



Janice Perry with Halle Berry and Ziva



Janice and Halle Berry



Janice and Ziva

What a gift it is to continue to live my passion through Denver Pet Partners. I retired in 2011 from the best career ever created: Elementary School Librarian. In 2003, I came across an article in the School Library Journal titled, "Paws to Read Program". The fire was set and I was determined to make this idea a reality for me when I retired.

Halle Berry Perry, (and her nine brothers and sisters), was a mistake, an oversight, a dilemma for a home schooling mom. She was busy with a bible study class of nine kids and a living room full of Girl Scout Cookies, when I came in answer to her ad for Labradoodle puppies. With exhaustion and a pleading look, she opened the garage door to 10 exuberant black bundles of fur. She relayed the story about her beautiful, vivacious, year old, AKC Black Standard Poodle, that she had not taken time to spay. Enter the debonair, titled, AKC Black Lab who lived next door and proclaimed himself Romero. The magic happened. Halle Berry was stunning, but it was her soulful eyes that bonded me to her.



After I retired, I immediately addressed how I could share my beautiful girl with kids and books to make a difference. Halle excelled in her Practical Obedience One Class, passed her AKC Canine Good Citizen, then we discovered DPP. Diana McQuarrie mentored us and Halle Berry Perry and I became proud members of this exclusive group. I took the R.E.A.D. instruction class and Halle and I passed the evaluation to become a Bark for Books member for the Douglas Public Library District. I was elated! It took some time, but I

persevered and managed a weekly schedule with two elementary schools in Douglas County.



Ziva became a proud member of the DPP team when she was two. Halle is Ziva's grandmother and once this litter arrived I knew Ziva was born to be a therapy dog too. Ziva earned all the credentials of her Grandmother and she adores her work. Ziva especially enjoys her visits to The Valley House, a retirement home for the elderly. She loves the hugs!



The girls and I have participated in: The United Airlines Paws for Donation program, de-stressing passengers and staff, Arapahoe Community College de-stressing event for students, The Douglas County Libraries special promotional events, City of Englewood summer event and Clayton Elementary School Literacy Night. We have served at the Colorado State Board of Education, Read with a Dog Program. We have also volunteered at Whole Foods to promote DPP.

While at Whole Foods, we were facing the checkout lines when a woman's face just lit up when she zeroed in on Halle. After paying for her purchases she rushed over to me and said, "Look at this face! This is the dog I have wanted all my life and I found her while shopping at Whole Foods. I'll take her!" Startled, I explained to her we were promoting DPP. She was

crushed thinking all these extraordinary dogs were up for adoption. I assured her she had excellent taste but I don't think that made her feel better.

So many experiences that have touched my heart through the years. I had a special needs first grader who came to read to us. Students must have a permission slip to read to the dogs. He proclaimed he couldn't read to the dog because he was allergic to them. The teacher assisting reminded him his Mom had said he wasn't allergic. He stood his



ground, crossed his arms and said this was new and his mother didn't know he was only allergic to black dogs! He sat on a chair at a distance and read to Halle. By the end of the school year he was cuddling with the dogs, getting as close as he could, and couldn't wait for Fridays to read to them! His reading skills were noticeable improved. He did a report on therapy dogs at the end of the year showing how much he loved them.





We enjoyed several sessions with an attractive young lady with cerebral palsy at the Parker Library. She and Halle bonded immediately when Halle instinctively put her head under the girl's hand in her wheelchair so she could feel how soft Halle was. This sweet girl smiled and went into a full giggle mode. Her mother was astonished and said she hadn't smiled in over three weeks. There were tears in her mothers' eyes and we just sat back and enjoyed the miracle happening. They were regulars for months after that first visit until the time came when her Dad was being transferred and we had our last session together. She finished her book and gave Halle a kiss and a hug and said she would never forget her and always love

her. There was a problem with my eyes overflowing all the way home.

I am so grateful for the "mistake" of Halle Berry Perry to make my dream a reality. I am honored and proud for the opportunity to serve my community through the DPP family. Kids, school, books, libraries and Labradoodles, it doesn't get better than this!

