

NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION

The Barkington Post
EXTRA! EXTRA!
NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER
GRAND OPENING:
SEPT. 24, 2016

THE
QUEST



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Photo: Troy Overman



When I think about the Grand Opening of the National Training Center (NTC) in September of 2016, a flood of memories comes back to me about my journey with the Search Dog Foundation.

Back in 1997, I saw a "volunteers needed" ad in our local paper. At the time, Wilma Melville and five volunteers were working out of a one-room office in downtown Ojai, CA. It was a tiny operation, but to me, it was everything. A bookkeeper by trade, I was soon volunteering 8 hours a week. I became an SDF handler in 1998, deployed to the World Trade Center disaster in 2001, and became SDF Program Director in 2002. When Wilma wanted to step back from the day-to-day running of the agency, I became its Executive Director in 2005.

At 81 years old, Wilma continues to work tirelessly to further SDF's mission and complete the Training Center. Whether she's reviewing design plans for the Center, meeting with donors, or visiting shelters in search of canine candidates, Wilma gives it her all, and sets an example for everyone.

When the NTC opens its doors to the world in September of 2016, we'll have many people to thank: staff, volunteers, architects, builders, donors, and our Search Teams who dedicate themselves to saving lives. It will be a historic celebration, and at the center of it all will be a silver-haired grandmother whose steadfast determination is bringing this resource to America.

Wilma, SDF Master Trainer Sonja Heritage, and I were all on hand to welcome home the six SDF Search Teams deployed to Nepal after their challenging 18-day mission. During the deployment our teams helped rescue two people buried beneath the wreckage and "cleared" scores of buildings, giving closure to families and letting rescue crews know they could move on to other areas. SDF Search Teams have been deployed to 128 disasters, including Haiti, Japan, and Nepal. After each deployment, the handlers bring back crucial lessons to share that will serve future rescue operations here at home...and around the world.

We're so proud of our Search Teams, and know that you join us in thanking these heroes – both two- and four-legged. We think that the best way to thank them is to give them a permanent home for training that offers an array of diverse, challenging, changeable disaster simulation scenarios found nowhere else in the country or the world.

All aboard to the NTC! – Debra Tosch, SDF Executive Director



SDF Staff Front Row (L to R): Lyz Gregory, Jessica Kendrick, Celeste Matesevac, Sonja Heritage, Debra Tosch, Wilma Melville, Daron Johnson, Janet Reineck, Tessa Karbum, Serenity Nichols
Back Row (L to R): Emily Fisk, Genevieve Feiner, Jim Wiggins, Geoffrey Mitchell (Board), Reva Ferguson, Rhett Mauck, Darrell Wilkerson, Denise Sanders, Chelsi Woolwine, Ric Ruffinelli (Board)
Not pictured: Jami Byrd, Kate Horwick, Joan Morley, and Barry Portnoy



In 1989, as part of the team trying to rescue victims of the Loma Prieta Earthquake, I knew there had to be a better and faster way to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters. Cut to the mid-1990s. I was honored to be part of Wilma's pioneering efforts to launch the Search Dog Foundation. I helped her find the first three firefighter-handlers and worked

with the California Office of Emergency Services to support this aspect of disaster response.

Since then, SDF has led the way in the training of Canine Disaster Search Teams. But there's one element that poses a real problem for all of the teams: the availability of challenging search scenarios for their training. Our handlers put so much time and effort into finding these sites. We find a decent rubble pile, just to have it cleaned up or recycled in a few days. Then we're back to square one, with no place to train.











The establishment of a National Training Center makes so much sense! At the NTC we can re-create the difficult disaster scenarios encountered during actual deployments. SDF will be able to train more teams and offer the teams a dependable, advanced training venue designed specifically for Canine Disaster Search.

One thing is certain, disasters will happen – it's only a matter of time. On September 24, 2016, we'll open the doors to an incredible facility – an invaluable gift to the nation.

– Michael Antonucci, SDF Board Chair and Emergency Services Manager –
San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services

SDF Highlights 2014

The generous support of SDF's stakeholders in 2014 enabled the Search Dog Foundation to turn rescued dogs into rescuers and strengthen the nation's disaster response network.

-  **Deployments** – SDF Search Teams searched for survivors on 18 deployments in Baja California, California, Florida, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Washington.
-  **New Search Teams** – 12 new Search Teams were formed in California (Los Angeles County, Oakland, Orange County, San Diego), Florida (Miami-Dade), Texas (Dallas), Utah (Salt Lake City), and Virginia (Fairfax).
-  **Search Team Certifications** – 8 Search Teams achieved Certification; 11 Re-Certified.
-  **Canine Recruitment** – 74 dogs were evaluated for Urban Search and Rescue at 17 shelters and rescues. In addition, several canine-savvy individuals joined our team as regional Canine Recruiters to help evaluate more dogs across the country. These efforts helped 12 dogs enter our training program.
-  **Canine Career Change and Lifetime Care** – 1 canine who was recruited but didn't quite have what it takes for disaster search was Career Changed to odor detection. 3 great dogs found great new homes in Southern California!
-  **Stakeholders** – SDF is grateful to 1,968 individuals, 76 foundations, 84 companies, 36 organizations, and 4 schools across 49 states and 5 countries outside of the US who made gifts in 2014.
-  **Endowment Guardians** – Welcomed 17 new Guardians who included SDF in their Estate plans in 2014, bringing our total number to 237 in 2014.
-  **Search Dog Sponsors** – We are grateful to 14 individuals, companies, and family foundations who have donated \$10,000 or more in 2014 to become the special Sponsor of a Search Dog.
-  **Volunteers** – 60 individuals have generously given their time and talent at events and in the office, some working from home on nights and weekends, to keep SDF operating at peak performance.
-  **Workplace Giving** – We received \$76,590 from employees who gave through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), their State Employee Campaign, the United Way, and company matching programs.

Gearing up for Our Grand Opening: September 24, 2016!



Frank McGrath Jr. Family Welcome Center
National Disaster Search Dog Foundation
Mainstreet Architects and Planners, Inc.

The Search Dog Foundation is building a 125-acre National Training Center (NTC) for Canine Disaster Search Teams in a beautiful, rustic canyon in Santa Paula, CA – 90 minutes north of Los Angeles. It will be the first facility of its kind in the nation – a place where rescued dogs learn to be rescuers, and Search Teams can practice on disaster simulations under the expert guidance of SDF Trainers.

We recently entered the “Pathway to Completion” - our final push to fund and build the Center. Construction is 55% complete and we’re projecting that the Center will be fully operational by September 2016, with more disaster simulation props added in 2017. It won’t be long before we can all walk through the front gates and proclaim together: *“The National Training Center is now officially open for America’s Search Teams!”*

Much of the facility is already in daily use. On the lower tier, visitors enjoy meeting our teams at the **Newman’s Own Foundation Search Team Showgrounds**, strolling up the **Warden Memorial Park** pathway, picnicking at the **Pat Byrne Grove**, taking time for reflection at the **Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Canine Memorial** and the **Scaife Family Foundation Guardian Glade**, and visiting **Boone’s Old Cabin**.

The **Wendy P. McCaw Foundation Canine Training Grounds** serve as home-base for our Canine Candidates learning the obedience, agility, and search skills they’ll need on the job. They delight in their daily “games” with our Trainers in the cool shade of the **DeMartini Training Arena**.

The **Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion** is taking shape before our eyes! This beautiful kennel and classroom building will house 30 dogs and serve as the hub for canine care and Search Team education at the NTC.

Search City is already seeing lots of action! SDF and non-SDF teams from California and across the country are coming to get “tune-ups” from our expert trainers, work the rubble piles, and practice their search skills in the **Helen Close Charitable Foundation Quake House**, **Monsoon Motel**, and the **Lois and Al Friedman Family Hurricane House** – three of the ten disaster simulation structures in Search City. Our Navy reservist volunteers are hard at work on the **Seismic Store**, to be followed by the **Meadowview Foundation Two-Story Tilted House**, **Murphy’s Firehouse Façade**, **Jessie’s Cyclone School Façade**, **Typhoon Townhouse Façade**, **Maggie’s Rubble Pile**, **Tornado Trailer Park**, and a **Vehicle Search Area**.



Carlee’s Train Wreck – New Search Scenario in the Disaster Training Zone Photo: Susan Bollinger

In July, four 80 ft. demobilized train cars were transported to their final resting place as **Carlee’s Train Wreck** and the **Diaz Handlers Club** in our Disaster Training Zone. They provide a fantastic opportunity for Search Teams to practice directing their dogs through these tilted, confined, and unusual spaces. The dogs will have wonderful adventures combing every inch of the train cars!

Our designers, Mainstreet Architects and Planners, are finalizing beautiful designs for the **Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center**, **Courtyard**, and **Bechtel Handlers Lodge**.

“It doesn’t seem so long ago that SDF was just getting started and we could barely make ends meet. Even in those early days I began to see the need for a facility where we could care for and train rescued dogs and challenge our teams with real-life search scenarios. With the help of our supporters, the opening of our Training Center is now in sight!” – Wilma Melville, Founder



Photo: Denise Sanders

THE PETCO FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

In 2009, SDF embarked on a major capital campaign run by its small fundraising staff – very ambitious for a grassroots nonprofit. We set out to raise millions of dollars to build America's first Training Center for Canine Disaster Search Teams, and weren't sure what to expect.

One year ago, in June of 2014, we reported a campaign total of \$15,828,000 in gifts and pledges from 516 supporters. We are pleased to report that as of August 2015, 676 NTC donors have invested a total of \$23,473,051 in the project.

We are able to announce the completion of two major Match Challenges in the past 12 months:

- A \$500,000 Challenge in May of 2014 from the Scaife Family Foundation – completed September 2014
- A \$1,250,000 Challenge in September of 2014 from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation – completed June 2015

We are humbled and deeply grateful to our supporters around the country who have honored us with their belief in the NTC project and their trust in our ability to bring this gift to the nation. They have given us the confidence to push forward on this daunting building and fundraising campaign, which is now in the home stretch!

We are delighted to announce a new gift that guarantees the opening of the NTC in September of 2016.

Petco Foundation \$2,500,000 "Pathway to Completion" Challenge Match

Petco has been a good friend to the Search Dog Foundation since their first gift of \$150,000 in 2002 to create 15 new Canine Disaster Search Teams for the country. They continued to help our teams over the years through the Canine Healthcare Fund and general support.

In April of 2015, the Petco Foundation informed us that their Board of Directors had voted unanimously to make the largest gift in their history: a \$2,500,000 Challenge Grant toward the completion of the NTC. They have named the Center's kennel and classroom building, which will be called the "Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion."

We are seeking to match this gift by **December 31, 2015** so that we can build out as much of the Center as possible in time for the Grand Opening on **September 24, 2016**.



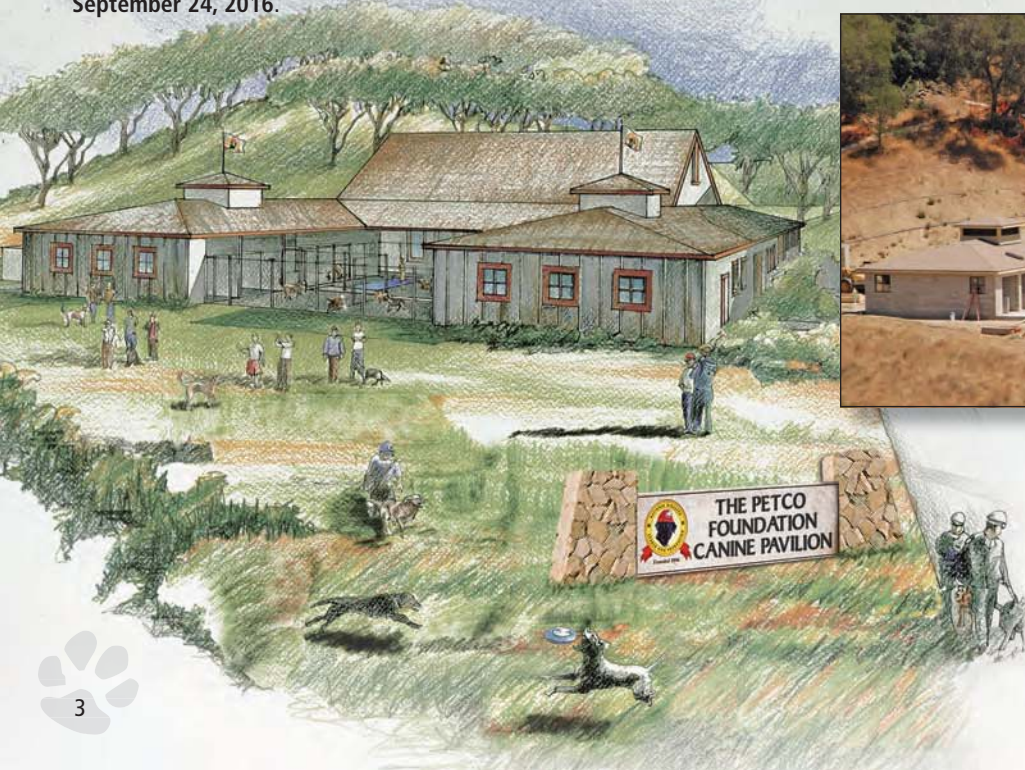
Susanne Kogut & Tanker Photo: Denise Sanders

"Each year the Petco Foundation invests millions in lifesaving animal welfare organizations to empower communities across the country to make a difference for animals. We're able to do this important work because of the many Petco customers and employees who, like us, understand the power of our bond with animals and have a passion to help them all live their best lives.

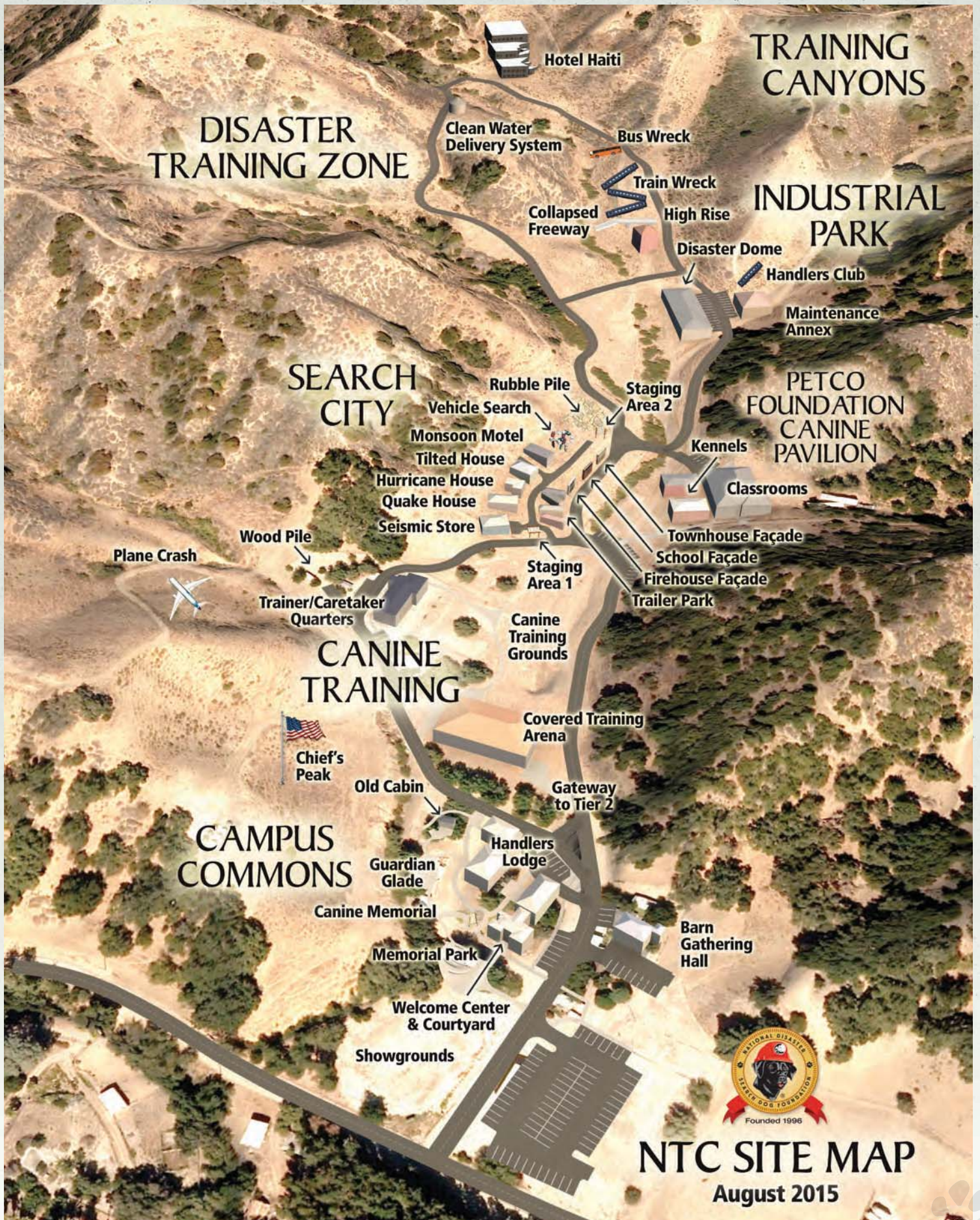
By saving shelter dogs and transforming them into national heroes, SDF highlights the potential of shelter dogs for all types of service programs. The relationship between the rescue dog and the first responder, partnering to save lives, is the ultimate expression of animals and humans working together in service to humanity. The transformative impact that they have on so many lives is nothing short of heroic, and we couldn't be more proud to partner with the Search Dog Foundation to help make this amazing vision come to life.

We look forward to joining SDF's dedicated family of supporters, first responders, and their amazing canines at the grand opening of the National Training Center in September 2016."

– Susanne Kogut – Executive Director, Petco Foundation



Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion – as envisioned in 2013... and today!
Photo: Serenity Nichols



REMEMBERING OKLAHOMA CITY - 20 YEARS LATER

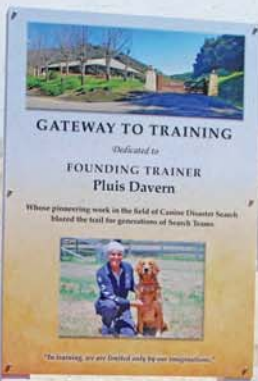
April 19, 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. That weekend, 48 SDF Search Teams gathered at the National Training Center to remember the Oklahoma City tragedy and pay tribute to the 168 lives lost there.

It was during Wilma Melville's deployment to Oklahoma City in 1995 that she became aware of the severe shortage of professionally trained Canine Disaster Search Teams in our country. At that time, there were only about 15 FEMA-Certified dogs in America, and an effective training methodology had not yet been developed to train these teams. Wilma knew she had to do something to change this. She partnered with nationally renowned dog trainer Pluis Davern, and together they created an innovative approach to recruitment and training.

During the Oklahoma City Remembrance event we recognized our Search Teams across the country for the extraordinary work they do to make sure that when disaster strikes, no one is left behind. We also celebrated SDF's Founding Trainer, Pluis Davern, and Founding Search Teams - Rick Lee & Ana, Randy Gross & Dusty, and Rob Cima & Harley, who set the bar high for Canine Disaster Search Training in America. The stone pillars of the gate leading to the Training Area at the Center will display their names and images in perpetuity.



Mark Edwards & Taz
Photo: Genevieve Feiner



Pluis Davern & Chief
Photo: Genevieve Feiner



Search Teams enjoy the ceremony at the Canine Memorial
Photo: Susan Bollinger

Pluis Davern congratulating Jim Boggeri with his Search Dogs, Nino and Clancy
Photo: Tony Panzica

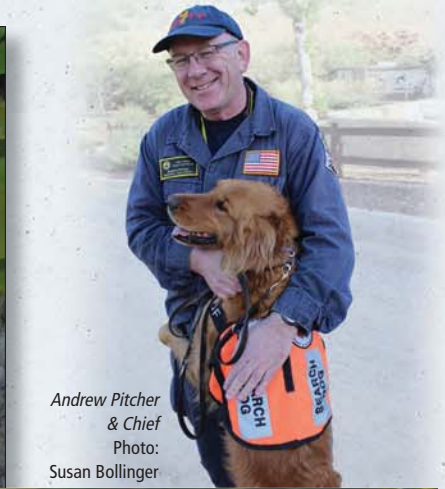


Wima Melville, Randy Gross, Pluis Davern, Rick Lee and Rob Cima
Photo: Tony Panzica

OKLAHOMA CITY REMEMBRANCE



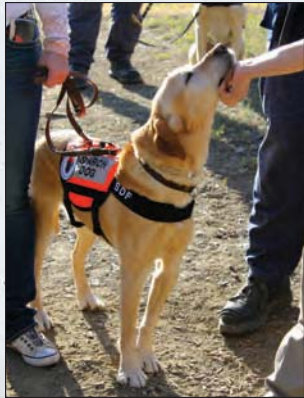
Pluis addressing the crowd at the NTC Guardian Glade Photo: Tony Panzica



Andrew Pitcher
& Chief
Photo:
Susan Bollinger



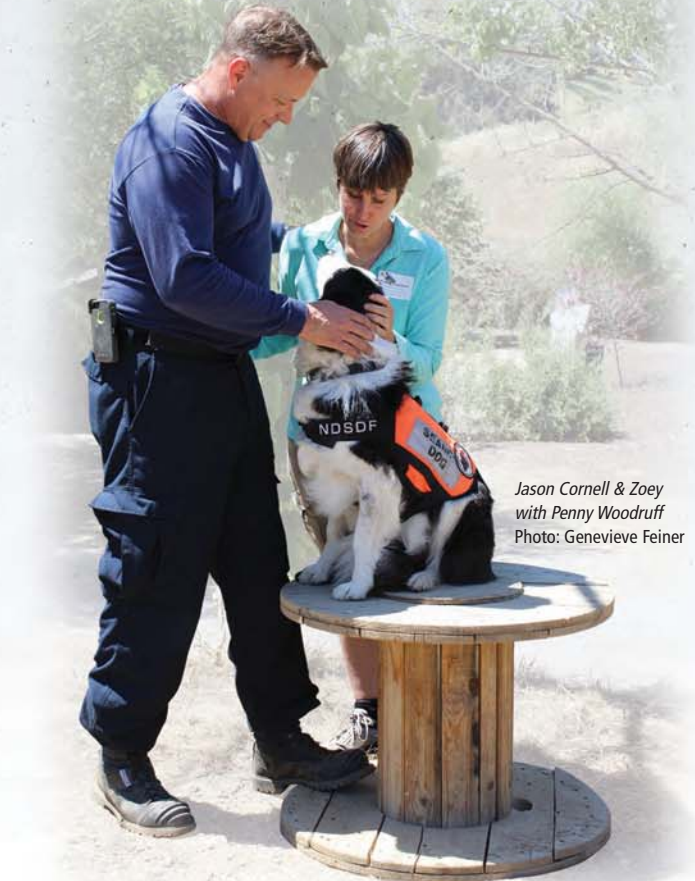
Jeff Leon & Justice on pallets
Photo: Denise Sanders



Nino enjoying a chin scratch
Photo: Genevieve Feiner



Andrew Pitcher & Chief receiving an
award from Ric Ruffinelli as Debra
Tosch looks on.
Photo: Genevieve Feiner



Jason Cornell & Zoey
with Penny Woodruff
Photo: Genevieve Feiner



Marshia Hall & Lilah
Photo: Tony Panzica



In 2014 we met another great group of dogs that absolutely stole our hearts. As they progressed through training, these pups blew us away with their talents. We watched them enter our training program as energetic dogs with no real connection to people and when they graduated, they were proud, elite working dogs that had forged deep human connections, not only with our trainers but with their new handlers! This transformation has a profound impact on everyone involved and we are so proud of these new teams. – Sonja Heritage, SDF Canine Master Trainer



Madison Warner & Tanner
Utah Task Force 1



Patti Krafft & Billy
Dallas Fire & Rescue



Mike Stornetta & Rocket
Windsor Fire Protection District



Derek Chaky & Scout
Carrollton Fire Department



Robert Grant & Rocky
Plano Fire-Rescue



Lee Culley & Tommy
Utah Task Force 1

Photos on pages 7 and 8 by Mikie Ericson, Sharon Hanzelka, Sonja Heritage, Kate Horwick, Denise Sanders, and Lalita Segal

THE CLASS OF 2014

Kristi Bartlett & Ivan
Fairfax County Fire & Rescue



Brent Brainard & Decker
San Diego Fire-Rescue



Jason Vasquez & Ripley
Los Angeles County Fire



Julie Padelford-Jansen & Ricochet
City of Miami Fire & Rescue



Alex Van & Winnie
Orange County Fire Authority



Donovan George & Ollie
Orange County Fire Authority



Our Hunt for Diamonds in the "Ruff"

SDF's Canine Recruitment program is all about finding dogs who don't just WANT to search for the toy - they NEED to, no matter how long it takes! If this innate, unquenchable desire is there, our trainers can mold it into an incredible set of skills that can save lives.

Led by SDF Canine Recruitment Manager Darrell Wilkerson (see below), our team of recruiters across the country combs shelters and breed rescues for these elite canine athletes – diamonds in the "ruff." They look for one to two-year-old Labs, Golden Retrievers, Shepherds, Malinois, Border Collies and mixes who go WILD when a toy is dangled in front of them. When dogs like these are spotted, the recruiters take them through a series of exercises that test for focus, nerve strength and hunt drive.

As Master Trainer Sonja Heritage puts it, "When the kind of dogs we are looking for see toys, their eyes dilate, they shake with excitement, and everything around disappears for them. All that matters is getting that toy - they'll search everywhere to get it, ignoring all distractions."

When recruiters find dogs with this maniacal toy drive, they take them to an area completely new, preferably away from the shelter, and do the evaluation again. If they pass a second time, a video of the test is sent to Darrell and Sonja for review. If they see sufficient potential in the dog, he/she is taken to a local vet to confirm the dog is in great health and has the hip and elbow strength needed for years of training on rubble.

Once we have medical clearance, the dog is transported to SDF's National Training Center in California for further evaluation. Dogs who continue to demonstrate enough drive and tenacity to take them through a decade or more of training are then formally admitted to the program. After two weeks of quarantine to rule out any ailments that could infect other dogs, the candidate is ready to start our intensive training program – a daily "search party" the dogs LOVE! If a candidate is dropped from the program at any time during the evaluation or training process, SDF will find a new career path or loving home for them.

Meet Darrell

Born and raised in Tennessee, our Recruitment Manager Darrell Wilkerson comes to us with an impressive background: 21 years as a Firefighter, 20 years as a Canine Trainer, and 8 years as a FEMA-Certified Canine Handler. Having seen for himself the abilities of "rescued dogs turned rescuers" during deployments to hurricanes and tornadoes, Darrell is leading our efforts to find the dogs destined for disaster search.

Darrell Wilkerson & Diva
Photo: Denise Sanders



Eva Photo: Susan Bollinger

Meet Our Top Recruiters

Elizabeth Fine started her dog training career in 2012. In 2014 she worked at Savannah Springs Canine Center, training Urban Search and Rescue dogs near her home in Oliver Springs, TN. She currently serves as the Training and Enrichment Coordinator for The Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley, where she started her own dog training program.



Elizabeth Fine



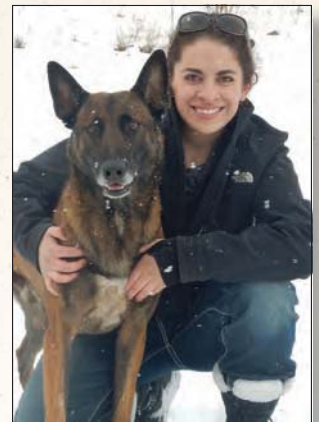
Kirsten Fulk

Kirsten Fulk is a dog breeder and trainer, kennel owner, and hunting tournament organizer who works with dogs and their owners to enhance a dog's natural abilities. She is the owner of Field of Dreams Boarding & Training Kennel in Sweet Home, OR, where she hosts hunting tournaments as well as group and private training sessions for Upland Hunting Dog Trials.

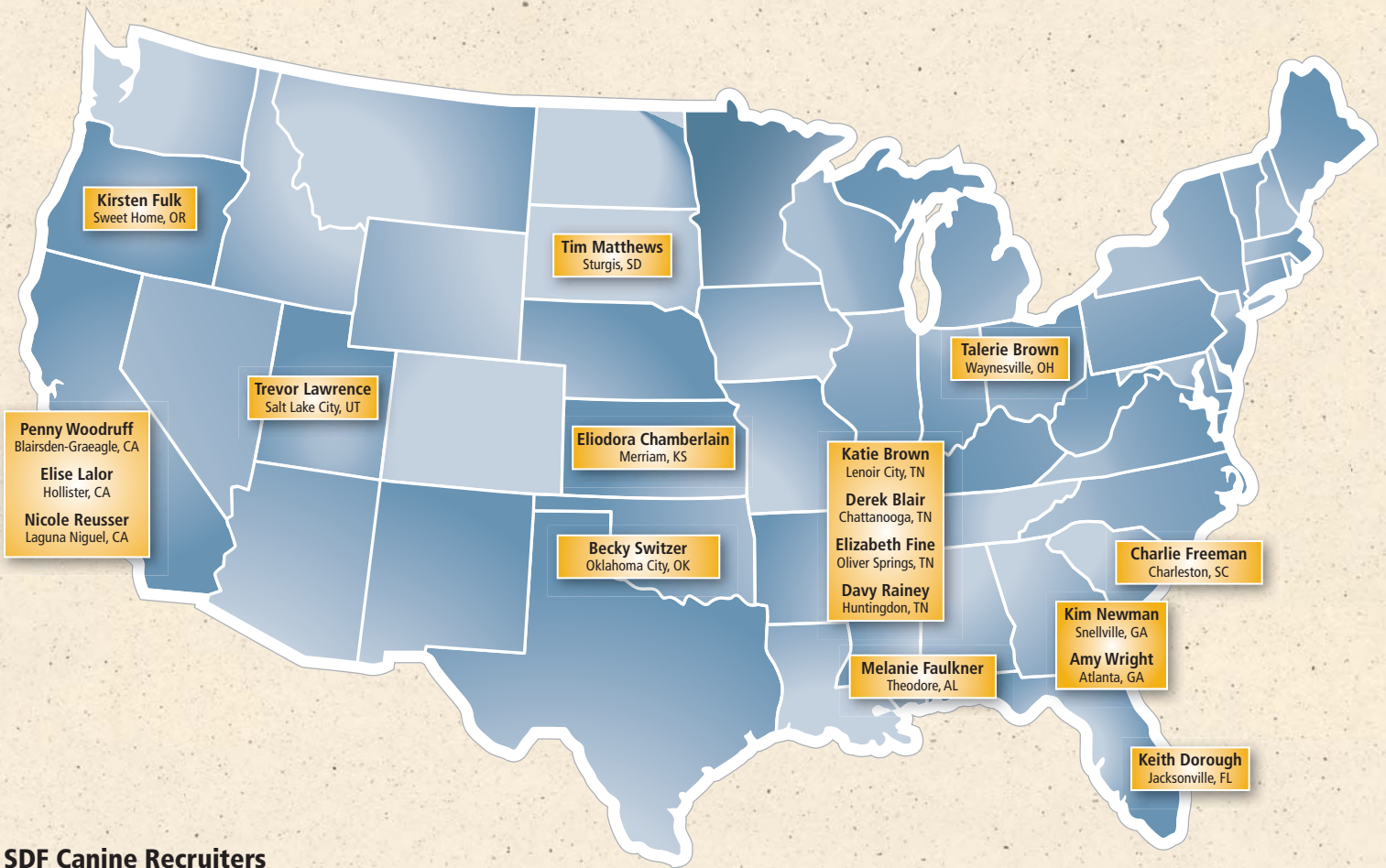


Rhodie Photo: Susan Bollinger

Amy Wright is a Certified Professional Trainer and has wanted to train working dogs since childhood. Her passion is in training and handling narcotics detection canines. She currently has six dogs at her home in Atlanta, GA - two are certified narcotics detection dogs. She also actively competes in Dock Dog competitions.



Amy Wright



SDF Canine Recruiters

Finding a dog with the extraordinary qualities needed for Disaster Search is truly like finding a needle in a haystack. Until 2014, our recruitment efforts focused on the Western States. Last year we expanded our search, and we now have 18 recruiters in 12 states looking for dogs!

Canines who entered our training program in 2014/2015

Allie	.....	Donated by Kaelene Schooley
Bailey	.....	Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue in Sioux City, IA
Bella	.....	Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from Brightside Animal Center in Redmond, OR
Billy	.....	Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center from Humane Society of the South Platte Valley in Littleton, CO
Charlie	.....	Recruited by Trevor Lawrence from Companion Golden Retriever Rescue in West Jordan, UT
Clementine	.....	Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center from Rimrock Humane Society
Diva	.....	Donated by Sonja Nordstrom
Eva	.....	Donated by Heather Smith
Fritz	.....	Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from Greenhill Humane Society in Eugene, OR
Ivan	.....	Donated by Kim Newman
Jake	.....	Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center from Nebraska Humane Society in Omaha, NE
Josie	.....	Recruited by Penny Woodruff from Lassen County Animal Services in Susanville, CA
Merlin	.....	Recruited by Elise Lalor from Golden Gate Lab Rescue in San Francisco, CA
Rex	.....	Donated by Elise Lalor
Rhodie	.....	Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from Brightside Animal Center in Redmond, OR
Ripley	.....	Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center in Sioux City, IA
Rocky	.....	Donated by Matt May
Scout	.....	Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center from James River Humane Society in Jamestown, ND
Summit	.....	Recruited by Amy Wright from Craig's List in Atlanta, GA
Vader	.....	Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from Rescue Ranch in Yreka, CA
Vita	.....	Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center in Sioux City, IA

2014 Deployments

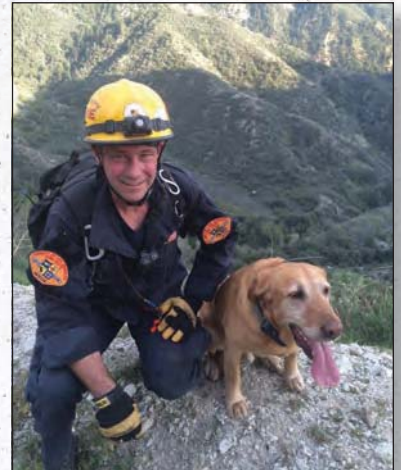
- Missing Person Search – Salt Lake City, UT**
Trevor Lawrence & Taylor – November 21, 2014
- Building Collapse – Tijuana, Mexico**
Luis Garcia & Maxim, Fidel Gomez & Rosie – November 21, 2014
- Snowstorm – Buffalo, NY**
Jason Geary & Marsi, Greg Gould & Dax, John Stewart & Sadie – November 19, 2014
- Apartment Building Explosion – Walnut Creek, CA**
Alex Mengell & Gunner – October 31, 2014
- Earthquake Pre-staging – Napa, CA**
Jim Boggeri & Nino – August 24, 2014
- Missing Person Search – Ridley Park, PA**
Eric Darling & Ben – August 18, 2014
- House Explosion – Schenectady, NY**
Greg Gould & Dax, Bill Simmes & Bonnie – August 10, 2014
- Missing Person Search – Oklahoma City, OK**
Dane Yaw & Salsa – August 8, 2014
- Mudslide – Mt. Baldy, CA**
Dennis DiMarzio & Ty, Gary Durian & Tanker, Andy Olvera & Stetson – August 4, 2014
- Building Collapse – Los Angeles, CA**
Cynthia Sato & Roxy – July 25, 2014
- Missing Person Search – Fillmore, CA**
Gary Durian & Tanker, Eric Gray & Riley, Andy Olvera & Stetson – June 20, 2014
- Missing Person Search – Temple Terrace, FL**
Marshia Hall & Trapper & Lilah – May 17, 2014
- Missing Person Search – Whittier, CA**
Dennis Clark & Rugby, Gary Durian & Tanker – April 26, 2014
- Mudslides – Oso, WA**
Chris Bergquist & Kari, Jeff Ivy & Jakers, Kyle Thomas & Leila – April 4, 2014
- Missing Person Search – Mexicali, Mexico**
Fidel Gomez & Rosie – March 16, 2014
- Warehouse Roof Collapse – San Jose, CA**
Tom Carney & Gypsy – February 10, 2014
- Building Collapse – Irving, TX**
Mike Hargrove & Hayden – January 20, 2014
- Missing Person Search – Claremont, CA**
Dennis Clark & Rugby, Dennis DiMarzio & Ty – January 17, 2014

2015 Deployments

- Parking Garage Collapse – Johnson City, NY**
Greg Gould & Dax, John Stewart & Sadie – July 16, 2015
- Floods – San Marcos, TX**
Robert Grant & Rocky, Laurel Pitman & Sonic – May 28, 2015
- Missing Person Search – Clermont, FL**
Marshia Hall & Lilah – May 25, 2015
- Tornado – Runaway Bay, TX**
Patti Krafft & Billy, Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye – May 19, 2015
- Tornado – Oklahoma City, OK**
Brent Koeninger & Moxie – May 6, 2015
- Earthquake – Kathmandu, Nepal**
Dennis Clark & Rugby, Gary Durian & Tanker, Eric Gray & Riley, Ron Horetski & Pearl, Andy Olvera & Stetson, Jason Vasquez & Ripley – April 26, 2015
- Car Crash – San Leandro, CA**
Alex Mengell & Gunner – April 11, 2015
- Tornado – Sand Springs, OK**
Jeff Leon & Justice, Vincent Stoops & Magnum – March 26, 2015
- Missing Person Search – Mt. Baldy, CA**
Dennis Clark & Rugby, Gary Durian & Tanker – March 16, 2015
- Missing Person Search – Newtown, PA**
Eric Darling & Ben – March 6, 2015



Rocky, Robert Grant & Sonic at San Marcos, Texas flood deployment 5/31/15 Photo: Keri Grant



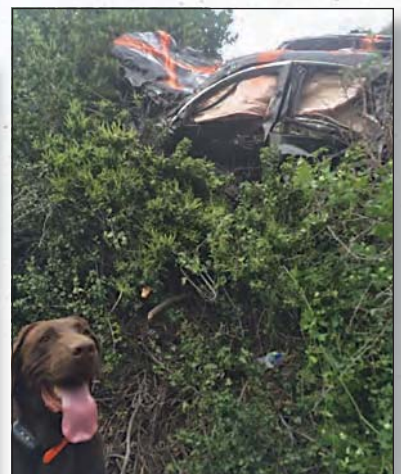
Gary Durian & Tanker at Mt. Baldy deployment 3/16/15 Photo: Dennis Clark



Skye at Runaway Bay, Texas tornado deployment 5/19/15 Photo: Andrea Sutcliffe



Vincent Stoops & Magnum on rubble of the Sand Springs, OK tornado 3/26/15 Photo: Jeff Leon



Rugby at Mt. Baldy car wreck - missing person search 3/16/15 Photo: Dennis Clark



NEPAL HOMECOMING L to R: Andy & Stetson, Dennis & Rugby, Trainer Sonja Heritage, Eric & Riley, SDF Executive Director Debra Tosch, Gary & Tanker, Ron & Pearl, Jason & Ripley Photo: L.A. County Fire

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, Central Nepal was hit with a magnitude 7.8 earthquake that killed more than 8,000 people and destroyed 488,789 homes. Nepal asked the U.S. for help, and by the next day America's two international Task Forces, Virginia TF-1 based in Fairfax, and California TF-2 based in Los Angeles, were called into action.

The Los Angeles Task Force included six Canine-Firefighter Search Teams trained by the Search Dog Foundation. By Sunday evening, the handlers and their dogs were in the sky with their 57-member Task Force, bound for Kathmandu on an Air Force C-17 aircraft. By Tuesday, April 28, the teams were on the ground searching for survivors just outside of Kathmandu.

More than two weeks after the initial earthquake, a magnitude 7.3 aftershock struck Nepal just as Task Force 2 was packing for the trip home. Many of the 58 international Task Forces deployed to Nepal had already returned home. But fortunately the U.S. teams were still in-country and able to jump back into rescue mode, using the dogs to search rubble sites and giving medical care to the injured.

The skill of the canines was critical in "clearing" the piles – confirming that no survivors were still struggling for their lives in the wreckage. The teams performed dozens of "hasty" (generalized) searches to determine whether there was any live human scent in the rubble. If scent was detected, a more detailed search would have been conducted to pinpoint the location of the survivor so rescuers would know exactly where to use their equipment and resources to extricate the victim. Our teams returned home on May 24, exhausted but confident that they helped significantly in the rescue efforts.

A Teenage Boy is Saved

On Thursday, April 30, Jason and Ripley received a radio transmission alerting them that a voice had been heard beneath the wreckage. U.S. and Nepali teams confirmed the location of the voice and worked together to pull a 15-year-old boy out from under several collapsed floors.



The site where the boy was rescued
Photo: Fire Engineering

Caught behind a crushed motorcycle, the boy had just enough space to survive the collapse. Our teams gave him immediate medical care and he was taken by ambulance to the Israeli field hospital.

"For Ripley to travel halfway around the world and work the same as he would if we were in a training exercise here at home was really amazing. For me, the deployment to Nepal really emphasized the need for our teams to be constantly challenged and train at varying sites."

— Jason Vasquez



Jason and Ripley searching in Nepal Photo: Omar Havana-Getty Images

"When you sit back and reflect on the magnitude of what happened, and how everyone came together, it really puts into perspective the international teamwork and coming together of humankind to deal with this tragedy. Standing on top of a collapsed building knowing people were still missing below, and that we could help find them if still alive, made the years of training worth it. The dogs proved themselves by giving rescuers the confidence that no one would be left behind in that rubble. They were a great comfort to everyone on the Task Force and others affected by the disaster. Being away from home is a little easier when you have a dog's wagging tail and belly to rub throughout the deployment."

— Andy Olvera

Homecoming: Andy, Stetson, and kids Photo: Wilma Melville



"The experience in Nepal underscored that our dogs are an invaluable asset to have on missions where time is of the essence and lives are on the line. It was humbling to see that our presence had a very positive impact on the civilians. Even when we were not searching, even with a language gap, it was clear that the people knew why the dogs were there and that we were ready to assist in any way possible, including providing closure for families, letting them know their loved ones were not being left behind." — Eric Gray

Rescue crews look on as Eric's dog, Ripley, searches the wreckage
Photo: Roberto Schmidt AFP Getty Images



SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES

FEMA and State Certifications

FEMA or State Certification is required for deployment to disasters. In 2014, 19 SDF teams achieved Certification for the first time, or re-Certified.

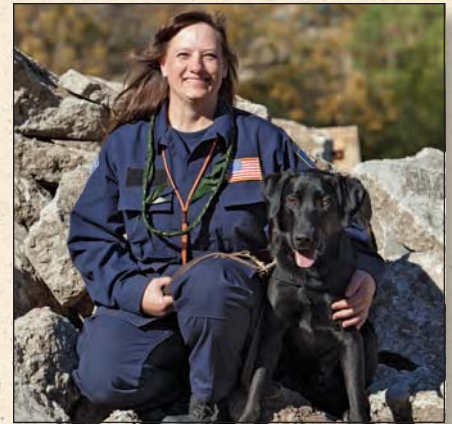
The teams train intensively from the day they are partnered to be ready for this difficult, exacting test. Once Certified, they are required to re-certify every three years. The Certification test involves a search of two separate debris piles: 20,000 square feet of rubble or wood, a small fraction of what teams may encounter in a disaster such as Nepal, the Haiti earthquake in 2010 or Japan tsunami in 2011. These scenarios are very challenging for both dog and handler, especially since they must find all hidden "victims" in less than 20 minutes.



Aide Barbat & Sarge

San Diego Fire-Rescue
Re-Certification: May 2014

Donated by: Merced County Animal Shelter
 Sponsors: The McGrath Family Foundation,
 Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project,
 Indemnity Insurance Group, Gary and Mary West Foundation



Roxanne Bauman & Cole

Layton Fire Department
Certification: May 2014

Donated by: El Dorado County Animal Services
 Guardians: Sallie Jo & Richard Massa
 Named by: Carol & John Marengo



Brent Brainard & Decker

San Diego Fire-Rescue
Certification: November 2014

Donated by: Sioux Falls Area Humane Society
 Recruited by: South Dakota Canine Center
 Guardians: Nancy Baumer, Kathleen Pierce
 Sponsor: Janet Eaton
 Named by: Erik Nagy



Tom Carney & Gypsy

South San Francisco Fire
Re-Certification: February 2014

Donated by: Deresa Teller
 Prep Home: Stacey Ayub
 Guardians: Geoffrey & Susan Leach, Carol & John Marengo
 Sponsor: Danielle Boulet



Eric Darling & Ben

Ridley Park Fire Department
Re-Certification: February 2014

Donated by: Janet Eisen
 Guardians: Marina Jordan, Jane Devlin, Deborah Cornils,
 Jan & Ted Rose, Cheri Rosche
 Sponsors: Janet & Greg Van Huisen & Arc Aspicio



Haley rewarded with "tug" toy
 Photo: Denise Sanders



Linda D'Orsi & Haley

Chula Vista Fire Department
Re-Certification: October 2014

Donated by: Nancy King
 Prep Home: Karen Klingberg
 Guardians: Ruth Ann & Frank Simpson, Nuelda & Russell Ames
 Sponsors: Janet & Greg Van Huisen, CFWC - Sierra Cahuenga
 District, Gary and Mary West Foundation

Unless otherwise noted, photos on pages 13 through 15 by Adrian Burke, Eliot Crowley, Mikie Ericson, Sharon Hanzelka, Mary R. Long, Denise Sanders, Lalita Segal, and Jennifer Tapp

SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES



Davis Doty & Jester

Orange County Fire Authority
 Re-Certification: February 2014
 Donated by: High Sierra Animal Rescue
 Guardian: Martha Déming
 Sponsor: The Nutro Company



Keri Grant & Tucker
 Photo: Chris Gould



Keri Grant & Tucker

McKinney Fire Department
 Re-Certification: June 2014
 Donated by: Yolo County Animal Services
 Guardians: Janet & Richard Schmidt
 Sponsors: Beth & Greg Apke



Eric Hanzelka & Ellie

Monterey County Regional Fire District
 Re-Certification: February 2014
 Donated by: Roxanne Bohn
 Prep Home: Mary Lippman
 Guardians: Len Hanson, Jamie Kitz
 Sponsor: Diane Wolcott



Trevor Lawrence & Taylor

Unified Fire Authority
 Certification: May 2014
 Donated by: Sioux Falls Area Humane Society
 and Aberdeen Area Humane Society
 Recruited by: South Dakota Canine Center
 Named by: Michael Diani
 Sponsors: Berakah Foundation, Michael Diani



Steve MacDonald & Lilly

Nebraska Task Force 1
 Re-Certification: April 2014
 Donated by: San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter
 Sponsors: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial
 Project, Gary and Mary West Foundation



Julie Padelford-Jansen & Ricochet

City of Miami Department of Fire-Rescue
 Certification: November 2014

ON ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION
"It was a great new experience! When I learned we had passed, a big weight was lifted off my shoulders - it was a time for celebration! My tips to handlers preparing to Certify are: be yourself, relax, read your dog's body language, and trust them to do their work well."
 — Trevor Lawrence, Unified Fire Authority



Andrew Pitcher & Chief

Nebraska Task Force 1
 Re-Certification: April 2014
 Donated by: Roice Hurst Humane Society
 Guardians: Michael Walker, Barbara Phelps
 Sponsors: Lynn & Glenn Cardoso, Gary and Mary West Foundation
 Named by: Dee McGroarty

SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES



Laurel Pitman & Sonic

Dallas Fire-Rescue

Re-Certification: June 2014

Donated by: The Animal Foundation
Guardians: Tom & Susan Ginnity
Sponsors: Katy Trail Animal Hospital,
Janet & Greg Van Huisen, Jill Bee

ON ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION

"Three years have passed since the last test. In that time, Sonic and I have continued to bond with each other even better than during our first Certification. I was still a little nervous this round, but Sonic's instincts kicked in and he knew exactly what to do. His nose knows!"

— Laurel Pitman, Dallas Fire-Rescue



Tim Robertson & Crockett

Sacramento City Fire

Certification: October 2014

Donated by: Animal Welfare Association
Guardian: June Palmer
Named by: Heidi Miller



Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye

Texas Task Force 2

Certification: June 2014

Donated by: Western Hills Humane Society
Recruited By: South Dakota Canine Center
Guardians: Marikay Lindstrom & Bill Linder
Sponsors: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial
Project, Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation



Russell Tao & Major

Chino Valley Fire

Re-Certification: February 2014

Donated by: Nona Bauer
Prep Home: Jeff & Jill Wenig
Guardians: Jeff & Jill Wenig, Lori Corradi & Roy Hulsebus
Sponsor: Ann Mangini-Major



Jason Vasquez & Ripley

Los Angeles County Fire

Certification: October 2014

Donated by: Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center
Recruited By: South Dakota Canine Center
Guardians: Alexandra & Robert Ennis, Joan Risse
Sponsor: Dr. Liz Fernandez
Named by: Steve Dowty



Taylor leaping
Photo: Trevor Lawrence



Madison Warner & Tanner

Utah Task Force 1

Certification: May 2014

Donated by: Golden Gate Lab Retriever Rescue
Puppy Raiser: Marty Wiggins
Guardian: Juanita Gonzalez
Named by: Steve Burhoe & Sherri Skanes



Photo: Eliot Crowley

Brutus

Years of Service 2004 – 2014
Handler Lee Culley
 Utah Task Force 1
 Donated by: Deleta Jones
 Prep Home: Becky Beckett
 Guardians: Edell Straight,
 Ruthann Conklin, Joyce Tillotson,
 Ed & Ruthann Cole
 Sponsor: Roberta King



Photo: Karyn Newbill

Cadillac

Years of Service 2007 – 2014
Handler Jasmine Segura
 Los Angeles County Fire
 California Task Force 2
 Donated by: Guide Dogs for the Blind
 Puppy Raisers: Mike Bennett,
 Debbie Combs, Dera Lang
 Guardians: Nancy Stone, Karen Kamp
 Sponsors: Montclair College
 Preparatory School, Gloria Balcom



Photo: Diane Calkins

Mattie

Years of Service 2006 – 2014
Handler Kelly Gordon
 Montebello Police Department
 California Task Force 8
 Donated by: Canine Companions
 for Independence
 Guardians: Patricia Steman,
 Sue Officer
 Sponsors: Fran Toll, CH2M Hill,
 Judy & Harry Friedman



Photo: Eliot Crowley

Trapper

Years of Service 2004 – 2014
Handler Marshia Hall
 Temple Terrace Fire
 Florida Task Force 4
 Donated by: Guide Dogs of America
 Puppy Raisers: Judi Gomez &
 Miguel Ola
 Guardians: Janice & Michael Torres,
 Joan Ambeault
 Sponsors: The Allstate Foundation,
 Danielle & Jason Connor



Photo: Eliot Crowley

Wylie

Years of Service 2008 – 2014
Handler Doug Van Iwaarden
 Orange County Fire Authority
 California Task Force 5
 Donated by: Guide Dogs of America
 Prep Home: Kellee & Tim Matthews
 Guardian: Beatrice & Gordon King
 Sponsors: Sharon Farrar, CFWC
 Public Issues Partnership



Search Dog Brutus



ANDY

June 5, 2001 – July 9, 2014

Andy was donated to SDF's program by the Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin after they rescued him from a high-kill shelter in the Midwest. Andy was named for Andrea Haberman, a young woman who was killed in the World Trade Center disaster. Partnered with Chino Valley firefighter Russell Tao in 2005, the team deployed locally and to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. Russell carries a photo of Andrea in his search vest pocket to remember the special bond they share.

Donated by: Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin, Inc.

Puppy Raiser: Dewey Gantz

Prep Homes: Marcia & David Miller, Kerry Ballantine

Guardians: Lori Corradi & Roy Hulsebus

Sponsor: California Federation of Job's Daughters

Named by: Gordon & Kathy Haberman



ASPEN

February 6, 2001 – July 27, 2014

Aspen was rescued by the Humane League as a puppy, and raised by Jeff and Jill Wenig of Santa Paula, CA. Upon graduation from training in 2002, Aspen was partnered with Kelly Gordon of the Montebello Police Department. Together, Aspen and Kelly deployed with California Task Force 8 to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ernesto, Gustav and Ike. Aspen retired at the age of 10 and enjoyed his golden years at home with Kelly and her family.

Donated by: Jeff & Jill Wenig

Guardian: Sue Officer

Sponsors: Judy & Harry Friedman, CH2M Hill



FLETCH

June 12, 2007 – December 10, 2014

Fletch was rescued by McPaws Regional Animal Shelter in McCall, Idaho, and donated to SDF in June of 2008. He graduated formal training in nine months and was partnered with San Diego Fire-Rescue firefighter Brent Brainard. The team achieved FEMA Certification the following year, but Fletch developed a neurological disorder similar to epilepsy, making it unsafe for him to work on rubble. Sadly, his health issues took their toll and Fletch crossed the Rainbow Bridge last December.

Donated by: McPaws Regional Animal Shelter

Guardians: Kathleen Pierce, Nancy Baumer



GATOR

February 4, 2001 – May 29, 2014

Gator was donated to SDF in 2001 by Mary Jane Hunt, a Florida breeder, and raised by Bob and Peggy Seay. Upon completion of formal training, Gator was partnered with Athena Haus of the Bellbrook Fire Department in Ohio. As members of Ohio Task Force 1, the team deployed to the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina, Ophelia, Rita and in 2005. After a full life with Athena and her family, Gator crossed the Rainbow Bridge at the age of 13.

Donated by: Mary Jane Hunt

Prep Home: Bob & Peggy Seay

Sponsor: The Butler Company

Guardian: Hank Butler-Funk



GIRL

May 22, 2001 – January 6, 2014

Rhonda Ridgley of Daisy Dog Rescue in San Jose, CA brought Girl to SDF in 2002. This beautiful, driven German Wirehaired Pointer graduated from formal training at Sundowners Kennels in March of 2003 and was partnered with Kern County firefighter Brad Brazeau. The team achieved FEMA Certification in 2005, spent three years in active service, and retired in 2008. Sadly, in early January, Girl was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer and, within days, crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

Donated by: Daisy Dog Rescue



Fletch alerting at the tube Photo: Karyn Newbill



HULA

May 25, 2008 - May 4, 2015

Hula was discovered at Humboldt County Animal Shelter in McKinleyville, CA, and brought to SDF in 2009. After completing training at Sundowners Kennels in just six months, Hula was partnered with Lieutenant Patti Krafft of Dallas Fire-Rescue. The team passed with SUSAR Type II Certification in December of 2010 and achieved SUSAR Type I Certification in June 2011. Hula's career was cut tragically short when she was diagnosed with a spinal infection and retired from duty in June of 2014. Hula enjoyed life to the fullest but passed away in May of 2015.

Rescued by: Humboldt County Animal Shelter and Haven Humane Society
Sponsor: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project
Guardian: Terri Earnest



LOLA

September 23, 2003 - May 15, 2015

Lola was discovered at Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center in San Ramon, CA, in September of 2005. Shortly after being placed in the foster care of veterinarian Dr. James Pogrel, Lola entered SDF's Search Dog "Boot Camp" at Sundowners Kennels. She was paired with Johnny Subia of the Seaside Fire Department in May of 2006 and the team became FEMA certified in February of 2008. Lola was a wonderful canine ambassador for the Search Dogs, attending many veterinary conferences and sponsorship appearances throughout the country during her career. She retired in March of 2014 at the age of 10. Sadly, she lost her battle with liver and pancreatic cancer in May of 2015.

Fostered by: Dr. James Pogrel, Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center
Sponsor: Boehringer-Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
Guardian: Gloria Chavarria



MAVERICK

July 23, 2002 - August 23, 2014

Maverick was donated to SDF by the German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California and lived with Bob and Peggy Seay before beginning his formal training. Maverick was partnered with Los Angeles County firefighter Jason Vasquez in August of 2007 and the team became FEMA Certified three months later. Maverick and Jason deployed to a mudslide in Mill Valley, CA, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, and the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake. Maverick retired in 2011 and lived out his retirement years with Jason's family.

Donated by: German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California
Prep Home: Bob & Peggy Seay
Guardians: Anita Lewis, Joan Risse
Sponsors: Lynn & Glenn Cardoso, America's Tire Co.



SANDY

November 8, 2001 - August 15, 2014

Sandy and his brother, Luke, were donated to SDF in the spring of 2004 by Bicky Townsend and her son Ben Caldwell who realized their beloved pets needed a job. Sandy was partnered with South San Francisco Fire Department firefighter Dave Ramsey and achieved FEMA Certification in July of 2006. That same month, they deployed to a building collapse in Daly City, CA. In 2012, Sandy retired and spent his golden years with the Ramsey family.

Donated by: Bicky Townsend and Ben Caldwell
Guardian: Marilyn Starr
Sponsors: Jeff Pepper, CFWC - Glenview Women's Club Alameda District



Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Canine Memorial at the National Training Center Photo: BEGA



SDF makes a "Lifetime Care" commitment to every dog accepted into our training program: Once rescued, they will never need to be rescued again. Not all dogs are meant to be Search Dogs. A few weeks (or even months) into training, we may discover the candidate doesn't have the insatiable hunt drive required for the job, or the desire to comb

endlessly through the mountains of broken concrete and wood piles that simulate a disaster. If possible, we coordinate a "career change" for the dog, placing them in wonderful service jobs (helping people with post-traumatic stress disorder, physical limitations, diabetes or seizures), or detection (of drugs, explosives, arson, and even bedbugs). If the dog isn't well suited to any of these jobs, we find a family who will give this high-energy animal a safe and loving home. We love being able to fulfill this commitment to all SDF candidates, no matter what!

— Emily Fisk, SDF Canine Trainer



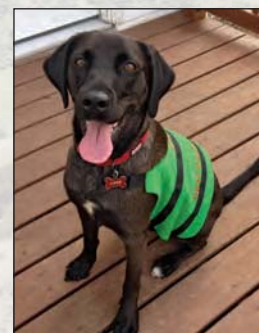
If a dog does not complete our program, we evaluate temperament, toy and food drive, and overall suitability for continuation in a different "career." We follow the progress of these dogs in training and after they've been partnered with their new handler. We work hard to make sure that we find each dog a suitable career, where they are loved and

their talents appreciated. — Lyz Gregory, SDF Canine Trainer

Career Change

Jake Opens New Doors for Folks with Disabilities in Tennessee

Jake was discovered by Tim and Kellee Matthews of the South Dakota Canine Center at the McCook Humane Society Animal Shelter in McCook, Nebraska. Though he has a wonderful disposition, he didn't have enough hunt drive for disaster search. SDF's trainers knew Jake was capable of achieving great things, we just needed to find his perfect niche.



Jake found that special place with Open Doors TN, a non-profit based in Tennessee that serves those with special needs. Jake now has a forever home as a beloved family member with Grant and Rhoni Standefer, as an official "K-9 Disability Specialist." Jake's trainer is their 8-year-old grandson Gavin, who has diligently worked with Jake to perfect his skills. Everyone at Open Doors TN loves having a dog on the team!

Rhoni explained to us, "Jake accompanies us when we speak to schools, civic organizations, churches, Scout troops, etc. on behalf of Open Doors TN. The agenda includes sharing statistics on disabilities, teaching disability etiquette, and how service dogs are helping those with disabilities. Gavin goes to the events to demonstrate Jake's skills, especially if we are speaking to kids."



Jake at work Photo: Standefer Family

"We have been working with non-verbal children with autism, hoping to encourage them to speak. We recently went to meet a 16-year-old who loved Jake at first sight, and loved watching Jake do his skills. I offered to let him help me train Jake but told him he would have to tell Jake what to do. I asked if he could say 'Jake, sit.' He looked at Jake and said, 'Jake, sit,' and shocked us all! We set up a course with signs on which dog commands are written. The three of us walk from sign to sign and he reads the command, and he gets so excited when Jake obeys him. Jake loves working with him! We decided to give him some fun commands to use so Jake now gives five and ten, and will bow his head to pray!"



Molly, Jake, and Gavin Photo: Standefer Family

The Dennis Family Gives Darcy a "New Leash on Life"

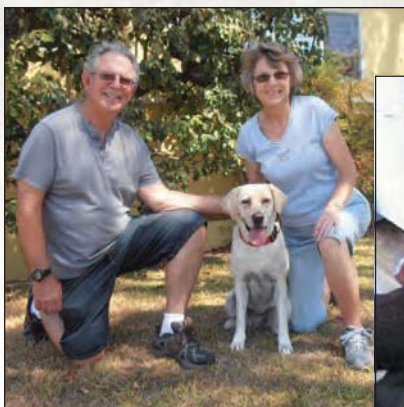
Before entering SDF's training program, Darcy had been used as a breeding dog. When she growled at someone who tried to take one of her puppies away, the owner surrendered her to Mendocino County Animal Care Services in Ukiah, CA. She was adopted by volunteers with



Photo: Lalita Segal

Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue (GGLRR) in San Francisco, CA, who recognized her Search Dog potential and contacted SDF in October of 2013. Unfortunately, Darcy didn't fully possess the hunt drive needed for our disaster search program, and became a candidate for Lifetime Care.

After losing their first Lifetime Care dog, Curry, in a heartbreaking battle with cancer in 2014, Ed and Nancy Dennis were the SDF trainers' first choice when they began looking for a home for Darcy. Ed and Nancy immediately fell in love with Darcy's loving nature and after settling in with the Dennis family, Darcy, now renamed Mocha, is loving her "new leash on life." Nancy shares, "We are so continually amazed at how well-trained she is. We are so fortunate. When we first lost Curry we thought, where will we ever find another dog as loveable as her? Mocha is just as loveable, but in different ways. She puts her front paws on Ed and rests her head on his shoulder or in his lap. She knows she's not a lap dog, but she needs to get her love. She's such a sweetie; she's so special."



Ed and Nancy Dennis with Curry
Photo: Lyz Gregory



Ed Dennis with Mocha (aka Darcy)
Photo: Nancy Dennis



Once again in 2014, SDF was able to provide helpful resources to our Search Teams, thanks to generous individual, foundation, and corporate support from across the nation. We are grateful to everyone who has helped us ensure that our teams have the resources they need to reach and maintain the highest level of deployment readiness.

— Kate Horwick, SDF Program Manager

Canine Healthcare Fund

Every SDF Search Dog, whether active or retired, is eligible for veterinary care for life. In 2014, SDF provided \$43,750 in veterinary expenses for:

Wellness Care	\$17,532	Dental Care	\$1,388
Emergency Care	\$15,130	End of Life Care	\$4,265
Major Surgeries	\$5,435		

Handlers Grant

Each year, SDF provides specialized grants to individual handlers and their Training Groups for equipment and training that will help them prepare for the most challenging deployments. In 2014, we made grants to 25 Search Teams totaling \$15,038.

"I feel so grateful for being able to use the Handlers Grant to purchase GPS tracking collars for our Training Group. These are so helpful on a search when things can be overwhelming and confusing. With the GPS collars we purchased through the Handlers Grant, we can label search areas and hazards and get a broader vision of our search area and environment. This tool allows us to give better information to our Task Force, allowing us to do our job much more efficiently. I thank everyone who has donated to SDF. Your money directly allows us to help those in need."

— Madison Warner, Handler of Search Dog Tanner of UT-TF1



SDF Team Madison Warner & Tanner
Photo: Karyn Newbill

Nutro Vouchers

The Nutro Company has been an SDF partner since 1998, supplying NATURAL CHOICE® dog food vouchers to every SDF (and non-SDF) FEMA-Certified Canine Disaster Search Team in the U.S. In 2014, The Nutro Company donated 3,760 dog food vouchers valued at \$225,562 to America's Search Teams. For more information on our 17-year partnership with The Nutro Company, see page 27.

Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund

In 2012, SDF partnered with the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo Company® to oversee a fund for the diagnosis and treatment of active and retired working canines diagnosed with cancer. It covers dogs working in Urban Search and Rescue, Wilderness Search, and Human Remains Detection. This generous support means a great deal to handlers, who have one less worry as they care for their beloved canine partners.

"There are no words to express our gratitude for your assistance with Mako's medical bills. It is overwhelming to learn your dog, family member, and best friend not only needs immediate treatment, but the treatment will also run into thousands of dollars. No handler should have to go through this. The fact that there are caring people and foundations who are willing to help is overwhelming. Thank you." — Hilda Wood, Mako's Handler

Metacam®

As our Search Dogs grow older, it's important to care for their aging joints and muscles. Thanks to our longtime partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication Metacam® is available free of charge to all SDF canines for relief from arthritis pain, as prescribed by their veterinarians.



Lilly-Belle descends the "wobbly monster" with SDF handler Julie Padelford-Jansen looking on
Photo: Eliot Crowley



"Thank goodness for Metacam! It keeps Lilly-Belle's arthritis pain from getting in her way so she can have fun playing in the park. She also still does some searching at age 14!"

— Julie Padelford-Jansen, Handler of retired Search Dog Lilly-Belle of FL-TF2

Congratulations to our 2014 Handlers Grant Recipients!

Certification Evaluation, Riverside, CA	Jim Boggeri & Nino
Advanced Search Training Seminar, Lincoln, NE	Nebraska Training Group
TEEX Open Training, College Station, TX	Kyle Thomas & Leila, and Jeff Ivy & Jakers
Drive & Decoy Workshop, SDF National Training Center	Jim Boggeri & Nino, Dennis Clark & Rugby, Luis Garcia & Maxim, Fidel Gomez & Rosie, Eric Gray & Riley, Trevor Lawrence & Taylor
Training Equipment	Kyle Thomas & Leila
Operation Patriot Hook Regional Training, Los Alamitos, CA	Jason Vasquez & Ripley
Fall Ball Search Training, Crisis City, KS	Eric Darling & Ben
Search Training, Salt Lake City, UT	Donovan George & Ollie
Training Equipment	Utah Training Group
Training Equipment	Oklahoma City Training Group



In 2014, 194 private and family foundations invested in SDF's core programs. Their generous gifts helped us take 33 rescued dogs out of shelters, partner 12 new Search Teams for America, and provide ongoing training for SDF's 73 active Search Teams. We are deeply grateful to these generous philanthropies for being Part of the Search!

– Denise Sanders, SDF Grants & Communications Manager

For more info about making a grant to SDF, contact Denise at Denise@SearchDogFoundation.org or (888) 459-4376 x106



Oklahoma City Search Team Jason Smith & Jagger visiting the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum with SDF Executive Director Debra Tosch, 20 years after the bombing in 1995
Photo: Debra Tosch

Kirkpatrick Foundation

Based in Oklahoma City, the Kirkpatrick Foundation has partnered with SDF since 2009 to help provide Canine Disaster Search Teams to serve Oklahoma and the rest of the United States in case of disaster. We are so honored by their partnership and belief in our mission.

"Our philanthropy related to animal wellbeing is growing every year, and our longstanding relationship with the Search Dog Foundation is one of our most proud associations. We share a mutual commitment to serving animals and our communities. These remarkable dogs and the heroic firefighters who live and work with them are an inspiration to us on so many levels. The Search Dog Foundation is a first-class operation, and we believe strongly in this investment. Plus, our office is always brightened by their visits!"

–Louisa McCune, Executive Director
Kirkpatrick Foundation, Oklahoma City, OK



Texas Task Force 2 Search Teams: Derek Chaky & Scout, Patti Krafft & Billy, and Robert Grant & Rocky
Photo: Denise Sanders

Fifth Age of Man Foundation

Named for a quote from the Shakespeare play "As You Like It," the Fifth Age of Man Foundation has justice as the central theme of its grant-making deliberations. The foundation evolved from the Mark Ross Foundation, created by the San Francisco businessman, real estate investor, and animal-lover. Mr. Ross grew up in China, of Russian parentage, and came to the United States as a teenager, later establishing a very successful import-export business.

Today the foundation focuses a major part of its grant-making on programs that explore the human-animal partnership, and where modest grants can make a big difference. Director Annag Chandler described how SDF's mission speaks to her personally: *"I think of how a person would feel, trapped in the rubble of a disaster, and then imagine the moment when despair turns to hope at the bark of a search dog."*



Search Dogs
Huck, Tanker, Rugby, Riley & Pearl
Photo: Denise Sanders



Elizabeth with her special friends Butch and Kaluha

The Riehm Family Foundation, Inc.

Since 2009, the Arizona-based Riehm Family Foundation has supported SDF's mission. The Riehm Family Foundation Secretary, Elizabeth Ganin, shares how their philanthropic philosophy supports their longtime partnership with SDF:

"The Riehm Family Foundation was created in 2008 to benefit non-profit organizations and help future family members see the benefits of philanthropy. The Search Dog Foundation provides multiple benefits to those in need during a disaster and to the handlers and the dogs that have been rescued and trained. Watching your organization grow and expand over the years has been very rewarding. Your new facility will be a tribute to the Foundation's continued hard work."

Our Foundation Partners

The Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation - La Mesa, CA
 ACR Foundation - San Francisco, CA
 The Adam F. and Judith H. Ambielli Foundation - Califon, NJ
 Anonymous Foundations (5)
 The Anschutz Foundation - Denver, CO
 Antelope Valley Kennel Club - Lancaster, CA
 Armstrong Foundation - Lancaster, PA
 Avery Family Trust - Tulsa, OK
 B & B Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA
 Barbourtown Foundation - Canton Center, CT
 Barr Charitable Foundation - Aptos, CA
 Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation - Long Beach, CA
 S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation - San Francisco, CA
 Sol and Margaret Berger Foundation - Clifton, NJ
 Berwind Fund, LLC - Philadelphia, PA
 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
 John C. Bowen & Shelby C. Bowen Charitable Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA
 Pasadena Community Foundation - Pasadena, CA
 Lewis D. Brounell Charitable Trust - West Orange, NJ
 Jane and Bill Browning Family Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas - Dallas, TX
 California Community Foundation - Los Angeles, CA
 The William E. Chelew Foundation - Dayton, NV
 C&K Clark Family Foundation, Inc. - Hernando, FL
 Bill & Jackie Clark Memorial Foundation - North Bonneville, WA
 Clark-Janis Foundation - Glen Ellen, CA
 The JJC Foundation - New York, NY
 Cogan Family Foundation - Cambridge, MA
 Faith Colish Fund at The New York Community Trust - New York, NY
 The James J. Colt Foundation - Manhattan, NY
 The Richard K. and Lois B. Craig Family Fund - Fort Worth, TX
 A. M. Dachs Foundation - San Francisco, CA
 DEW Foundation - Reno, NV
 Dorrance Family Foundation - Scottsdale, AZ
 Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation - Frankfort, MI
 The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Inc. - Washington, DC
 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
 Frog Crossing Foundation, Inc. - North Caldwell, NJ
 L. W. Frohlich Charitable Fund - New Orleans, LA
 FT Cares Foundation - Wheaton, IL
 E. L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation - Oklahoma City, OK
 Giant Steps Foundation - Boston, MA
 William Kelly & Anna Margaretta Gregory Charitable Foundation - Towson, MD
 Robert J. & Mary Jane Haugh Trust Fund - Excelsior, MN
 Elsie H. Hillman Foundation - Pittsburgh, PA
 The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation - Carmel, CA
 Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment, and the Arts - Indianola, IA
 Harvey & Missy Jabara Family Foundation, Inc. - Wichita, KS
 Rex and Nelle Jackson Foundation - Peoria, IL
 Eric Javits Family Foundation - Palm Beach, FL
 Joseph & Diane Charitable Foundation at The San Diego Foundation - Del Mar, CA
 The JoyVel Charitable Fund - Binghamton, NY
 Kirkpatrick Foundation - Oklahoma City, OK
 The Kleiner Cohen Foundation - Los Angeles, CA
 The Koranda Family Foundation - Clarendon Hills, IL
 Lakeside Foundation - Lafayette, CA
 The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation - Los Angeles, CA
 Brad Lemons Foundation - Los Angeles, CA
 Michael J. and Patricia Levitt Family Charitable Foundation - Marlton, NJ
 Liguori Family Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation - San Diego, CA
 The Lillis Foundation - Castle Rock, CO
 Lilly's Gift Foundation - Irvine, CA
 The Nancy F. Link Foundation - Rayne, LA
 George Lucas Family Foundation - San Rafael, CA
 Matthews Family Foundation - Birmingham, AL
 MBD & JFD Foundation - San Francisco, CA
 Marjorie & Richard McGahren Foundation - Naples, FL
 The McGrath Family Foundation - San Diego, CA
 Nahikian Family Foundation - Charleston, SC
 National Philanthropic Trust - Jenkintown, PA
 Newman's Own Foundation - Westport, CT
 The J. Robert Nonemaker Foundation for Small Animals - Pottstown, PA
 John & Claudia Holliman Affiliated Fund at Oklahoma City Community Foundation - Oklahoma City, OK
 The Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation - Los Angeles, CA
 Stella & Arthur Pepper Foundation - Boynton Beach, FL
 Petco Foundation - San Diego, CA
 Margaret Thiele Petti Foundation - Portland, OR
 Rachael's Rescue - New York, NY
 The Stewart J. Rahr Foundation - New York, NY
 Ramsay Family Foundation - San Francisco, CA
 The Raynie Foundation - Champaign, IL
 Donald A. Rhoades Family Foundation - Placerville, CA
 Rickard Family Foundation - Duneidin, AZ
 The Riehm Family Foundation - Tucson, AZ
 Ritchie-Kirk Foundation - Little Silver, NJ
 The Rogers Foundation - Morristown, NJ
 Rohauer Collection Foundation, Inc. - Harrison, NY
 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
 Dr. Scholl Foundation - Northbrook, IL
 Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation - La Jolla, CA
 The See Foundation - Bellevue, WA
 Shenandoah Foundation - San Francisco, CA
 The Shilling Family Foundation - San Francisco, CA
 Shiloh Foundation - Murray Hill, NJ
 Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation - Pennsauken, NJ
 Single Step Foundation - Boston, MA
 Lon V. Smith Foundation - Beverly Hills, CA
 The Spark Fund - New York, NY
 Sidney Stern Memorial Trust - Oxnard, CA
 Taube Family Foundation - Belmont, CA
 Uvas Foundation - Lafayette, CA
 vanKerkhoven Family Fund - Weston, WI
 Volentine Family Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA
 WD-40 Company - San Diego, CA
 The Weiler Foundation - Palm Beach, FL
 Weist Foundation - Naperville, IL
 The Adele A. and Harold J. Westbrook Foundation, Inc. - Midlothian, VA
 Wilshire Charitable Foundation - Oklahoma City, OK
 The Wood-Claeysens Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA
 The WRG Foundation - Portland, OR



Planning for the Future, Today

As an agency dedicated to providing America with the disaster response network it needs, and deserves, SDF knows the importance of planning for the future. We also know that life can change in an instant, and having the necessary resources in place will help us weather any storm.

SDF established the Guardian Endowment Fund in 2004 to secure a strong and stable future for the upcoming generations of Search Teams. A gift through your estate plan will give the brave men, women and canines who dedicate their lives to saving others a permanent home at the NTC, and a precious gift to our Nation. By including the Search Dog Foundation in your legacy plans, you can make a substantial positive impact on the future, today.

Make rescuing dogs and saving lives part of your personal legacy.

— Rhett Mauck, SDF Estate Manager

Contact Rhett at Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org or (888) 459-4376 x105

Vivian Hamilton & Dan Frerich SDF Estate Donors from the Last Frontier

"I am so impressed with the Foundation's dual purpose of rescuing dogs and turning them into rescuers. I also love the fact that there is a Lifetime Care promise to care for the dogs who don't go on to become rescue dogs.

I applaud the excellent job the SDF development team does in keeping donors up to date on the activities at the Foundation and whenever rescue teams are sent to help with local disasters. The Facebook page, website, mailers and other materials are first-rate and very well prepared. I am a proud part of the Search!"

— Vivian Hamilton, Eagle River, Alaska



SDF Estate Donors Vivian Hamilton, Dan Frerich and Travis in Eagle River
Photo: Vivian Hamilton



Kathleen and Patrick Colton with Huck at the NTC Photo: Tony Panzica

Kathleen and Patrick Colton SDF Estate Donors from Chicago, IL

"Our trip to the National Training Center last August was inspired by our personal connections to the Seabees (my dad in the Pacific in WWII) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Patrick's dad in Europe in WWII).

It was well worth travelling from Chicago to beautiful Southern California to observe firsthand the wonderful work being done at the NTC, and the wonderful people making it happen."

— Kathleen and Patrick Colton, Chicago, IL

Create a Life-Saving Legacy

You can help rescued dogs become rescuers and strengthen disaster response in America by including the Search Dog Foundation in your estate plans.

Whether you are modifying your existing Will or Trust or beginning to plan for the future, there are a variety of giving options available to align your financial and philanthropic goals.

For more information on making an Estate Gift to SDF or to request SDF's Planned Giving brochure, contact Rhett Mauck, SDF Estate Manager at Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org or (888) 459-4376 x 105.



Search Dog Foundation Estate Guardians of 2014

In 2014, we welcomed **17 new Estate Donors** to our growing family of Endowment Guardians. To date, 237 generous supporters have made provisions for SDF in their estate plans. Together, they are securing a strong and stable future for the Search Dogs and their future home at the National Training Center.

We are proud to recognize the following people who joined the Endowment Guardian community in 2014:

1. Barbara & Craig – (Glendale, OH)
2. Betty & Donald – (Ventura, CA)
3. Diane & Clyde – (Santa Barbara, CA) – Guardians of Scout
4. Gloria – (Redondo Beach, CA)
5. Joan & John – (Kingsport, TN)
6. Joyce – (New Harbor, ME)
7. Karen – (Alliance, OH) – Guardian of Magnum
8. Laura – (Sun Prairie, WI) – Guardian of Scout
9. Linda & Russell – (Bainbridge Island, WA)
10. Mary Ellen – (Wilbraham, MA)
11. Melinda – (Newcastle, OK)
12. Patricia – (Danville, IN) – Guardian of Winnie
13. Per Conrad – (Hilton Head, SC)
14. Renee – (San Francisco, CA) – Guardian of Ollie
15. Roberta – (Placerville, CA)
16. Sue & John – (Santa Barbara, CA) – Guardians of Allie
17. Vivian & Dan – (Eagle River, AK)

A DAY IN THE GLADE

On October 25th, 2014, we gathered at the National Training Center to celebrate our Estate Guardians and Search Dog Sponsors at our first annual "A Day in the Glade" event. For the first time, we brought together those special individuals and groups who are helping SDF give rescued dogs a new "leash on life" in service to humanity by including the Search Dog Foundation in their Estate plans or by Sponsoring an SDF-trained Search Team.

The day included a demonstration by our Search Dog candidates-in-training and some of our veteran Search Dogs and their firefighter-partners, a walking tour of the growing National Training Center, and a delightful lunch served in the shade of the Grove.

We look forward to our next gathering of the Sponsor and Guardian communities in 2015, and thank those that make this all possible through their generosity and commitment to our shared mission of serving America!



Guardians Lori Corradi and Roy Hulsebus (Lifetime Care home for Riley) with Estate Manager Rhett Mauck Photo: Susan Bollinger



Search Dog Stetson showing off his direction control skills Photo: Susan Bollinger



Sponsors Don and Betty Krause enjoy a quiet moment at the Guardian Glade Photo: Lalita Segal



Trainer Emily Fisk showing off Josie's new skills to Guardian Judy Ross Photo: Lalita Segal

Joan Risse finds her special Guardian tile on the wall Photo: Lalita Segal



Day in the Glade Group watch the demo Photo: Lalita Segal



The lasting impact of sponsoring a \$10,000 dog

What does it mean to Sponsor a dog? It means giving a life of impact and meaning to a dog, and the gift of a life saved which makes a journey well lived for a search dog.

Sponsoring a dog might seem like a big investment. It is, but it's much more than writing a check. It's putting into motion a resource that has a ripple effect on the world, on lives, on communities. It's watching a dog that had been misunderstood find new purpose and joy, being teamed with a first responder, a perfect partner, and both of them doing what they love to do. The math is simple, really. There is no other resource so capable in climbing over rubble piles, maneuvering in tight corners, brave enough to venture into areas they can't see, follow their nose in pursuit of a singular goal, whose simple reward is the joy of a job well done, success of the search, gratitude of those rescued. There is no equipment, no team of people, who can accomplish as swiftly, efficiently, and tirelessly as a Search Dog.

— Celeste Matesevac, SDF Community Relations Manager

Contact Celeste for more information: (888) 459-4376 x101 or Celeste@SearchDogFoundation.org to Sponsor a dog for your donation over one or two years.



Search Dog Justice, sponsored by arcAspicio Photo: arcAspicio

arcAspicio – “Part of the Search” since 2010

by Lynn Ann Casey, President/CEO

arcAspicio is a management consulting firm in Washington, DC, focused on homeland security. The company has supported SDF since 2010, raising awareness through local events and providing consulting services at no cost. We

raise funds through office fundraisers, corporate matching, silent auctions and raffles, and ‘pay to wear jeans’ days. The company has sponsored three Search Teams, and we are working on #4!

The team we sponsored most recently, Firefighter Eric Darling and his Black Lab, Ben, achieved FEMA re-certification in February. They have been deployed to five missing person searches since they were paired in June 2010. Ben’s unbelievable drive and trainability propelled him through formal training. He is famous for being so excited to search that he pulls trainers over just getting to the search pile.

arcAspicio also sponsors John Stewart and Lani of Saratoga Springs, NY, and Jeff Leon and Justice of Tulsa, OK. We have met both teams at our annual roof-top event. Justice even did a search in our office! Our employees are proud of their ability to contribute to SDF.

“Search Dogs routinely enter the toughest and most time-critical environments and become the victims’ best hope,” said Paul Reeder, a director focused on emergency management for the company. “I’m really proud that we support these efforts, and am continually amazed at what these dogs can do.”



Leila posing after her presentation to the Ione students Photo: Kyle Thomas

IONE Elementary School – Coins for Canines

by Volunteer Donna Mac Bride

Like many Americans after 9/11, Carol Muschetto of Ione, CA was motivated to be involved in America’s recovery. She saw the trained Search Dogs and heard what an important role they played in the 9/11 rescue efforts. An avid animal-lover, it was easy for her to feel compassion and want to help these heroes.

She reached out to SDF and became a volunteer in Ione. She organized a Walk for America, raising \$3,000 for SDF in her first year. Each year she found different ways to fundraise, and eventually devised the Coins for Canines project in the school where she worked. The children and their families were enthusiastic about helping the Search Dogs and have continued throughout the years.

Since 2002, they have raised close to \$8,000 and are very close to sponsoring a Search Team. “It’s been a long-range goal, and we will get there!” says Carol.

Patricia Snyder – From Oklahoma City to SDF

by Volunteer Donna Mac Bride

Pat is a woman of accomplishment, passion and great enthusiasm. She proudly shares that she’s in her early 80s, and still has remarkable spirit and excitement about life. A Registered Nurse by profession, Pat has been a Red Cross volunteer for over 50 years, deploying to several national and international emergencies. She wrote three books on disaster preparedness and what to do after emergencies. A pioneer in this work, she was nominated to a California state commission on disaster preparedness in the 1970s – the only woman on the commission at the time—and eventually became its Chair.

Her interest in Search Dogs started after she saw the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. She watched the dogs work with amazement. Little did she know that Wilma Melville was at the deployment with her Search Dog, Murphy, and that the experience would lead to the founding of SDF. Pat is the proud Sponsor of Clancy, and is on her way to sponsoring another dog. “Age has slowed me down only slightly, and I’m still committed to disaster relief through my support of SDF and Clancy!”



Pat congratulates new graduate Clancy and handler Jim Boggeri Photo: Lalita Segal



A Round of "A Paws" for SDF's Volunteers!

As Volunteer Coordinator for SDF, I have the privilege of working directly with some very special folks in our SDF Family. Their dedication to our mission and their passion for rescuing dogs and training them to be rescuers is amazing! We are all so humbled and honored by their devotion, energy, enthusiasm and willingness to sacrifice their time to support our mission. On any given day, you can see volunteers working away at our office in Ojai – and helping out long-distance. We appreciate every hour they offer us!

— Reva Ferguson, SDF Operations Manager

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

Ivan Matesevac: A Courageous Heart

by Laara van Loben Sels

Every SDF volunteer is very special and valued in their own way, and Ivan Matesevac is no exception. Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy as a child, Ivan has faced many challenges in his life, yet still continues to contribute to society in profound ways.

At 63 years of age, he leads a productive and independent lifestyle, enjoying art, cooking, golf, and giving back to his community by volunteering at SDF.

For the past 10 years, Ivan has worked in our office and helped with event coordination. To celebrate the courage Ivan has shown in life and his devotion to SDF, we named a Search Dog in his honor. Ivan the Search Dog is a Belgian Malinois paired with firefighter Kristi Bartlett in Fairfax, VA.

Two- or four-legged, it takes a brave heart to overcome the obstacles that life has in store. The two Ivans are unspoken heroes, a testament to true courage. Ivan is proud and humbled to have a Search Dog named after him. It is one among so many of the achievements he hasn't sought outright, but so richly deserves.



Ivan Matesevac meets Search Dog Ivan and his handler Kristi Bartlett on Graduation Day
Photo: Denise Sanders

Volunteer Photographer Susan Bollinger

by Donna Mac Bride

Susan Bollinger is an enthusiastic volunteer at the National Training Center, and for the past two years has been the primary photographer for capturing the candidates in training. Susan loves each dog, and takes part in watching the process unfold from their first day, through training, graduation, and being partnered with a handler.



Susan and Search Dog Rocket after a training day at the NTC Photo: Lyz Gregory

Having seen SDF's teams searching the wreckage of the World Trade Center after the 9/11 tragedy, Susan was thrilled to learn that the first Training Center in the U.S. devoted to Canine Disaster Search Teams would be across the street from her house! She knew she had to help out, and began to tell the story of these amazing canines through the lens of her trusty camera. Susan and her partner Mel also opened their home and hearts to one of SDF's Lifetime Care dogs, Calvin.



Thank You Caller Julia Ferguson Andriessen

"I love helping others, those with fur, and the rest of us! With my health challenges, being a 'thank you' caller allows me to be of service and volunteer from the comfort of my home. What a joy it is speaking with people who also want to help others, and I love hearing about the donors' animals or reasons why they are supporting SDF. Making these calls helps me feel I am part of SDF without having to live where the headquarters are located and yet I am still on the team!"



2014 Volunteer Appreciation Event at the NTC

2014 Search Dog Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Julia Ferguson Andriessen
Sharon Bacon
Barbara Bickmore
Gary Bickmore
Michael Bland
Caileen Kane
Jeffrey Chavez
Sharon Cromartie

Ed & Nancy Dennis
Terry Erickson
Joan Field
Vita Franco
Lisa Griffiths
Sharon Harrison
Jahmari Josiah
Naomi Jost

Steven Jump
Jamie Kitz
Jan Lopez
Donna Mac Bride
Ivan Matesevac
Katarina Matesevac
Debi Mauck
Judy McCarthy

Wilkins McDonald Jr.
Sharon McMillan
Diane Meyers
Phil Monchmarsh
Linda Munday
Jack Nothwang
Pamela Nothwang
Rachel Pacillas

Shirley Ramgren
Pattie Ridenour
Meagan Rodriguez
Jennifer Schlegel
Tokie Shynk
Naomi Sioux
Erin Slichter
Jo Stalder

Sylvia Stoney
Jackie Thomas
Colin Timmons
Karla Timpani
Tim Turpin
Tracy Vail
Jeff Wenig
Diane Zusman

Susan Bollinger
Jude Conroy
Tracy Darling
Mikie Ericson
Jack Hutchinson
Karyn Newbill

Tony Panzica
Lalita Segal
Jan Slotar
Jonathan von Ah
Cortney Wilson

Montecito Bank & Trust

As we build out the National Training Center, one of our goals is to work with local businesses and support the local economy. With the National Training Center garnering support from around the country, we turned to a Santa Barbara bank to help with our construction financing and support our day-to-day transaction needs.



Janet Garufis, Clyde Freeman, Bruce Stevens, Marni Brook and Meredith Tynes visit the NTC Photo: Denise Sanders

"We are very happy with our decision to select Montecito Bank & Trust, and feel we have a true partner in our corner. We're certainly not one of their bigger customers, but their excellent customer service makes us feel like one! The skill with which they arranged our construction financing package demonstrated to us that they will go the extra mile to get things just right."

— Debra Tosch, SDF Executive Director



"Montecito Bank & Trust is proud to be a partner with the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation. We have a unique expertise in financing nonprofit mission critical projects at MB&T which allowed us to work with the SDF team to finance this one-of-a-kind facility. The success and growth of the Foundation truly is a reflection of their enthusiasm and commitment to SDF's mission to strengthen disaster response and to train the nation's most highly skilled Canine Disaster Search Teams who provide a quick and effective response to those in need, both here at home and around the world! We applaud SDF's efforts, and look forward to seeing the facility expansion and witnessing the future impacts of this remarkable program. Thank you for choosing us to be a part of this extraordinary journey." — Janet Garufis, President and CEO

www.montecito.com

Young & Rubicam

It was shortly after 9/11 that SDF first became acquainted with Young & Rubicam Brands, and the relationship is still going strong. The National Awareness Campaign launched in 2002 by Y&R (at no cost to SDF) called upon their radio, broadcast, and print media partners to help put SDF's life-saving mission in the national spotlight. We treasure the extraordinary 13-year partnership with Y&R and GroupM, which has yielded hundreds of placements in top tier magazines, radio, and TV spots that have resulted in tremendous support for SDF. The partnership has been fundamental in branding our message and our mission to make sure that when disaster strikes, no one will be left behind.

"I am pleased and proud that our creative work at GroupM and Y&R has been so well received by SDF and has broadened their family of supporters. We cherish our vibrant collaboration with SDF and are inspired by their mission of service to the nation." — Kim Vasey, GroupM, Managing Partner/Director of Radio

www.yr.com



The Nutro Company – Food for Heroes

The Nutro Company has been an SDF partner since 1998, providing NUTRO® NATURAL CHOICE® dog food vouchers to every FEMA-Certified Canine Disaster Search Team in the country. This program has helped fuel hundreds of Search Dogs over the last 17 years who have deployed around the world. With generous donations of their high quality pet food, The Nutro Company has ensured that these high-energy canine heroes will be ready, mentally and physically, to respond to a disaster whenever the call comes. THANK YOU, Nutro, on behalf of all the Search Teams who have enjoyed this wonderful benefit!



www.nutro.com



SDF teams Chris Bergquist & Kari, Davis Doty & Jester, and Jim Boggeri & Nino visit with Petco staff members in Las Vegas, NV Photo: Denise Sanders

AT&T Network Disaster Recovery



Since 2004, AT&T has invited SDF teams to join their Network Disaster Recovery (NDR) demonstrations across the U.S. and Canada, which are focused on restoring technology critical to emergency communications and business continuity. SDF has participated in a total of 31 NDR events, raising awareness about disaster rescue and recovery. We thank AT&T for their generous support over the years and, like our teams, standing ready to respond to the next major disaster.

www.corp.att.com/ndr



Search Dog Comet, running at AT&T event Photo: Kelly Morrison, AT&T

HealthyPets, Inc.

Since 2008, HealthyPets, Inc. (HPI) has provided discounted health supplements to SDF Search Dogs. HPI partnered with SDF to provide SDF-endorsed Joint Supplement Soft Chews on their website as well as an additional wellness line of canine supplements.



HealthyPets, Inc.

"I give HPI Joint Supplements to my two dogs every day. At 14 and 15 years old, they're frisky with no aching joints! They're happy, and so am I!"
 – Wilma Melville, SDF Founder

"We are proud of our long-term relationship with SDF and strongly support its disaster rescue efforts. We look forward to the National Training Center becoming operational!" – Dr. M. Ghumman, President of HealthyPets, Inc.

www.healthypets.com



Search Team
 Tom Carney & Gypsy
 Photo: Kate Horwick



Candidate in Training, Charlie
 Photo: Susan Bollinger



Mars Veterinary - Wisdom Panel®

Mars Veterinary has been donating their Wisdom Panel® Canine DNA Tests to SDF since 2009 to help develop a database of breeds found in successful Search Dogs. The WISDOM PANEL® tests have also helped demonstrate how looks can be deceiving! A dog that looks like a breed that does not typically have strong Search Dog instincts may have all the traits needed for disaster search. On behalf of the Search Dogs of all breeds that have been given a second "leash on life," THANK YOU to our good friends at Mars Veterinary for providing this cutting-edge technology and allowing us to be part of this important research.

"To play a part in advancing a life-saving cause such as search and rescue is something we're very excited about."

– Mars Veterinary General Manager,
 Neale Fretwell, PhD.

www.wisdompanel.com

Wisdom Panel®



Search Team Deresa Teller & Huck
 Photo: Susan Bollinger

THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER DONORS

INDIVIDUALS

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Linda Adinolfi
Suzanne Allan
Vicki Ammerman
Sally Jane Amoroso
Michelle and Georgia Andrich
Beth and Greg Apke
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Carrie Appling-Lake
Jody and Rich Arens
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Joyce Aumiller
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Marikay Lindstrom and Bill Linder
Michele and Vernon Livergood
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Kristiane McKee Maas
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Patricia McKeon
Janet McLaughlin
- Mary McNaughton
Elayne and Richard Meeker
Berkeley Meigs and Mike McCaleb
Joanne Mejia
Wilma Melville
Cheryl Rinker-Meyer and Michael Meyer
Ella Sue Miccia
Cynthia Michael
Shirley Miehke
Barbara Mieske
Linda Miller
Mark and Carolyn Miller
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Wilma and Lauren at the NTC Photo: Lalita Segal

"My Board and I believe that the service SDF provides is critical to disaster response in America, and that its programs will continue to provide an important benefit to the country for decades to come. The group is efficiently run, has a proven track record, and is able to deliver on its promises, which is why we have supported the organization since 2002. We're confident that our gift will inspire steadfast

SDF supporters as well as new contributors to come forward and help finish the campaign. I look forward to the excitement and satisfaction we will all share, knowing we have helped bring this important resource to the nation." – Lauren Dachs, President of the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation

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"The Scaife Family Foundation is a longtime supporter of SDF and its mission of training rescued dogs to be rescuers. Like all family foundations, we receive many worthy requests each year, so our decision to make our second gift to the National Training Center campaign is testament to our belief in the project. With our \$500,000 gift, we challenged donors around the country to join with us in bringing this resource to America." – Scaife Family Foundation

Lilah at the NTC Guardian Glide Photo: Karyn Newbill

2014 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Snapshot: January 1 - September 30, 2014

By Debra Tosch, Executive Director

We are so grateful to every supporter who has helped SDF continue its mission of training rescued dogs to be rescuers and strengthening disaster response in America. The support we receive in gifts large and small from around the country is testimony to your belief in this work.

Our Fiscal Year You may notice that this financial statement only runs through September 2014. That's because we changed from a calendar year to an October through September fiscal year, leaving us with a short fiscal year in 2014. We made this change (as many nonprofits do) so that our highest income months fall within the first quarter of our fiscal year, allowing us to make better informed financial decisions.

Ratio of Program Expenses to Operations We are pleased to report that 84% of our operational expenses went to Program in 2014, enabling us to: take 33 dogs out of shelters, form 12 new Search Teams, give training support to our 73 active Search Teams, and place 4 dogs in loving Lifetime Care homes or new careers while providing ongoing support to 175 canines in our Lifetime Care community. When our offices move to the National Training Center in 2016, the proportion of funds dedicated to Program should increase, as we increase our efficiencies and greatly expand our program outreach. At the same time, we are dedicated to giving our staff a livable wage that gives them the security to bring forth their best in support of our mission.

SDF Top Rated Nonprofit Nonprofits are monitored by a number of watchdog groups that rate the organizations based on a variety of factors, including how the group raises and allocates funds, governance, and program impact and efficiency. In 2014, SDF was awarded the title of "Top-Rated Nonprofit" by Great Nonprofits, an industry watchdog group. We are delighted by this recognition of our efforts to run an effective program, and will continue to work on behalf of our stakeholders to uphold this standard.

NTC Capital Campaign We are all delighted by the success of our first capital campaign! As of this printing, we have raised nearly \$23.5 million against our December 31st goal of \$26.5 million to build the National Training Center. We will continue to raise funds through September 24, 2016 (the NTC Grand Opening!), closing out the campaign December 31, 2016. We look forward to finishing the campaign so our fundraising efforts can focus fully on program needs and the operation of a 125-acre Training Center. Meanwhile, we're doing "double-duty" to keep up with our day-to-day obligations that increase each year as our program evolves.

Summary

2014 Operating Funds Raised \$967,776

2014 Income Sources

Foundations \$497,050
Individuals \$470,726

2014 Expenses

Program 84%
Fundraising 9%
Organization 7%

Balance Sheet

Current Assets 10,923,858
Fixed Assets 17,137,676
Other Assets 72,348
Total Assets **\$28,133,882**
Current Liabilities 802,880
Long-Term Liabilities 3,000,000
Net Assets - Restricted Funds 12,682,142
Net Assets - Unrestricted 11,648,860
Total Liabilities & Equity **\$28,133,882**

Statement of Activities

Revenues, Gains & Support

Merchant Fees -9,302
Appeal Income 70,889
NTC Community Benefit Discount 205,089
Endowment Income 97,085
General Contributions 236,444
Workplace Contributions 76,590
Grants Income 497,050
Sponsorships 77,681
Rental Income 1,025
Underwritten Income 3,205
In-Kind Donations 2,249,167
Restricted Contributions 1,805,725
Reward Program 5,247
Investment Income 138,768
Total Revenues, Gains & Support **\$5,454,663**

Expenses

Program 783,120
Canine Recruitment 48,482
Canine Training 193,424
Search Team Fund 56,610
In-Kind Program Expenses 2,249,167
Depreciation & Amortization - Program 86,154
General & Administration 251,628
Depreciation & Amortization - Gen & Admin 7,258
Investment Expenses - Gen & Admin 19,749
Fundraising 355,184
Depreciation & Amortization - Fundraising 9,228
Total Expenses **\$4,060,004**

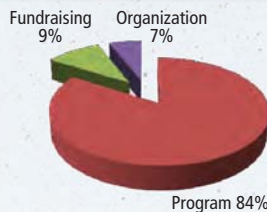
Net Income **\$1,394,659**

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