

NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION

# THE QUEST



Photo: Emily Fisk

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





*This year was a very special year for the Search Dog Foundation (SDF) as we embarked on the final stretch of transitioning to our new home at the National Training Center (NTC). We have also continued to recruit and train rescued dogs to become rescuers and build a campus that is the only training facility in the world designed specifically for Canine Disaster Search – no easy feat!*

*Reflecting on 2015, we surpassed milestones such as our third international deployment with 6 SDF-trained Search Teams completing an 18-day mission to Nepal, and breaking ground on the Welcome Center at the NTC.*

*In 2016, we celebrate our 20th Anniversary Year, the opening of the Canine Pavilion at the NTC and all our staff, canines and Search Teams moving into their new home. For 20 years, SDF has not had a place of its own to call home and now, after the hard work of so many, we look forward to all coming together in our new permanent home – the National Training Center.*

*We are so grateful to everyone who has helped make our work possible over the last 20 years. Thank you for appreciating the two- and four-legged heroes who have boots and paws on the ground when the call for help comes in. It is your enduring support that makes the work we do possible.*

*Thanks for being Part of the Search! All aboard to the NTC!*

— Debra Tosch, SDF Executive Director



*Having spent 40 years in fire service, attending countless hours of training, I know that the most valuable part of that training is flexibility and the ability to create new challenges in order to be prepared when the real call comes in.*

*My work with the Search Dog Foundation began in 1995 and since then I have been in awe of the growth, teamwork and innovation that have gone into not only constantly evolving the organization's core programs but in creating a one-of-a-kind training center designed for the Search Teams.*

*As I watch Wilma's vision come to life, I know that this campus will provide invaluable and constantly changing training scenarios that are necessary for our teams to be prepared for real deployments. This training means they will be safer, more efficient and ready for the challenges that present themselves the next time they respond to an earthquake, mudslide, tornado or building collapse.*

*Thank you to everyone who has helped us train these amazing canine-firefighter search teams and to all who have supported and continue to support the building of the National Training Center. You are all making an important difference in the world of disaster search.*

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



**SDF Staff** Front Row (L to R): Denise Sanders, Joan Morley, Debra Tosch, Celeste Mateševac, Lyz Gregory, Wilma Melville, Jami Byrd, Serenity Nichols. Back Row (L to R): Sylvia Stoney, Will Brown, Kate Horwick, Jim Wiggins, Emily Fisk, Erin Fabing, Allene Swan, Rhett Mauck, Jessica Kendrick, Sonja Heritage. Not pictured: Alex Hill

## We've Moved!

As of July 1, 2016, we have officially moved into our new home at the **National Training Center:**  
6800 Wheeler Canyon Road  
Santa Paula, CA 93060  
(888) 459-4376



## SDF Highlights 2015

The generous support of SDF's stakeholders in 2015 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 17 deployments in California, Florida, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Kathmandu, Nepal.
-  **New Search Teams** – 7 new Search Teams were formed in California (Los Angeles County, San Francisco-Menlo Park and Sacramento).
-  **Search Team Certifications** – 11 Search Teams achieved Certification; 11 Re-Certified.
-  **Canine Recruitment** – 471 dogs were evaluated for Urban Search and Rescue at 17 shelters and rescues. Regional Canine Recruiters across the country helped 12 dogs enter our training program.
-  **Canine Career Change and Lifetime Care** – 4 canines who were recruited but didn't quite have what it takes for disaster search were Career Changed. 3 dogs found their "fur-ever" homes in Southern California!
-  **Stakeholders** – SDF is grateful to 2,728 individuals, 141 foundations, 32 companies, 47 organizations, and 3 schools across all 50 states and 4 countries outside of the US who made gifts in 2015.
-  **Endowment Guardians** – We welcomed 13 new Guardians who included SDF in their Estate plans in 2015, bringing our total number to 250. At the close of 2015, our Endowment was valued at \$3,011,098.
-  **Search Dog Sponsors** – We are grateful to 13 individuals, companies, and family foundations who have donated \$10,000 or more in 2015 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 \$97,453 from government, state and private sector employees who gave through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), their State Employee Campaign, the United Way, and 59 different company matching programs.



There is an old saying I am sure you've heard before – "Time flies when you're having fun." At 82 years of age, I can appreciate that sentiment. How the years really do pass by when our hearts and minds are engaged in something we are deeply passionate about. For me, the past 20 years have flown by swiftly in such a marvelous fashion, and I continue to be amazed and inspired at how far we have come together since I was deployed to the Oklahoma City bombing with my Search Dog Murphy in April 1995.

You see, when I returned from that life-changing event, I had what seemed like a crazy notion to start an organization that could take rescued dogs and train them to save lives in the hands of first responders. So, with a small group of dedicated volunteers (working out of my home and using my coffee table as a headquarters), I set out on a journey that has led us to today. As I write this, I am humbled and honored to proudly say that SDF has grown into a nationwide agency with 68 Canine Disaster Search Teams from coast to coast. SDF-trained teams across America are ready to deploy at a moment's notice, and have served our country and beyond for two decades.

SDF has worked with hundreds of shelters and rescues to recruit rescued dogs and turn them into rescuers. Our teams have responded to over a hundred deployments all over the US and the world. Now for the very first time in SDF's history we will have a permanent place to call home at the National Training Center! When our staff moves to the Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion in June of 2016 we will have a much larger coffee table to work around!

But what truly amazes me is YOU – all of this has been made possible by your generosity, and your belief in that seemingly crazy idea that popped into my mind all the way back in 1996. We are here today because of YOU. And we are unbelievably grateful.

From our very first three Search Teams beginning their search training in January 1996 to the 13 SDF teams that responded to Ground Zero after 9/11 to our entire staff and canines moving into the NTC in June of 2016, these two decades mark immeasurable growth, learning, trust, and inspiration.

I invite you to join us in celebrating our milestones and successes over the last 20 years. And as we march together into the future, I look forward to continuing this journey with you!

— Wilma Melville, SDF Founder



If you haven't signed up for our email list, be sure to visit our brand new website [www.SearchDogFoundation.org](http://www.SearchDogFoundation.org) so you don't miss out on our monthly "Taking a Paws" Highlights Through the Years" and real-time updates on Search Team Certifications, Deployments and other insider stories!

# 1996

Wilma and her Search Dog Murphy responded to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 and returned home determined to make a difference in the world of canine disaster search. Wilma and Murphy seen here training in 1996.



# 2001

Rob Cima & Harley share a quiet moment at Ground Zero following the terrorist attacks of 9/11  
Photo: LA Times



# 2010

Baxter searches the rubble of Port-au-Prince, Haiti with handlers Gary Durian and Ron Weckbacher  
Photo: UN Marco Dormino



# 2016

Wilma celebrates her National Training Center vision becoming reality with SDF Search Teams Linda Tacconelli & Joe, Eric Darling & Ben, Deresa Teller & Ranger  
Photo: Troy Overman



# THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The Search Dog Foundation is building a National Training Center (NTC), the first and only facility designed specifically for Canine Disaster Search Teams. Located on 125 acres in the foothills above Santa Paula, CA, 90 minutes north of Los Angeles, the center will feature disaster simulation props and sites that will provide the Search Teams with the advanced deployment readiness training they'll need for all types of disasters. Disaster simulation scenarios include a train wreck, plane crash, bus accident, a tornado-stricken "Search City," and various rubble piles.

## Moving into Our New Home

While our Search Dog candidates have been training daily on the campus since 2012, we will be moving into the completed Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion in June of 2016, marking the official arrival of our canines and Program staff to their permanent home!

Featuring state-of-the-art kennels, a fully equipped medical clinic, classrooms and staff offices, the Canine Pavilion is a full-service canine care facility and learning center unlike anything else in the nation. Housed in this exceptional pavilion, our canines will enjoy a safe and secure home while they live, play and train with our staff for their critical work.



Canine Pavilion Kennels Photo: Wilma Melville  
Inset image: The Canine Pavilion is nearing completion Photo: Karyn Newbill



Bechtel Handlers' Lodge Rendering

## Our Future at the NTC

On October 17, 2015, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center, the first building that will greet handlers, staff and visitors upon entering the NTC campus. As an excited crowd looked on, the McGrath Family – longtime friends and supporters of the Search Dog Foundation – turned over the first historic shovelfuls of dirt at the site where this prominent structure will rise.

Construction of the Welcome Center and the neighboring Bechtel Handlers' Lodge will begin in the summer of 2016. We're looking forward to the completion of these beautiful structures so we can offer a proper welcome to our visiting handlers and guests!



Future site of the Welcome Center Photo: Genevieve Feiner



NTC Construction Team: Bob Feliz, Steve Becker, Serenity Nichols, Debra Tosch, Wayne Theriault and Dennis Kuykendall



## Working Together with Our Troops to Bring the Gift of the NTC to the Nation

Thanks to our three-year partnership with the U.S. military, SDF once again has been selected to participate in the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. This program allows our military service members to gain valuable, hands-on experience in specified fields of construction in preparation for their military deployments. This "win-win" arrangement also helps us build the NTC, our collective gift to the nation. We are so honored and proud to be working alongside our nation's troops!

During the 2015 program, 156 Seabees completed essential components of our "Search City" training area, including the Convenience Store and framing of the Tilted House and façade structures. They also helped complete critical roadway and drainage improvements.



IRT Team constructing the Convenience Store Prop in Search City Photo: Serenity Nichols

In 2016, the IRT program will finish construction on Search City, which includes a total of 8 buildings, a trailer park, various searchable open areas and a permanent rubble pile, providing unique search scenarios for our visiting teams. The completion of Search City will allow handlers and their canine partners opportunities to train specifically for interior and exterior building searches, as well as fully and partially collapsed buildings that they will encounter while deployed in the wake of disasters.



SDF Search Team Jake Armendariz & Clancy training at the Train Wreck Prop Photos: Kate Horwick



Search Dog Charlie with Seabees of the IRT Team Photo: Serenity Nichols



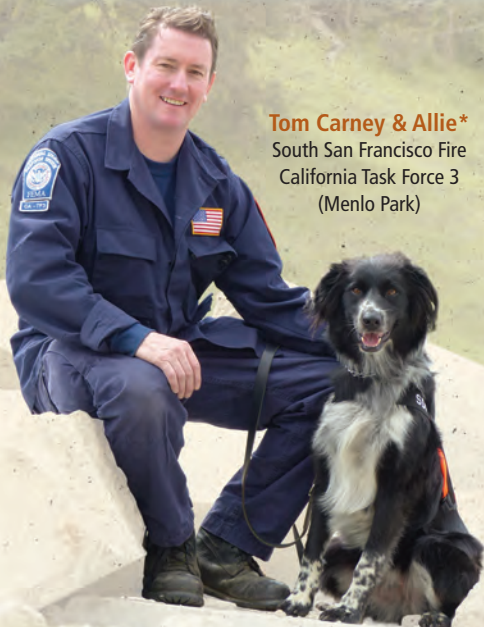
*We have had the privilege of working with some extraordinary dogs over the past year and pairing them up with very special handlers who, together, will go out and do great things! Each of them have touched our hearts. We've had dogs come in emaciated, scarred, disconnected and disenchanted. With many of them, we have no idea of their background*

*other than the fact that they were picked up as strays. But every one of them, whether they have made it through our training program or not, is now a happy, healthy, confident dog who looks to people in a new way – with trust, acceptance, excitement and love. I am so thankful to be part of an organization that puts the dogs first and I look forward to seeing this amazing transformation in many more dogs next year and beyond!*

— Sonja Heritage, SDF Canine Master Trainer



**Eli Thomas & Vader**  
San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3  
(Menlo Park)



**Tom Carney & Allie\***  
South San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3  
(Menlo Park)



**Eric Lieuwen & Jake**  
Sacramento Department of Airports Fire  
California Task Force 7  
(Sacramento)



**Garreth Miller & Vita**  
San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3 (Menlo Park)



**Ed Martinez & Fritz**  
San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3 (Menlo Park)



**Brandon Budd & Josie**  
City of Sacramento Fire  
California Task Force 7 (Sacramento)



**Jake Armendariz & Clancy**  
Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2 (Los Angeles County)



**Meet Sylvia**

*As a 10-year member of the Ventura County Sheriff's Volunteer Search and Rescue Team, Sylvia Stoney brings both wilderness and urban search and rescue experience to SDF, as well as 20 years of corporate management. Having worked with canine teams throughout her career and served as one of SDF's Canine Care Specialists since 2015, Sylvia is leading the charge as our Canine Recruitment Manager to find those elite canine athletes that will become the next generation of Search Dogs.*

— Sylvia Stoney, SDF Canine Recruitment Manager

**Canine Recruitment**

Disaster Search Dogs don't just WANT to search for the toy, they NEED to, no matter how long it takes!

With the help of experienced Canine Recruiters throughout the country, as well as the dedicated staff at shelters and rescues nationwide, SDF is always searching for Labradors, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Border Collies. These breeds have proven to be more successful in this type of work. Recruitment is best between 1 and 2 years of age, and the candidates possess an insatiable drive to hunt for a toy, ignoring all distractions. SDF's training team evaluates each potential candidate for the athleticism, hunt drive and nerve strength required to train as a Disaster Search Dog!

If you know a rescue or shelter to partner with SDF, or if you know a dog that has this innate drive, energy and focus to be a Search Dog, please contact Sylvia at [Sylvia@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Sylvia@SearchDogFoundation.org).



**Bravo**

Donated by: Ted Bowman



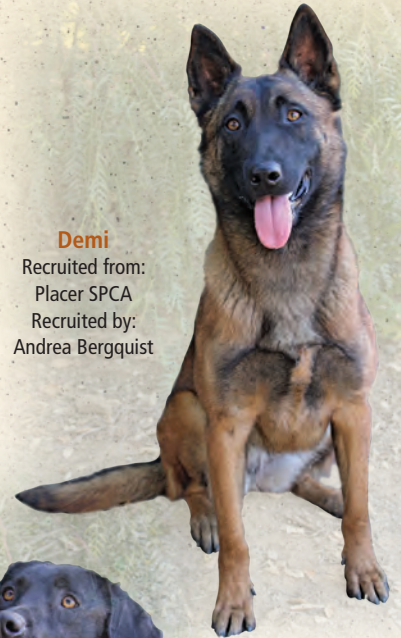
**Keila**

Recruited from: Brightside Animal Center  
 Recruited by: Kirsten Fulk  
 Sponsor: DeMartini Family  
 Named by: DeMartini Family



**Charlie**

Recruited from:  
 Companion Golden Retriever Rescue  
 Recruited by: Trevor Lawrence  
 Sponsor: Stella & Arthur Pepper  
 Foundation



**Demi**

Recruited from:  
 Placer SPCA  
 Recruited by:  
 Andrea Bergquist



**Orry**

Donated by: Dean Smith



**Merlin**

Recruited from: Golden Gate Lab Retriever Rescue  
 Recruited by: Elise Lalor  
 Guardians: Joyce & Robert Wire  
 Sponsor: Patricia Snyder



**Eddie**

Recruited by:  
 Elise Lalor from private donor

## 2015 Deployments

### Missing Person Search – Newtown, PA

Eric Darling & Ben – March 6

### Vehicle Crash – Mt. Baldy, CA

Dennis Clark & Rugby, Gary Durian & Tanker – March 16

### Tornado – Sand Springs, OK

Jeff Leon & Justice, Vincent Stoops & Magnum – March 26

### Vehicle Crash – San Leandro, CA

Alex Mengell & Gunner – April 11

### Earthquake – Kathmandu, Nepal

Dennis Clark & Rugby, Gary Durian & Tanker, Eric Gray & Riley, Ron Horetski & Pearl, Andy Olvera & Stetson, Jason Vasquez & Ripley – April 26-May 17

### Tornado – Oklahoma City, OK

Brent Koening & Moxie – May 6

### Train Derailment – Philadelphia, PA

Eric Darling & Ben – May 12

### Tornado – Runaway Bay, TX

Patti Krafft & Billy, Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye – May 19

### Missing Person Search – Clermont, FL

Marshia Hall & Lilah – May 25

### Flood – San Marcos, TX

Robert Grant & Rocky, Laurel Pitman & Sonic – May 28

### Building Collapse – Johnson City, NY

Jason Geary & Marsi, Greg Gould & Dax, John Stewart & Sadie – July 16

### Vehicle Crash – Pasadena, CA

Dennis Clark & Rugby, Gary Durian & Stetson – August 9

### Flood – Hildale, UT

Roxanne Bauman & Cole, Madison Warner & Tanner – September 14

### Missing Person Search – Jordan, UT

Lee Culley & Tom, Trevor Lawrence & Taylor – September 28

### Parking Structure Collapse – Dallas, TX

Keri Grant & Tucker, Patti Krafft & Billy, Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye – October 23

### Missing Person Search – Alexandria, VA

Kristi Bartlett & Ivan – December 11

### Tornadoes – Garland & Rowlett, TX

Mike Hargrove & Hayden, Keri Grant & Tucker, Robert Grant & Rocky, Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye – December 26

## Garland, Texas Tornado

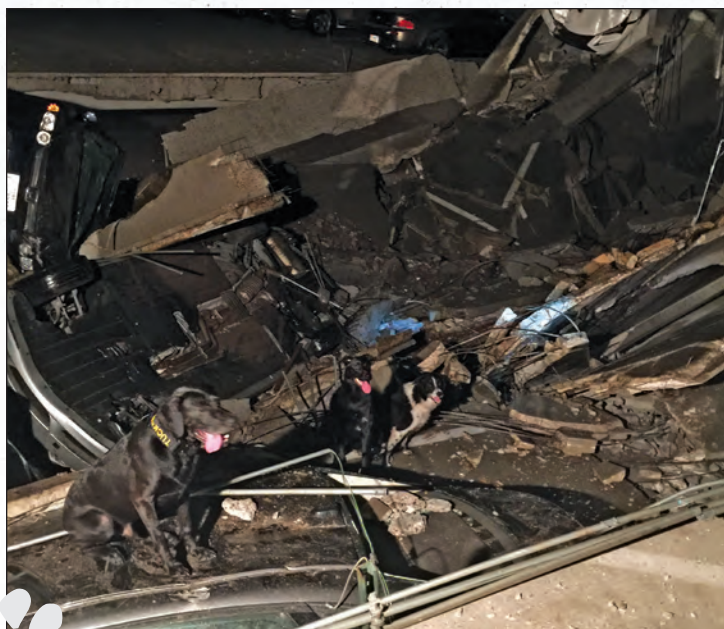
*"One of our task force leaders said, 'Had we not had those dogs to search and clear some of the structures, it would have been impossible.' There were two-story houses and apartment buildings that we humans couldn't access. Having the dogs was an absolute necessity and blessing. Everyone we found had been in their bathtub covered by mattresses because they had gotten an alert. People did what they were told to do and it saved their lives. We had to cease search efforts twice because of the wind and rain. Regardless of being wet and cold and running into people's pets loose on the streets, the dogs knew this was their job and the real deal. The community was bringing clothes, food, and water. We didn't want for anything. It was people's way of helping in the only way they could."* – Keri Grant & Tucker, Texas Task Force 2



Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye at Garland, TX tornado deployment 12/26/15 Photo: Unknown



Gary & Stetson, Rugby - helicopter ride to vehicle crash deployment 8-9-15 Photo: Handler Dennis Clark



## Dallas Parking Structure Collapse

*"The collapse went from the top floor, all the way through to the bottom floor. Vehicles were hung perpendicular, flipped upside down, and pancaked. There were no less than five structural engineers present as a result of the collapse, and after their initial evaluation they determined that it was safe to send in the canines for a search. Skye "cleared" the pile with no indications or interest and Tucker and Billy followed with the same result. All three dogs were great! They knew what their job was and went straight to the task at hand. Upon completion of a thorough search by Skye, a structural engineer came up and shook my hand and said how amazing it was to watch Skye work and thanked me for our service. Along with the safety determination made by the structural engineers, accompanied by the skill set of the canines, it was comforting to him knowing that everything that could be done was being accomplished."*

– Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye, Texas Task Force 2

Tucker, Billy & Skye at Dallas, TX collapsed parking structure deployment 10/23/15 Photo: Handler Andrea Sutcliffe





*Created in 2008, the goal of the Search Team Fund is to lower SDF Handlers' out-of-pocket Search Dog expenses so they can focus on what really counts – deployment readiness. SDF is so grateful to have incredible supporters throughout the country who allow us to provide a wide range of coverage to our Search Dogs. Thank you for helping make this invaluable program possible!*

— Kate Horwick, SDF Program Manager

### Canine Healthcare Fund

All SDF Search Dogs receive healthcare coverage, whether active or retired. In 2015, SDF donations covered veterinary expenses totaling \$96,608 including wellness care, emergency care, major surgeries, dental care and End of Life care.

*"My partner's well-being means the world to me and having support available from the Canine Healthcare Fund made this emotionally and financially stressful experience a bit more manageable. It's comforting to know that as an SDF Search Dog, she will receive the highest level of care.*

*Thank you again! I am truly humbled and deeply grateful for all the continual support provided to us by SDF."*

– Daisy Spira, Handler of retired Search Dog Splash, Florida Task Force 2



Daisy & Splash enjoying last April's OKC Remembrance Day at the NTC Photo: Tony Panzica



### Metacam®

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 of their arthritis pain, as prescribed by their veterinarians. For our active, driven canines, being pain-free and ready to search means the best care and quality of life during their careers and throughout retirement!

### Handlers Grant

SDF Handlers are provided the very special benefit of applying for grant money to increase their deployment skills through travel for trainings, equipment and even materials and supplies to build agility equipment. In 2015, the SDF Handlers Grant Committee awarded 39 grants, totaling \$24,032!



Fidel & Rosie during one of their training visits to the NTC last year Photo: Susan Bollinger

### Nutro Vouchers

Since 1998, The Nutro Company has graciously supplied NATURAL CHOICE® dog food vouchers to every SDF Handler, as well as all of our nation's FEMA-Certified Handlers! In 2015, The Nutro Company donated a total of 4,800 dog food vouchers, totaling an incredible \$287,952. For more information on our 18-year partnership with The Nutro Company, see page 18.

*"In order for Rosie to be mission-ready, she has to be healthy, which means feeding her good quality food, a task that can be a challenge and pricy. But thanks to the Nutro dog food voucher program and SDF, I don't have to worry about getting the best food for Rosie!"*

– Fidel Gomez, Handler of Search Dog Rosie, Baja California Task Force 3

### Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund

Since 2012, SDF has partnered with the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo Company® to offer our nation's working dog Handlers financial assistance in the devastating event that their canine partner is diagnosed with cancer. This generous support provides reimbursement for cancer diagnosis, treatment, palliative care and great peace of mind for each Handler and their family as they deal with their beloved canine's medical experience.



Comet & Michele practice fire truck ladder climbing prior to his cancer diagnosis Photo: Sharon Hanzelka

*"In October 2014, during a routine check-up, a mass was discovered in Comet's abdominal region... it was removed and was diagnosed as cancer. He bounced back beautifully! We are so very blessed to still have Comet. We know that SDF and the Petco Foundation help handlers and families through these tough times and we will always be indebted to both organizations."*

– Michele Vaughn, Handler of retired Search Dog Comet, California Task Force 4

### Congratulations to our 2015 Handlers Grant Recipients!

Training Equipment . . . . .	Brandon Budd & Josie, Derek Chaky & Scout, Eric Darling & Ben, Mark Edwards & Taz, Robert Grant & Rocky, Wade Haller & Rex, Laurel Pitman & Sonic, Adrienne Seibel & Gunny, Vincent Stoops & Magnum, Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye, Oklahoma Task Force 1 (Oklahoma City & Tulsa)
Regional Training, College Station, TX . . . . .	Chris Bergquist & Kari, Mark Edwards & Taz, Donovan George & Ollie, Garreth Miller & Vita, Tim Robertson & Crockett, Jason Smith & Jagger, Alex Van & Winnie, Dane Yaw & Salsa
Regional Training, New York City, NY . . . . .	Madison Warner & Tanner
Regional Training, Salina, KS . . . . .	Eric Darling & Ben
Regional Training, Tulsa, OK . . . . .	Derek Chaky & Scout, Keri Grant & Tucker, Robert Grant & Rocky, Laurel Pitman & Sonic, Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye
Regional Training, SDF National Training Center . . . . .	Dennis Clark & Rugby
Regional Training, Titusville, FL . . . . .	Marshia Hall & Lilah
Drive & Decoy Training, SDF National Training Center . . . . .	Tom Carney & Allie, Linda D'Orsi & Haley, Dennis DiMarzio & Ty, Julie Padelford-Jansen & Ricochet
Certification Evaluation, Salina, KS . . . . .	Marshia Hall & Lilah, Patti Krafft & Billy, Jeff Leon & Justice, Judy Zinn & Royce
Certification Evaluation, Las Vegas, NV . . . . .	Dennis DiMarzio & Ty

# SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES

To be eligible to deploy with their task force, each Canine Disaster Search Team must achieve Certification through either the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or State Urban Search & Rescue Alliance (SUSAR). Once Certified, the team must re-take the test every three years to maintain deployment readiness.

In 2015, 22 SDF teams achieved Certification or Re-Certification.



**Kristi Bartlett & Ivan (VA-TF1)**

**Fairfax County Fire & Rescue**  
 Certification: April 2015  
 Donated by: Kim Newman  
 Guardian: Jean & Lawrence Brennan  
 Sponsors: GJ & Rebecca Pelissero, Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project, Lucy & Stephen Swartz, Oluv C. Joyner Foundation  
 Named in Honor of: Ivan Matesevac



**Chris Bergquist & Kari (CA-TF7)**

**City of Sacramento Fire**  
 Re-Certification: May 2015  
 Donated by: Gordon Family  
 Recruited by: Heidi Miller  
 Prep Home: Marshia Hall  
 Guardians:  
 Marybeth Little, Carol Sidlow



**Brandon Budd & Josie (CA-TF7)**

**City of Sacramento Fire**  
 Certification: September 2015  
 Recruited from: Lassen County Animal Services  
 Recruited by: Penny Woodruff  
 Guardian: Judy Ross  
 Sponsor: Susan Kemper & Cam Warren  
 Named in Honor of: Josie Willett



**Derek Chaky & Scout (TX-TF2)**

**Carrollton Fire**  
 Certification: April 2015  
 Donated by: James River Humane Society  
 Recruited by: South Dakota Canine Center  
 Guardians: Laura Pollick, Clyde & Diana Freeman  
 Sponsors: Valerie Roddy, Scott Florance, Patrick Shields - Quinn Emanuel LLP



**Dennis Clark & Rugby (CA-TF2)**

**Los Angeles County Fire**  
 Re-Certification: January 2015  
 Donated by: Penny Woodruff  
 Guardians: Kari & David Eisenacher  
 Sponsor: B & B Foundation  
 Named by: Eliot Crowley & Debra Geiger



**Lee Culley & Tom (UT-TF1)**

**Utah Task Force 1**  
 Certification: February 2015  
 Recruited from: Los Banos Volunteers for Animals  
 Recruited by: Heidi Miller  
 Sponsors: Sean McGrath, Jill Bee  
 Named by: Sean McGrath



**Dennis DiMarzio & Ty (CA-TF2)**

**Los Angeles County Fire**  
 Re-Certification: February 2015  
 Recruited from: Southern Oregon Humane Society  
 Guardian: Judy & Darrel Sneed  
 Sponsors: Dodson Foundation  
 Named by: Rosemary Schumacher



**Gary Durian & Tanker (CA-TF2)**

**Los Angeles County Fire**  
 Re-Certification: April 2015  
 Donated by: Adam Cooper  
 Guardian: Mary Parker  
 Sponsor: Linda Heizer Seaman



**Donovan George & Ollie (CA-TF5)**

**Orange County Fire Authority**  
 Certification: February 2015  
 Recruited from: Western Hills Humane Society  
 Recruited by: South Dakota Canine Center  
 Guardian: Renee Pittin  
 Sponsors: Roberta Hoyt, Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project  
 Named by: Gaile Russ



**Robert Grant & Rocky (TX-TF2)**

**Plano Fire Rescue**  
 Certification: April 2015  
 Donated by: May Family  
 Sponsor: Kathi & Steve Levine



**Marshia Hall & Lilah (FL-TF4)**

**Temple Terrace Fire**  
 Certification: November 2015  
 Recruited from: Sacramento SPCA  
 Recruited by: Andrea Bergquist  
 Guardians: Rachel Bayles, Joan Ambault, Janice & Michael Torres  
 Sponsor: Danielle & Jason Connor  
 Named by: Nathan Friedkin

All photos on pages 9, 10, and 11 by Susan Bollinger, Eliot Crowley, Linda D'Orsi, Mikie Ericson, Emily Fisk, Sharon Hanzeika, Kate Horwick, Sonja Heritage, Karyn Newbill, Troy Overman, Tony Panzica, Denise Sanders, and Lalita Segal

# SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES



## Mike Hargrove & Hayden (TX-TF2)

**Texas Task Force 2**  
*Re-Certification: April 2015*  
 Recruited from: Woods Humane Society  
 Recruited by: Heidi Miller  
 Sponsors: Beth & Greg Apke,  
 Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation



## Patti Krafft & Billy (TX-TF2)

**Dallas Fire-Rescue**  
*Certification: April 2015*  
 Recruited from: Humane Society of the South Platte Valley  
 Recruited by: South Dakota Canine Center  
 Sponsors: Elinor Plumer, Julie Brandau Community Service  
 Memorial Project  
 Named by: Tina Sparuk



## Jeff Leon & Justice (OK-TF1)

**Tulsa Fire**  
*Re-Certification: April 2015*  
 Recruited from: Dos Palos Animal Control  
 Recruited by: Heidi Miller • Guardian: June Ozmon  
 Sponsors: Arc Aspicio,  
 Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project  
 Named by: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



## Eric Lieuwen & Jake (CA-TF7)

**Sacramento Department of Airports Fire**  
*Certification: September 2015*  
 Recruited from: Nebraska Humane Society  
 Recruited by: South Dakota Canine Center  
 Sponsor: Marith Levers  
 Named by: Jeff Cohen



## Alex Mengell & Gunner (CA-TF4)

**Alameda County Fire**  
*Re-Certification: September 2015*  
 Recruited from: Dog Adoption Welfare Group  
 Recruited by: Heidi Miller  
 Sponsors: Carol & John Marengo,  
 Bradley Haas, Marith Levers  
 Named by: Lynn Locker



## Billy Monahan & Hunter (CA-TF2)

**Los Angeles County Fire**  
*Re-Certification: January 2015*  
 Donated by: Patti Baldwin  
 Guardians: Mary Sue Berkley,  
 Don Hirschman, Linda Green  
 Sponsors: Antelope Valley Kennel Club,  
 Disney VolunteERS Employee Program



## Andy Olvera & Stetson (CA-TF2)

**Los Angeles County Fire**  
*Re-Certification: January 2015*  
 Recruited from: Labradors & Friends  
 Dog Rescue Group  
 Guardians: Nancy & San Buschman,  
 Margaret Levy  
 Sponsors: Janet & Greg Van Huisen,  
 CFWC Public Issues Partnership Program  
 Named by: Jack Teeters



## Mike Stornetta & Rocket (CA-TF4)

**Windsor Fire Protection District**  
*Certification: February 2015*  
 Recruited from: Sacramento SPCA  
 Donated by: Bergquist Family  
 Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord  
 Charitable Foundation



## Alex Van & Winnie (CA-TF5)

**Orange County Fire Authority**  
*Certification: February 2015*  
 Recruited from: Herding Dog Rescue of Wyoming  
 Recruited by: South Dakota Canine Center  
 Guardian: Patricia Flynn  
 Sponsors: Allan Friedman & the Friedman Family  
 Named by: William & Winifred Freeman Foundation



## Damon Wirth & George (NE-TF1)

**Lincoln Fire Rescue**  
*Re-Certification: November 2015*  
 Recruited from: Labradors & Friends  
 Dog Rescue Group  
 Guardians: Susan & Donald Durance, Debbie Mansur  
 Sponsors: Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation



## Judy Zinn & Royce (OK-TF1)

**Oklahoma Task Force 1**  
*Re-Certification: April 2015*  
 Recruited from: Santa Barbara Animal Services –  
 Santa Maria • Recruited by: Heidi Miller  
 Guardians: Marilyn Benande & Jackie Emerson,  
 Dody Burkey  
 Sponsors: Janet & Greg Van Huisen  
 Named by: Lauren Dachs

# RETIRED TEAMS



## Asta

*Years of Service 2009 – 2015*  
**Handler Sonja Heritage**  
 Virginia Task Force 1 &  
 California Task Force 5



## Elvis

*Years of Service 2008 – 2015*  
**Handler Chet Clark**  
 Oklahoma City Fire • Oklahoma Task Force 1  
 Recruited from: Santa Barbara Animal Services - Santa Maria  
 Evaluated by: Heidi Miller  
 Guardians: Heidi Miller, Jane & Donald May  
 Sponsor: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



## Jakers

*Years of Service 2006 – 2015*  
**Handler Jeff Ivy**  
 Sacramento City Fire • California Task Force 7  
 Recruited from:  
 El Dorado County Animal Services  
 Guardian: Lynn Locker  
 Sponsor: A Good Neighbor Foundation



## Joe

*Years of Service 2008 – 2015*  
**Handler Linda Tacconelli**  
 California Task Force 2  
 Recruited from: Longmont Humane Society  
 Evaluated by: Joy Williamson  
 Guardians: Judy Mize, Lunn & Tildon Courson  
 Sponsors: Geoffrey & Clair Mitchell,  
 CFWC-Westlake Women's Club



## Leila

*Years of Service 2010 – 2015*  
**Handler Kyle Thomas**  
 Sacramento-Metro Fire • California Task Force 7  
 Recruited from: Guide Dogs of America  
 Puppy Raiser: Laura Brennan  
 Sponsors: Elizabeth & Kurt Wampler,  
 CFWC Public Issues Partnership Program



## Lilly-Belle

*Years of Service 2005 – 2015*  
**Handler Julie Padelford-Jansen**  
 City of Miami Department of Fire-Rescue  
 Florida Task Force 2  
 Recruited from: Golden Retriever Rescue  
 of Central New York  
 Prep Home: Rue Chagall  
 Guardians: Ginger Carlson, Delores Skoog, Sharon Jakobi  
 Sponsors: John Hall, Gloria Paul,  
 Betsy & John Richardson



## Nino

*Years of Service 2007 – 2015*  
**Handler Jim Boggeri**  
 Marin County Fire • California Task Force 4  
 Recruited from: Placer SPCA  
 Guardians: Barbara Whatley, Barbara & Bob Deal  
 Sponsors: CFWC-Sierra Cahuenga District,  
 Ivy Zourkas



## Spuds

*Years of Service 2008 – 2015*  
**Handler Rick Bartlett**  
 Orange County Fire Authority • California Task Force 5  
 Recruited from: Butte Humane Society  
 Guardians: Sarah & Jim Berkheimer  
 Sponsor: Laura Rockenberger



## Tank

*Years of Service 2010 – 2015*  
**Handler Steve Swaney**  
 Heartland Fire Rescue • California Task Force 8  
 Recruited from: San Luis Obispo Co. Animal Shelter  
 Recruited by: Ellen Perryess  
 Guardian: Chelly Bolger Wathen  
 Sponsor: Lucy Lindsay



Photo: Sara Schneider

## HERO

March 10, 2002 – August 10, 2015

Hero was born in Ojai, CA, and partnered with Deputy Su Vodrazka of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in October 2003. As members of the Sheriff's Department, they offered daily greetings to passengers arriving at L.A.'s downtown Union Station. As members of California Task Force 5, they deployed to the aftermath of Hurricanes Ike, Gustav, Rita and Katrina, as well as mudslide pre-staging in Orange County and a train derailment in Glendale, CA during their eight-year career. Hero retired in 2011 and beat the odds, surviving a cancer diagnosis and spending several more years with her family before crossing the Rainbow Bridge due to natural causes at the age of 13.

**Dog Donors:** Liz Harward, Miki Klocke, Bo Stevenson, Lori Mohr  
**Prep Home:** Ben & Wendy Lerner  
**Sponsor:** Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



Photo: Jennifer Tapp

## HULA

May 25, 2008 – May 4, 2015

In June of 2009, Hula found herself in the Humboldt County Animal Shelter in McKinleyville, CA, picked-up as a stray. After six months of training, Hula was ready to meet her handler, Patti Krafft, a Lieutenant with the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department. In December

2010 they passed their initial State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) Type II Certification test in Tulsa, OK. Then, on June 25, 2011, the team achieved SUSAR Type I Certification in Oklahoma City, OK. Unfortunately, Hula developed a medical condition in early 2013 that she never fully recovered from. She was medically retired from Texas Task Force 2 and remained with Patti, who lovingly saw to it that Hula received the best care possible, until she was laid to rest last May.

**Recruited from:** Humboldt County Animal Control  
**Guardian:** Terri Earnest  
**Sponsor:** Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



Photo: Tony Panzica

## JEZZIE

June 1, 2001 – September 5, 2015

Julie Lupkin & Rhonda Ridgely from Daisy Dog Rescue saved Jezzie from her scheduled euthanasia in late 2002. Just six months later, Jezzie completed her formal Search Dog training and was partnered with Antonio Galvan, a handler from the State of Baja California, Mexico. The team deployed five times in Tijuana – to multiple building collapses and mudslides. After a lengthy career, Antonio made the decision to retire Jezzie on February 1, 2011. Jezzie lived with

Antonio and his family in their home as a beloved pet for several more years until, at the age of 14, she crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

**Recruited from:** Daisy Dog Rescue



Photo: Eliot Crowley

## LILLY-BELLE

November 11, 2000 – August 3, 2015

The Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York (GRRNCY) recognized the potential in this very special dog and contacted SDF about channeling her high drive into an exciting career. This dynamo was paired with a new handler from the City of Miami Fire and Rescue, Julie Padelford-Jansen, and the two made an excellent team. Julie and Lilly-Belle achieved their FEMA Certification and were deployed within Florida when Hurricane Wilma struck in 2005, and then to Texas following Hurricane Ike in 2008. When her latest Certification expired on February 28, 2015, Lilly-Belle was officially retired from the task force at 14 years old. Lilly-Belle peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge a few months later with her best friend and partner Julie at her side.

**Recruited from:** Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York  
**Prep Home:** Rue Chagoll  
**Guardians:** Ginger Carlson, Delores Skoog, Sharon Jakobi  
**Sponsors:** John Hall, Gloria Paul, Betsy & John Richardson



Photo: Angel Inaison

## LOLA

September 23, 2003 – May 15, 2015

Discovered at a shelter by a San Francisco Bay Area rescue group, with less than 24 hours before she would be destroyed, the group saved Lola's life in 2005. She was taken to Dr. James Pogrel at his Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center to treat her kennel cough, and the veterinarian ended up fostering her himself! With her inexhaustible energy, Dr. Pogrel contacted SDF and it was agreed she would enter our search dog training program.

In May 2006, Lola graduated and was paired with firefighter-handler Johnny Subia of the Seaside Fire Department and by February 2008, they achieved FEMA certification. Johnny and Lola regularly traveled around the country as search team ambassadors, teaching the general public more about the special work she was trained to do. At the age of 10, Lola retired and happily lived out her remaining years with her best friend. When diagnosed with cancer in 2015, Johnny made her as comfortable as possible until she was ready to leave us.

**Donated by:** James Pogrel DVM  
**Guardian:** Gloria Chavarria  
**Sponsors:** Benjamin Hendrix, Boehringer-Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.



SDF makes a promise to each and every dog that enters our program: Once rescued, they will never need to be rescued again. Not all dogs are meant to be Search Dogs and when this happens, we are committed to finding career change options or wonderful homes for these canines. We are dedicated to each dog that enters our training program

and we love to be able to fulfill our commitment, no matter what!  
— Emily Fisk, SDF Canine Trainer



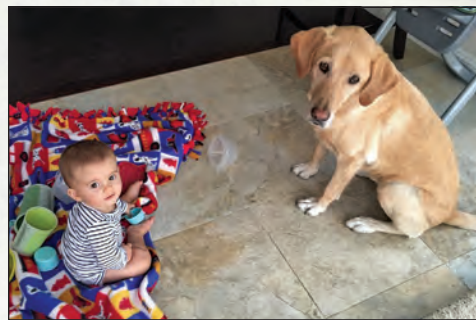
For those dogs who did not complete our training but still need a job, we evaluate their skills to find alternate careers that best suit them. This "job interview" allows us to find the career best matched to each dog's ability and drive. In 2015, we placed dogs in both detection and service work, ensuring their talents were appreciated!

— Lyz Gregory, SDF Canine Trainer

## Canines Placed with Loving Homes in 2015

- Mocha** ..... Ed & Nancy Dennis, Ojai, CA
- Jade** ..... Lori Weatherbie, Juniper Hills, CA
- Kodi** ..... Chelsi Woolwine, Ojai, CA

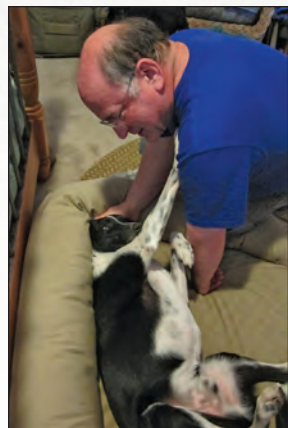
Too much fun can be exhausting, but Danny knows there's always time for sibling cuddles!  
Photo: Kimberly Bowen



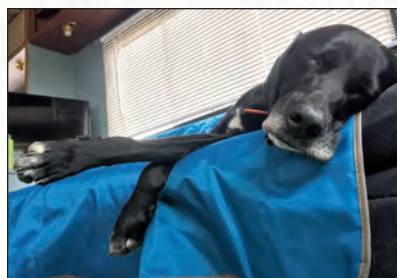
Baby Parker appears to be teaching Mimi to cook  
Photo: Morgan Stine



No amount of funny business will deter Maxx from his tennis ball!  
Photo: Denise Beckendorf



Don Hirschman & Josh share a quiet moment together  
Photo: Unknown



Reggie enjoys a good couch in his senior years  
Photo: Abbey Hull

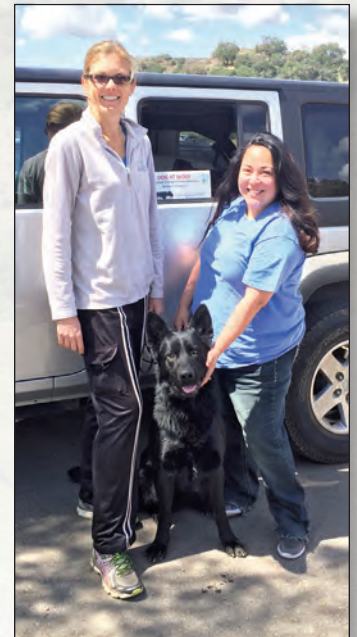
## Canines Career Changed in 2015

- Jaxson** ..... Odor Detection
- Rhodie** ..... Pet Detection
- Summit** ..... Service Dog
- Zorro** ..... Ecological Detection

### Zorro Unmasked

Zorro was donated to our program by a woman in Santa Cruz, CA after she recognized his excellent use of his nose and drive could do some good in the world.

Unfortunately, while Zorro's nose was fantastic, he did not enjoy climbing on rubble, meaning he would not be a Disaster Search Dog. After researching the different options, SDF's trainers found him an interesting career in Ecological Detection with H.T. Harvey and Associates – the first Career Change dog to enter this field of work! This group uses the dog's innate abilities to search out endangered species and other lifeforms that a scientist may need to study. These Ecological Detection canines, or "Eco Dogs," are able to locate and then alert scientists to any sign of the animal in the vicinity.



Zorro on the day he started his Ecological Detection career with trainers Lauralea Oliver and Melissa Casanova of H.T. Harvey and Associates  
Photo: Sonja Heritage



Zorro's trainer, Lauralea Oliver, shares: "He LOVES his work and I've enjoyed having him with me every day. He has really settled in with us and has been charming everyone at H.T. Harvey! He has been imprinted on an endangered lizard species and an endemic shrew species and has completed several scent recognition trials and is prepping for his scent discrimination trial. He is doing great!"

Zorro practicing agility at his new training center in Acton, CA  
Photo: Melissa Casanova

# SEARCH DOG GUARDIANS



Making a Planned Gift to the Search Dog Foundation (SDF) gives us the strong and secure future we need to train generations of Search Teams for many years to come. Making an Estate gift to SDF is more than just a generous gesture – it is a profound commitment to our communities and country and it ensures that our work will continue in perpetuity.

If you have already made provisions for the Search Dog Foundation in your Estate Plans please let us know! We would love to celebrate your generosity and say "thank you!" Your willingness to be listed as a member of our Community (even anonymously) encourages others to follow your example. If you have not yet included SDF in your Estate Plans and would like to learn more about the best options for you and your family, please contact me. I look forward to speaking with you!

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

— Rhett Mauck, SDF Director of Development

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



"Visiting the National Training Center has allowed us to see, first hand, the training the handlers and their dogs receive. SDF's Guardian Program allowed us to be a part of their life-saving work to find victims that have been buried alive after a disaster. It is something we feel blessed to be a part of! Andi and Skye are family, and it brings a feeling of pride along with tears of joy every time we hear of their experiences during deployments."

— Bill Linder & Marikay Lindstrom, Skye's Family



Photo: Genevieve Feiner

"SDF exemplifies this quote from Arland Gilbert: 'When we accept tough jobs as a challenge and wade into them with joy and enthusiasm, miracles can happen.' From Wilma's founding of the agency in 1996 to today, many miracles have happened - like finding a special dog like Fritz, abandoned in an Oregon shelter, taking him through SDF's rigorous training program, his special 'graduation' and being teamed with Ed. It will be another miracle when they get deployed - in far-off places or just down the road - where someone needs their help. Thank you to all for being vital parts of a great organization, which we are so happy and blessed to support through our Estate gift."

— Betty & Don Krause, Guardians of Fritz



Photo: Karen Krogh



Photo: Karyn Newbill

"It was great to meet the SDF staff at a recent event at the National Training Center. The day was wonderful and, of course, the highlight for me was spending time with Hunter and Bill. No other organization that I support even comes close to yours with the personal touches. It is a bonus to feel like a part of the Search Dog Foundation family, and not just a donor. Thank you for including me and the other guests in such a special day."

— Mary Sue Berkley, Guardian of Hunter

## Search Dog Foundation Estate Guardians of 2015

In 2015, SDF welcomed **13 new Estate Donors** to our growing family of Endowment Guardians, bringing our total number to 250! This generous community of supporters have included the Search Dog Foundation in their legacy plans, and are helping to provide a strong and stable future for the Search Dogs of today – and tomorrow – at their new home at the National Training Center.

We are proud to recognize the following people who joined the Endowment Guardian community in 2015:

- |  |                                  |                                    |                            |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Sharon – (Seattle, WA)                  | 5. Robin & David – (Olympia, WA) | 8. Berkeley & Mike – (Ojai, CA)    | 11. Heidi – (Sapphire, NC) |
| 2. June – (Wellesley, MA)                  | 6. Christine – (Cincinnati, OH)  | 9. Judith – (Oak Brook, IL)        | 12. Cecil – (Roanoke, VA)  |
| 3. Barbara & Michael – (Arkansas City, KS) | 7. Grace – (Encino, CA)          | 10. Mary Ann – (Santa Barbara, CA) | 13. Su & Cam – (Reno, NV)  |
| 4. Scott – (Ventura, CA)                   |                                  |                                    |                            |








## The Impact of Sponsoring a Dog

People across America are helping to further SDF's mission by choosing to become a Search Dog Sponsor. For a donation of \$20,000 (payable over 2 years), you can join a growing community of individuals, families, schools and companies who have become a special part of the search by sponsoring an

SDF team. It's a fun and inspiring opportunity – almost like having your very own Search Dog, minus the walking, feeding and scooping!

As a Search Dog Sponsor you will enjoy:

-  Giving a once-forgotten rescued dog an active, happy, secure life in service to America.
-  Being informed of your team's training, FEMA Certification, and disaster deployments.
-  Special photos and communications of your team as they progress through training, FEMA certification and eventual deployments.
-  Setting an example for animal welfare and disaster preparedness in your community.
-  Helping to provide a critical, life-saving resource to strengthen America's emergency response network.

— Celeste Matesevac, SDF Community Relations Manager

To learn more about our Sponsor Program, please contact Celeste at [Celeste@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Celeste@SearchDogFoundation.org) or (888) 459-4376 x 101.



Mike Hargrove, Dallas TF 2 & Hayden meet Dakota at IronDog 2010, NY  
Photo: JC Svec

## SDF Takes Center Stage for the Svec Family

JC Svec, a 40-year veteran of the performing arts and an award-winning playwright, had been looking for a charity to receive proceeds contributed from his productions. His daughter, Dakota, a middle school student in New Jersey, suggested SDF. "It was incredible," Dakota says as she reflects on SDF's Sponsorship program, "to know that along with training the dog to save lives, we'd be rescuing that dog."

JC agreed with his daughter, and the idea blossomed. Box office receipts added up, and audience members started asking about the dogs. Eventually, the Svecs raised enough money to sponsor Sadie, a slender Black Lab who always seems to be in mid-air whenever a photo is snapped.

Since 2010, the family has organized over 25 fundraising events benefiting SDF. Dakota's brainchild, *Pops for Pups*, is a campaign that sells lollipops and donates the proceeds to SDF. The initiative has been adopted by Dakota's school. The family's current fundraising total is in excess of \$15,000.

"Just knowing we're doing our part, that's all we really care about," says Dakota, shrugging off the number. She adds that simply supporting the Search Teams "is one of the greatest rewards there is."

Again, JC wisely agrees: "I've been around a long time," he says. "This is one of the proudest things I've done over my lifetime."



(From L to R) These teams met with Jan Lopez in April 2015: Steve MacDonald & Lilly, Mark Schroeder & Noah, Chet Clark & Elvis, Andrea Sutcliff & Skye, Jeff Leon & Justice standing with the founder of the Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project, court reporter Jan Lopez in red.

Not pictured are the other Sponsor teams: Ron Horetski & Pearl, Patti Krafft & Billy, Aide Barbat & Sarge, Donovan George & Ollie, Kristi Bartlett & Ivan

## America's Court Reporters Sponsor 10 Search Teams!

In memory of one of their own, Julie Brandau, slain in 2005 in an Atlanta courtroom, court reporters from across the nation have put their support towards sponsoring ten search teams to date through individual donations and through state and national conventions.

"Julie, a very humble woman, could never have imagined that she would be remembered in this very special way. Julie's love of dogs and her goodwill towards others lives on through this community service memorial. I know she would be ever so proud of the court reporting community's partnership with SDF."

— Elizabeth Cohn, friend and fellow court reporter



Diva on graduation day with her new handler, Jason Dobbins Photo: Karyn Newbill

## Jeff and Mary Kroll – Proud Sponsors of Diva!

When Mary and Jeff Kroll first heard about the Search Dog Foundation in 2005, they were so impressed with SDF's mission that they decided to become Estate Donors, and became the Guardians of Riley.

In 2012 and 2015, Riley and his handler, Eric Gray, deployed to Japan and Nepal to search for survivors following deadly earthquakes in both countries. "You feel like you're helping the country in need," says Mary, remembering her sheer joy when she received an update about the team's deployments.

The Kroll's felt so rewarded by their experience with Riley, and were inspired to do more to further SDF's work. In 2015, Mary and Jeff decided to sponsor Search Dog Diva, a Belgian Malinois who graduated from training and was partnered with a Los Angeles County firefighter the same year.

"Jeff and I are beaming with pride! Diva, our newest "adopted" dog from the Search Dog Foundation just graduated today and was paired with her handler firefighter, Jason Dobbins from Los Angeles Task Force 2. They do extensive training to help us all at times of disaster – both here and abroad. Both Riley and Diva are special dogs who, along with many of the other Search Dogs from this wonderful Foundation, have been saved from shelters - some on death's door. Luckily they have been given a second chance on life."



## Thank you to our Extraordinaire Volunteers!

We couldn't do it without each of you.

Thank you for your passion and commitment to the mission of the Search Dog Foundation!

Each of our volunteers embodies the spirit of passion and commitment to the mission of the Search Dog Foundation. Whether it is in our office, long distance or at the National Training Center, we are grateful to have our incredible volunteers!

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Search Dog Foundation, we would love to hear from you! Please call us at (888) 459-4376 or email us at Celeste@SearchDogFoundation.org

*"I am incredibly grateful to be associated with the Search Dog Foundation as a volunteer and equally as proud to be a Part of the Search!"* — Debi Mauck



Back row (L to R): Pam Nothwang, Ed Dennis, Gary Bickmore, Tokie Shynk, Shirley Ramgren,  
Front row (L to R): Nancy Dennis, Debi Mauck, Barbara Bickmore



Volunteers prepare for the day joined by Wilma Photo: Susan Bollinger

*"I have watched this organization grow from the ground up, and am amazed at what they have done. Everyone at SDF is friendly, and it's a happy place to volunteer my time. I'm proud to be involved with such a worthwhile organization that helps people. Plus, I love dogs! How can I not be happy watching these dogs grow into search dogs?! Dogs and firefighters.....what better combination than that?"*

— Linda Munday

## Meet Naomi Jost – A Very Special Doggie Day Care Friend

Naomi's experience as a handler made her a perfect match for taking our Search Dog candidates on socialization outings as part of their training. SDF Master Trainer Sonja Heritage shares, "We would not entrust many people with taking these valuable dogs off the NTC campus but Naomi brings a very special skill set. Because of her years of socializing service dogs along with her skill as a handler, she knows how to keep our dogs safe and assure their outings in public are positive. She is critical in preparing these wonderful dogs for the world outside of searching."

*"Thanks for letting me take Cajun out – we went to the Ventura Harbor and had a blast walking around! Cajun certainly stole the hearts of many people along our walk and during lunch. He even had a few police officers that stopped for ice cream come over to pet him."* — Naomi Jost



Naomi & Cajun at the Ventura Harbor

## 2015 Search Dog Volunteers

### VOLUNTEERS

Julia Ferguson Andriessen  
Sharon Bacon  
Barbara Bickmore  
Gary Bickmore  
Jeffrey Chavez  
Sharon Cromartie  
Ed & Nancy Dennis  
Terry Erickson

Kaden Ferguson  
Lynn Ferguson  
Joan Field  
Vita Franco  
Jill Gregorchuk  
Lisa Griffiths  
Naomi Jost  
Donzi Kater  
Jamie Kitz

India Leigh  
Paul Loboschefsky  
Jan Lopez  
Donna Mac Bride  
Ivan Matesevac  
Katarina Matesevac  
Debi Mauck  
Judy McCarthy  
Wilkins McDonald Jr.

Sharon McMillan  
Phil Moncharsh  
Linda Munday  
Jack Nothwang  
Pamela Nothwang  
Rachel Pacillas  
Patty Panzica  
Julie Prince  
Shirley Ramgren

Pattie Ridenour  
Jennifer Schlegel  
Tokie Shynk  
Ethan Smith  
Lori Smith  
Jo Stalder  
Sylvia Stoney  
Kathy Strom  
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Colin Timmons  
Karla Timpani  
Tim Turpin  
Tracy Vail  
Laara van Loben Sels  
Jeff Wenig  
Diane Zusman

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Erica Jacques  
Jason Kelly

Travis Mauck  
Karyn Newbill  
Tony Panzica  
Lalita Segal  
Jan Slotar  
Dave Snyder  
Julie Woodbridge

## Young & Rubicam



Shortly after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in September 2001, New York-based Young & Rubicam Brands (Y&R) reached out to SDF to partner in sharing our story with the world. Launching a National Awareness Campaign in 2002 (at no cost to SDF), Y&R spread the word through their radio, TV broadcast, and print media partners across the country to put these canine heroes in the national spotlight. We are so grateful for our 14-year partnership with Y&R and GroupM, Y&R's media partner, and continue to be amazed by their generosity as we embark together on a new campaign in 2016, featuring these beautiful new ads (*see below*).

We are excited to announce the "Chalkboard", a full-page ad designed for us by Y&R, is now appearing nationwide thanks to this incredible partnership! So far it's been seen in Time, Forbes, InStyle Magazine, and Family Circle courtesy of GroupM.

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



SDF fan Gracie loved seeing the new ad in Time Magazine! Photo: Genevieve Feiner

Our graduates will never run a FORTUNE 500® company. They will, however, run into a collapsed building to save you.

**NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER**  
SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS

**CAJUN**  
YELLOW LAB CLASS OF 2016

Will work for you — preferably construction sites.

The first school to train disaster search dogs is nearly finished. But we need your help to complete our National Training Center. Right now, every single dollar you donate will be doubled thanks to a generous grant. Help us train rescued dogs to be rescuers, so when disaster strikes no one is left behind. The Search Starts With You™

[www.SearchDogFoundation.org](http://www.SearchDogFoundation.org) (888) 4K9-HERO

<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS
<b>PEARL</b> BLACK LAB CLASS OF 2007	<b>GLANCY</b> YELLOW LAB CLASS OF 2014	<b>GYPSY</b> BORDER COLLIE CLASS OF 2004
Cute, smart and accomplished — Pearl was the 2010 AGDCA Dog of the Year.	Don't let his floppy ears fool you — when the call comes, Clancy is off to work.	She may be 12, but Gypsy will save you of the toughest climates on the globe.
<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS
<b>ELLIE</b> YELLOW LAB CLASS OF 2006	<b>DECKER</b> BLACK LAB MIX CLASS OF 2013	<b>HUNTER</b> BORDER COLLIE CLASS OF 2004
Our sweet Ellie will find a heart or a bone and a mile to reach.	Way smarter than his name — Decker saves his "search" in New Heights.	Guides us west, but young at heart.
<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS
<b>JESTER</b> BORDER COLLIE MIX CLASS OF 2007	<b>ROCKET</b> BORDER COLLIE MIX CLASS OF 2014	<b>RUGBY</b> CHOCOLATE LAB CLASS OF 2011
Not just another pretty face — Jester is the real package.	Quick and agile. Rocket is a big dog in a tiny package.	The "winner" of the class. Rugby saves to be sure. He makes — he just needs a cage.
<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS	<b>NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER</b> SCHOOL FOR DISASTER SEARCH DOGS
<b>CAJUN</b> YELLOW LAB CLASS OF 2016	<b>SKYE</b> BORDER COLLIE CLASS OF 2013	<b>SCOUT</b> BLACK LAB CLASS OF 2014
Will work for you — preferably construction sites.	Crazy for games of hide-and-seek.	If it's real, he'll find it.

**Even Our Most Successful Graduates Will Not Donate To Their Alma Mater.**

At the National Training Center, America's first school for Canine Disaster Search Teams, rescued dogs are trained to save lives. No technology can match a dog's ability to find survivors after a disaster. Donate today to help complete the building of our new Training Center and your gift will be doubled, thanks to a generous grant. The Search Starts With You™

[www.SearchDogFoundation.org](http://www.SearchDogFoundation.org) (888) 4K9-HERO



## The Nutro Company – Fueling America’s Canine Heroes

Since 1998, The Nutro Company has been a steadfast SDF partner in providing NUTRO® NATURAL CHOICE® dog food vouchers to every FEMA-Certified Canine Disaster Search Team across the country. By providing this incredible benefit, valued at \$287,952 in 2015 alone, The Nutro Company has helped fuel our nation’s canine heroes so they are nutritionally and physically prepared for deployment the next time disaster strikes. On behalf of all the Search Dogs who have benefitted from this wonderful program, THANK YOU to The Nutro Company for your generosity for the last 18 years!

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



Florida Task Force 2 Search Dog Rit is proud to be fueled by Nutro! Photo: Rolando Busto

## AT&T Network Disaster Recovery – Working Together to Answer the Call After Disasters



Every year since 2004, AT&T has invited SDF to participate in their Network Disaster Recovery (NDR) demonstrations throughout the country, highlighting their efforts to restore critical communications in the aftermath of disasters. Since the beginning of this 12-year partnership, SDF has participated in 33 NDR events, bringing awareness to the importance of emergency response in both areas of rescue and communications following a disaster. Thank you to everyone at AT&T for being *Part of the Search!*

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



Ben and Sonic demo on the plank in Toronto  
Photo: Kelly Morrison

## Mars Veterinary Wisdom Panel® The Tales Behind The Tails

Just because a Search Dog candidate may not look like a Lab, Border Collie, Golden, German Shepherd or Malinois (the top performing breeds for disaster work), does not mean that he’s not the right dog for the job. Thanks to our partners at Mars Veterinary, since 2009, SDF has received 218 Wisdom Panel® Canine DNA Tests to help determine which dogs make the best candidates for canine disaster search. Thank you to our friends at Mars Veterinary for providing this valuable information and allowing us to be part of this important research!

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



Search Dog Rocket was found to have 8 different breeds in his lineage! Photo: Susan Bollinger



**Wisdom Panel®**

## Financial Snapshot

### October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

By Debra Tosch, Executive Director

The Search Dog Foundation is so grateful for the enduring support of everyone who has contributed to the success of the foundation, enabling SDF to fulfill its mission of strengthening disaster response in America. The support from our loyal constituency brought in \$1.85M operationally, with 84% of our expenses used to fund our Program services. We do our best to keep overhead as low as possible while maintaining a robust program to provide support and resources to the Canine Disaster Search Teams serving our nation.

The funds raised in FY 2014-2015\* enabled SDF to evaluate 471 canines, 12 of which were accepted into our training program, form 7 new Search Teams, provide 68 active Search Teams with training and support, host a Drive & Decoy workshop at the National Training Center for 10 Canine Disaster Search Teams (half of which were SDF teams), and provide 7 canines not suited for disaster search work with a Lifetime Care "fur-ever" home or new career, while continuing to support the existing 175 canines in the Lifetime Care community.

We are happy to report that SDF continues to be a Top-Rated Nonprofit based on how we raise and allocate funds, our governance and transparency, program impact and efficiency, and favorable ratings from donors and other members of the public. In 2015, SDF again was awarded the title of "Top-Rated Nonprofit" by Great Nonprofits, an industry watchdog group. Additionally, we were awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence by Independent Charities of America, an award earned by fewer than 2,000 charities out of the estimated 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today.

We are in the midst of an exciting time! In 2016, we celebrate our 20th Anniversary, marking two decades of turning rescued dogs into rescuers in service to America. Additionally, we will be moving all staff onto the NTC campus in 2016 so our entire team can work more closely together on one site, along with the Search Teams during training. This move will bring forth new growth and expansion for SDF, giving Canine Disaster Search Teams from across the nation a place to come together, train and share valuable information and skills that enable them to be ready the next time disaster strikes.

The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – Tax ID #77-0412509. The organization has earned the designation of a "Top-Rated Nonprofit" from Great Nonprofits, an industry oversight organization.

*\*Please note: In 2014 we changed our fiscal year from a calendar year to an October 1 through September 30 fiscal year (FY).*



### SAVE PAPER!

Send your email address to [rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org) and we'll keep you up to date electronically! We *never* sell or share the contact information of our supporters.

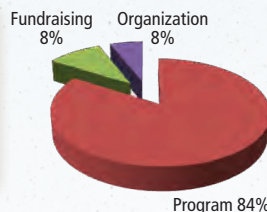
#### SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION

*Board of Directors*

Michael Antonucci, Jr., *Chair*

Wilma Melville, *Secretary*  
Pluis Davern

Ric Ruffinelli, *Treasurer*  
Chris Wright



#### Learn more about the Search Teams:

6800 Wheeler Canyon Road, Santa Paula, CA 93060 • (888) 459-4376 • [www.SearchDogFoundation.org](http://www.SearchDogFoundation.org)

**As of July 1 2016, we have officially moved into our new home at the National Training Center!**



**Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!**

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[www.instagram.com/searchdogfoundation](http://www.instagram.com/searchdogfoundation)

## Summary

2014-2015 Operating Funds Raised . . . . . **\$1,852,160**

### 2014 -2015 Income Sources

Foundations . . . . . \$952,600  
Individuals . . . . . \$899,560

### 2014 -2015 Expenses

Program . . . . . **84%**  
Fundraising . . . . . **8%**  
Organization . . . . . **8%**

### Balance Sheet

Current Assets . . . . . 11,263,065  
Fixed Assets . . . . . 18,157,632  
Other Assets . . . . . 51,782  
**Total Assets . . . . . \$29,472,479**  
Current Liabilities . . . . . 1,152,796  
Long-Term Liabilities . . . . . 3,253,183  
Net Assets . . . . . 25,066,500  
**Total Liabilities & Net Assets . . . . . \$29,472,479**

### Statement of Activities

#### Revenues, Gains & Support

Merchandise Sales . . . . . 5,230  
Cost of Goods Sold . . . . . -4,803  
Merchant Fees . . . . . -8,992  
Appeal Income . . . . . 128,552  
NTC Community Benefit Discount . . . . . 90,368  
Endowment Income . . . . . 272,789  
General Contributions . . . . . 494,845  
Workplace Contributions . . . . . 97,453  
Grants Income . . . . . 952,600  
Sponsorships . . . . . 116,811  
Workshop Income . . . . . 4,250  
Underwritten Income . . . . . 5,000  
In-Kind Donations . . . . . 2,487,234  
Restricted Contributions . . . . . 6,238,016  
Reward Program . . . . . 212  
Investment Income . . . . . 83,986  
**Total Revenues, Gains & Support . . . . . \$10,963,551**

#### Expenses

Program . . . . . 1,195,094  
Canine Recruitment . . . . . 99,668  
Canine Training . . . . . 198,473  
Search Team Fund . . . . . 104,520  
In-Kind Program Expenses . . . . . 2,487,234  
Depreciation & Amortization - Program . . . . . 152,818  
General & Administration . . . . . 353,842  
Depreciation & Amortization - Gen & Admin . . . . . 11,351  
Investment Expenses - Gen & Admin . . . . . 37,125  
Fundraising . . . . . 387,274  
Depreciation & Amortization - Fundraising . . . . . 16,526  
**Total Expenses . . . . . \$5,043,925**

**Net Income . . . . . \$5,919,626**