I know that Moses has my back, and with him I have a chance at a more normal life."



Mande Finney, Moses, Bill Shea, and Joy

PHOTO BY MICHELLE PENFOLD

2010 Puppies Behind Bars **holiday cards** are available on our website:
http://www.puppiesbehindbars.com/support_merchandise.asp

DONATION FORM

- I would like to sponsor and name a puppy (minimum donation: \$6,000.)
- Please accept my donation for:
 - 1 puppy's weekend visit to NYC (\$35)
 - A sleeping crate for 1 puppy (\$85)
 - Leashes and bowls for 1 puppy (\$50)
 - Other amount
- Please charge my credit card:
 - Visa MasterCard AmEx
- (Please list name as it appears on card. List billing address.)
- Card Number: _____ Exp: _____
- Amount enclosed: \$ _____
- Add my friend to your mailing list

Name: _____

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(Tax ID # 13-3969389) Please mail your tax-deductible contribution with this form to:
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HOW WE GOT THAT LOOK

History has a way of repeating itself, especially when it comes to the accolade-winning track record of **Kathy McGilvery's** graphic design work, which she has done pro bono for P.B.B. since the organization started in 1997. McGilvery gives P.B.B.'s newsletters, fundraising invitations, and brochures their distinctive visual impact. This year, McGilvery won two American Graphic Design awards: one for the P.B.B. calendar, and one for *Shopping Center Today* magazine.

BOARD SHUFFLE

Lt. Col. Wiley C. Thompson is the latest addition to P.B.B.'s board of directors. Currently assigned to the United States Military Academy at West Point, Thompson served in Iraq and later in Afghanistan, where he led the U.S. military aviation effort in response to the 2005 Pakistan earthquake. Meanwhile, **Daniel Lobitz** and **Cynthia Mas** have reached their term limits, and must step down for a year. Their commitment, talents, and energy will be missed.

A FEW NEW TRICKS

In September, P.B.B. instructors **Janet Bayless** and **Michelle Penfold** attended the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners conference, an annual forum for service dog users. Topics included new training techniques, public access rights, and assistance dogs in the workplace. Drawing

on more than 15 years of experience, Bayless moderated a round-table discussion exploring new ideas about training service dogs for people with post-traumatic stress disorder. "It was a privilege to share P.B.B.'s cutting-edge training techniques and experiences working with the inmates, veterans, and dogs," she reports.

TRAIN TRUST

P.B.B. has become a member of **Assistance Dogs International**, a coalition of nonprofit organizations that train and place assistance dogs. A.D.I. sets the industry standard of

service-dog training excellence and promotes public awareness of the growing prevalence, need for, and benefits provided by assistance dogs through outreach and education.

RELEASE AND CATCH

Former puppy-raiser **Gilbert Molina**, one of ten men in the Otisville prison program that was launched in 2006, joined P.B.B.'s staff in August. After his release, Molina was invited to visit the office—and found himself in an unexpected job interview. "I realized that my hard work as a puppy raiser paid off," he recalls. "I felt recognized by an organization I held in high esteem, and I feel great being a part of it."

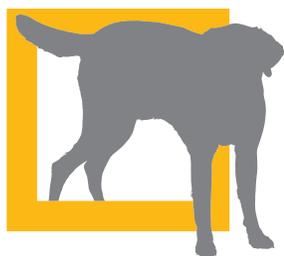
PAWS FOR APPLAUSE



A puppy is sponsored and named and placed into the arms of her highly skilled inmate raiser, who is prepped with textbooks and supplies. Throughout the 18 months that the pup spends in prison, she outgrows many collars and leashes and devours bags and bags of dog food. The pup and her inmate raiser attend weekly P.B.B.-instructed classes where they learn to use her training toys. She leaves prison for routine veterinary check-ups and ventures out with specially trained volunteers on socialization outings that expose her to family life, restaurants, stores, and nursing homes. Upon graduating, she earns her working-dog certification and is ready to serve a disabled individual or law enforcement official.

Be part of a P.B.B. story and support us!

PHOTOGRAPH BY RADHIKA CHALASANI



Puppies
Behind
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