

NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION

# THE QUEST



*Photo: Our first group of 2013 Canine Candidates enjoying the Newman's Own Foundation Search Team Showgrounds at the National Training Center L to R: Debra Tosch & Taylor, Crockett & Denise Sanders & Tanner, Lyz Gregory & Cassie, Wilma Melville & Skye, Serenity Nichols & Cole, Sonja Heritage & Decker, Janet Reineck & Tom*



Photo: Troy Overman



### Progress as Promised!

*Emergency preparedness doesn't get much attention... until disaster strikes—then we all expect the necessary resources to be in place.*

*Thanks to the extraordinary support of our donors throughout the nation, the Search Dog Foundation is midway through the creation of a National Training Center—a place where rescued dogs will learn to become rescuers, and where Search Teams from across the nation and around the world will get the highly specialized, advanced training needed to face the most challenging disaster scenarios.*

*We are delighted to bring you this update on the project, and hope you will take great satisfaction in the progress being made. Having completed the Canine Training Grounds, we are now training all 2013 Canine Candidates at the NTC! It's a joy to see the site in use, and watch the facility come to life before our eyes!*

— Debra Tosch, SDF Executive Director

Photo: Karyn Newbill



### Planning Our Transition to the National Training Center: A New Beginning for SDF

For the past three years, the Search Dog Foundation has been in capital campaign mode, raising funds and completing plans to build the Training Center for America's Canine Disaster Search Teams. With our Mid Goal in sight and the construction project moving full-speed ahead, the SDF staff is now fully involved in the detailed planning for the transition of our operations to the new site, and exploring all of the new societal benefits that the NTC will bring forth, including:

1. **An SDF Deployment Readiness Certification program** to prepare Search Teams for the most challenging disaster scenarios
2. **Workshops and classes** for local, national and international Canine Search Specialists where lessons learned during deployments can be shared
3. **Emergency Services symposia** where disaster response professionals can exchange ideas with first responders
4. **A testing site** where State Task Forces can evaluate and certify Canine Disaster Search Teams
5. **Academic Affiliations** with veterinary schools interested in research and education partnerships
6. **A Travel Fund** so Search Teams from across the country can take advantage of advanced training at the NTC
7. **Opportunities** for SDF supporters to be part of the NTC, learning about canine training and care, working with Lifetime Care dogs, leading tours, and helping out at the site

### SDF Highlights 2012

The generous support of SDF's stakeholders in 2012 enabled the Search Dog Foundation to turn rescued dogs into rescuers and strengthen the nation's disaster response network.

- 🐾 **National Training Center** – In December of 2012 we reached our Base Goal of \$14.5 million, allowing us to move ahead on construction of a home for America's Search Teams. The Search Team Showgrounds and Training Grounds are complete—our canine candidates are now training daily at the NTC. Grading, infrastructure and the water purification system are almost finished. We will break ground on the Canine Pavilion in June.
- 🐾 **Deployments** – SDF Search Teams searched for survivors on 6 deployments in Baja California, California, Florida, New York and Oklahoma.
- 🐾 **New Search Teams** – 10 new Teams were formed in Baja California (Tijuana), California (Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Area), Nebraska (Lincoln), New York (Albany), and Oklahoma (Oklahoma City and Tulsa).
- 🐾 **Search Team Certifications** – 14 Search Teams attained Certification; 8 Re-Certified.
- 🐾 **Canine Recruitment** – 58 Shelters and Breed Rescue groups assisted SDF in evaluating 223 canines. Of these, 38 Search Dog Candidates entered our training program in 2012.
- 🐾 **Canine Career Change and Lifetime Care** – 12 canine recruits who just didn't have what it takes for Disaster Search made a Career Change to narcotics detection, jailhouse contraband detection, bug detection, and PTSD therapy for Veterans. 24 were given great homes with Lifetime Care Families.
- 🐾 **Stakeholders** – SDF is grateful to our supporters across 49 states and 9 countries outside of the U.S. who made gifts in 2012, including: 3,462 Individuals, 145 Foundations, 32 Companies, 71 Organizations, and 4 Schools.
- 🐾 **Volunteers** – 79 volunteers generously gave their time and talent at events and in the office, even working from home at night and weekends to keep SDF operating at peak performance.
- 🐾 **Search Dog Sponsors** – 21 Individuals, Community Groups, Foundations and Companies donated \$10,000 or more to become Search Dog Sponsors, bringing our total to 114 Sponsored teams.
- 🐾 **Endowment Guardians** – We welcomed 34 new Guardians who included SDF in their estate plans. As of December 31, 2012, we had 196 Guardians and our Endowment was valued at \$1,849,850.
- 🐾 **Workplace Giving** – We received \$120,082 from employees who gave through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), their State Employee Campaign, the United Way, and company matching programs.



Eric Gray & Riley on rubble pallet at the NTC Photo: Tony Panzica





Photo: Tony Panzica

## A Day at the NTC

**SDF Founder, Wilma Melville**

I'm sitting today in a shiny red electric cart perched on a hillside at the National Training Center. I can hear the sounds of construction in the distance—heavy equipment moving up and down the canyon, finalizing the grading and trenching. To my great delight, a red-tailed hawk is circling overhead, making strategic circles in the afternoon sky. (We're counting on these majestic birds of prey to help control the rodent and rattlesnake population!) The canyon has come alive this year. A short rainy season has made the hillsides green; soon, flowers will bloom on the hydro-seeded hillsides.

I'm about midway up the property. Behind me is a flat area, the "pad" for the Canine Pavilion, which will be under construction this summer. The Pavilion, our kennel, will be the jewel of the NTC, complete with first-rate runs for 40 dogs, high-tech classrooms for the handlers, offices for staff, a veterinary care area, and everything needed to keep these dogs healthy and happy.



Photo: Denise Sanders

To my far left is the newly completed DeMartini Training Arena that is providing a cool, sheltered training arena—an absolute necessity in this sunbaked canyon. This is where our canine recruits are being transformed from hyperactive, toy-crazy bundles of wild energy...to highly skilled Search Dogs. It's here they learn their first lesson: transferring an insatiable desire for the toy to a game of barrel hide-and-seek. The reward is intense tug play with the "victim"—something these dogs live for.

Barrel search is then transferred to rubble search. To my left, in front of the beautiful Training Arena, is our new rubble pile—a heap of broken concrete slabs with bright blue training tubes amidst the debris, giving "victims" a safe place to hide. Today, all 11 canine candidates are training. This morning they worked on the Search; the afternoon is all about Direction Control.

I'm sitting right above the Direction Control yard, watching the candidates acquire a skill that will distinguish them from bomb- and drug-detection dogs: the ability to search on their own, off-leash, directed by hand and whistle signals. I'm looking out on a field dotted with five wooden knee-high platforms—visual targets for the dogs. The skill they're learning—dashing toward the correct platform and sitting still until the next command—will soon be transferred to controlled searches on rubble.



Photo: Karyn Newbill

Today, SDF's new trainers, Sonja and Lyz, are working with veteran trainer Pluis Davern, the woman who has trained 144 Search Teams for SDF. As Sonja and Lyz (both highly experienced trainers in their own right) take the dogs through their paces, rewarding them with rowdy toy-tug for every job well done, Pluis praises, advises and makes nuanced suggestions. It's a privilege to be here, watching her transfer decades of

experience to strengthen our new model of training at the NTC.

My focus today is on one dog in particular: an athletic, powerful Yellow Lab named Tom—a stray recruited from the Los Banos Shelter in Central California. I wish you all could see the SPIRIT in this dog! He's going to get the toy WHATEVER it takes. "Right cast," "Back," "Over..." Tom races to the platform, leaps onto it, then freezes in a forward-leaning "sit," his body shaking with excitement, his eyes locked on Sonja.

Tom was given his name by Sean McGrath, whose family's gift in 2006 made it possible for SDF to purchase the NTC land. Sean has become the Sponsor of this handsome canine, and named the dog in honor of his brother. Sean and Tom, both ranchers, share a love of the land and of dogs, and have expressed this in their gifts to make the NTC a reality.

Tom McGrath is at the NTC today to see his namesake train. After watching him work, Pluis brings the dog over so Tom and Tom can get to know each other. It's a very special, tearful moment. They tug a bit, hug a bit, and form a precious bond.

It was in 1996, after my deployment to the Oklahoma City bombing, that I realized America was in dire need of many more professionally trained Search Dogs to respond to disasters. We've come a long, long way since then. Now we have the experience, the staff, a dedicated family of supporters, and a place to call HOME. The NTC will raise the bar for Search Team training everywhere. Once completed, it will be a destination for Search Teams from across America and around the world. One day, thanks to you, we'll be able to finally say: Our Country Is Prepared.

Today I'm taking in the sights and smells of the National Training Center—watching the dogs train and watching a rescued dog become a Search Dog and touch the heart of a friend.



Photo: Wilma Melville

***It doesn't get any better than this!***



## NTC Construction Highlights

### 1. Search Team Showgrounds – *Complete*

We have completed the “Newman’s Own Foundation Search Team Showgrounds,” the first area you see when you come through the main entrance of the National Training Center. The focal point of the 15,300 sq ft green expanse is a big, beautiful SDF logo honoring Wilma’s Search Dog Murphy—whose legacy we celebrate with the creation of the Center.

To save water, we chose to install artificial turf instead of real grass. The new kind of turf is soft but hardy, and the dogs love it! The venue will be used throughout the year as a gathering place for our Search Teams—a place where they can demonstrate their skills to guests. Portable bleachers and an expandable stage will provide a comfortable setting for groups small and large. The top of the Showgrounds area is bordered by a graceful pathway leading to the shady picnic area at the Grove and the Memorial Park.



Photo: Tony Panzica

### 2. Old Cabin – *Complete*

We have chosen to fortify and preserve (rather than dismantle) the oldest remaining structure on the site: a 100-year-old cabin that a worker named Noccio lived in when the old ranch was a working family farm. The cabin fortification is now 100% complete. The rustic little cabin has been turned into a “mini-museum,” complete with turn-of-the-century artifacts gathered from Wheeler Canyon neighbors and assembled by volunteers from the Santa Paula Historical Society. Guests can peer through the open Dutch door to get a glimpse of what life was like on the ranch in the early 1900’s.



Photo: Karyn Newbill

### 3. Canine Training Grounds – *Complete*

With the Training Grounds complete, we have been able to move our training program from Sundowners Kennel in Gilroy, CA to the NTC. All Search Dog candidates are now training at the site – a wonderful thing to behold! Here are the highlights:

- An 11,200 sq ft Training Arena where the trainers, handlers, and canines can train all day long in comfort
- Large flat areas designed for agility and direction control training to teach new canine candidates the skills needed during disaster search
- A 10,000 sq ft concrete rubble pile (19 truckloads...another 20 loads are on the way) where candidates can learn the combination of scent, agility and direction skills needed to find live victims buried under rubble



Photo: Karyn Newbill



Photo: Troy Overman



Photo: Karyn Newbill



ready, and the seasonal creek that runs through the property has been protected with a slight change in route approved by the California Department of Fish and Game. Once the structures are complete and road surfaces installed as part of future phases, we will follow the recommendations of a biologist in selecting native trees, plants and shrubs to reestablish the natural habitat and attract wildlife.

## 5. Clean Water Delivery System – *In Progress*

The NTC property is water-challenged, and we worked hard to find an effective, sustainable solution to the problem. We found a new, plentiful water source on site and sunk a new well to access this, but the mineral content is high and requires treatment to make it potable.

The Clean Water Delivery System designed for the NTC involved thoughtful planning with regard to conservation, environmental impact, and delivery. The new technology we're utilizing to purify the water, "Zero Liquid Discharge," eliminates the brine waste associated with reverse osmosis technology. Once the water filters through this system, both humans and canines will be able to drink the water from the tap.

The water treatment component of the Clean Water Delivery System is complete, and on-site installation is scheduled to begin in June 2013, once we receive the final approval from the County. A 120,000 gallon water tank will store water onsite and provide water for fire protection if needed. The system is scheduled to be completely installed and functional in October 2013.



Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

## 6. Canine Pavilion – *In Progress*

We are currently in the review process with the County of Ventura for approval of the 13,256 sq ft Canine Pavilion, and hope to break ground in June. The Pavilion will feature accommodations for 40 dogs in double-occupancy kennels (each complete with indoor/outdoor runs), offices for our Program staff, overnight lodging for canine caregivers, and a veterinary area for basic medical care. When not in training, the canines will have plenty of space to rest and play in the canine socialization area. The classrooms will be used to teach training courses for our handlers and host symposia for our partner emergency response agencies.

## 7. The Disaster Training Zone – *In Progress*

The "Zone" will be one of the highlights of the NTC, offering deployment simulation props found nowhere else in the country. These props include a collapsed neighborhood, wrecked train, mud pit, and rubble piles for deep victim searches. The props are being designed to allow for frequent reconfiguration so there's always a fresh challenge for the teams. The setting for each of these props has been graded and is ready for installation.





## The Capital Campaign

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of 425 donors, a total of \$15,345,951 was committed to the National Training Center Campaign, exceeding our Base Goal of \$14.5 million just before the December 31, 2012 deadline. **We're now focused on reaching our Mid Goal of \$16.5 million.** Here are the campaign goals, and the phases of the project they represent:

### Base Goal: \$14.5 Million

- Design and engineering plans for the site
- County fees and permitting
- Grading and trenching for electrical, telecommunications and water
- Construction of Search Team Showgrounds, Canine Memorial, Guardian Glade and renovation of Old Cabin
- Construction of Canine Training Grounds (outdoor covered training venue), Clean Water Treatment facility and Canine Pavilion
- Capital Campaign costs

### Mid Goal: \$16.5 Million

*(Projected completion of all these elements: Fall 2015)*

- Construction of Disaster Training Zone, Disaster Dome (indoor advanced training area) and Handlers Lodge
- Complete underground infrastructure and roads
- Construction of Welcome Center and Courtyard, Development Den, and Maintenance Annex
- Transition of SDF offices to the facility

### High Goal: \$18.5 Million

- Complete payment on the property note so SDF will own land free and clear
- Increase SDF's Endowment Fund which is dedicated to NTC maintenance and depreciation, keeping the facility in top condition



## Construction Financing

Montecito Bank & Trust in Santa Barbara was able to approve our construction loan, thanks to the strong financial commitments to the NTC made by our stakeholders. The loan will enable us to accelerate construction of the Canine Pavilion and the Clean Water Delivery System. Once these projects are complete, we will be able to confirm the date for the grand opening of the Center.



## Community Benefits

Our Community Benefits program stipulates that all vendors selected to work on the construction project "give back" to the project, through discounted and/or donated services or supplies. Each dollar saved is re-allocated to the construction budget, which means a larger return on philanthropic gifts, and allows the project to be built out to its full potential. We're seeking a 5-10% cost reduction through the in-kind donations of goods and services. Thus far, Community Benefits total \$762,677 in donated goods and/or services from 38 vendors. The Community Benefits program will continue throughout the construction and transition phases so that we maximize total project savings.



Stone work discounted by Reyes Masonry Contractors, Inc. Landscaping discounted by Earthform Design  
Photo: Troy Overman



# GIFT NAMINGS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

## Gift Namings at the NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER.

*We are deeply grateful to all of those who have made a mark on disaster preparedness in our country by being part of the campaign to build the NTC, and invite all of our supporters to be part of this historic project*

- 🐾 The names of all NTC donors will appear in the Grand Opening Commemorative Booklet
  - 🐾 The names of all NTC donors of \$500 and above will appear on the Donor Plaque in the Welcome Center Foyer
  - 🐾 All NTC donors of \$1,500 and above will be offered a recognition tile in the Welcome Center Courtyard Mosaic.
- (Those in Red are reserved; those in Black are still available.)*

### FACILITY NAMING

The National Training Center

### CANINE PAVILION

The BEB Canine Medical Clinic  
Williams-Corbett Foundation Canine Housing Suite  
James and Jeannie Dodson Canine Housing Suite  
Crystal Canine Socialization Area  
The Family of Richard S. Hambleton, Jr. Canine Surgery Room - In Recognition of the SDF Mission  
Classrooms - Reserved by the Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation; The Carrus Classroom; Lucky's Classroom  
Canine Recovery Room - In Honor of Ron Weckbacher's deployments with Manny and Dawson to 9/11, Katrina, La Conchita, and Haiti  
The Jamie, Fiona and Owen Canine Caretaker's Quarters  
The Stern Family Medical Treatment Room  
Canine Check-in - In Remembrance of Eleanor and Campbell Leach  
Program Offices - In Honor of Laura Ackerman and Harold Berenson; Kathryn Courain - In Loving Memory of Harley; The Nicolaides Family Program Office - In Honor of Lou, Leslie and Anya; In Honor of Jamie, Fiona and Owen

Canine Pavilion  
Program Director's Office  
Lead Trainer's Office  
Classrooms (1 remaining)  
Covered Breezeway  
Lifetime Care "Meet and Greet" Yard  
Dog Wash  
Canine Kitchen  
Break Room  
Lobby  
Program Offices (1 remaining)  
Locker Room  
Reception

### CANINE TRAINING GROUNDS

Canine Training Grounds - Reserved by the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation  
The Mars, Inc./Nutro Company "Room to Run"  
The DeMartini Training Arena  
The Arthur and Stella Pepper Agility Yard  
The Ethel Friends Foundation Viewing Area  
Volentine Family Foundation Viewing Area  
Frog Crossing Bark Alert Yard  
The Hogan Family Foundation Grassy Obedience Yard  
Flagpoles - Beatrice and Gene King; Elinor Plumer; In Loving Memory of all four-legged Angels - Patty and Danny O'Leary  
Canine Training Grounds Viewing Area (1 remaining)

### DISASTER TRAINING ZONE

Cassi Search & Rescue Training Ravine  
Nika Search & Rescue Training Ravine  
Oakley Search & Rescue Training Ravine  
Car Collision Prop  
Friedman Freeway Prop - The Lois and Al Friedman Family Foundation  
Carlee's Train Wreck  
Maggie's Rubble Pile  
Jeffrey Pepper Alert Tube Training Area  
Murphy's Rubble Pile  
Timber's Wood Pile  
Jessie's Mudslide  
Diaz Handlers Club - In Memory of José, Otilia and Eva Diaz  
Disaster Training Zone  
Disaster Dome  
Neighborhood Search Prop  
Three-Sided Building  
Disaster Training Zone Viewing Areas (5 remaining)  
Search & Rescue Training Ravines (2 remaining)

### MEMORIAL PARK

Memorial Park - Reserved by The Bert W. Martin Foundation  
Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Canine Memorial  
The Scaife Family Foundation Memorial Arbor - In Loving Memory of Monty and Lulu  
Pat Byrne Grove  
Boone's Old Cabin  
The Margaret Levy Guardian Bridge  
Guardian Glade

### SHOWGROUNDS

Newman's Own Foundation Search Team Showgrounds  
Showgrounds Overlook

### VISTAS, TRAILS, & CREEKS

Chief's Peak  
Chumash Vista  
Dakota's Old Creek Bridge  
Kap's Crossing  
McAlister Family Trail  
Birdie and Buster's North Trail  
The Shannon Bradford North Trail in Loving Memory of Icon  
Old Creek Preserve  
Ranch Rim Trail  
Hilltop Vistas North (1 remaining)  
Hilltop Vistas South (2 remaining)  
Old Creek Bridge (1 remaining)

### WELCOME CENTER

Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center  
The Wood-Claeysens Foundation Development Den  
Thelma B. and Thomas P. Hart Foundation Board Conference Room  
The Gaylord Family Barn Gathering Hall  
Rachael's Rescue Heroes Hall  
Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Executive Director's Office  
The Marie and David Morrisroe Caretaker's Quarters  
William H. Hannon Foundation Welcome Center Reception Area  
The Poplock Family Conference Room  
Welcome Center Courtyard Benches - Jan and Ted Rose; Regina and Joel Goldstein; Anonymous; Tuba Yalcin "Run Bubbles, Run"  
Welcome Center Courtyard  
Organizational Offices in the NTC Welcome Center (2 remaining)  
Volunteers Room  
Development Offices (6 remaining)  
Flagpoles Welcome Center (3 remaining)

### INFRASTRUCTURE & GROUNDS

Ludwick Family Foundation Campus Drive (Tier 1)  
Clean Water Delivery System  
Solar Spectrum  
NTC Campus Drives (3 remaining)  
Maintenance Hub  
Training Zone Service Annex  
Visitors Parking Area  
Tier Three Connector Drive

### HANDLERS LODGE

Bechtel Handlers Lodge  
Jack and Carolyn Ferguson Handlers Porch  
Living Room - "Waikiki Beach"  
Apke Workout Room - In honor of dogs who have been given a second chance and their dedicated handlers  
Dining Room

### BENCHES & OWL BOXES

Benches - Lori Cope; Ann Mangini Major; Elinor Plumer; Helen Grady - In Loving Memory of Jerry Grady; Sandy Lazerus; Roberta Hoyt; "Take Time to Sniff the Roses" - Buddy, Cheri and Larry Savage; In Loving Memory of Deborah Pelissero; Lunn and Tildon Courson; Carol and John Marengo; Kari and David Eisenacher; Anonymous; The Mauck Family; Carrie Stempler - In Loving Memory of Jack L. Stempler; In Honor of the Rinker Family; Gary and Myrna Sparks; Giant Steps Foundation; Patricia Maser Clifton "Seek And Ye Shall Find" (2 remaining)  
Owl Boxes (4 remaining)



Eric Gray & Riley  
Photo: Tony Panzica



During her 16 years as SDF's Lead Trainer, Pluis Davern, one of America's top canine trainers, created a new, innovative methodology and trained 144 SDF Search Teams that deployed to 92 disasters and missing person searches. SDF wouldn't be here had it not been for Pluis' collaboration with SDF Founder Wilma Melville, and their shared passion and dedication to the journey. As Pluis and her team, daughter Kate Davern and Sharon Hanzelka, "pass the leash" to our new Trainers Sonja Heritage and Lyz Gregory, we salute these extraordinary women and thank them for making the Search what it is today.



Pluis with Sonja Heritage and Lyz Gregory at the NTC Photo: Karyn Newbill



Cassie finds "victim" Pluis and gets her reward  
Photo: Karyn Newbill

## Pluis Davern: SDF's Founding Trainer

*With the move to the National Training Center, the Search Dog Foundation has reached another milestone in its quest to create highly skilled Canine Disaster Search Teams to serve the country. As our training operation moves from Sundowners to Santa Paula, the experience is bittersweet. I feel like a mother sending her child off to college — nostalgic and reflective, excited and hopeful. I think of the early years at Sundowners, working with Wilma and my daughter Kate to develop a totally new training methodology for rescued dogs and firefighters that would produce deployment-ready teams. The results of those labors speak for themselves.*

*We hit the jackpot with Sonja. Her extensive experience as a trainer and handler, her deep love of dogs, her sensitivity to the needs of these dogs, her ability to adapt and evolve the training techniques will help take Canine Disaster Search in the U.S. to a new level. I have full confidence in Sonja and Lyz, and look forward to working with them as they advance the field and take SDF into the future.* — Pluis Davern



Pluis praising Taylor on a job well done  
Photo: Karyn Newbill

## Sonja Heritage: Taking the Leash

*I train Disaster Search Dogs. It's all I ever think about. I've spent the past 16 years training with dogs and handlers all over the country. I've worked most of the rubble piles in the U.S. and some outside of it. The question that drives me is: How do we train better, more efficiently, so we'll be ready for anything when disaster strikes?*

*Becoming SDF's Lead Trainer is like winning the lottery...and I never even knew I was playing! I have huge respect for Pluis as a trainer and her amazing contribution to Search and Rescue over the years. I'm so honored to be her successor! I know we'll continue to work together to create the most highly trained Search Dogs and handlers. This is now my responsibility and I take it very seriously.*

*For so long the canine program in the rest of this country has been static: train, certify, re-certify, repeat. Our work at the NTC will bring new energy to the field, with an ever-evolving training program, 125 acres of real-world deployment scenarios, and the chance for teams from all over the world to meet and share knowledge. That's big. Really big! In addition to evolving the training techniques, we're developing canine fitness and nutrition models and adding full-scale search strategy exercises to the curriculum. We'll be bringing out cutting-edge trainers from other disciplines for weekend seminars to open up our imagination when it comes to training dogs. With the fantastic resources the NTC offers, the possibilities are endless!*

— Sonja Heritage



Sonja & Tanner — a quiet moment  
Photo: Denise Sanders



Sonja & Crockett — a rowdy "tug" reward  
Photo: Hope Blueberry



## SDF Deployment to West, Texas

On the night of April 17, 2013, a massive fertilizer plant explosion blasted the heart of West, a town about 75 miles south of Dallas, killing 35 people (including 10 first responders), injuring 160, and displacing many more. Two SDF Search Teams, Mike Hargrove & Hayden and Keri Grant & Tucker, received the call from Texas Task Force 2 and were deployed at 11:00pm local time. Their job: to search buildings destroyed or damaged by the explosion and find people trapped in the wreckage. Mike and Hayden searched the ground floor of a severely damaged apartment building and several houses; Keri and Tucker cleared dozens of homes. Their search lasted through the night, and the teams faced serious challenges as they made their way through dangerous debris and thick smoke to find survivors. In the end they were able to declare the area "clear" so rescue teams could move on to areas where they were needed most.

We never know where the next disaster will happen and we are deeply grateful to our donors for providing the means to train and support these teams who risk their lives to save others. Sincerest thanks also to Texas Task Force 2, Dallas Fire-Rescue, and McKinney Fire Department for their work in response to the disaster and their steadfast support of the Search Teams.



Mike Hargrove & Hayden searching at the blast site Photo: AP Otero

## IronDog Disaster Deployment Training

In November, 18 certified SDF teams and 2 non-SDF teams embarked on the adventure of a lifetime, participating in a deployment-readiness exercise and competition called IronDog. Held annually, this year's 3-day event was hosted by New York Task Force 2 in Albany, NY. SDF Handlers from across the country flew to New York with their canine partners to engage in disaster scenarios that would test their skills on land, water, and air.

Upon arrival at the exercise briefing, the group was divided into five teams and given details about the disaster that had struck, as well as coordinates of where the disaster zones were located. It was up to them to determine leadership, make their way to the sites, and show the evaluators their skills, by assessing the area and locating victims buried alive in rubble. Individuals were scored on their efficiency and skill strength in being able to work through the sites with their canine teammates.



*"IronDog was an extremely valuable training opportunity. We exercised problem-solving skills and teamwork, and gained trust and confidence in our incredible canine partners. I will never cease to be amazed by how capable and efficient these dogs are at their job."*

—Sara Rathbun, Los Angeles County Fire

Sara Rathbun climbs a ladder with Raider in a boatyard Photo: Darron Leddick



*"This was our very first deployment. Tucker searched 50 homes in a very short amount of time while Hayden searched the first floor of an entire apartment complex. Neither dog wanted to stop searching, not even to stop to drink. Tucker and Hayden did not give up nor did they sustain a single injury, not even a scrape. Mike and I felt incredibly useful - these dogs are amazing little searching machines!"* — Keri Grant

Keri Grant & Tucker  
Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

*"When we arrived, the fire was still smoldering at the plant and part of the middle school was still burning. There were large chunks of iron and other shrapnel, rocks and dirt clods everywhere. There was so much smoke and the wind made the search even more challenging. We weren't able to gain access to some of the areas the dogs went into, but we gave them the 'go through' command and they just took off to do their job."*

*"Hayden searched a little differently than he does in training - he was a little more methodical, as if he knew this was a real deployment with real lives hanging in the balance. Being there at a real deployment certainly gave us a whole new perspective on trusting our dogs and the importance of the work we do. Hayden and Tucker never wavered during the deployment - they had so much energy! Keri and I could not be prouder of these dogs and the strong work they did early this morning. Please let everyone know how thankful we are for their support and know that we are ready for the next disaster!"* — Mike Hargrove

*Our hearts go out to the people of West as they rebuild their homes and their lives. And we thank the teams for their heroic work.*



Mike Hargrove & Hayden  
Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

*"IronDog in New York was a fun, tiring, COLD, invaluable learning experience. I've already stolen a few ideas for trainings here in Texas. The venues and scenarios challenged Hula and me. Being paired with more experienced handlers, in my case Lee Culley, was a wonderful learning opportunity. Most important, it was a great reinforcement of what we are always told by Pluis, 'trust your dog!' Thank you, New York!"*

— Patti Krafft, Dallas Fire-Rescue



Patti Krafft & Hula being lowered by rope at the arsenal Photo: Chris Gould

IronDog is not just an exciting competition, it also helps prepare our teams for an actual deployment with more realistic disaster scenarios than they might receive in their weekly group trainings. It highlights team strengths and areas needing improvement, which SDF trainers and Task Force Canine Coordinators can help the teams work through at home in order to become even more prepared for a deployment.

We are so grateful to New York Task Force 2, who put together an amazing event for our nation's teams mere weeks after deploying to Superstorm Sandy.



## Our 10 New Search Teams for America

Our new Canine Disaster Search Teams are training daily to become certified and deployable. Their hard work and determination will ensure that should disaster strike, *no one will be left behind.*

### Oklahoma Task Force 1 (Oklahoma City and Tulsa)



**Brent Koeninger & Moxie\***  
Oklahoma City Fire



**Adrienne Seibel & Gunny\***  
Tulsa Fire



*Roxie's bark alert*



*Gunny practicing the plank*

### California Task Force 1 (Los Angeles City)



**Deresa Teller & Huck\***  
Los Angeles City Fire

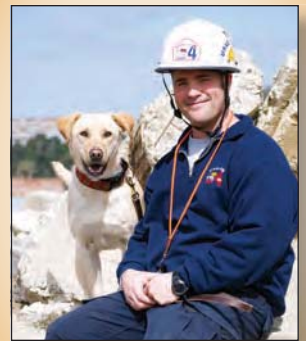


**Eric Ingstad & Java**  
Los Angeles City Fire



**Cynthia Sato & Roxie**  
Los Angeles City Fire

### California Task Force 4 (San Francisco Bay Area)



**Alex Mengell & Gunner\***  
Alameda County Fire

### Baja California Task Force 3 (Baja California, Mexico)



**Luis Garcia & Maxim\***  
Tijuana Fire



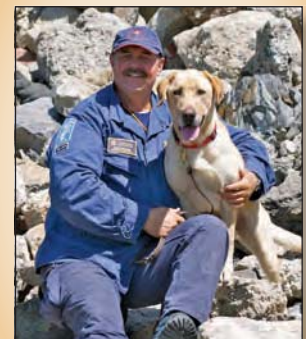
**Fidel Gomez & Rosie\***  
Tijuana Fire

### New York Task Force 2 (Albany)



**John Stewart & Sadie\***  
Saratoga Springs Fire

### Nebraska Task Force 1 (Lincoln)



**Mark Schroeder & Noah\***  
Civilian

An asterisk (\*) indicates the pairing of a veteran handler with a new canine partner.  
All photos by Sharon Hanzelka, except John Stewart & Sadie



# SDF CLASS OF 2013

Meet 11 of the 19  
Canine Candidates we will train this year...



**Decker**  
from the South Dakota Canine Center in Sturgis, SD



**Skye**  
from the South Dakota Canine Center in Sturgis, SD



**Tanner**  
from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue in San Francisco, CA



**Cole**  
from El Dorado County Animal Services in Placerville, CA



**Crockett**  
from the Animal Welfare Association in Voorhees, NJ



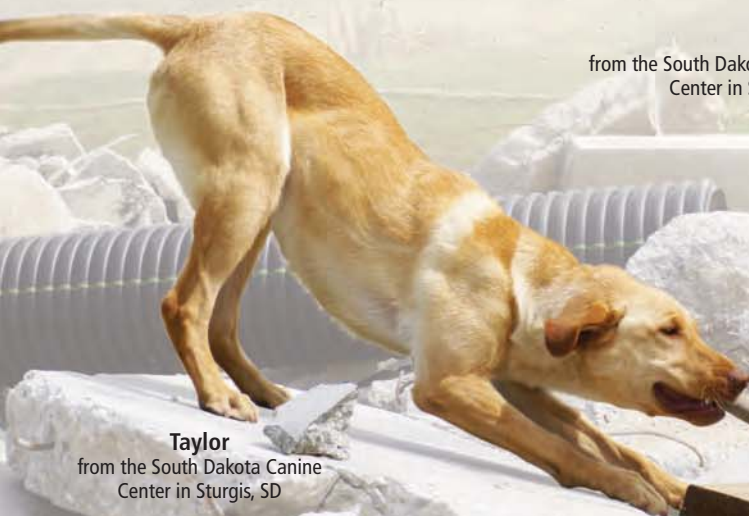
**Ripley**  
from the South Dakota Canine Center in Sturgis, SD



**Blitz**  
from Guide Dogs of America in Sylmar, CA



**Cassie**  
from Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, CA



**Taylor**  
from the South Dakota Canine Center in Sturgis, SD



**Ollie**  
from the South Dakota Canine Center in Sturgis, SD



**Tom**  
from Los Banos Volunteers for Animals in Los Banos, CA



# THE QUEST FOR CANINES



*As one of SDF's Lead Canine Recruiters, Heidi Miller-Mercer spent countless hours over the last eight years scouring animal shelters and breed rescues throughout California and canvassing dog adoption websites looking for potential Search Dog candidates—dogs with a singular combination of extremely high energy, relentless toy drive, focus, and athleticism needed in this line of work. Heidi helped evaluate more than 200 potential canine candidates in 2012, making it possible for these former shelter dogs to join the ranks of this nation's Search Dogs. Thank you Heidi for your everlasting dedication and hard work through the years!*

**For more info about Canine Recruitment, contact**  
**Program@SearchDogFoundation.org or (888) 459-4376 x114**



Crockett bark alert training Photo: Karyn Newbill

## Crockett

Crockett's journey has been a long one. Originally found wandering the streets in Virginia, this handsome Black Lab was transported to the Animal Welfare Association of Voorhees, NJ, where their trainer Phil Guida noticed the boy's drive and focus and contacted SDF. Crockett has progressed quickly and has been a delight to work with. He will be paired with a handler in the summer of 2013 – Crockett is the first graduate to be fully trained at SDF's National Training Center!



Skye learning the ropes with trainers Lyz Gregory and Sonja Heritage Photo: Denise Sanders

## Skye

Skye was picked up as a stray by Western Hills Humane Society in Spearfish, SD in August of 2012. How he got there is a mystery—he was wearing a Nebraska ID tag! Labeled an "escape artist" by the shelter staff, Skye was discovered by Kellee Matthews. As Kellee approached Skye's kennel, tempting him with a ball, he exploded with energy. He passed his formal evaluation with flying colors, and was soon on his way to California to begin training. This fabulous dog loves everyone he meets, is driven and focused when working, and gentle and interactive when not. He gets the job done and makes it look easy with his strong commitment to finding survivors!



Cassie with her favorite toy Photo: Denise Sanders

## Cassie

This gorgeous Yellow Lab was donated to SDF by Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) of San Rafael, CA, who run a specialized breeding program and train canines to assist the visually impaired. Over the years, SDF has received six dogs from this program that have become successful Search Dogs. Jessica Drew, a trainer with GDB, contacted SDF last September about a lovely dog that had great drive and too much energy for GDB clients. Cassie tested beautifully and we knew she could serve a special purpose in Search and Rescue. She was named by SDF Estate Donor Sue Officer.

## 2012 Shelters

**In 2012, Canine Recruiter Heidi Miller-Mercer, assisted by shelter staff and volunteers, recruited 38 canines:**

Basco ..... Sacramento SPCA  
 Bochy ..... Central California Labrador Retriever Rescue  
 Cassie ..... High Sierra Animal Rescue  
 Cassie ..... Guide Dogs for the Blind  
 Chloe ..... Guide Dogs of America  
 Crockett ..... Animal Welfare Association  
 Duke ..... SPCA LA  
 Gene ..... Deserving Dogs Rescue & Rehabilitation  
 Hanz ..... Westside German Shepherd of LA  
 Jade ..... Independent Lab Rescue  
 Jareth ..... Best Friends Animal Society  
 Java ..... Bones Pet Rescue  
 Joey ..... Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center

Katch ..... Placer County Animal Services  
 Lance ..... Santa Barbara Animal Care & Control  
 Max ..... The Local Bark  
 Maxx ..... Sacramento SPCA  
 Melinda ..... Labs and Friends  
 Mojo ..... Placer County Animal Services  
 Neiko ..... K9 Manners & More  
 Oscar ..... South Dakota Canine Center  
 Odette ..... Guide Dogs for the Blind  
 Pippa ..... La Plata County Humane Society  
 Reacher ..... Los Banos Volunteers for Animals  
 Rory ..... Guide Dogs of America  
 Roxy ..... Sacramento SPCA

Shadow ..... Kern County Animal Shelter  
 Skye ..... South Dakota Canine Center  
 Sprocket ..... Border Collie Rescue  
 Sunflower ..... Independent Lab Rescue  
 Tanner ..... Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue  
 Taylor ..... South Dakota Canine Center  
 Terrence ..... Guide Dogs for the Blind  
 Titus ..... Sacramento SPCA  
 Toby ..... Sacramento SPCA  
 Timber ..... Central California Labrador Retriever Rescue  
 Vader ..... Placer SPCA  
 Yuma ..... Kings County Animal Control



## Tanner's Story

### Two American Heroes in the Making



Tanner Burhoe and his Golden Retriever Macintosh following 9/11 at age 10

When 10-year-old Tanner Burhoe witnessed the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers, it gave him a sense of security to see canines searching the rubble with their handlers. Tanner's mother, Sherri Skanes, explains, "It was hard for a young child to grasp what was happening at the time, but when Tanner saw the Golden Retrievers going through the rubble in New York, it gave him comfort that our own pet Goldens would protect him."

Inspired by the dogs he saw on TV, Tanner grabbed an empty Pringles can, decorated his little red wagon with American flags, and went door-to-door in his neighborhood with his Golden Retriever puppy, Macintosh, to collect money for the dogs. Sherri recalls, "When he said he wanted to help the dogs

I thought it a sweet notion, but when he returned with fistfuls of cash, I thought, how wonderful! But what am I going to do with the money?" She called the Red Cross, who referred her to SDF, and they drove to our office with the money they



Sherri Skanes and Steve Burhoe met candidate Tanner at the NTC in March Photo: Denise Sanders

had collected. Over the next week, they made several trips to the SDF office with donations.

We are celebrating Tanner, now 21 years old and graduating from Marine boot camp in San Diego, by naming a Canine Candidate in his honor.

Canine Tanner was recruited from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue in San Francisco in December of 2012. Discovered wandering on a golf course in Salinas, CA, starving and infested with parasites, a local woman nursed him back to health before taking him to the rescue. He was adopted out

to three different families but always returned because he was just "too much dog." Luckily, the staff at the rescue contacted SDF when they realized that this dog had the tenacity, strength and drive to achieve greatness as a Search Dog.

Marine recruit Tanner met canine Tanner for the first time this spring. We are so proud of this extraordinary, selfless young man, and this beautiful Yellow Lab. Both of them are forever heroes in our hearts and we wish them each a long and fulfilling career!



Tanner Burhoe & Search Dog Tanner at the NTC Memorial Wall Photo: Jan Slotar



Tanner Burhoe USMC Photo: Walter Marino

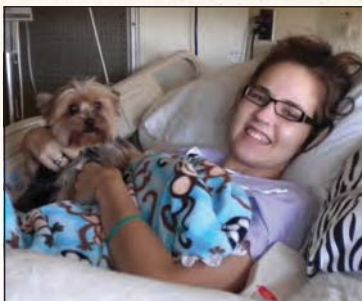
## Taylor's Story

### A Tribute to Strength and Courage

Taylor was born "Sandy" at the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society in September of 2010. She was adopted by a family but then returned to the shelter at nearly two years of age when they could no longer care for her. She was recruited for SDF's training program by Kellee Matthews of the South Dakota Canine Center, who saw in Taylor all the characteristics that make a canine hero.

She was flown to SDF's National Training Center in November of 2012 and has impressed the trainers every day since with her relentless desire to work and play. Lead Trainer Sonja Heritage reports that "Taylor is a rock star! She learns quickly, bursts with energy, and you can truly see her love for the search game when you watch her on the rubble."

Taylor was given her name by Mike Diani of Diani Building Corp., the General Contractor for the Training Center. Taylor Steele was the name of Mike's 17-year-old niece who lost her life in August of 2011 after a five-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was the youngest girl to have ever contracted the disease. Mike says, "She was always full of vigor and energy, and the epitome of strength and grace while fighting for her life." We could not think of a better way to honor the memory of such an exceptional young woman than to bestow her name on a canine hero that will one day save lives.



Expected to graduate and be partnered with a handler in the fall of 2013, we have no doubt that Search Dog Taylor will achieve great things in the world of Urban Disaster Search, making the Steele and Diani families very proud.



Mike Diani meets SDF Search Dog Taylor, who was named for his niece, Taylor Steele Photo: Serenity Nichols

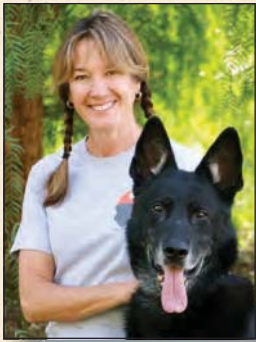


Taylor's mother, Lisa Steele, meets Search Dog Taylor for the first time Photo: Susan Bollinger

Taylor and her mother formed **Strong as Steele**, a foundation dedicated to help raise funds for the research of ovarian cancer, and to support local patients, their families and The Sunshine Kids.

If you are interested in more information, please visit their website [www.strong-as-steele.org](http://www.strong-as-steele.org).





## Certification Advice to my Fellow Handlers

By SDF Lead Trainer Sonja Heritage

The key to low-stress certifications is preparation and mentorship. While you may be nervous the first time you test, you will soon see that your Certification Examination is simply a set-up of two search scenarios for you and your dog to "ace." Hopefully your teammates have challenged you with several such scenarios at home

and in unfamiliar territory. This training is critical as you only learn to watch your dog's subtle behavior changes while in-scent or out-of-scent when you don't know where the victims have been placed.

So much happens before the bark! The skills you will need to remember include search strategy, scent theory, handler rewarding, flagging, map drawing and the rules of the certification process. Take the time to go through each of these with seasoned handlers so they can put everything

into context for you. Know the rules! Do this well before test day and get your personal plan mapped out so that you can begin practicing several months in advance. If you follow this plan and your dog is ready, you will do just fine!

As an evaluator, sometimes we see teams that just aren't ready yet. If this happens to you, take the information learned that day and put it into your training plan. Take it seriously but never be scared. Fix the problems and go for it again. Make your dog proud. When you do find out at the end of the day that you and your beloved partner passed the FEMA Certification, it will all be worth it! You will breathe in deeply for the first time in weeks and smile with pride, knowing you have both achieved a worthy title: FEMA Canine Disaster Search Team. Enjoy! The entire SDF family will be smiling with pride as well!



### Rick Bartlett & Spuds

**Orange County Fire**

Re-Certification: May 2012

Donated by: Butte Humane Society

Sponsor: Laura Rockenberger

Guardians: Sarah & Jim Berkheimer



### Chris Bergquist & Kari

**Sacramento City Fire**

Certification: June 2012

Donated by: Naomi Greenfield

Prep Home: Marshia Hall

Sponsor: Julie Brandau Community Service

Memorial Project

Guardians: Marybeth Little, Carol Sidlow



### Jim Boggeri & Nino

**Marin County Fire**

Re-Certification: June 2012

Donated by: Placer SPCA

Sponsors: CFWC – Sierra Cahuenga District,

Ivy Zourkas, Sunkist Growers, Inc.

Guardians: Barbara Whatley, Barbara & Bob Deal



### Dennis Clark & Rugby

**Los Angeles County Fire**

Certification: February 2012

Donated by: Penny Woodruff

Named After: B & B Foundation

Sponsor: B & B Foundation

Guardians: Kari & David Eisenacher



### Lee Culley & Brutus

**Utah Task Force 1**

Re-Certification: October 2012

Donated by: Deleta Jones

Prep Home: Becky Beckett

Sponsor: Roberta King

Guardians: Ruthann Conklin, Edell Straight,

Joyce Tillotson, Ed & Ruthann Cole

## ON ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION

*"This boy loves to search, and re-certifying in VA last year was a blast for both of us. It's so nice to be able to trust your partner and read his body language to a 'T.' I know the moment he is in-scent and how he follows the scent back to its source. There were no nerves—just joy watching him work and move across the piles. It still amazes me how they figure out to locate the scent that is not seen. We got moved up in the rotation and just as we started, the rain came down. Didn't affect this old veteran though! He loves this game and found all the victims. He still has so much energy and is going strong even though he is 10. Thanks, SDF, for pairing me up with such a remarkable partner." — Lee Culley, Utah Task Force 1*

*All photos on pages 14 through 19 by Eliot Crowley, Linda D'Orsi, Adam Gavala, Sharon Hanzelka, Victoria Linssen, and Kyle Thomas*



### Dennis DiMarzio & Ty

**Los Angeles County Fire**

Certification: June 2012

Donated by: Southern Oregon Humane Society

Named After: Rosemary Schumacher

Sponsor: Dodson Foundation

Guardians: Judy & Darrel Sneed



# SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES



**Gary Durian & Tanker**  
**Los Angeles County Fire**  
 Certification: June 2012  
 Donated by: Adam Cooper  
 Sponsor: Linda Heizer Seaman



**Marshia Hall & Lilah**  
**Temple Terrace Fire**  
 Certification: April 2012  
 Donated by: Sacramento SPCA  
 Named After: Nathan Friedkin  
 Guardian: Rachel Lacey

Certification by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) is the highest level of disaster search readiness recognized in the United States. It marks a critical milestone for a Canine Disaster Search Team, and means the team can be deployed to disasters as part of their Task Force.

We hope that you take pride in the achievements of the teams you support, and join us in congratulating all the SDF Search Teams who achieved Certification or Re-Certification in 2012.



Roxy at the NTC Photo: Janet Reineck



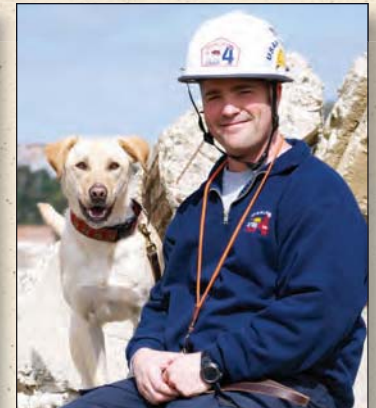
**Mike Hargrove & Hayden**  
**Texas Task Force 2**  
 Certification: April 2012  
 Donated by: Woods Humane Society  
 Sponsors: Beth & Greg Apke



**Jeff Ivy & Jakers**  
**Sacramento City Fire**  
 Re-Certification: October 2012  
 Donated by: El Dorado County Animal Services  
 Sponsor: A Good Neighbor Foundation  
 Guardians: Lynn & Jack Loacker



**Jeff Leon & Justice**  
**Tulsa Fire**  
 Certification: April 2012  
 Donated by: Dos Palos Animal Control  
 Named After: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project  
 Sponsors: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project, Arc Aspicio  
 Guardian: June Ozmon



**Alex Mengell & Gunner**  
**Alameda County Fire**  
 Certification: October 2012  
 Donated by: Dog Adoption Welfare Group  
 Named After: Lynn & Jack Loacker  
 Sponsors: Carol & John Marengo, Bradley & Kira Haas, Marith Levers



**Billy Monahan & Hunter**  
**Los Angeles County Fire**  
 Re-Certification: February 2012  
 Donated by: Patti Baldwin  
 Sponsors: Antelope Valley Kennel Club, Disney VolunteERS Community Fund  
 Guardians: Mary Sue Berkley, Linda Green, Don Hirschman



**Andrew Olvera & Stetson**  
**Los Angeles County Fire**  
 Certification: February 2012  
 Donated by: Labradors and Friends Dog Rescue Group  
 Named After: Jack Teeters  
 Sponsors: CFWC – Public Issues Partnership Program, Janet & Greg Van Huisen  
 Guardians: Nancy & San Buschmann, Margaret Levy



**Julie Padelford-Jansen & Lilly-Belle**  
**City of Miami Fire & Rescue**  
 Re-Certification: February 2012  
 Donated by: Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York  
 Prep Home: Rue Chagall  
 Sponsors: John Hall, Gloria Paul, John Richardson  
 Guardians: Ginger Carlson, Delores Skoog, Sharon Jakobi



## SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES



**Sara Rathbun & Raider**

**Los Angeles County Fire**

*Certification: June 2012*

Donated by: Southern Oregon Humane Society  
Guardians: Janet Thornberry, Melanie Levitt, Hilary Philp



**Dave Stoddard & Rowdy**

**Sacramento Metro Fire**

*Re-Certification: June 2012*

Donated by: Calaveras County Humane Society  
Guardians: Virginia Mickelson, Connie Burnet, Steve & Jean Kesserling



**Steve Swaney & Tank**

**El Cajon Fire**

*Certification: January 2012*

Donated by: San Luis Obispo County  
Animal Shelter  
Sponsor: Lucy Lindsay  
Guardians: Chelly Bolger Wathen & George Wathen



**Linda Tacconelli & Joe**

**California Task Force 2**

*Re-Certification: October 2012*

Donated by: Longmont Humane Society  
Sponsors: Geoffrey & Clair Mitchell, CFWC – Westlake Women's Club  
Guardians: Judy Mize, Lunn & Tildon Courson

### ON ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION

*"Testing with Leila in January of 2012 was the validation of 18 months of learning about myself and the capabilities of our canines. I choose the word 'validation' rather than 'culmination' as we continue to evolve into a team worthy of deployment. The credit really goes to my teammates, the ones who worked with Leila as victims, teaching her to see the search as the highlight of her week. Without CA-TF7 and the Search Dog Foundation, I'd be just another firefighter, and Leila would be just another dog."*

— Kyle Thomas, Sacramento Metro Fire



**Kyle Thomas & Leila**

**Sacramento Metro Fire**

*Certification: January 2012*

Donated by: Guide Dogs of America  
Puppy Raiser: Laura Brennan  
Sponsors: CFWC – Public Issues Partnership Program, Elizabeth & Kurt Wampler



**Damon Wirth & George**

**Lincoln Fire-Rescue**

*Certification: October 2012*

Donated by: Labradors and Friends Dog Rescue Group  
Guardians: Susan & Donald Durance, Debbie Mansur



**Judy Zinn & Royce**

**Oklahoma Task Force 1**

*Certification: April 2012*

Donated by: Santa Barbara Animal Care and Control  
Named By: Lauren Dachs, S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation  
Sponsors: Janet & Greg Van Huisen  
Guardians: Marilyn Benande & Jackie Emerson, Dody Burkey

*"What an incredible journey Royce and I are having! He made the test look easy despite my severe case of nerves. As we continue to train together, his searching skills just keep getting better and better. He definitely loves his job!"*

— Judy Zinn, Oklahoma Task Force 1



Royce bark alert Photo: Sharon Hanzelka





Created in 2008, the SEARCH TEAM FUND provides benefits to our Search Teams through Handlers Grants for travel, equipment and supplies, Canine Health Insurance, a Canine Healthcare Fund, the Nutro NATURAL CHOICE® Dog Food Voucher Program, and Vitamin Supplements through Healthy Pets, Inc.

In 2012, SDF made 23 Handler Grants valued at over \$15,000, and covered \$64,495 in healthcare expenses for our canines. We are grateful to our supporters across the Nation who make it possible for SDF to bring these benefits to the teams to ensure they are ready to deploy when disaster strikes. — Denise Sanders, SDF Program Supervisor

## Nutro Vouchers

2012 marked the 10-year anniversary of The Nutro Company providing **NATURAL CHOICE®** brand food vouchers to all FEMA-Certified Search Teams across the country. In celebration of our decade-long relationship, SDF was honored yet again when handler Davis Doty and Search Dog Jester of California Task Force 5 were chosen to be featured on a bag of their High Endurance food.

**NATURAL CHOICE®** has been the Official Dog Food Sponsor of SDF since 2008 and we are thrilled to be able to continue to feed our canines this high-quality food.



Jester

Photo: Victoria Linssen

## Canine Healthcare

### Pets Best® Canine Insurance



For Search Dogs whose medical care is not covered by their Task Force, SDF partners with **Pets Best® Insurance**, keeping all our dogs, active and retired, in good health. Since 2010, this program has covered everything from wellness exams and vaccinations to more serious conditions and procedures.

### Acute Conditions Covered in 2012:

Bella	Wellness exam and vaccinations
Ben	Treatment for leg injury, wellness exam and vaccinations
Cody	Treatment for deteriorating health associated with aging
Danni	Treatment for colitis and CAT scan
Ellie	Wellness exam and vaccinations
Elvis	Chiropractic visits
Fletch	Treatment for ear infections
Haley	Wellness exam and vaccinations
Hero	Cancer treatment
Hobbles	Lump removal
Jagger	Treatment for injury
Jerry	Lymph node biopsy
Noah	Treatment for tail dermatitis, wellness exam and vaccinations
Pearl	Leg x-rays
Ranger	Treatment for undiagnosed mass
Riley	EIC testing
Sandi	Treatment for obstruction of intestines
Speaker	Surgery to repair ACL
Spuds	Wellness exam and vaccinations
Stella	Wellness exam and vaccinations
Tanker	Ear infections
Val	Prescription medications
Wylie	Treatment for tail dermatitis, wellness exam and vaccinations

"Recently, my Search Dog Noah had surgery for his over-active tail and my retired Search Dog Jerry suffered from a bladder infection. I have become very good friends with my Vet and knowing that I had Pets Best® insurance and the support of the SDF made the cost during that time much easier to handle. The coverage ensured that my two partners were getting the best medical attention possible."

— Mark Schroeder, Nebraska Task Force 1



Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

## Congratulations to our 2012 Handlers Grant Recipients!

Purchase of open tunnel and tunnel cradle equipment . . . . .	Utah Training Group
Colorado training exercises. . . . .	Doug Van Iwaarden & Wylie
Oklahoma City Regional training . . . . .	Jeff Leon & Justice, Judy Zinn & Royce, Vincent Stoops & Magnum
Certification Evaluation, Memphis, TN . . . . .	Marsha Hall & Lilah
Certification Evaluation, Indianapolis, IN . . . . .	Linda Tacconelli & Joe
Certification Evaluation, Chicago, IL . . . . .	Adrienne Seibel & Danni
Purchase of GPS system . . . . .	Mike Hargrove & Hayden
Purchase of GPS system . . . . .	Eric Darling & Ben
Canine Search Specialist Training, College Station, TX . . . . .	Vincent Stoops & Magnum, Adrienne Seibel & Danni, Jeff Leon & Justice, Judy Zinn & Royce
IronDog Competition Equipment . . . . .	New York Training Group
IronDog Preparation . . . . .	Richard Smith & Bella
IronDog Preparation . . . . .	Mark Schroeder & Noah
IronDog Preparation . . . . .	Linda D'Orsi & Haley
IronDog Preparation . . . . .	Gary Durian & Tanker
IronDog Preparation . . . . .	Linda Tacconelli & Joe



## RETIRED TEAMS



Tim & Speaker  
Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

*"The first time I saw Speaker during my Handlers Course, I wanted nothing more than for us to work and succeed as partners. I was amazed by his quiet nature and eagerness to work. It was a pure joy to watch Speaker on rubble—he always had so much fun! Speaker loved coming to the firehouse, riding in the engine to calls and inspections and being part of whatever we were doing. He's the 11th man on the crew!"*

*In May of 2012, Speaker had to have career-ending knee surgery. Although his body is definitely ready to retire, his brain is not, and retiring this awesome working dog was one of the most difficult decisions I've ever had to make. 'Heart-breaking' would be putting it lightly.*

*The biggest lesson I have learned from Speaker is trust. Working with him taught me how important the Canine Search component is to a Task Force. His work ethic is what made me request a second Search Dog from SDF.*

*Speaker never ceased to amaze me with his pinpoint accuracy and incredible speed in finding victims. His genuine love for the search and his unbelievable determination set him aside from most dogs. I know there will never be another Speaker—there could never be. I am more than proud to have been his partner. It has been a complete honor." — Tim Robertson, Sacramento City Fire*



Retired Search Dog Sandy  
Photo: Sharon Hanzelka



Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

### Nelson

**Years of Service 2004 - 2012**  
**Handler Alex Mengell,**  
**Alameda County Fire**  
**California Task Force 4**

Donated by: Guide Dogs  
for the Blind

Guardian: Jacqueline Kious



Photo: Eliot Crowley

### Sandy

**Years of Service 2004 - 2012**  
**Handler Dave Ramsey,**  
**South San Francisco Fire**  
**California Task Force 3**

Donated by: Bicky Townsend  
& Ben Caldwell

Sponsors: Stella & Arthur Pepper  
Foundation, CFWC - Glenview  
Women's Club Alameda District,  
Carol and John Marengo  
Guardian: Marilyn Starr



Photo: Eliot Crowley

### Speaker

**Years of Service 2008 - 2012**  
**Handler Tim Robertson,**  
**Sacramento City Fire**  
**California Task Force 7**

Donated by: Pluis & Kate Davern  
Prep Home: Ben & Wendy Larnar

Sponsors: Weber Shandwick,  
Janice Mackey, Stella & Arthur  
Pepper Foundation, California  
Federation of Job's Daughters

Guardian: Natalie Stewart



Photo: Shannon Bradford

### Trevor

**Years of Service 2006 - 2012**  
**Handler Kevin Skinner,**  
**Salinas Fire**  
**California Task Force 4**

Donated by: Santa Cruz County  
Animal Services

Sponsors: Nelia Morgan,  
MG Skinner & Associates  
Guardian: Juanita Gonzalez





## RECON

November 19, 1999 – January 12, 2012

When Recon was evaluated, there was no doubt he had the makings of a great Search Dog. Recon was named in honor of New York firefighter Timmy McSweeney's ladder company after he perished in the line of duty at the World Trade Center. Marin County Fire Captain Jim Boggeri was paired with Recon in October of 2001. During their career Jim and Recon deployed to several disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, the Mill Valley mudslide in 2006, and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. On May 29, 2010, Recon officially retired from service and enjoyed his golden years with the Boggeri family.

**Dog Donor:** Mike & Bethanie McGahan of Oak Leaf Labradors

**Prep Home:** Donna Stephens • **Sponsor:** Ivy Zourkas • **Guardians:** Barbara and Bob Deal



## MARC

March 22, 1999 – January 13, 2012

Marc was initially a candidate for the Guide Dogs of America (GDA) program but had too much energy to be a Guide Dog. After six months of training, Marc was partnered with Steve Pendergrass, a Kern County firefighter, in December of 2000. By February of 2002, the team had achieved FEMA Certification and in 2005, they were sent along with 26 other SDF disaster search teams to help with rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After a lengthy career, Steve retired Marc, who spent his remaining years with the Pendergrass family in Wolford Heights.

**Dog Donor:** Guide Dogs of America

**Prep Home:** David and Debbie Junod • **Sponsor:** PetEdge



## FRITZIE

February 12, 2004 – June 25, 2012

Fritzie was bred for the Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) but when she was still young, her puppy raiser noted that Fritzie was a dog who wanted a job but was too intense to work with the visually impaired. GDB donated Fritzie to SDF and upon graduating training, Fritzie was paired with Ron Horetski of Los Angeles County Fire in 2007. A year later it was determined that Fritzie would not continue in the program because she had developed issues that trainers were unable to turn around. Fritzie retired at home with Ron in Sun City, CA.

**Dog Donor:** Guide Dogs for the Blind

**Prep Home:** Felicia Britton

**Guardians:** Jane and Fred Stann, Judy and Darrel Sneed – CFWC Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club



## VAL

January 24, 1998 – July 11, 2012

Val started out his professional life with Canine Companions for Independence, but had too much drive to be an assistance dog and was donated to SDF. At the end of his training, Val was partnered with Marc Valentine, a Captain with Montebello Fire Department. Val and Marc went on numerous deployments, including Louisiana following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the La Conchita mudslide in 2005. After 13 years together, Marc said goodbye to his canine partner as Val crossed the Rainbow Bridge in Marc's arms.

**Dog Donor:** Canine Companions for Independence

**Sponsor:** Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



## RANGER

October 15, 2000 – August 25, 2012

Ranger was donated to SDF by veteran handler Deresa Teller, who saw his career potential at a young age. Upon graduation, it was determined that Deresa, a fire inspector for the Los Angeles City Fire Department, would make the best handler for Ranger. After attaining Advanced Certification from FEMA in March of 2003, Ranger and Deresa were deployed three times in 2005: a deadly mudslide in La Conchita, CA, and then to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. After a battle with cancer, Ranger peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge on August 25, 2012, with Deresa and her family by his side.

**Dog Donor:** Deresa Teller • **Prep Home:** Rosemary Schumacher

**Sponsors:** Allstate Insurance Foundation, CA, Rotary Club of Simi Sunset, CFWC - Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club • **Guardian:** Linda Vargo



## SKY

October 11, 1996 – October 2, 2012

In the late 90's, SDF Lead Trainer Pluis Davern contacted our Founder Wilma Melville about a Chocolate Lab she wanted to train for our program. Wilma called Sky's owner, Gary Bechtel, explained our program and the future she envisioned for the dog, and Gary decided to donate Sky to SDF. A year later Sky was paired with Captain Don Lassig, an L.A. County firefighter. After several years, Sky retired with Don and his family in Arroyo Grande.

**Dog Donor:** Gary Bechtel



## JESSIE

May 28, 1998 – December 27, 2012

Jessie was donated to SDF and upon finishing his training, was paired with Ron Von Allworden. Ron and Jessie were deployed to two small tornadoes in the Sacramento area, as well as Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. When Ron was unable to continue working with Jessie in the spring of 2007, he returned Jessie to SDF's kennel, where he was re-partnered with veteran SDF handler Mike Taul of the Novato Fire Department. In August of 2008, Mike and Jessie were deployed to Galveston, TX, in the wake of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Jessie enjoyed his retirement years at home with the Taul family.

**Dog Donor:** David and Wendy Heredia

**Prep Home:** Donna Stephens

**Sponsor:** P & G Pet Care • **Guardian:** Linda Kuttner



## CODY

June 26, 2000 – January 6, 2013

By the time he was 18 months old, Cody had lived in seven homes! The Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin took one look at Cody and saw he had working dog written all over him. After extensive training with SDF, Cody was paired with Linda D'Orsi of the Chula Vista Fire Department in 2002. Throughout their career, Cody and Linda responded to several deployments including the Torrey Pines bluff collapse in 2004, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricane Ernesto in 2006, the Soledad Mountain landslide in 2007 and a building collapse in San Diego in 2009. In February of 2012, Cody retired at nearly 12 years of age to a relaxing life with Linda.

**Dog Donor:** Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin • **Sponsor:** AT&T Foundation

**Guardians:** Nuelda and Russell Adams, Ruth Ann and Frank Simpson, Pam Jones



## ACE

April 1, 2000 – January 24, 2013

Ace began his life in Fremont, CA, with an owner who tied him to a railroad track, sprayed him with mace and left him to die. He was found and taken to an animal shelter, where he was scheduled to be euthanized. At the eleventh hour, Ace was rescued by one of SDF's handlers and after recuperation, the firefighter recognized his Search Dog potential. Upon graduation he was partnered with Teresa Ortenberger of California Task Force 7 and the team deployed to Hurricane Katrina in September of 2005. Ace was later partnered with SDF handler Rob Cima of El Dorado County Fire. After his lengthy career, Ace enjoyed a happy, active retirement at home with Rob and his family in El Dorado Hills, CA.

**Dog Donor:** Tri-City Animal Shelter • **Prep Home:** Donna Stephens • **Guardian:** Nelia Morgan



## KRISSY

March 10, 2001 – April 2, 2013

When Krissy came to SDF from Aussie Rescue of Southern California as a beautiful but overactive puppy, she had already lived with—and been rejected by—three different families. Like many of our dogs, she was an unsuitable pet, but became a superb Search Dog. She and partner Fidel Gomez of Baja California Task Force 3 served for 10 years and saw more action than any other team in SDF history, with 11 deployments to landslides, earthquakes, and a building explosion.

**Dog Donor:** Aussie Rescue of Southern California







Each year, SDF recruits dozens of dogs for our canine training program. Of those, only a select few will have everything it takes to graduate and become Disaster Search canines. Candidates may be released from training for any number of reasons and as you can imagine, it takes a truly exceptional dog to make it all the way through. When one of these great

dogs is dropped, he enters our Lifetime Care program, where he will either be Career Changed into a new field or placed in a Great Home where he can become a beloved family pet. Either way, the best part of my job is the knowledge that each dog SDF recruits from a shelter or rescue will find their place in this world. It gives me great pride to know that these dogs, once abandoned and often on euthanasia lists when we find them, will never re-enter the shelter system again. This is our unwavering commitment to these wonderful animals that give us so much in return.

— Kate Horwick, SDF Program Manager

## Great Dogs - Great Homes!

If you're looking for the ultimate in love, loyalty, and companionship, become a member of our Lifetime Care community and give a great dog a permanent, great home. We're always looking for Great Homes (in Southern California) for the Great Dogs that don't make it as Disaster Search Dogs. Each dog we place is:

- 🐾 Obedience trained at a basic level
- 🐾 Up-to-date on vaccinations
- 🐾 Spayed or neutered
- 🐾 Micro-chipped
- 🐾 Crate-trained
- 🐾 Backed by SDF

For more information on SDF's Lifetime Care program, contact Kate at [Kate@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Kate@SearchDogFoundation.org) or (888) 459-4376 x109.



Mindy with her favorite toy, the tennis ball  
Photo: Lynn Viale

## Mindy's Story

### Remembering LTC Dog Mindy

Sometimes a very special dog comes along that changes our lives forever. For SDF and one of our Lifetime Care homes, the Viale family, that dog was Mindy. Born on February 1,

1999, Mindy was recruited by SDF from Border Collie Rescue in Inyokern, CA in 2002. When trainers determined that disaster search work was not the right fit for Mindy, we set off to find her a great home, one where she would be well taken care of and plied with love.

Mindy found her forever home with the Viale family, where she could have fun with the children, was given thousands of hugs, and was allowed to play with her favorite toy, the tennis ball.

After many wonderful years with the Viale's, when her health began to fail and it was determined that she no longer was able to enjoy a good quality of life, the difficult decision was made to let Mindy cross the Rainbow Bridge on December 12, 2012.

A testament to what she meant to all those who met her in her 13 years of life, the Viale family received endless sympathy cards, emails and Facebook comments as news spread that Mindy had crossed the Rainbow Bridge. We will all miss Mindy and are grateful for the time that we had with her.



Zeke proves you don't have to be a Search Dog to be a canine hero Photo: Debi Mauck



Jackie leaps over the competition in agility trials  
Photo: Kris Gooding



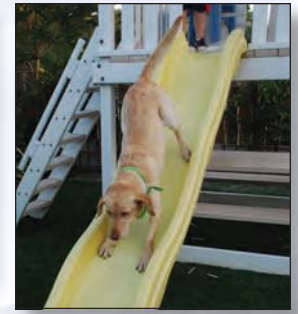
Sam enjoys a few belly rubs Photo: Margaret Walker



Joey (Black Lab) enjoys a good dog pile  
Photo: Janice Talmage



Jett would swim and play fetch all day if he could!  
Photo: Sheila Ghen



Juno slides her way into your heart  
Photo: Hannon Family



Daisy (Chocolate Lab) and her "pack" on a hike Photo: William Loftus



Tanner gets into the holiday spirit with his brothers Photo: Pamela Knitowski



Rumble takes baby Sydney out for a beach day  
Photo: Shannon Abitbol

## Lifetime Care Homes in 2012

Basco ..... Baker Family  
Blitz ..... Vazquez Family  
Buster ..... Hensic Family  
Calvin ..... Cummings Family  
Curry ..... Dennis Family  
Echo ..... Beale Family  
Frisbee ..... Samuelson Family  
George ..... Jacobson Family  
Jade ..... Gran Family  
Jenny ..... Esparza Family  
Joey ..... Talmage Family  
Katch ..... Stovall Family

Lance ..... Howland Family  
Maxx ..... Beckendorf Family  
Miles ..... Seidler Family  
Nugget ..... Vaughan Family  
Packer ..... McMahon Family  
Poppers ..... Matthews Family  
Shadow ..... Crawford Family  
Timber ..... Kiefer Family  
Tracer ..... Darling Family  
Tucker ..... Erskine Family  
Vinnie ..... Van Eyk Family  
Woody ..... McEvoy Family



## Career Change Success Stories: Kilo, Cody, and Cassie

SDF has worked with many talented canine trainers over the years. One such person is Mary Ann Sampson, of Far Fetched Retrievers out of Santa Ynez, CA, who has successfully trained 12-SDF dogs in detection work.

All three dogs you will meet below are doing exceptionally well in their new line of work. It's always difficult for staff at SDF to say goodbye to our canine candidates, but rewarding to pass them along to trusted professionals who can train them to do work they will love. We look forward to continuing to watch Kilo, Cody and Cassie's careers blossom!



Kilo and her handler after a recent drug bust

### Kilo Scores!

In March of 2010, SDF recruited Kilo from Labradors and Friends Dog Rescue in San Diego, CA. Though her nose was keen and her drive was fantastic, she was anxious on the rubble pile and it was decided Kilo would do better in another field. Mary Ann agreed. Within a few months, Kilo was training with the Medford Police Department as a narcotics detection dog. In 2011, we received this update from her handler: *Kilo had a really good week working. We took a total of 250 pounds of marijuana off the streets that was headed to the East Coast and seized \$60,000 inbound. She is really turning into a star.*

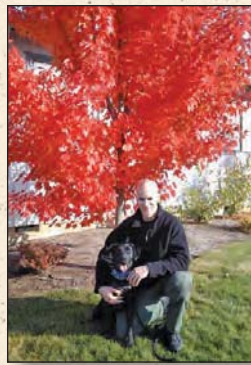


Talon theater search  
Photo: Nicole Reusser-Hillbrecht

### Talon Sniffs Out Pesky Pests

Talon was discovered at Oregon Dog Rescue in Portland by long-time SDF supporter Lynn Loacker, who saw fantastic drive and a terrific work ethic in him and alerted SDF. His future with SDF looked bright until x-rays revealed the broken leg he sustained some years before. That's how Talon entered SDF's Lifetime Care program.

He was evaluated by Nicole Reusser-Hillbrecht of Rock Solid K9 Training in Laguna Niguel who trains dogs in detection work and saw potential in Talon. Nicole trained him in bed bug detection for



Cody & handler Levi, Medford Police Dept  
Photo: Mary Ann Sampson

### Cody

In June of 2011, Sacramento County Animal Care & Control alerted us that they had a strong potential candidate. Cody did well in training at SDF until it was determined that his prey drive was overwhelming his toy drive. Mary Ann felt that Cody too could have a successful career in narcotics detection, and partnered him with an officer from the Medford Police Department. Mary Ann reported back: *His handler really loves him. I can honestly say Cody is a wonderful little talent. I wish all the dogs were this good!*

### Cassie

In February of 2012, SDF recruited Cassie from High Sierra Animal Rescue in Portola, CA. Although she had a sharp nose, Cassie, like Kilo, lacked a boldness on rubble and the decision was made to find her a job where she could put her scenting strengths to good use on solid ground. Mary Ann found Cassie very promising. Within a few months, this fast learner was up in Medford training with Kilo and Cody as the newest member of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department.



Cassie with handler, Mike Ettinger

the next couple of months and then he was paired with a handler. The new team certified quickly and have been very busy at work in their community.

In September of 2012, they inspected a movie theater with a team of detection dogs and handlers. Nicole recalls: *20 theaters to inspect, and only three dogs to do the job. This was one of the most difficult jobs I've ever seen. The sheer size and monotony of the search area was hard on the dogs and the handlers. Only Talon and his handler kept going till the job was done. He was awesome. His handler, John, is over the top with pride, and rightly so!*

Good boy, Talon, we knew you could do it!

## 2012 Career Change Canines

**Axel** ..... Narcotics detection (Portland Detention Center)  
**Bo** ..... Narcotics detection (Honolulu Police Department)  
**Cassie** ..... Narcotics detection (Jackson County Sheriff's Department)  
**Dakota** ..... Narcotics detection (in training)  
**Davey** ..... Narcotics detection (Honolulu Police Department)  
**Dutch** ..... Jailhouse detection (San Luis Obispo County)

**Mojo** ..... Narcotics detection (in training)  
**Molly** ..... PTSD therapy dog (Operation Freedoms Paws)  
**Nevada** ..... Bug detection (ORKIN)  
**Shadow** ..... PTSD therapy dog (Operation Freedoms Paws)  
**Talon** ..... Bed bug detection (Private handler)  
**Tigger** ..... Narcotics detection (in training)





*I've been with SDF for three years, and I can't begin to tell you how often one of our supporters says to me, "I wish I could do more!" I let them know how easy it is to include SDF in their Estate plans and turn their compassion and dedication to dogs and disaster response into a living legacy. An Estate gift will ensure the ongoing stability of our organization and help maintain the home of America's Search Teams at the National Training Center in perpetuity.*

*If you have already included SDF in your Estate plans, please let us know! We want to celebrate your generosity and invite you to join 208 SDF Estate Donors who have made rescuing dogs and saving lives part of their personal legacy.* — Rhett Mauck, SDF Estate Manager

**Contact Rhett at [Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org) or (888) 459-4376 x105**

## Sonic's Family

### **SDF Handler Laurel Pitman:**

"I couldn't find two more loving and caring people to be Sonic's Guardians. Tom and Susan and their Fox Red Lab, Reggie III, have welcomed Sonic and me into their family. They try to make annual visits, bringing gifts and giving Reggie and Sonic the chance to play like brothers. They are truly a blessing and we have become such great friends!"

### **SDF Estate Donors Susan and Tom Ginnity:**

"Sharing time with our Sonic and his terrific Handler, Laurel, is always such an inspiration and a fun time! Seeing these two together confirms our commitment to support SDF through our Estate Gift."



SDF Estate donors Susan and Tom Ginnity with Reggie III and Search Team Laurel Pitman and Sonic

## Raider to the Rescue

### **SDF Estate Guardian Melanie Levitt:**

"I was very excited to meet Sara and Raider! I've always wanted to be involved in search and rescue, but life got in the way. Being able to do it through the two of them was so gratifying. Sara is great! And Raider has lots of energy, and everything it would take to find you if you're lost. I'm hoping to see them in action soon! How lucky am I?"

### **SDF Handler Sara Rathbun:**

"Meeting Melanie was such a blast! She was very kind and generous with her time, and was so proud to introduce me and my friends (SDF volunteers) to her co-workers and staff. Her love for dogs and her commitment to SDF are clearly evident – she is a great advocate for dogs of all kinds. What a privilege!"



Melanie with Raider & Sara

## The Pet Promise

Individuals who consider their pets as family share a common concern: What will happen to my animals when I am no longer here? To help put this worry to rest, SDF offers a Pet Promise Program, which guarantees your pets will receive loving lifetime care with an adoptive family upon your passing.

### **SDF Pet Promise Donors**

#### **Keri and Stuart Grant:**

"I feel so blessed to be an SDF handler, and becoming an Estate Donor is Stuart's and my way of giving back. If something should happen to us, it's important to know our pet Missy and my Search Dog Tucker will both be well cared for by the Search Dog Foundation."



SDF Search Team Keri Grant & Tucker  
Photo: Jennifer Tapp

## Be Part of the Circle

The SDF Search Circle is a group of Wealth Managers (financial advisors, attorneys, estate planners and CPAs) helping to build SDF's future by sharing information about our Estate program with their clients. **It's a great way for busy professionals to become Part of the Search without leaving their desks.** Please let us know if you (or someone you know) would like to be part of the Circle!

*Photo: SDF Search Circle member, Ted England and family, visit with our beloved Ranger Karyn Newbill*



Missy, Sammy, Stuart, Keri & Tucker Grant



## As One Chapter Closes... Another Opens

### *SDF Founder, Wilma Melville*

As SDF Founder, my purpose in life has been to build an organization that moves with strength into the future. We Estate Donors are making certain of this success through a Planned Giving pledge.

Shortly after September 11, 2001, I was told, "Wilma, grow the Guardian Endowment to 200 people and you will be assured, over time, of an income stream that will help provide for SDF's future and train many Search Teams for this country." I am proud and honored to tell you that this magic number, once seemingly unattainable, has been achieved. In fact, there are now 208 SDF Estate Donors! I am humbled by the generosity of these kind folks, and grateful to everyone who has become Part of the Search in this enduring way.

September 11, 2001 is imprinted on my memory forever, as it is, I'm sure, for you. Out of the donations that followed that tragedy grew SDF's Guardian Endowment Fund, which will, in the coming years, provide the dollars to care for and maintain the National Training Center. We are building it, and our Estate Donors have assured we'll be able to properly care for it.

Join me and our community of Estate Donors who are honoring the heroes of our country and making rescuing dogs and saving lives part of their personal legacy.



Wilma with Skye, Class of 2013 Photo: Tony Panzica

## Guardian Glade

### At the future site of SDF's National Training Center

We honor each of our Estate Donors by giving them the opportunity to become the "Guardian" of a Search Dog. We also pay tribute to each one with a special tile on the Guardian Wall at the National Training Center. This wall in the beautiful Guardian Glade was unveiled on September 11, 2011—the ten-year anniversary of the World Trade Center disaster.



Guardian Wall under construction, July 1, 2011



Guardian Wall unveiled, September 11, 2011



Guardian Wall by night, September 11, 2012



Lorraine Bailin with Rhett at the NTC Memorial Arbor

## Being There is Everything

### *SDF Estate Donor Lorraine Bailin:*

"It was so wonderful meeting all the SDF staff and Wilma, and seeing the progress being made at the Training Center. It was a highlight of our trip to Southern California! Actually seeing what SDF does has inspired me to reach out to even more people about your organization and affirmed my decision to support such a great cause with my Estate gift."



Margaret with Stetson Photo: Nathan Cool

## Giving Makes Good Sense

### *Margaret Levy – Guardian of Stetson:*

"I found it incredibly moving to visit the Training Center and stand before the Guardian Wall with each of my fellow Estate Donor's names listed. Immediately beside the Guardian Glade is the Canine Memorial, which movingly depicts the work that these highly skilled dogs have accomplished. As an attorney, I am tuned in to the great sense it makes to support deserving charitable groups. I want to make sure this good work continues."



## SEARCH DOG SPONSORS



*SDF is honored to recognize and thank our Search Dog Sponsors. We are grateful to each of these special supporters who have become "Part of the Search" by making a donation of \$10,000 (in one gift or over two years) and Sponsoring a Search Dog!*

— Celeste Matesevac,  
SDF Community Relations Manager

For more info about Sponsoring a Search Dog, contact Celeste at [Celeste@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Celeste@SearchDogFoundation.org) or (888) 459-4376 x101

### Leila

Elizabeth and Kurt Wampler, sponsors of Handler Kyle Thomas & Leila, sent this heartwarming note at Thanksgiving:

*Hello Kyle, Leila and family and Celeste:*

*I just wanted to let you know that this Thanksgiving one of the things I am thankful for is Search Dog Foundation and all the people who work there and Kyle and Leila, the Search Dog team that I get to sponsor. I have the beautiful portrait of Kyle and Leila hanging in my study and every time I look at it I am cheered to know that Kyle and Leila are out there happily training together for a time when they may be needed.*

— Elizabeth Marie Wampler, Sunnyvale, CA



Kyle Thomas & Leila Photo: Tracy Darling



At a past SDF event CFWC members Elizabeth Koppenhaven, Veronica Conent, both of Glenview and Tammy Guensler, Past CA State President, meet their sponsor dog Sandy with handler Dave Ramsey  
Photo: Tony Panzica

### California Federation of Women's Clubs

The California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) began their support of SDF in 2006, and in 2009 the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) joined them as Part of the Search! There are now 30 California Clubs and 16 Clubs across the nation working to support the Search Teams. The extraordinary work of these clubs has resulted in the sponsorship of 10 Search Teams. We are grateful to every member of the oldest women's clubs in the nation for their enthusiasm, spirit, and enduring support!



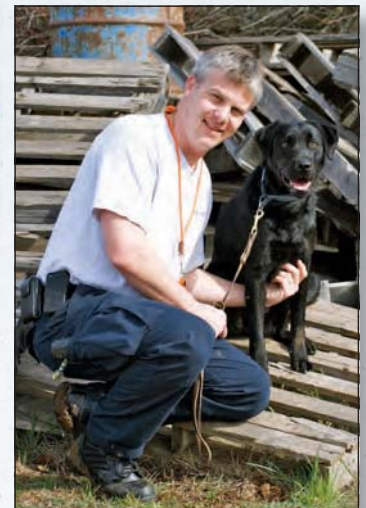
### Planet Dog Foundation, Sponsor of Dax – Portland, Maine



Kristen Smith at Chicago convention with SDF Ambassador/supporter, Jeff Garbaciak  
Photo: Submitted by Planet Dog Foundation

"The Planet Dog Foundation has been a longstanding and proud supporter of the Search Dog Foundation since 2001. We then made a donation to support their response to the earthquake in Haiti, and were deeply impressed with the quality and professionalism of their teams and the organization as a whole. Our latest gift was in support of Greg Gould, NY Task Force 2 and his partner-in-training, Dax. We have donated over \$19,000 in total, and look forward to continuing our relationship long into the future. Our mission is to support those programs that help dogs to help people in need, and we have found a perfect partner in the Search Dog Foundation."

—Kristen Smith, Executive Director, Planet Dog Foundation



Greg the day he was paired with Dax at Sundowners. Photo: Sharon Hanzelka





The Gambords with their Search Dogs. L to R: Pluis Davern, Dena Gambord, Cynthia Sato & Roxy, Summer Emmons, Eric Ingstad & Java, Wilma Melville, Joel Gambord Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

## The Gambords Sponsor Roxy, Java & Huck

Joel and Dena Gambord of Pebble Beach, CA have been strong SDF supporters since 2006. Seeking a way to align their support for America's first responders and their passion for helping dogs, on September 11, 2012 they made the decision to honor the men, women and animals who risk their lives to save others by sponsoring three Los Angeles Search Teams: Eric Ingstad & Java, Deresa Teller & Huck, and Cynthia Sato & Roxy.

*Dear Wilma and our Search Dog Foundation Friends,*

*Thank you for the wonderful framed photo remembering our day in Gilroy last November. It will be displayed in a special place in our home. We now have a visual memory to go along with the one in our hearts from that special day. We are honored to share in your ongoing efforts to help save the lives of our fellow citizens when disaster strikes. Keep up the good work!*

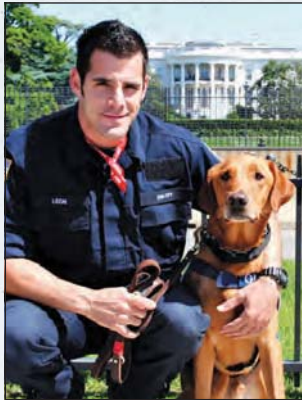
— Joel and Dena

## America's Court Reporters Sponsor Their 7<sup>th</sup> Search Team

In memory of one of their own, Julie Brandau, slain in 2005 in an Atlanta courtroom, Court Reporters across the nation have been supporting SDF for the past seven years through individual donations and participation at state and national conventions.

*Sometimes memories fade over time, but with the establishment of the Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project and our partnership with SDF, Julie's love of life and her passion for dogs will forever be remembered. I'm proud to be one of many Court Reporters across the country helping to sponsor SDF teams, and I'm very proud that Justice, a Search Dog named by the Court Reporters, calls Tulsa, OK his home.*

—Gary Woodson, Court Reporter



Court Reporters' namesake, Justice, with Handler Jeff Leon in front of the White House Photo: Denise Sanders



2012 National Court Reporters Annual Convention in Philadelphia – L to R: Jeff Leon & Justice, Founder Jan Lopez, NCRA President Tami Smith, NCRA Executive Director/CEO Jim Cudahy, past NCRA President Doug Friend, Jim Boggeri & Nino

## Search Dog Sponsors

### 2012 Sponsors

Arc Aspicio (Arlington, VA) - Sponsors of Lani, Justice  
 B & B Foundation (Santa Barbara, CA) - Sponsor of Duke, Rugby  
 Beth and Greg (Sugar Land, TX) - Sponsors of Hayden, Tucker  
 CFWC - Marina District Public Issues (El Segundo, CA) -  
 Sponsor of Stetson, Leila, Wylie, Stella  
 Elizabeth and Kurt (Sunnyvale, CA) - Sponsors of Leila  
 Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation (Frankfort, MI) -  
 Sponsor of Hayden, George  
 Janet (Long Beach, CA) - Sponsor of Decker  
 Janet and Greg (Camarillo, CA) - Sponsors of Ben, Haley, Stetson, Sonic, Royce

Joel and Dena (Pebble Beach, CA) - Sponsors of Huck, Roxy, Java  
 Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project (West Hills, CA) -  
 Sponsor of Justice, Hula, Elvis, Pearl, Lilly, Kari, Sarge  
 Marith (Lompoc, CA) - Sponsor of Gunner  
 Planet Dog Foundation (Portland, ME) - Sponsor of Dax

### 2013 Sponsors

Jill (Dallas, TX) - TBD  
 Mike (Santa Maria, CA) - Sponsor of Taylor  
 Sean (Camarillo) - Sponsor of Tom





*From small family-run foundations to large corporate and community philanthropies... in 2012 these wonderful grant-makers supported SDF's canine recruitment and training programs, and helped support our 70-plus existing Search Teams. It's an honor and a joy to help fulfill their philanthropic goals.*

— Clare Bland, SDF Foundation Relations Manager

For more info about making a grant to SDF, contact Clare at [Clare@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Clare@SearchDogFoundation.org) or (888) 459-4376 x108

## Margaret Thiele Petti Foundation



Michelle Ferrier Photo: Denise Sanders

*"It's a family affair," laughs Michelle Ferrier, Secretary of the Margaret Thiele Petti Foundation, based in Beaverton, OR.*

*"My mom Nina, sister Kelly and I are honored to run this foundation, created by and named for my Mom's late sister. We share our lives with many canine companions, mostly rescues, and one of my seven dogs is trained in seizure detection. So I know first-hand what it's like to entrust my own life to a dog. We all follow the progress of SDF's wonderful canines, as they blossom in their new life-saving careers."*

The Foundation has awarded grants supporting our recruitment and training programs each year since 2002. We're delighted that Michelle, Nina and Kelly are part of the Search Dog Foundation family!

## Scaife Family Foundation



Marshia Hall with Lilah and Trapper

Inspired by SDF Search Teams' life-saving deployment to the Haiti Earthquake, the Florida-based Scaife Family Foundation joined our family of supporters in 2006, the same year SDF teams deployed to Hurricane Ernesto, helped in a missing person search in Palm Bay, and responded to a partial building collapse in the Bal Harbour suburb of Miami. There are now three veteran SDF Search Teams in Florida standing by to deploy in the state and region.

Foundation President David Zywiec: *"We're passionate about the welfare of animals, and have had the opportunity to meet one of our Florida Search Teams—Marshia Hall, with her canine partners Trapper and Lilah. Knowing that they are on stand-by around the clock to deploy should disaster strike local communities, it gives us great peace of mind."*

## Our Foundation Partners

AKC Companion Animal Recovery - Raleigh, NC  
 Anastasia Charitable Foundation - Portola Valley, CA  
 Anonymous Foundations (3)  
 Antelope Valley Kennel Club - Lancaster, CA  
 Armstrong Foundation - Lancaster, PA  
 Avery Family Trust - Tulsa, OK  
 B & B Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA  
 Barr Charitable Foundation - San Jose, CA  
 Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation - Long Beach, CA  
 Stephen Bechtel Fund - San Francisco, CA  
 Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation - Wilmington, DE  
 Blaine Family Foundation - Wantagh, NY  
 The Charles Bloom Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA  
 The Blue Oak Charitable Fund - Las Vegas, NV  
 Employees Community Fund of Boeing California - Long Beach, CA  
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel M. Brigham Jr. Fund at Pasadena Community Foundation - Pasadena, CA  
 Lewis Brounell Charitable Trust - West Orange, NJ  
 The John and Barbara Byrne Charitable Fund - North Wales, PA  
 Chardonnay Foundation - Amelia Island, FL  
 William E. Chelew Foundation - Dayton, NV  
 Bill & Jackie Clark Memorial Foundation - North Bonneville, WA  
 Cleveland Foundation - Cleveland, OH  
 Cogan Family Foundation - Cambridge, MA  
 The John and Joy Collins Foundation - Fountain Hills, AZ  
 Lori Cope Fund - Manvel, TX  
 The Richard K. and Lois B. Craig Family Fund - Fort Worth, TX  
 The Dardin Fund - San Diego, CA  
 Robert & Eleanor Demple Family Foundation - Sheridan, WY  
 Donald L. and Elida A. Derebey Fund - Sun City West, AZ  
 DEW Foundation - Reno, NV  
 Dorrance Family Foundation - Scottsdale, AZ  
 Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation - Frankfort, MI  
 Joseph Drown Foundation - Los Angeles, CA  
 The Drueding Foundation - Maplewood, NJ  
 Dyer Family Foundation - Fresno, CA  
 Evans-Cockerline Foundation - Branford, CT  
 Fifth Age of Man Foundation - Austin, TX  
 The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation - Palm Beach, FL  
 William & Winifred Freeman Foundation - Scottsdale, AZ  
 The L. W. Frohlich Charitable Trust - New Orleans, LA  
 Christen C. & Ben H. Garrett Family Foundation - San Marino, CA  
 Giant Steps Foundation - Boston, MA  
 Thornton S. Glide, Jr. and Katrina D. Glide Foundation - Davis, CA  
 The Grainger Foundation - Lake Forest, IL  
 The W.K. Gregory & A.M. Gregory Charitable Foundation - Towson, MD  
 Kira and Bradley J. Haas Fund - Novato, CA  
 Elsie H. Hillman Foundation - Pittsburgh, PA  
 Huser Charitable Foundation - Chandler, AZ  
 Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation - Walnut Creek, CA  
 Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment, and the Arts - Indianola, IA  
 Rex and Nelle Jackson Foundation - Peoria, IL  
 Eric Javits Family Foundation - Palm Beach, FL  
 The Kleiner Cohen Foundation - Los Angeles, CA  
 The Koranda Family Foundation - Clarendon Hills, IL



## Our Foundation Partners

Lakeside Foundation - Lafayette, CA  
 The Leavitt Family Trust - San Francisco, CA  
 Brad Lemons Foundation - Los Angeles, CA  
 Levin Family Foundation - Dayton, OH  
 Michael J. and Patricia Levitt Family Charitable Foundation - Marlton, NJ  
 Liguori Family Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation - San Diego, CA  
 Lilly's Gift Foundation - Irvine, CA  
 The Nancy F. Link Foundation - Rayne, LA  
 Travis Manion Foundation - Doylestown, PA  
 Bert W. Martin Foundation - Orlando, FL  
 Mathewson Charitable Lead Trusts - Reno, NV  
 MBD Foundation - San Francisco, CA  
 The McDaniel Family Foundation - Huntington Beach, CA  
 Nahikian Family Foundation - Charleston, SC  
 National Philanthropic Trust - Jenkintown, PA  
 The Neel Foundation - Croton On Hudson, NY  
 Newman's Own Foundation - Westport, CT  
 The J. Robert Nonemaker Foundation for Small Animals - Pottstown, PA  
 Elizabeth & Frank Odell Family Fund of the Comm. Fdn. of Collier County - South Hadley, MA  
 Oklahoma City Community Foundation - Oklahoma City, OK  
 PETCO Foundation - San Diego, CA  
 Margaret Thiele Petti Foundation - Beaverton, OR  
 Planet Dog Foundation - Portland, ME  
 Rachael's Rescue - New York, NY  
 Ramsay Family Foundation - San Francisco, CA  
 The Raynie Foundation - Champaign, IL  
 RCA Community Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation - Clio, CA  
 Donald A. Rhoades Family Foundation - Placerville, CA  
 Rhodes Family Fund - Wheaton, IL  
 The Rogers Foundation - Morristown, NJ  
 Rohauer Collection Foundation, Inc. - Harrison, NY  
 Russell Family Foundation - Lake Forest, CA  
 Sacramento Region Community Foundation - Sacramento, CA  
 SahanDaywi Foundation - Riverside, CA  
 Grace Ford Salvatori Foundation - Los Angeles, CA  
 The Charles and Betti Saunders Foundation - Houston, TX  
 The SB3 Charitable Fund Trust - New Fairfield, CT  
 Scaife Family Foundation - West Palm Beach, FL  
 Schwab Charitable Fund - San Francisco, CA  
 Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation - La Jolla, CA  
 Shenandoah Foundation - San Francisco, CA  
 The Shilling Family Foundation - San Francisco, CA  
 Shiloh Foundation - Murray Hill, NJ  
 Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation - Pennsauken, NJ  
 The Spark Fund - New York, NY  
 Starlight Foundation - Coconut Creek, FL  
 Sidney Stern Memorial Trust - Oxnard, CA  
 The Tyler Foundation - Dallas, TX  
 Uvas Foundation - Lafayette, CA  
 vanKerkhoven Family Fund - Weston, WI  
 Robert & Kelmor Wallace Family Charitable Foundation - Bryan, TX  
 The Adele A. and Harold J. Westbrook Foundation, Inc. - Midlothian, VA  
 Wilshire Charitable Foundation - Oklahoma City, OK

## Rachael's Rescue

You may know that Rachael Ray is a syndicated television star, iconic Food Network television personality, and bestselling cookbook author, but did you know that she is also a passionate advocate for homeless pets?!

Rachael's Rescue was created to help homeless and abandoned pets, just like the dogs that SDF recruits from animal shelters and breed rescue groups.

Proceeds from Rachael's Nutrish™ Super Premium Food and Treats for dogs have helped provide medical supplies and treatments for animals in need, through grants awarded by Rachael's Rescue.

*"What a win-win! Helping homeless dogs become life-saving rescuers and fulfilling their true potential ... that's why I'm thrilled to support the Search Dog Foundation."* — Rachael Ray



## Giant Steps Foundation



Jennifer and her loyal companion, Cody Coyote. This lucky girl was saved by "Pet Rescue of Unwanted Dogs" (PROUD) in California's Central Valley and adopted from "Pets In Need" in Redwood City, CA.

Creating a kinder, gentler, and healthier world for all living creatures is the mission of the Giant Steps Foundation.

*"The Giant Steps Foundation greatly appreciates SDF's dedication to recruiting rescued dogs as well as their Lifetime Care Commitment to all their dogs. These rescued pups are so intelligent, energetic and eager to help and do a great job for their handlers. It is heartwarming to support SDF's recruitment and training as they help the rescued become rescuers who do life-saving work."*

— Jennifer Leeds, President, Giant Steps Foundation





# SearchDogsUSA®

I N C O R P O R A T E D

Licensing arm of the Search Dog Foundation



Lou Nicolaides  
General Manager  
SearchDogsUSA

Founded in 2002, SearchDogsUSA, Inc. is the official licensing arm of the Search Dog Foundation, committed to raising funds for SDF through **Business Alliances** and **Consumer Product Sales**. The company gives a minimum of 10% of its gross annual revenues to SDF in the form of cash and underwriting (including partial underwriting of the Quest). To date, SearchDogsUSA has donated \$250,000 in support of the Search Teams. It is located in South Pasadena, CA and is independently owned and operated.

(855) 744-DOGS (3647) • [info@searchdogsusa.com](mailto:info@searchdogsusa.com)  
[www.searchdogsusa.com](http://www.searchdogsusa.com)



David Kaplan  
President  
SearchDogsUSA



*Our Pledge to the Search Dog Foundation in 2013:*

**Raise \$50,000 for the training of  
19 new Canine Disaster Search Teams**



## Open for Business! [shopSDF.com](http://shopSDF.com)

Visit SDF's new, revamped online store for quality brands, great prices, and cool stuff for you and your canine hero, including SDF Apparel, Dog Health & Wellness products, Preparedness Gear and more!



## SearchDogsUSA® Brands

### *Tasty Canine Joint Supplement Soft Chews*

Joint Supplements are the first in a line of natural canine wellness products SearchDogsUSA plans to launch this year. Officially endorsed by SDF and used by SDF handlers and trainers, these chews are manufactured for SearchDogsUSA by new Company Affiliate, Healthy Pets, Inc. They will be available for your canine hero in July of 2013 exclusively at [shopSDF.com](http://shopSDF.com)



*Good for Your Dog, Good for Our Country™*



Join the **SearchDogsUSA** online community! Get the latest e-news, product specials, and much more by visiting the **PLEDGEpals** page at [www.SearchDogsUSA.com](http://www.SearchDogsUSA.com) or [shopSDF.com](http://shopSDF.com).



Diana Brelsford's dog, Lucky, checking out cool stuff for canines at [shopSDF.com](http://shopSDF.com)



[www.facebook.com/SearchDogsUSA](http://www.facebook.com/SearchDogsUSA)



[twitter.com/SearchDogsUSA](http://twitter.com/SearchDogsUSA)



## SDUSA Business Alliances

### Good for Your Company, Good for Our Country™

Learn how your company can create an Alliance Sponsorship with SearchDogsUSA. From **Exclusive Partnerships** to **Power Associates**, there's an Alliance perfect for your business. Join companies like The Nutro Company, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., and Healthy Pets, Inc. who are making their mark on disaster preparedness in America.

[Alliances@SearchDogsUSA.com](mailto:Alliances@SearchDogsUSA.com)

## The Nutro Company – Food for Heroes

### A Fifteen-Year Exclusive Partnership



Photo: Denise Sanders

Davis Doty & Jester with the HIGH ENDURANCE bag featuring this beautiful Border Collie Mix

the Orange County Fire Department – California Task Force 5. Get this high-quality, "made for heroes" food at SDF's official online store [www.shopSDF.com](http://www.shopSDF.com) or from your nearest pet store.

SDF is grateful for the extraordinary support Nutro has provided. SearchDogsUSA looks forward to a strong and vibrant Exclusive Partnership for many years to come.

[www.nutro.com](http://www.nutro.com)



**NATURAL CHOICE®** is the Official Dog Food of the Search Dog Foundation.

Nutro has supported America's Canine Disaster Search Teams since 1998, offering free **NATURAL CHOICE** vouchers to every FEMA-Certified Search Team in the U.S. through SDF. This is a tremendous savings to the handlers and a great benefit to the canines who thrive on this quality dog food.

Last year, Nutro launched its new dog food **NATURAL CHOICE HIGH ENDURANCE**. You can't miss it, with SDF's own Jester featured proudly on the package with his partner Davis Doty representing

## Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

### A Nine-Year Exclusive Partnership

Metacam® (meloxicam) is the Official Arthritis Medication of the Search Dog Foundation.

Founded in 1885 in Ingelheim, Germany, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI) is dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of animals, always seeking ways to further research and develop optimum solutions for animals everywhere.

The company produces Metacam® (meloxicam), a wonderful anti-inflammatory product that relieves the symptoms of osteoarthritis in older dogs, making it available to all SDF Search Teams. On behalf of our veteran Search Dogs enjoying pain-free golden years, thank you BIVI for your devotion to animals and your belief in SDF's mission of service to animal and humankind.

[www.boehringer-ingelheim.com](http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com)



BIVI's Sponsored Search Dog, Marsi (far right) with her canine colleagues and Trainer Pluis Davern during the IronDog deployment readiness exercise in New York, November 2012 Photo: Nancy Castaldo

## Healthy Pets, Inc.

### A New Company Affiliation

Manufacturers of SearchDogsUSA® Brand Canine Joint Supplements.

Healthy Pets, Inc. (HPI) and SearchDogsUSA have entered a new Corporate Alliance to benefit SDF through the sale of Joint Supplement Soft Chews for dogs. Formulated to maintain healthy joints and connective tissue in active dogs, the tasty morsels are made in the U.S.A. with all-natural ingredients including Glucosamine, Creatine, MSM and vitamins and minerals. They are being offered by SearchDogsUSA at no cost to SDF Teams as part of the SDF Search Team Fund. HPI is contributing \$1 for every tub of Soft Chews sold. Available July 2013 at [shopSDF.com](http://shopSDF.com).



HealthyPets, Inc.

"We were always impressed by SDF's readiness to leap into action anywhere help is needed, and we encourage our customers to become Part of the Search."

— Dr. M. Ghumman, HPI President

[www.healthy pets.com](http://www.healthy pets.com) • [www.entirelypets.com](http://www.entirelypets.com)



L to R: SDUSA's Lou Nicolaidis, HPI's Clark Tran & Arpit Patel, SDF Handler Captain Jim Boggeri & Nino, SDF Program Supervisor Denise Sanders - in front of the Healthy Pets HQ in Union City, CA





# Y&R

Every September 11th since 2002, the Wall Street Journal has donated ad space to the Search Dog Foundation. The Journal rarely offers a benefit of this kind to nonprofits, and we are very grateful for their generous support. We are also grateful to Young & Rubicam for designing the ad and GroupM for placing it—both at no cost to SDF.

## Young & Rubicam to the Rescue!

### Eleven Years of Support

In the wake of the September 11th tragedy, New York-based Y&R Brands (one of the world's top marketing and communications firms) offered to help raise awareness about SDF's life-saving mission by designing a suite of stunning print, radio and television ads, and arranging for donated placement in national media. These ads have "spoken" to people throughout the country, inspiring gifts ranging from \$100 to \$1,000,000.

The ads continue to run in top media spots, drawing in new supporters interested in helping us build America's first Search Team Training Center. Many of these donors first learned about SDF from Y&R's national outreach. SDF is one of Y&R's oldest pro bono clients, and we are deeply indebted to the company and their affiliate, GroupM, a highly acclaimed international marketing and communications agency, for their precious gifts of time and talent.

[www.yr.com](http://www.yr.com)

## Mars: Wisdom Panel 2.0

### Four Years of Support

In 2009, we partnered with Wisdom Panel® (owned by Mars Veterinary™) whose genetic testing program can determine the ancestry of canines by testing for more than 190 breeds, the largest database on the market.

SDF is always looking for the next great Search Dog—Lab, Golden Retriever, Border Collie or mix—with the boldness, drive, agility, focus and footing required for disaster search. Thanks to the generosity of Mars Veterinary, the Wisdom Panel® test is now being offered at no cost to all SDF Handlers and Lifetime Care families. Ultimately it will help us uncover the genetic signature of what makes a "top Search Dog" so we can be sure the rescued dogs we recruit truly have what it takes to be Part of the Search.

Thanks to the Wisdom Panel®, we were able to determine the breed of Hayden, a possible Pit Bull mix, who was discovered at a shelter and tagged for euthanasia. The Wisdom Panel showed Hayden to be a mix of Curly Coated Retriever, Chesapeake Bay Retriever and Labrador Retriever. With his breed confirmed, Hayden was accepted into SDF's program and partnered with Mike Hargrove of Texas Task Force 2, one of the teams deployed to the West, TX fertilizer plant explosion in April of 2013.

[www.wisdompanel.com](http://www.wisdompanel.com)

# MARS

veterinary



## AT&T and the Search Dog Foundation

### Nine Years of Support



at&t

While SDF teams search for the survivors of a disaster, AT&T is on the scene restoring communications critical to rescue and recovery. Throughout the year, the company hosts "Network Disaster Recovery" exercises to demonstrate their disaster response capabilities. They invite SDF teams to participate in these events, and together we raise awareness about the technical and canine/human aspects of emergency response. In 2012, AT&T/SDF partner events took place in Toronto, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and Hallendale (FL).

Through these events, the company has brought generous support to SDF which has helped train 40 new Canine Disaster Search Teams.

[www.corp.att.com/ndr](http://www.corp.att.com/ndr)



Andrew Pitcher & Chief, Laurel Pitman & Sonic prepare for their demonstration in Atlanta  
Photo: Kelly Morrison



Wisdom Panel®

Handsome Hayden  
Photo: Mike Hargrove





*As I write this, I'm celebrating my second year with SDF as Volunteer Coordinator. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the SDF family. Every day I am humbled and amazed by the hard work and dedication of our Volunteers. So many people make a difference in this organization by offering their time, energy, ideas, and support.*

— Reva Ferguson, Volunteer Coordinator

If you are passionate about SDF and would like to become an SDF Volunteer, contact [Reva@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Reva@SearchDogFoundation.org) or (888) 459-4376 x110

## Thank You Call Volunteers

We show our sincere appreciation for every gift by making a Thank You Call to each donor. We're grateful to our Call Volunteers for reaching out to our stakeholders in this way, conveying our gratitude, and welcoming them to our family of supporters.

*"What a special treat! Debi Mauck just called me to thank me for my donation. It's so nice to know that donors are appreciated, and actually receive a call saying 'thank you!'"*

— Karene - Nashville, TN



*"Shirley called and left a 'thank you' message on my voice mail. I can't remember the last time anyone bothered to do this! Thanks for taking the time to be so human!"*

— Arlene - Germantown, MD

SDF Volunteers Sharon McMillan, Jackie Thomas, and Shirley Ramgren



SDF Volunteer Appreciation Event, April 2013

## SDF Interns

### Coulter's Cabin

Coulter Johnson, a student at the Vancouver Film School in British Columbia, volunteered his time with SDF this past summer. He became involved in all aspects of our work—helping out at the office, walking and grooming the canine candidates, and helping in the restoration of "Boone's Old Cabin" at the NTC, named by his family in honor of his dog. Coulter was a hard worker—such a delight to have him with us!



Coulter Johnson working on the Old Cabin



Sunil Vaid and canine friend

### Sunil's Service

In August of 2012, SDF welcomed Sunil Vaid from Haryana, India, our second Intern-Ambassador from the Mars Corporation, a long-time SDF supporter. In India Sunil's own work involves Canine Disaster Search, and he took advantage of his time here, observing our candidates in training, and visiting veterinarians, shelters, and boarding facilities to learn more about canine care in America. We loved learning from Sunil about his culture and are grateful to Mars for underwriting Sunil's productive time with us.

## Spouse Spotlight

Andrea Bergquist, wife of Search Dog handler Chris Bergquist, has a passion for rescuing dogs. She spends countless hours scouring shelters and online resources searching for future Search Dog candidates with her two sons, Charlie and Jack. Andrea has evaluated hundreds of dogs for SDF and helped recruit several Search Dog candidates, including Lilah, partnered with Marshia Hall of FL-TF4.



Search Dog Kari, Chris, Charlie, Andrea and Jack Bergquist

*"Lilah is a true worker, searching with heart. She fills me with confidence every time I put her to work— she just keeps bringing it to the table. She passed her Certification test with no problems, and I had no doubt everyone in the area had been found. I know I'll feel the same way when we deploy: that no one has been left behind. Thanks Lilah for your dedication and heart, thanks SDF for such a 'wonder-full' partner, my cup runneth over."*

—SDF Handler Marshia Hall, Florida Task Force 4

## 2012 Search Dog Volunteers

### VOLUNTEERS

Chris Abbott	Carole Chadick	Judy Kenney	Marci Murphy	Ben Short
Laura Abbott	Jeffrey Chavez	Jamie Kitz	Patty O'Lear	Shannon Shoup
Alana Adelman	Joyce Chell	Brian Lee	Philip Paton	Paula Simmes
Claudia Adelman	Carol Crist	Michael Linn	Jesse Perez	Norma Spencer
Julianna Adelman	Diana Crothers	Jan Lopez	Laura Pollick	Jo Stalder
Olivia Adelman	Lynn Ferguson	Ivan Mateševac	Shirley Ramgren	Jackie Thomas
Leslie Aulenta	Vita Franco	Katarina Mateševac	Javier Ramirez	Tim Turpin
Sharon Bacon	Kristi Geary	Debi Mauck	Natasha Redell	Jeff Wenig
Barbara Bickmore	Judy Haller	Shannon Mauck	Pattie Ridenour	Jill Wenig
Andrew Bonsignori	Deb Harpster	Sharon McMillan	Judy Rowe	Amy Yakel
Diana Brelsford	Roberta Hendry	Diane Myers	Cynthia Sassen	Diane Zusman

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Susan Bollinger	Victoria Linssen
Nancy Castaldo	Jan Lopez
Nathan Cool	Karyn Newbill
Tracy Darling	Troy Overman
Chris Gould	Tony Panzica
Sharon Hanzelka	Jan Slotar
Darron Leddick	Jennifer Tapp

### INTERNS

Laura Benard
Coulter Johnson
Shaena Singer
Sunil Vaid

### RECRUITERS

Andrea Bergquist
Diana Brelsford
Judy Moglia
Ellen Perryess
Laura & Wayne Rathe
Penny Woodruff



# 2012 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Financial Snapshot January 1 - December 31, 2012

Thanks to the interest, involvement and dedication of our supporters in every state of our nation, in 2012 the Search Dog Foundation surpassed our National Training Center Campaign Base Goal (\$14.5 million) *and* our operational fundraising goal (\$1.6 million).

The success in fundraising, planning and design enabled SDF to make strides programmatically and in the creation of the National Training Center.

With 84% of operational expenses allocated to Program, we were able to hire two new trainers, form 10 new Search Teams, give training support to 71 active Search Teams, recruit and train 38 dogs, place 24 canines unable to complete the program in loving Lifetime Care homes, and co-host a State Urban Search and Rescue Certification and an IronDog Deployment Simulation Exercise for 20 Search Teams.

At the NTC we completed the Canine Training Grounds and transitioned our training program from Sundowners Kennel in Gilroy, CA to the new Training Center in Santa Paula, CA. In 2013 the focus at the NTC will be construction of the Canine Pavilion and Disaster Training Zone. Once these two areas are complete, all components of Program will be fully functional at the NTC.

As we transition to our new home, SDF's operations will be assessed and redefined to meet the requisites of a National Training Center. In addition to enhancing SDF's existing programs, the NTC will expand our ability to support non-SDF teams and advance deployment readiness across the nation.

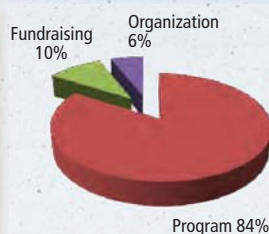
We remain dedicated to honoring your generosity and support by working hard to give America the disaster response resources it needs and deserves. **The search starts...with you.**

### SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION

#### Board of Directors

Chris Wright, *Chair*  
Jim Boggeri, *Vice Chair*  
Wilma Melville, *Secretary*  
Ric Ruffinelli, *Treasurer*

Michael Antonucci, Jr.  
Pluis Davern  
Linda D'Orsi  
Darrell Poplock



SDF Staff (L to R): Clare Bland, Serenity Nichols, Joan Morley, Kate Horwick, Debra Tosch, Chris Wright (Board Chair), Sonja Heritage, Denise Sanders, Wilma Melville, Janet Reineck, Lyz Gregory, Celeste Matesevac, Rhett Mauck (not pictured: Reva Ferguson)

### SAVE PAPER!

Send your email address to [rescue@ndsdf.org](mailto:rescue@ndsdf.org) and we'll keep you up to date electronically!

*Not to worry! We never sell or share the email or mail addresses of our supporters.*

**The 2012 Quest was partially underwritten by SearchDogsUSA.**



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[www.facebook.com/NationalDisasterSearchDogFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/NationalDisasterSearchDogFoundation) • [www.twitter.com/searchrescuedog](http://www.twitter.com/searchrescuedog)



Learn more about the Search Teams:

501 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023 • 888.459.4376 • [www.SearchDogFoundation.org](http://www.SearchDogFoundation.org)



The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – Tax ID #77-0412509. The organization has received a 4-Star (top) rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator.

## Summary

2012 Operational Fundraising Goal .....\$1,600,000  
2012 Operating Funds Raised .....\$1,789,260

### 2012 Income Sources

Foundations ..... \$850,778  
Individuals ..... \$938,482

### 2012 Expenses

Program ..... 84%  
Fundraising ..... 10%  
Organization ..... 6%

### Balance Sheet

Current Assets ..... 9,913,535  
Fixed Assets ..... 9,246,025  
Other Assets ..... 32,594  
**Total Assets ..... \$19,192,154**  
Current Liabilities ..... 905,403  
Long-Term Liabilities ..... 3,000,000  
Net Assets - Restricted Funds ..... 6,571,485  
Net Assets - Unrestricted ..... 8,715,266  
**Total Liabilities & Net Assets ..... \$19,192,154**

### Statement of Activities

#### Revenues, Gains & Support

Merchandise Sales ..... 20,809  
Cost of Goods Sold ..... -18,033  
Merchant Fees ..... -12,561  
Appeal Income ..... 151,338  
NTC Community Benefit Discount ..... 355,354  
NTC Community Benefit Contribution ..... 400  
Endowment Income ..... 666,759  
General Contributions ..... 506,765  
Workplace Contributions ..... 120,011  
Grants Income ..... 850,778  
Sponsorships ..... 116,043  
Reimbursement Income ..... 1,915  
Underwritten Income ..... 20,434  
In-Kind Donations ..... 2,014,485  
Restricted Contributions ..... 6,110,657  
Reward Program ..... 1,710  
Investment Income ..... 92,557  
**Total Revenues, Gains & Support ..... \$10,999,421**

#### Expenses

Program ..... 1,522,560  
Canine Recruitment ..... 117,171  
Trainer Fees ..... 92,112  
Lifetime Care Program ..... 88,671  
In-Kind Program Expenses ..... 2,015,327  
Depreciation & Amortization - Program ..... 50,341  
General & Administration ..... 276,712  
Depreciation & Amortization - Gen & Admin ..... 4,237  
Investment Expenses - Gen & Admin ..... 14,267  
Fundraising ..... 474,825  
Depreciation & Amortization - Fundraising ..... 6,064  
**Total Expenses ..... \$4,662,287**

**Net Income ..... \$6,337,134**

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