

# Hometown News

## Paws & Stripes Program is making a difference

In September 2006, the Sheriff's Office implemented an innovative program that matched unadoptable dogs with specially trained jail inmates.

We wanted to put inmates to work in a variety of ways helping the community.

Using inmates to give obedience training to dogs to make them more adoptable and reduce the number of dogs being euthanized in Brevard County seemed to be a win-win for everyone, and the program has proven to be a success.

On Friday, May 25, the Sheriff's Office conducted its 22nd graduation ceremony of the Paws & Stripes program at the Jail Complex. Since the program began, 186 dogs have been successfully trained by the inmates and adopted into loving homes.

The affect the dogs have had on the inmate population has been remarkable and has created a calming affect among the inmate population. In many cases, inmates have said their time working in the program was life-changing and gave them purpose during a tough time in their lives.

The program is operated without tax dollars, thanks to a special group of residents known as the Paws & Stripes Guild, who work hard to raise donations for the care and feeding of the dogs. Friday's graduation was made even more special as a result of a visit from Sandi Scannelli, president/CEO of the Community Foundation of Brevard, who presented a check for \$3,390 in support of the program.

During the program,



**BREVARD  
COUNTY  
SHERIFF  
JACK PARKER**

inmates are taught how to properly train the dogs and care for them. Upon completion, inmates are recognized pet care technicians by the American Boarding Kennels Association and they receive a certificate for completing the American Red Cross Pet First Aid course making them more employable.

In September 2010, my family and I decided to adopt a shelter dog from the Paws & Stripes Program. We selected a beautiful lab mix named "Bono" and he has been a wonderful addition to our family. I would encourage anyone wanting a dog to first consider a shelter dog that needs a home.

We are very thankful to our partners, Brevard County Animal Services, the SPCA, the Central Brevard Humane Society, our generous and caring residents and organizations like the Community Foundation of Brevard, whose efforts make the Paws & Stripes program possible.

We would also like to thank Hometown News for its generosity. Every week, Hometown News features an advertisement showing a Paws & Stripes dog available for adoption at no cost to the program.

Thirteen dogs graduated on Friday and most are still available for adoption. If you would like to adopt one of the graduating dogs or have any other

### Adopt me!



Bailey



Oliver



Darla



Levi



Mia



Midnight



Peyton



Cheyenne



Kiwi



Blue



Patsy



Rowdy



Jack

questions about the program, contact Maj. Greg Robertson at (321) 690-1505.

You can also learn more about the available dogs and see photos of those previously

adopted at [BrevardSheriff.com](http://BrevardSheriff.com) and clicking on the Paws & Stripes link.

*Jack Parker is the sheriff of Brevard County.*