NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION

theQUEST

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

STRENGTHENING DISASTER RESPONSE IN AMERICA

SDF HIGHLIGHTS 2016

Deployments — SDF Search Teams searched for survivors and missing persons on 11 deployments in California, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah.

New Search Teams — 8 new Search Teams were formed and placed: 5 in California (Los Angeles and Orange County), 2 in New York (Albany), and 1 in Utah (Salt Lake City).

Search Team Certifications — 10 Search Teams achieved Certification and 15 Re-Certified, making them deployment ready at a moment's notice.

Canine Recruitment — 135 dogs were evaluated for Urban Search and Rescue nationwide. In addition, several canine-savvy individuals joined our team as regional Canine Recruiters to help evaluate more dogs. These efforts helped 16 dogs enter our training program.

Canine Career Change and Lifetime Care — 3 amazing canines were recruited but didn't quite have what it takes for disaster search were Career Changed to different fields. 6 great dogs were given a great home through our Lifetime Care Program!

Stakeholders — SDF is grateful to 3,088 individuals, 117 foundations, 34 companies, 38 organizations, and 2 schools across all 50 states and 4 countries outside of the US who made gifts in 2016.

Endowment Guardians — We welcomed 13 new Guardians who included SDF in their Estate plans in 2016, bringing our total number to 263. At the close of 2016, our Endowment was valued at $4,095,571.

Search Dog Sponsors — We are so appreciative of the 9 individuals, companies, and family foundations who became the special Sponsor of a Search Dog in 2016.

Volunteers — Over 50 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 $102,337 from employees who gave through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), their State Employee Campaign, the United Way, or 54 different company matching programs.

SDF Board of Directors (L to R): Executive Director George Haynes, Board Chair Michael Antonucci, Founder Wilma Melville, Robert Dodge, M.D., Dennis Kuykendall, and Jeff Wenig. Photo by Dave Lindee

SDF Staff (clockwise from bottom left): Will Brown, Debra Tosch, Lyz Gregory, Serenity Nichols, Jami Byrd, Alex Hill, Rhett Mauck, Jim Wiggins, Kristina Stewart, Dave Lindee, Jenn Mueller, Celeste Matesevac, Jessica Kendrick, Erin Fabing, and SDF Founder Wilma Melville. (Not pictured: Michael Bland, Emily Fisk, George Haynes, Sonja Heritage, Kate Horwick, Samantha Mangiapane, Debra Roets, Denise Sanders, Sylvia Stoney) Photo by George Haynes

Highlight of the Year... Moving into Our New Home at the NTC!

In July 2016, SDF staff and volunteers packed up our offices in Ojai, CA, where we called home for our first 20 years and officially moved into the National Training Center in Santa Paula. Now, all staff and Search Dog recruits are working and living under one roof at the Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion until the Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center is completed in Summer 2017. While we will always cherish our time and humble beginnings in Ojai, we are very excited to begin this new chapter of our journey with a place of our own to call home!

SDF staff help move our sign from the Ojai office to be loaded up and transported to our new home at the NTC. Photo by Tim Dewar, Ojai Valley News

Trainers and canine care staff work together to move our Search Dog recruits into their brand new kennels at the Canine Pavilion! Photo by Jenn Mueller

Financial Snapshot
October 1, 2015 – September 31, 2016

By George Haynes, Executive Director

The Search Dog Foundation (SDF) is fortunate to have a dynamic and experienced team of staff, volunteers, and Board members who are all passionately committed to our mission of strengthening disaster response in America—and we all are deeply grateful for every contribution to the ongoing success of the foundation. Donations from SDF supporters throughout the country brought in $2,040,586 operationally, with 84% of our expenses used to fund Program services. We do our best to keep overhead as low as possible while providing substantial support and resources to the Canine Disaster Search community that is aligned with Task Forces throughout the U.S.

The funds raised in FY 2015-2016 enabled SDF to: evaluate 135 canines, 16 of which were accepted into our training program, form 8 new Search Teams, provide 63 active Search Teams with training and ongoing support, provide 9 canines not suited for disaster search work with a Lifetime Care "fur-ever" home or new career, while also continuing to support the existing 140 canines in the Lifetime Care community. With more shelters and rescue groups understanding our refined screening process, the number of canines our recruiters are being asked to evaluate is decreasing and the percentage of canines passing the evaluation is increasing, better focusing our efforts.

In July 2016, while celebrating our 20th Anniversary Year, all SDF staff, volunteers, and canines were transitioned from temporary sites to our beautiful National Training Center campus in Santa Paula, CA. For the first time in our history all of us are now working and learning together in one location. Two months later, on September 24, 2016, we officially celebrated the Grand Opening of the Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion followed by a training day for over 30 of our teams.

In September of 2017, we will officially celebrate the completion of both the Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center and the Bechtel Handlers' Lodge, in concert with the Grand Opening of SDF's National Training Center—marking a long journey that began with Wilma Melville's vision of a centralized training facility available to all of America's Canine Disaster Search Teams. With the opening of our center, Search Teams from across the country will have a unique and supportive environment where they can learn, train and collaborate.

Note: Our fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30th so that our highest income generating months coincide with the first quarter of our fiscal year and thus enable us to make better informed financial decisions.

Summary

2015 -2016 Income Sources

Foundations	1,003,800
Individuals	1,036,786
2015-2016 Operating Funds Raised	***$2,040,586***

2015 -2016 Expenses

Program	**84%**
Fundraising	**9%**
Organization	**7%**

Balance Sheet

Current Assets	7,940,842
Fixed Assets	23,106,809
Other Assets	50,567
Total Assets	***$31,098,218***
Current Liabilities	1,561,011
Long-Term Liabilities	3,090,294
Net Assets	26,446,913
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	***$31,098,218***

Statement of Activities

Revenues, Gains & Support

Merchandise Sales	18,097
Cost of Goods Sold	-15,615
Merchant Fees	-14,765
Appeal Income	159,656
NTC Community Benefit Discount	201,351
New Endowment Gifts Received	966,622
General Contributions	519,636
Workplace Contributions	96,304
Grants Income	1,003,800
Sponsorships	209,207
In-Kind Donations	2,931,052
Restricted Contributions	944,740
Reward Program	648
Investment Income	150,311
Total Revenues, Gains & Support	***$7,171,044***

Expenses

Program	1,353,586
Canine Recruitment	58,456
Canine Training	213,385
Search Team Fund	93,590
In-Kind Program Expenses	2,931,052
Depreciation & Amortization - Program	200,040
General & Administration	368,776
Depreciation & Amortization - Gen & Admin	6,635
Investment Expenses - Gen & Admin	24,048
Fundraising	520,185
Depreciation & Amortization - Fundraising	22,535
Total Expenses	***$5,792,288***
Net Income	**$1,378,756**

Bob George & Eva at the train wreck prop at the NTC Photo by Kate Horwick

CHARITY NAVIGATOR ★★★★ Four Star Charity

GREAT NONPROFITS 2016 TOP-RATED NONPROFIT

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20TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

Since 1996, the Search Dog Foundation has pledged to turn rescued shelter dogs into rescuers by training and partnering them with first responders to find people buried in the rubble of disasters both in the United States and around the world. This unwavering mission has led us to achieve numerous milestones through the years thanks to the hard work and enduring support of our Search Dogs, Handlers, staff, Board, volunteers, and you—all comprising our Search Dog Family.

Throughout this Quest, you will read about our accomplishments in 2016 as well as our cumulative successes over the years. We hope you will enjoy joining us on a walk down memory lane, beginning with some of our top milestones over the last 20 years:

1996

SDF Founder Wilma Melville and her Search Dog Murphy seen here searching at the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, returned home determined to make a difference in the world of canine disaster search.

1997

Three Sacramento firefighters were selected to be trained alongside three Search Dog candidates. After working with Wilma and Founding Trainer Pluis Davern for several months, SDF's first Search Teams Randy Gross & Dusty, Rob Cima & Harley, and Rick Lee & Ana graduated in February!

2001

13 SDF Search Teams, along with hundreds of first responders, answered the call when terrorist attacks destroyed the World Trade Center and heavily damaged the Pentagon, killing thousands. The Search Dogs combed the rubble for weeks following the disaster, making sure no survivors were left beneath the debris and giving closure to their loved ones.

2003

SDF's Lifetime Care program was created with the promise that once rescued, these dogs will never need to be rescued again. Whether career changed to a different field or placed in a "fur-ever" home, SDF pledges that no dog that enters our program, whether they graduate or not, will ever return to the shelter system. (See page 19 for more about the Lifetime Care program)

2005

In August, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast of the United States, causing deadly flooding and leaving thousands stranded and homeless. Shortly after Katrina, Hurricane Rita made landfall, creating even more devastation throughout the region. 27 SDF-trained Search Teams deployed alongside other first responders to search hundreds of square miles to be sure that no one had been left behind when the flood waters rose.

2006

After seeing an article about SDF in the newspaper, the McGraths, a local Ventura County farming family, donated $1.6 million to SDF to help secure 125 acres in Wheeler Canyon. It would be the beginning of a longtime friendship as the McGrath family continues to help Wilma's vision of a National Training Center come to life through namings such as the Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center, Canine Memorial, and Executive Director Office!

2010

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti on January 12, leveling much of the capital city of Port-au-Prince and killing more than 100,000 people. 7 SDF Search Teams from Los Angeles deployed along with Canine Disaster Search Teams from across the country to search for survivors, ultimately helping to bring several people to safety.

2011

On March 11, a devastating 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan, creating a deadly tsunami that killed over 15,000 people and left over 200,000 homeless. Within 48 hours, two American Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces, including 6 SDF-trained Search Teams, responded to help in the search for survivors in the coastal communities affected by the wave.

2013

SDF Canine Trainers began working full-time with Search Dog candidates at the NTC. Using the new DeMartini Covered Training Arena and rubble pile, the very first group of Search Dogs lived, trained and were partnered on this campus. On July 30, Sacramento firefighter Tim Robertson and Search Dog Crockett (pictured) were the first SDF Search Team to be partnered at the NTC.

2015

The capital city of Kathmandu, Nepal, and the surrounding region was hit by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on April 25, leveling buildings and killing more than 8,000 residents. 6 SDF-trained Search Teams deployed with two American Search and Rescue Task Forces to search for survivors. As they were preparing to return home, a 7.3 magnitude aftershock rocked the area while our teams were still in the country. The American Task Forces stayed and continued to search for those trapped in the rubble for nearly three weeks to help with rescue efforts.

2016

SDF celebrated its 20th Anniversary Year, marking two decades of dedicated service to the nation and world. To top off this banner year, we also officially opened the Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion. (See page 6 for photos!) The first building to be completed at the NTC, the Pavilion is the beating heart of the center, and houses all SDF canine candidates and staff as other parts of the campus are completed.

As we look to the future, we are so grateful for all of you who have been with us each step of the way. We are nearly finished with the construction of the NTC, so be sure to see page 7 for ways that you can make your mark on disaster search and help us complete this historic project in 2017!

OUR NEXT CHAPTER

Message from SDF Founder Wilma Melville

Over the years, whether raising my family, teaching, or dog training, I have learned that the only thing that stays constant is change. While this constant change can be challenging, it also often brings with it the most important leaps of progress.

When I first met Debra back in 1996, she had responded to an ad in the paper looking for volunteers to help me get SDF up and running. While Debra had no experience with nonprofit work, she did have determination and courage. From the moment we met, I could see that this woman, though small in stature, like myself, made up for it in fortitude and passionate commitment.

Anyone who knows me knows one of my heroes is Sir Winston Churchill, who once said, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

After listening to her heart, this leap forward that Debra is poised to make has taken immense courage to ensure that our organization continues to thrive as we move into the next chapter of our journey. I am so proud of how she has served her country and the Search Dog Foundation through the years.

I am also grateful for having found George and look forward to seeing SDF grow over the coming years with this incredible team in place. From my living room table "office" in 1996 to the NTC today —onward!

Reflections from Debra Tosch

It has been an honor and privilege to work with you, and I don't need to tell you how proud I have been to serve as the Executive Director of the Search Dog Foundation for so many years. As a former handler myself, I know firsthand the critical importance of our mission, and the invaluable support we provide to the brave men, women and canines who risk their lives to save others in the face of disasters.

With the completion of the NTC project on the horizon, I took time to reflect—in the spirit of looking forward and imagining the vital and significant difference our mission could make on strengthening disaster response in our country.

And so, it is with great devotion to SDF, enthusiasm for our future, and confidence in our next steps forward that the time has come to "pass the leash," just as we did in 2005 when Wilma stepped down as Executive Director and selected me as her successor.

As George Haynes assumes the role of Executive Director to grow and lead the Search Dog Foundation into the future, I am excited to be shifting into a different role here at SDF, one that gives me the opportunity to work directly once again with the Handlers in the field. This is my true passion and something that has always held a special place in my heart. In this way, George and I, together with our incredible staff, can elevate our organization into the agency it needs to be to help address a critical gap in our country's ability to respond to disasters. —*Debra Tosch*

Passing the Leash to George Haynes

It is with enthusiasm and humility that I have embraced the opportunity to lead this dynamic organization that is continually learning and discerning how to strengthen disaster response in America. The passion, expertise, and tenacity of the team that has been assembled at the Search Dog Foundation is an inspiration - and vital to the mission and important work we are focused on.

In my experience, no matter how many hours are worked or great ideas promoted, accomplishments are limited without a strategic plan aligned with a shared vision that is actively embraced by all involved. It's a team effort. I have learned that the folks at SDF (staff, volunteers, board members) are a highly functioning team and much like our Search Dogs in temperament—focused, energetic, and committed. And we are all motivated regularly by Wilma!

As SDF enters this new chapter of its story, operating from our National Training Center and providing highly-trained Search Dogs to emergency response agencies throughout the country, we welcome Canine Disaster Search Teams to our new home to learn from our trainers, recognized experts in the field, and each other. And, as a learning organization, we want to continue to develop and improve what we do - and share the knowledge and benefits with our partners.

The impressive foundation of this agency, established over the past 20 years, will serve us well as we continue to grow and flourish in the years to come. I am grateful and excited to be part of this inspiring team and great cause.

Thank you for being with us on this journey, I look forward to being *Part of the Search* with all of you! —*George Haynes*

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

The first of its kind in the nation, the NTC can now serve as THE training resource for Canine Disaster Search Teams in America and beyond. It will also enable SDF to recruit more rescued dogs from shelters and train them to become rescuers, support more Search Teams each year, and offer simulated disaster sites found nowhere else.

Anyone who knows Wilma knows that there is no challenge too great, and no obstacle that cannot be overcome. Fueled by her passion, vision and commitment to strengthening disaster response in America, SDF embarked on a monumental effort in 2007 to build the NTC. Acquiring a piece of land in the rural foothills of Santa Paula, CA (about 90 minutes north of Los Angeles), Wilma set out to build a city from the ground up, complete with the facilities needed to train the many generations of Search Dogs and Handlers that would come in the future.

Now, 10 years later, we are incredibly proud to share that 885 generous individuals and foundations have joined Wilma in her quest, and invested $25,270,635 in this unique project—a profound statement about the importance of the center and the life-saving lessons it provides.

But there is still work to be done before we can call the NTC complete! We're almost there, and are putting the finishing touches on this truly unique and vital project—***but we need your help!***

With a final Campaign Goal of $28,000,000, we are just $2,729,365 away from completing Wilma's vision, and opening the center to Search Teams both foreign and domestic.

Leave Your Pawprint on the NTC

Our goal is to raise the remaining funds for completion of the NTC by September 30, 2017.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has stepped forward and supported this incredible project.

If you have been considering a gift in support of this unique project, or would like to do more to help us cross the finish line, there has never been a better chance to do so! In addition to a number of naming opportunities still available at the NTC, there are two other ways to make your mark here at the NTC:

Plant Your Roots at the NTC

Watch your investment in the NTC grow through the years alongside our training program. By naming a tree in the Scaife Family Foundation Grove, you leave a legacy for future generations of Search Teams and guests to enjoy when visiting our campus.

Make a Lasting Impression

In the courtyard of the Welcome Center and Handlers' Lodge you can sponsor a beautiful engraved paver stone that you and your family will enjoy for years to come each time you visit the NTC.

For more information on these opportunities, contact Rhett Mauck, Director of Development, at Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org or call him at (805) 229-0075.

Below left, Search City
Photo by Denise Sanders

At right, The Canine Memorial
Photo by Susan Bollinger

SDF Trainer Sonja Heritage & Asta Photo by Susan Bollinger

Teams training at Search City Photo by Kate Horwick

A HOMECOMING 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING

On September 24, 2016, a new and important chapter began in the story of the Search Dog Foundation.

With our friends from the Petco Foundation by our side, we officially opened the Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at our National Training Center.

This ceremony marked an important milestone in SDF's history, as for the very first time our entire Search Dog Family was brought together on one centralized campus. SDF Staff, Volunteers, Trainers and Search Dog Candidates are now working together under the same roof!

What's Next for the NTC—

The Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center and Bechtel Handlers' Lodge

Now that we are settling in to our new "digs" at the Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion, we ask ourselves, "What else do we need to officially call the NTC open?" The answer lies in our ability to house our SDF Staff, and more importantly, our handlers and canines from across the nation that will be visiting here to train and learn the skills they need to prepare for the next big disaster.

We are looking forward to the completion of the Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center and Bechtel Handlers' Lodge, the welcoming arms with which every NTC visitor will be greeted. Construction continues five days a week and completion of these buildings is scheduled for August 2017—just around the corner!

Each day the sounds of hammering and sawing at the Welcome Center and Handlers' Lodge are only masked by the sounds of Search Dogs alerting on Maggie's Rubble Pile. Search City and Carlee's Train Wreck have become popular training areas as Search Teams from all over America have been visiting our campus more frequently. Soon we will be extending invitations for Canine Disaster Search Teams from around the world to use this state-of-the-art center, and learn from other handlers to help ensure they are ready for the next time disaster strikes.

We could not be more excited to finally be home, and open our doors to America's Canine Disaster Search Teams!

The Petco Foundation team celebrates the opening of the Canine Pavilion
Photo by Tony Panzica

Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Canine Pavilion Grand Opening Photo by Tony Panzica

Color Guard at the Canine Pavilion Grand Opening
Photo by Jack Hutchinson

THE CLASS OF 2016

In 2016...

8
SEARCH TEAMS PARTNERED

17
TASK FORCES SERVED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Over the last 20 years...

184
SEARCH TEAMS PARTNERED

Robert Goertzen & Bailey
Los Angeles Fire
California Task Force 1
(Los Angeles City)

Josh Flores & Cajun
Los Angeles County Fire
California Task Force 2
(Los Angeles County)

"As trainers we get to watch these dogs transform before our eyes. We can often tell they've lived a rough life up to this point. To have the opportunity to give them love, hone their natural skills, and watch them blossom into Search Dogs is an incredible thing. We're just one stepping stone in the path of saving lives, and we're proud to be part of it. We're all excited to see what this group of dogs can do!"

—Emily Fisk, SDF Canine Trainer

Brian Girard & Keila
NYS Division of Homeland
Security & Emergency Services
New York Task Force 2 (Albany)

Manny Sampang & Eva
Los Angeles County Fire
California Task Force 2
(Los Angeles County)

Frankie Grant & Merlin
Unified Fire Authority
Utah Task Force 1
(Salt Lake City)

"We are extremely happy to welcome the new handlers and their outstanding canine partners to California Task Force 2. As an internationally deployable Task Force, we know how valuable these dogs are to the search and rescue work that must be done on home soil and abroad. You saw how many countries responded to assist the people of Nepal in 2015 - we were proud to have our Task Force members on the ground then, and with the new generations of canine teams, we'll be ready the next time a disaster occurs."

—Captain Dennis Clark,
Canine Coordinator, California Task Force 2

Doug Van Iwaarden & Sadie*
Orange County Fire
Authority
California Task Force 5
(Orange County)

Jason Dobbins & Diva
Los Angeles County Fire
California Task Force 2
(Los Angeles County)

"The past two weeks have been incredible! Having the opportunity to be able to train with SDF has been a once in a lifetime experience! It's amazing to see what these dogs can do. Charlie is a phenomenal dog who will most certainly help keep New York safe!"

—Chris Johnson,
partnered with Search Dog Charlie in May 2016

Chris Johnson & Charlie
NYS Division of Homeland
Security & Emergency Services
New York Task Force 2 (Albany)

An asterisk (*) indicates the pairing of a veteran handler with a new canine partner. All photos by Denise Sanders and Dave Lindee.

DEPLOYMENTS

In 2016...

17
SDF-TRAINED TEAMS DEPLOYED TO 11 DISASTERS

8
U.S. STATES WERE ASSISTED BY SDF SEARCH TEAMS

Over the last 20 years...

381
SDF-TRAINED TEAMS DEPLOYED TO 145 DISASTERS

14
U.S. STATES WERE ASSISTED BY SDF SEARCH TEAMS

Above, Baylee & Ricochet at the Hurricane Matthew deployment
Photo by Julie Padelford-Jansen

At left, Ben waiting on the bus during his deployment in response to Hurricane Matthew Photo by Eric Darling

"We have to be ready for many different kinds of scenarios. In this particular event, we were concerned that our victim may have lost consciousness in the field where their vehicle wrecked. Tanner was able to search the area quicker than we could have on foot. These dogs are versatile and eager to work, and thanks to the world class training from the Search Dog Foundation, we can do our best to help those in need. Our victim was eventually located several miles away by police, but it was still a great experience for Tanner and me."

—Maddie Warner & Tanner, Utah Task Force 1, deployed to a missing person search in Herriman, UT on November 19

"Walking away from our first official deployment, it was rewarding to watch Rocket, a dog that was one day away from being euthanized, fulfill his destiny by searching a large crash site with poise and precision. As emergency responders, our job is to ensure no one is left behind. Rocket's training through the Search Dog Foundation assured we had a reliable search resource to aid our responders and the public in a successful mission. There may not always be a victim to find, but Rocket has proved he will always work hard, regardless of the circumstances he encounters."

—Mike Stornetta & Rocket, California Task Force 4, deployed to a plane crash in Santa Rosa, CA on January 28

Aide Barbat & Sarge searching a bluff collapse in Del Mar, CA on July 13

Plane Crash – Santa Rosa, CA
Mike Stornetta & Rocket – January 28

Missing Person Search – San Francisco, CA
Ed Martinez & Fritz – February 21

Missing Person Search – Tulsa, OK
Jeff Leon & Justice – March 28

Tornado – Sand Springs, OK
Adrienne Seibel & Gunny, Vincent Stoops & Magnum, Judy Zinn & Royce – March 30

Missing Person Search – Emigration Canyon, UT
Trevor Lawrence & Taylor – June 8

Building Collapse – Dallas, TX
Derek Chaky & Scout – June 27

Bluff Collapse – Del Mar, CA
Aide Barbat & Sarge, Brent Brainard & Decker – July 13

Hurricane Hermine – Long Island, NY
Greg Gould & Dax – September 4

Hurricane Matthew – East Coast
Eric Darling & Ben, Marshia Hall & Lilah, Julie Padelford-Jansen & Ricochet – October 6

Missing Person Search – Herriman, UT
Madison Warner & Tanner – November 19

Tree Collapse – Whittier, CA
Gary Durian & Tanker, Manny Sampang & Eva – December 17

QUEST FOR CANINES

In 2016...

135
DOGS WERE EVALUATED

16
OF THOSE DOGS EVALUATED WERE GIVEN A NEW "LEASH ON LIFE"

188
RESCUE PARTNERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HELPED EVALUATE DOGS FOR OUR TRAINING PROGRAM

Over the last 20 years...

SDF has helped to evolve the public's perception about the incredible potential shelter dogs possess and what they can accomplish given the opportunity to succeed. Our Founder, Wilma Melville, was truly a pioneer when she began scouring shelters for potential Search Dogs. Since 1996, SDF has evaluated thousands of dogs and recruited hundreds from shelters and rescues across the country, and we plan to continue this legacy of changing future dogs' lives for decades to come!

Photo by Dave Lindee

A Special Thank You to the Sacramento SPCA from SDF Handler Cynthia Sato

"I wanted to thank you for the wonderful work you do at the Sacramento SPCA. When I got my Roxy from the Search Dog Foundation, I had no idea that I would be partnered with my best friend.

Roxy entered your facility as a stray because of her high energy and constant need for attention. I have no doubt that your organization would have taken wonderful care of her, but what she really needed is one-on-one attention from a person or family, and a job.

She has made the largest impact on me as a firefighter, rescuer, best friend, and human being that you can possibly imagine. In our time together, she's taught me real love, kindness, patience, and the art of teaching and learning.

Again, thank you all at the Sacramento SPCA for all you've done. Roxy is my heart and my soul."

—Cynthia Sato,
Los Angeles Fire Department

Sacramento SPCA Alumni!

3 dogs rescued by the Sacramento SPCA have graduated from our program and gone on to be partnered with first responders throughout the country:

Lilah
Rocket
Roxy

12 additional candidates entered but did not complete SDF's program and were placed in loving homes or career changed to a different job through SDF's Lifetime Care Program!

"The Sacramento SPCA is privileged to regularly witness the extraordinary character of dogs and their commitment to being more than loyal companions. We also have the pleasure of meeting animals like Roxy, an energetic girl who was immediately recognized by our staff to possess traits often seen in search and rescue dogs.

Because of our partnership with the Search Dog Foundation, dogs like Roxy are not only given the opportunity to fulfill their purpose to serve humanity, they also change the lives of their Handlers along the way." —Dawn Foster, Sacramento SPCA

We are grateful for our Rescue Partners throughout the country:

ADPH-Baldwin CO Animal Shelter
Animal Compassion Team
Auburn Valley Humane Society
Aurora Animal Shelter
Bakersfield SPCA
Baldwin County Humane Society
Bay Area German Shepherd Rescue
Best Friends NKLA Coalition
Best Friends of Baker
Big Dog Rescue
Bmeerhuis German Shepherds
Border Collie Rescue of Minnesota
Brightside Animal Center
Butte Humane Society
Calloway County Humane Society
Calloway Hills Shelter
Central California SPCA
Charleston Animal Society
City of Clovis Animal Services
City of Lodi Police Dept
City of Mobile Animal Shelter
City of Reedsport K9 Shelter
City of Sacramento Animal Services
Clackamas County Dog Services
Clatsop County Oregon Animal
Clay County Animal Rescue and Education
Coastal German Shepherd Rescue OC
Columbia Humane Society
Coos County Sheriffs Office
County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control
County of Mobile Animal Shelter
County of Santa Barbara Animal Services
Cowley County Shelter
Curry County Animal
Del Norte County Animal
Deschutes County Sheriffs
Doc Williams SPCA
Dogs by Debin
Dogs of the Gorge
Dogs Playing for Life
Fannin County Animal Shelter
First Avenue Shelter
Fresno Humane Animal Service
Fur the love of PAWS
Garrett Animal Shelter
German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies
Gilmer County Animal Shelter
Ginger's Pet Rescue
Golden Gate Lab Retriever Rescue
Grand Island Animal Shelter
Great Plains SPCA - Independence
Great Plains SPCA - Merriam
Green Hill Humane Society
Gridley Animal Control
Happy Tails Animal Rescue
Harbor City Kennels
Harney County Save a Stray
Harrison County Dog Pound
Haven Humane Society
Hawaii Island Humane Society
Heartland Humane Society
Heartland Lab Rescue
Helping Strays of Monroe County
Hollister Animal Shelter
Home At Last Humane Society
Homeward Bound Pets
Hootie's Rescue Haven
Human Society for South West
Humane Rescue Alliance
Humane Society of Central Oregon
Humane Society of Eastern Oregon
Humane Society of Greater Kansas City
Humane Society of Missouri
Humane Society of Skagit Valley
Humane Society of Southwest Missouri
Humane Society of Tacoma
Humane Society of the Ochocos
Humane Society of Ventura County -Ojai
Humane Society Silicon Valley
Humboldt County Animal Shelter
Jackson County Animal Care
Jefferson City Animal Shelter
Joplin Humane Society
Josephine County Animal Control
Journey Home GSD Rescue
KC Pet Project
Kellen Rescue
Kern County Animal Services
Klamath Animal Shelter
Lassen County Animal Shelter
Lawrence Humane Society
Linn County Sheriffs Office
Los Angeles Animal Services
Madera County Animal Shelter
Marion County Dog Control
Maui Humane Society
Mendocino County Animal Care
Merced County Animal Control
Mexico Animal Shelter
Midway Hunting Retriever Club
Midwest Animal ResQ
Miss Winkles Pet Adoption Center
Missouri German Shepherd Rescue
Moberly Animal Shelter
Monterey County Animal Services
Mountain Animal Rescue
Multnomah County Animal Services
Napa County Animal Shelter
Narcotics AGT
Nebraska Humane Society
Neosho Animal Shelter
Nevada County Animal Control
Newberg Animal Shelter
North Baldwin Animal Shelter
North Platte Animal Shelter
Northwest SPCA
Oahu SPCA
Onslow County Animal Services
Oregon Humane Society
Oregon Outback Humane Society
Pendleton Animal Welfare
Pet Helpers Adoption Center and Spay/Neuter Clinic
Pickens County Animal Shelter
Placer SPCA
Project Pooch
Redwood Pals Rescue
Rescue Ranch Inc.
Retrieving Freedom
Rogue Valley Humane Society
Runamuk Rescue
Sacramento County Bradshaw
Sacramento SPCA
Safe Haven Humane Society
San Jose Animal Care & Services
San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter
Santa Barbara Animal Care and Control
Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center
Scooters Pals
Seattle Animal Shelter
Seattle Humane
Second Chance
Second Chance Pups
Sequoia Humane Society
Shasta County Animal Shelter
Siskiyou Humane Society
Sonoma County Animal Services
Sonoma Humane Society
South Coast Humane Society
South Pacific County Humane Society
Southern Oregon Humane Society
Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center
SPCA of Merced
SPCA of Stanislaus
Spokane Humane Society
Spokanimal
Springfield Animal Shelter
Stanislaus County Animal Shelter
Start Over Rover
Stray Rescue of St. Louis
Sutter Buttes Canine Rescue
Sutter County Animal Services
Tehama County Animal Care Center
The Fetch Foundation
The Frances R. Willis SPCA
The Pixie Project
Three Rivers Humane Society
Trinity County Animal Control
Union County Animal Shelter
Unleashed Pet Rescue
Valley Animal Center
Ventura County Animal Services
Vegas Shepherd Rescue
Washington County Animal
Washoe County Regional Animal Services
Wayside Waifs
Wenatchee Valley Humane Society
West Columbia Gorge Humane
West Valley Humane Society
Whatcom Humane Society
Whitman County Humane Society
Willamette Humane Society
Woods Humane Society
Woof Project
Working Dogs for Conservation
Yamhill County Dog Control
Yolo County Animal Service Shelter
Yuba County Animal Care Services
Yuba-Sutter SPCA

Search Dog recruit Delta training at the NTC
Photo by Kate Horwick

QUEST FOR CANINES

Meet 12 of Our Current Canine Candidates in Training

Willy
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from
Forever Home Dog Rescue
in Mountlake Terrace, WA

Koda
Private Donor

Ozcar
Recruited by Charlie Freeman from
Onslow County Animal Services
in Jacksonville, NC

Delta
Private Donor

Gage
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from
Sacramento County Animal Care &
Regulation in Sacramento, CA

Zeke
Private Donor

Blake
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk
from Jackson County Animal Care &
Control Center in Phoenix, OR

Deacon
Private Donor

Fender
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from
Southern Oregon Humane
Society in Medford, OR

Dora
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from City of Sacramento
Animal Care & Control in Sacramento, CA

Georgia
Recruited by Greg Strickland
from Union County Sheriff's Office
Animal Control in Blairsville, Georgia

Weston
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk
from Klamath Animal Shelter
in Klamath Falls, OR

SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES

Jake Armendariz & Clancy (CA-TF2)

Los Angeles County Fire
Certification: March 2016
Donated by Brent McCloskey
Recruited by Penny Woodruff
Guardian: Nancy Stone
Sponsors: Patricia Snyder, The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation
Named by Kathleen Kennedy & Cecila O'Flynn

Tom Carney & Allie (CA-TF3)

South San Francisco Fire
Certification: March 2016
Donated by Kaelene Schooley
Evaluated by Teri Thomas
Guardians: Pam Jones, Sue & John Ziliotto
Sponsors: Marith Levers, Carol & John Marengo, Pamela Hill, The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation
Named by Barbara Phelps

In 2016...

10
SDF TEAMS CERTIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME

15
VETERAN SDF TEAMS RE-CERTIFIED

63
SDF-TRAINED SEARCH TEAMS STOOD READY TO DEPLOY

Over the last 20 years...

142
CERTIFIED SEARCH TEAMS TRAINED BY SDF

Jason Dobbins & Diva (CA-TF2)

Los Angeles County Fire
Certification: June 2016
Evaluated by Trevor Lawrence
Prep Home: Darrell & Heather Wilkerson
Guardian: Berkeley Meigs
Sponsor: Mary & Jeff Kroll, Mars, Inc.

Mark Edwards & Taz (OK-TF1)

Oklahoma City Fire
Re-Certification: May 2016
Recruited from Humane Society of Del Norte
Evaluated by Laura Rathe
Guardians: Sandra Sanders, Deb & John Hartley

All SDF Search Teams operate on Task Forces regulated by either the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or State Urban Search & Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) agencies. In order to maintain their active deployment status, each Search Team must be evaluated by one of these agencies every three years to prove they have what it takes to perform on deployment. Our first three graduates became FEMA Certified and ready to serve the nation in late 1997.

All photos on pages 13, 14, and 15 by Denise Sanders, Dave Lindee, Tony Panzica, Emily Fisk, Sharon Hanzelka, and Susan Bollinger.

Josh Flores & Cajun (CA-TF2)

Los Angeles County Fire
Certification: June 2016
Donated by Elise Lalor
Named by Hank Butler-Funk
Sponsor: Mars, Inc.

Robert Goertzen & Bailey (CA-TF1)

Los Angeles Fire
Certification: September 2016
Recruited from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Guardians: Mary Ellen Maclean, Susan Kemper & Cam Warren, Linda Heizer Seaman
Sponsor: Nancy F. Link

Greg Gould & Dax (NY-TF2)

New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention & Control
Re-Certification: November 2016
Recruited from Guide Dogs of America
Pup Raiser: Christina Guz
Recruited by Heidi Miller
Sponsor: Planet Dog Foundation

SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES

Eric Gray & Riley (CA-TF2)

Los Angeles County Fire
Re-Certification: January 2016
Donated by Teri Draeger
Guardians: Mary & Jeff Kroll, Ann Catts, Cheri & Larry Savage
Sponsor: Dodson Foundation

Wade Haller & Rex (CA-TF5)

Long Beach Fire
Re-Certification: January 2016
Donated by Barbara Ornbaun
Evaluated by Penny Woodruff
Prep Home: Karen Klingberg
Guardian: Sandy Flanagan

Eric Ingstad & Java (CA-TF1)

Los Angeles Fire
Re-Certification: September 2016
Recruited from Bones Pet Rescue
Evaluated by Laura Rathe
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation

Matthew Kirk & Stella (CA-TF8)

La Mesa Fire
Re-Certification: April 2016
Donated by Kerry Holden
Guardian: Carol Fenbers
Sponsors: Otilia & Emma Diaz, State Chairman for Public Issues - Marina District - CFWC

Brent Koeninger & Moxie (OK-TF1)

Oklahoma City Fire
Re-Certification: May 2016
Recruited from Humane Society of Ventura County – Ojai
Named by the Westlake Women's Club - CFWC

Ed Martinez & Fritz (CA-TF3)

San Francisco Fire
Certification: March 2016
Recruited from Greenhill Humane Society
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk
Guardians: Betty & Don Krause
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation

Garreth Miller & Vita (CA-TF3)

San Francisco Fire
Certification: April 2016
Recruited from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Guardians: Michele & John Aerts
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation
Named in Honor of Vita Franco

Manny Sampang & Eva (CA-TF2)

Los Angeles County Fire
Certification: September 2016
Donated by Heather Smith
Guardian: Melanie Levitt
Sponsors: Otilia & Emma Diaz, Mars, Inc.

Cynthia Sato & Roxy (CA-TF1)

Los Angeles Fire
Re-Certification: June 2016
Recruited from Sacramento SPCA
Recruited by Heidi Miller
Guardian: Gloria Balcom
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation

SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES

Mark Schroeder & Noah (NE-TF1)

Civilian
Re-Certification: June 2016
Recruited from Central California SPCA
Recruited by Heidi Miller
Guardians: Kimberly & John McGuigan
Sponsor: The Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project

Adrienne Seibel & Gunny (OK-TF1)

Tulsa Fire
Re-Certification: June 2016
Donated by Jeff Ivy
Sponsors: Judith Sykora, Fern Marks

Jason Smith & Jagger (OK-TF1)

Oklahoma City Fire
Re-Certification: May 2016
Recruited from Haven Humane Society
Evaluated by Laura Rathe
Guardian: Sharon Barulli

Richard Smith & Bella (CA-TF8)

Lakeside Fire Protection District
Re-Certification: September 2016
Recruited from City of Stockton Animal Control
Guardian: Nancy Coker
Sponsor: Susan Rountree

Vincent Stoops & Magnum (OK-TF1)

Tulsa Fire
Re-Certification: April 2016
Recruited from Shasta County Sheriff Animal Regulation
Recruited by Lyz Gregory
Guardian: Karen Garra

Deresa Teller & Huck (CA-TF1)

Los Angeles Fire - Retired
Re-Certification: June 2016
Donated by Julia Ford
Guardian: Hank Butler-Funk
Sponsors: Joseph Sayre, The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation, Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club - CFWC

Eli Thomas & Vader (CA-TF3)

San Francisco Fire
Certification: March 2016
Recruited from Rescue Ranch, Inc.
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Charitable Foundation

Doug Van Iwaarden & Sadie (CA-TF5)

Orange County Fire Authority
Certification: June 2016
Donated by Nona Bauer
Prep Home: Jill & Jeff Wenig
Guardian: Karen Kamp
Sponsors: Teddy Armstrong, Dakota & J.C. Svec

Dane Yaw & Salsa (OK-TF1)

Oklahoma City Fire
Re-Certification: May 2016
Donated by Guide Dogs of America
Pup Raiser: Debra Murphy
Guardians: Mary McClure, Lerae Bush, Meredith Vargo
Sponsors: Brian, Connie, Peter & Martha Burri

RETIRED TEAMS

Annie & Shani Cornell

Callie & Scott Zins

Crockett & Tim Robertson

Ellie & Eric Hanzelka

Gypsy & Tom Carney

Hayden & Mike Hargrove

Hunter & Billy Monahan

Justice & Jeff Leon

Major & Russell Tao

Pearl & Ron Horetski

Annie • *Years of Service 2007 - 2016*
Handler Shani Cornell
Sacramento Metro Fire • California Task Force 7
Donated by Amber & Joey Garza
Guardians: Patty & Doug Piroh, Diane Dunford, Lucille & Mike McGuirk

Callie • *Years of Service 2008 - 2016*
Handler Scott Zins
Los Angeles City Fire • California Task Force 1
Recruited from Juniperridge Labrador Retrievers
Prep Home: Sonja Donaldson
Guardians: Mary Deweese, Janice Hong
Sponsors: Sue & Richard Masson

Crockett • *Years of Service 2013 – 2016*
Handler Tim Robertson
Sacramento City Fire • California Task Force 7
Recruited from Animal Welfare Association
Recruited by Heidi Miller
Guardian: June Palmer
Named by Heidi Miller

Ellie • *Years of Service 2006 - 2016*
Handler Eric Hanzelka
Monterey County Regional Fire District
California Task Force 4
Donated by Roxanne Bohn
Prep Home: Mary Lippman
Guardians: Len Hanson, Jamie Kitz
Sponsor: Diane Wolcott

Gypsy • *Years of Service 2004 - 2016*
Handler Tom Carney
California Task Force 3
Donated by Deresa Teller
Prep Home: Stacey Ayub
Guardians: Susan & Geoffrey Leach, Carol & John Marengo
Sponsor: Danielle Boulet

Hayden • *Years of Service 2011 - 2016*
Handler Mike Hargrove
Texas Task Force 2
Recruited from Woods Humane Society
Recruited by Heidi Miller
Sponsors: Beth & Greg Apke,
Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation

Hunter • *Years of Service 2004 - 2016*
Handler Billy Monahan
Los Angeles County Fire • California Task Force 2
Donated by Patti Baldwin
Guardians: Mary Sue Berkley, Don Hirschman, Linda Green
Sponsors: Antelope Valley Kennel Club, Disney Corporate
Citizenship, Disney VoluntEARS Community Fund

Justice • *Years of Service 2011 - 2016*
Handler Jeff Leon
Tulsa Fire • Oklahoma Task Force 1
Recruited from Dos Palos Animal Control
Recruited by Leone Sorg, Heidi Miller
Guardian: June Ozmon
Sponsors: The Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project,
Arc Aspicio
Named by The Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project

Major • *Years of Service 2010 - 2016*
Handler Russell Tao
Chino Valley Fire • California Task Force 5
Donated by Nona Bauer
Prep Home: Jill & Jeff Wenig
Guardians: Jill & Jeff Wenig, Lori Corradi
Sponsor: Ann Mangini-Major
Named by Ann Mangini-Major

Pearl • *Years of Service 2007 - 2016*
Handler Ron Horetski
Los Angeles County Fire • California Task Force 2
Recruited from High Sierra Animal Rescue
Recruited by Penny Woodruff
Guardians: Jane & Fred Stann
Sponsors: Allyn Lee, Sierra Cahuenga District - CFWC,
The Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project

All photos by Tony Panzica, Elliot Crowley, and Sharon Hanzelka

Photo: Elliot Crowley

GLACIER

March 3, 2003 – April 28, 2016

Discovered wandering the streets near Glacier National Park in Montana, this fun-loving Yellow Lab was rescued by Flathead County Animal Control in Kalispell in 2004, and then adopted out to a friend of SDF. Named in honor of Big Sky Country, Glacier graduated Search Dog training on December 19, 2004 when he was partnered with Engineer Eric Haslam. The team achieved FEMA Certification in 2006 and deployed to the East Coast in the wake of Hurricane Ernesto that same year. Glacier retired in 2008 and remained a beloved pet in Eric's home for the remainder of his life.

Handler Eric Haslam • South San Francisco Fire • California Task Force 3
Donated by Colleen McNulty
Prep Homes: Sonja Donaldson, Sharon & Glenn Murphy
Guardians: Doreen Baleria, Linda Tacconelli • Sponsor: John Fraser

Photo: Troy Overman

JOE

December 11, 2006 – August 4, 2016

Joe's Search Dog potential was discovered at the Longmont Humane Society in Colorado in 2007, thanks to a dedicated SDF volunteer who worked there at the time. He was flown to California and graduated SDF's training program six months later when he was partnered with Linda Tacconelli in July 2008. The team achieved FEMA Certification the following year and deployed to the La Canada mudslide in January 2010, a truck crash in Santa Barbara in August of the same year, and in March 2011 when a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated coastal communities in Japan before the team retired in 2015.

Handler Linda Tacconelli • California Task Force 2
Recruited from Longmont Humane Society
Guardians: Judy Mize, Lunn & Tildon Courson
Sponsors: Clair & Geoffrey Mitchell, Westlake Women's Club - CFWC

Photo: Elliot Crowley

BRUTUS

June 21, 2002 – May 13, 2016

In 2002, SDF tested a pilot puppy program with two German Shepherds, Brutus and his brother Kona. SDF decided to continue looking for adult dogs in shelters from then on, but Brutus graduated from our training program and was partnered with Handler Lee Culley on March 7, 2004. His brother Kona enjoyed a loving Lifetime Care Home with a local family until he crossed the Rainbow Bridge in 2015. Once FEMA Certified, Brutus and Lee deployed to the Gulf states in September 2005 after Hurricane Rita hit, and again in August 2009 to search for a missing person in Salt Lake City. Brutus retired from a successful career in 2014 and crossed the Rainbow Bridge peacefully with Lee at his side.

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

DAWSON

March 27, 2002 – December 6, 2016

Dawson was born in Dillon, MT in 2002 and was recruited and raised by longtime SDF friend and trainer Kellee Matthews. He was partnered with Ron Weckbacher on December 13, 2004 and was the only dog in SDF history to be dually trained and certified to search for both the rescue of live people trapped after a disaster and the recovery of human remains. Together, Dawson and Ron deployed seven times, most notably to Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and then to Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake. The team retired in 2011 and Dawson enjoyed his golden years at home with the Weckbacher family.

Handler Ronald Weckbacher • California Task Force 2
Recruited from Guide Dogs of America
Puppy Raiser: by Kellee Matthews
Guardians: Judy Ross, Kathy & Chip Weaver, Joyce & Robert Wire, Judy & Darrel Sneed
Sponsors: Nancy Stone, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Photo: Diane Calkins

MATTIE

May 26, 2004 – June 10, 2016

Originally named Hattie, this beautiful Labrador was brought to SDF by Canine Companions for Independence of Oceanside, CA in 2006. Upon completion of her training, Hattie was paired with El Cajon Firefighter Marco Maldonado and the team achieved FEMA Certification in 2008. Together the team deployed to Louisiana in September 2008 after Hurricane Gustav, then Texas just weeks later after Hurricane Ike. They also responded to a building collapse in San Diego in July 2009. For personal reasons, Marco retired from the canine team in 2011 and Hattie was re-partnered with Marco's teammate, Sergeant Kelly Gordon of the Montebello Police, who renamed her Mattie. Kelly and Mattie worked together until her retirement in 2014.

Handlers Kelly Gordon & Marco Maldonado
Montebello Police & El Cajon Fire • California Task Force 8
Recruited from Canine Companions for Independence
Guardians: Patricia Steman, Sue Officer
Sponsors: CH2M Hill, Fran Toll, Judy & Harry Friedman

Photo: Elliot Crowley

GYPSY

July 4, 2003 – December 11, 2016

Gypsy was donated to our training program by SDF Handler Deresa Teller when she was just a pup. When old enough, Gypsy began her formal Search Dog training in April of 2004, already knowing 35 commands thanks to the Ayub family, who raised her for SDF. Upon graduation, Gypsy was partnered with Fire Safety Inspector Tom Carney and together they deployed seven times between 2006 and 2014. Tom and Gypsy were inseparable for more than a decade, training regularly with their Task Force and charming citizens at community events. Gypsy crossed the Rainbow Bridge from natural causes before she could formally retire, which was scheduled for February 2017.

Handler Tom Carney • California Task Force 3
Donated by Deresa Teller • Prep Home: Stacey Ayub
Guardians: Susan & Geoffrey Leach, Carol & John Marengo
Sponsor: Danielle Boulet

SEARCH TEAM FUND

In 2016...

65
CANINES WHO RECEIVED HEALTHCARE SERVICES TOTALING $73,567

24
HANDLERS GRANTS TOTALING $19,814

355
SEARCH DOGS ON 28 U.S. TASK FORCES FED NUTRO NATURAL CHOICE DOG FOOD TOTALING $259,559

4
PETCO FOUNDATION CANINE CANCER FUND GRANTS TOTALING $5,527

13
CANINES RECEIVED 21 PRESCRIPTIONS FROM BOEHRINGER-INGELHEIM VALUED AT APPROX. $2,100

Nutro Vouchers

Since 1998, The Nutro Company has generously supplied NATURAL CHOICE© dog food vouchers to every SDF Handler, as well as all of our nation's FEMA Certified Handlers. In 2016, their food voucher donation to our nation's teams totaled $259,559. The cost of feeding these four-legged athletes can add up, but for 18 years The Nutro Company graciously supported the Disaster Search Dog community.

Our nation's canine teams sent in photos and gratitude from all over the country. The voucher program has provided dog food to hundreds of handlers for their Search Dogs without worrying about the cost, allowing them to concentrate on training and preparing for disasters.

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 from arthritis pain, as prescribed by their veterinarians. Especially for our older Search Dogs, this makes all the difference in enjoying a healthy, active retirement.

Keri & Tucker used the Handlers Grant to cover travel costs in order to train with Midwest task forces in Tulsa, OK. Photo by Kate Horwick

Handlers' Grant

As a training group and also as individuals, SDF Handlers are able to apply for grant money to improve their deployment-readiness skills and to care for their canines. In 2016, the SDF Handlers' Grant Committee awarded 24 grants for training, equipment, and improving deployment readiness.

"Blind, multi-victim searches are the most difficult scenarios to do with limited time at home. So coming to regional trainings with other handlers provides not only new territory to search, but new "victims" to find and priceless objective feedback from others who can see what I may not. Constructive criticism is invaluable to our success as a team! I always learn new techniques, strategies and get advice that I can add to my toolbox. Tucker and I really enjoy the true one-on-one time we get too, away from all the distractions of our busy, chaotic world at home!"

—Keri Grant & Tucker, Texas Task Force 2

Canine Healthcare Fund

Our canine athletes deserve the best healthcare we can provide. In 2016, we covered veterinary expenses totaling $73,567 for our active and retired Search Dogs. This included wellness care like annual exams, emergency care, major surgeries, dentistry and End of Life care.

"I cannot tell you how much I appreciate what you've done for Jester and me during this time. The support system has been great and you truly are the unsung heroes when it comes to team support. I'm glad that SDF is supported by donors to provide full healthcare benefits and not have to deal with the insurance agencies."

—Davis Doty & Jester, California Task Force 5

Jester and Davis are still going strong and just achieved FEMA Certification for the fourth time! Photo by Kate Horwick

Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund

In 2012, we partnered with the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo Company© to create the Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund to help our nation's working dog Handlers care for their canines when they need it most. Handlers whose canine partners, whether active or retired, have been diagnosed with cancer are eligible to apply for grants to offset expensive veterinary costs. No handler should have to choose between his best friend's life and monetary hardship. This generous support means they never have to make that decision.

"Thank you for providing me the ability to give my canine partner the best care possible and to ensure he is as happy and comfortable as possible while he is still with us. I am forever grateful for your support and generosity!"

—Denise Corliss & Aid'N, Texas Task Force 1

Search Dog Aid'N peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge in May of 2016, following a successful career with Texas Task Force 1, based in College Station. Photo by Denise Corliss

Betsy's Busy Nose Sniffs Out Top Prizes

When Christine Wilson saw a picture of Betsy she knew she had to adopt the dog. Intelligent and driven, Betsy had been selected by SDF as a Search Dog candidate in 2011. However, Betsy also had an independent streak to match her strengths and lacked the consistent focus necessary for disaster search.

Photo by Pawprintz

Thanks to SDF's Lifetime Care commitment and Christine's desire to open her home to a great dog, Betsy is now an active participant in Nose Work, and will never see the inside of a shelter again.

Jumping Into a New Hobby: Rudy Leaps from Debris Piles to the Docks!

Rudy, a fun-loving Border Collie, was donated to SDF with the hopes that his high energy and love of toys would help him have a successful career in search and rescue. Unfortunately, he did not quite have all the characteristics needed for our work, so SDF facilitated Rudy's career change to The Fetch Foundation of Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Fetch Foundation's Founder, Marie Peck, drove to our National Training Center to meet Rudy and agreed they could help find Rudy his place in the world. Traditionally, The Fetch Foundation works with military veterans suffering from post traumatic stress, but Marie thought Rudy may enjoy a different kind of work entirely – dock diving!

Photo by Debbie A. Maerker Photography

SDF Canine Recruitment Manager Sylvia Stoney said, "Marie Peck of the Fetch Foundation found Rudy the perfect fit. Rudy has been adopted by the President of the Agility Dog Club in Arizona and now lives with two female Jack Russell Terriers and a cat. Rudy is one happy and busy boy!"

In 2016...

6 DOGS ENTERED OUR LIFETIME CARE PROGRAM

3 DOGS WERE GIVEN A NEW CAREER

Over the last 20 years...

196 DOGS HAVE FOUND NEW LOVING HOMES THROUGH OUR LIFETIME CARE PROGRAM

58 DOGS HAVE FOUND A NEW JOB THROUGH OUR CAREER CHANGE PROGRAM

2016 LIFETIME CARE CANINE CANDIDS

Here are some of our favorite snap shots from throughout the year of our Lifetime Care families!

BE PART OF THE SEARCH

Dollars & "Scents"—How Your Gift Makes an Impact

Your gift makes a huge difference in the life of a Search Dog, Handler, and someone affected by disaster. From the moment a dog with spectacular talent is discovered in a shelter, to the day he graduates with his new Firefighter-Handler, to the moment he searches debris for survivors following a disaster, to the difficult day we must say goodbye to our beloved four-legged heroes, SDF provides training, support and love to our Search Dogs and Handlers.

SDF Trainer Sonja Heritage training SDF Team Brandon Budd & Josie at the NTC
Photo by Kate Horwick

Canine Recruitment

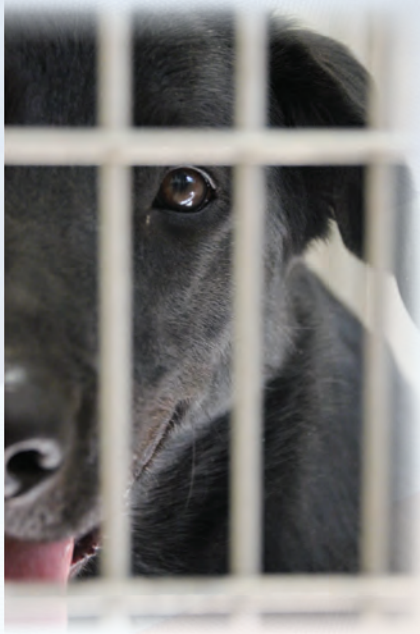
Finding the Diamonds in the "Ruff"

Recruiting rescued dogs is fundamental to our program. We go to great lengths to find dogs with the exceptional characteristics required in a Search Dog: intense drive, athleticism, and focus—the same traits that can often make dogs unsuitable as family pets and land them in a shelter. SDF offers these amazing animals what they crave: a home and a job! We look all over the United States, working with over 170 shelter and rescue groups and with highly-trained Search Dog Recruiters to evaluate hundreds of dogs in the field each year. *(See pages 10 and 11 for more on Canine Recruitment)*

Advanced Search Team Training & Support

It's Not a Matter of If, But When: Preparing Teams For Disasters

Throughout a Search Team's working career (10 years on average), SDF provides ongoing training with our professional training team to assure that both Search Dogs and Handlers maintain top deployment readiness. In addition to SDF Trainers visiting teams in the field, our newly built National Training Center provides a permanent home and unparalleled training resource for America's Canine Disaster Search Teams. We have a steady flow of Task Forces from across the nation now using the NTC's state-of-the-art facilities to prepare for the most challenging deployments.



Search Dog Shadow is a former rescued dog now turned rescuer, thanks to you!
Photo by Susan Bollinger

Canine Training

Transforming Rescued Dogs Into Rescuers

Since 1996, we have trained a total of 184 Search Teams to serve America. There are currently over 66 active SDF Search Teams based across the country. SDF Search Dogs and Handlers receive their formal search training from a talented group of professional trainers led by Sonja Heritage, recognized as one of the nation's top canine trainers in the field of urban search and rescue. After approximately 9 months of Canine Training, Search Dogs are partnered with their Handlers as Search Teams. The team trains weekly to reach the extremely high skill level needed to attain FEMA or SUSAR Certification.

SDF Trainers Lyz Gregory and Sonja Heritage with Search Dog Skye
Photo by Denise Sanders

BE PART OF THE SEARCH

Dollars & "Scents"—How Your Gift Makes an Impact

SDF Search Team Jake Armendariz & Clancy with fellow SDF handler, Dennis Clark, training at the NTC Photo by Kate Horwick

Canine Healthcare Fund

Caring for All SDF Canines

SDF is committed to the healthcare of each and every dog recruited into our program, giving them a new "leash on life" and assuring they will have proper care throughout their lifetimes. Each year, we provide over $130,000 in healthcare services for our canines in training, our active and retired Search Dogs, and the dogs in our Lifetime Care Program.

LTC dog, Kate, playing with her new family
Photo by Serenity Nichols

Search Team Fund

Benefits for Our Canine Heroes

In addition to ongoing training, SDF also pledges to support our teams through a benefits package called the Search Team Fund. The SDF Board of Directors established the Fund in 2008 to provide financial assistance and other support to our teams so they can achieve the highest level of deployment readiness with the smallest amount of out-of-pocket costs possible. Benefits include Canine Healthcare, Handler's Grants, the Metacam® program and the Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund.

Search Dog Cajun in the caring hands of the staff at Ohana Pet Hospital Photo by Sylvia Stoney

Lifetime Care Program

Once Rescued, No SDF Dog Will Ever Need to Be Rescued Again

SDF considers every dog accepted into our program as part of our family, and we are committed to providing the highest level of care. Those that do not complete our formal training program are placed in a loving home or found another career path through SDF's Lifetime Care Program. SDF stays in touch with the "fur-ever" family and continues to act as the dog's advocate, assuring they receive excellent care and lots of TLC. This is SDF's unwavering commitment to these extraordinary, beloved animals.

Keri Grant & Tucker Photo by Karen Krough

How *YOU* Can Be Part of the Search!

There are many ways that your generosity can make an impact:

Make your gift quickly and easily:

CLICK SearchDogFoundation.org/donate
MAIL 6800 Wheeler Canyon Road, Santa Paula, CA 93060
SCAN QR code at right

- Use a ***credit card or check*** to make your gift
- Make a ***monthly gift*** to support SDF throughout the year
- Participate in your ***company matching*** program
- ***Donate your vehicle*** for use in disaster props at our NTC, or for operational funds
- ***Transfer stock*** to the Search Dog Foundation
- Include the Search Dog Foundation in your ***Estate Planning***

For more information, please contact Michael Bland, Operations Manager, at Michael@SearchDogFoundation.org or (805) 229-0083

Thank you so much for being *Part of the Search!*

VOLUNTEERS

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

—Winston Churchill

We could not accomplish our goals as an organization without each volunteer and all that she or he brings to the table – from event planning to shipping out merchandise to helping care for our Search Dog recruits—these folks do it all!

The passion, energy and skills these amazing men and women share with us is an incredible gift for which we will always be thankful.

Thank you all for being such an essential *Part of the Search!*

It takes an army to keep the SDF machine running smoothly! Sharon McMillan and Shirley Denny make sure the mail gets delivered to the post office on time. Photo by Dave Lindee

SDF Founder Wilma Melville thanks a group of volunteers in the early morning at the NTC before one of our events gets started. (L to R): Shirley Denny, Barbara Bickmore, Debi Mauck, Wilma, Linda Munday, Jane Gordon, and Pam Nothwang.
Photo by Erica Jacques

Our 2016 Volunteers

Sharon Bacon
Janita Balcom
Barbara & Gary Bickmore
Susan Bollinger
Janet Chamberlain
Jeffrey Chavez
Sharon Cromartie
Diana Maria Crothers
Ann DeMartini
Erika DeMartini
Matt DeMartini
Nancy & Ed Dennis
Shirley Denny
Mikie Ericson
Joan Field
Vita Franco
Jane & Brian Gordon
Jill Gregorchuk
Karal Gregory
Kim Herren
Kevin Hess
Fran Hickman
Jack Hutchinson
Naomi Jost
Jon King
Mason King
Karen Krogh
Sofia Lindee
Paul Loboschefsky
Jan Lopez
Ivan Matesevac
Katarina Matesevac
Debi Mauck
Shannon Mauck
Char McCoy
Sharon McMillan
Linda & Dan Munday
Karyn Newbill
Pam Nothwang
Tony Panzica
Brooke Pappas
Dean Rich
Deborah Robertson
Nina Rubin
Tokie Shynk
Jo Stalder
Kathy Storm
Kathie & Chuck Swift
Becky Taylor
Jackie Thomas
Karla Timpani
Chris Traylor
Tim Turpin
Leslie Aulenta Wellington
Xiaoli Zhang-King
John & Sue Ziliotto

Every year we hold a special appreciation lunch for our volunteers to thank them for the work they do and share what we've accomplished thanks to their efforts.
Photo by Dave Lindee

During events, our volunteer team is briefed by SDF Community Relations Manager Celeste Matesevac on the needs for the day. Photo by Denise Sanders

Y&R Account Director Caleb Lubarsky with SDF Director of Development, Rhett Mauck Photo by George Haynes

Nebraska Task Force 1 Search Dogs with their Nutro® products of choice!

Young & Rubicam and Group M

SDF is deeply grateful for our longtime collaboration with Young & Rubicam (Y&R) and GroupM. The companies became intimately familiar with our work in the aftermath of the World Trade Center disaster when 13 SDF teams were deployed to search for survivors.

In 2002, Y&R launched a National Awareness campaign (at no cost to SDF), calling upon their media partner, GroupM, to help keep our organization's mission in the national spotlight. This 15-year partnership has yielded hundreds of placements in top tier magazines, radio and TV spots that have resulted in tremendous ongoing support for SDF.

This incredible partnership has been fundamental in branding our message and furthering our work. Together, we are making sure that when disaster strikes, no one will be left behind.

www.yr.com
www.groupm.com

Mars, Inc., and The Nutro Company

After 19 years of partnership, Mars, Inc. pledged to sponsor an additional six SDF-trained Search Teams in 2016, as well as completing their commitment to provide NUTRO® NATURAL CHOICE® dog food vouchers to all SDF Search Dogs and all FEMA-Certified Search Dogs across the nation. The dedication and care they have shown throughout the years has allowed Handlers to fuel their canine partners with high-quality food without having to be concerned with the associated expenses. In 2016 alone, Mars, Inc. contributed $259,559 worth of NUTRO® NATURAL CHOICE® dog food vouchers to our nation's Canine Disaster Search Teams.

We are so grateful for the generosity Mars, Inc. has shown Search Dogs all over the United States for so many years, providing top nutrition for these awesome canine athletes.

www.mars.com
www.nutro.com

AT&T Network Disaster Recovery

Since 2004, the AT&T Foundation has given extraordinary support to the Search Dog Foundation, sponsoring canine teams nationwide and providing over $545,000 in philanthropic gifts. AT&T recognized a clear synergy between its efforts and SDF's in a disaster. While SDF focuses on the human side of disaster rescue, searching for the live victims of a disaster, AT&T focuses on the technical side to quickly restore communications to its business and government customers. AT&T and SDF have worked together to bring the message of Disaster Recovery to business communities across the country as part of 34 AT&T Network Disaster Recovery (NDR) exercises. We are proud to partner with AT&T's NDR program, and deeply grateful for the company's generous support.

www.corp.att.com/ndr

SDF-trained Roxy at an AT&T sponsored demonstration in Chicago Photo by Kelly Morrison

6800 Wheeler Canyon Road
Santa Paula | CA 93060
888.459.4376
www.searchdogfoundation.org

Photo by Susan Bollinger

I am Koda.

I was rambunctious.
I was "too much to handle."
I was in need of a job.

Now, I am using my energy to learn to help others.
With my nose and your heart...
We can save lives together.

Make your gift today and help us recruit and train 30 incredible dogs just like Koda and turn them into rescuers in the hands of first responders.
For them. For our communities. For our country.

Together, we can give them a family and a home.
Together, we can give them a job in service to humanity.
Together, we are the Search Dog Foundation.

SDF Trainer Lyz Gregory testing Koda on the rubble pile at the NTC.
Photo by Kate Horwick

Save Paper!
Send your email address to Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org and let us know you want to be updated electronically—*we never sell or share your contact information!*

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!
www.facebook.com/NationalDisasterSearchDogFoundation
www.twitter.com/searchrescuedog
www.instagram.com/searchdogfoundation

NEW ADDRESS

Friendly reminder:
We've moved!

Our new address at the National Training Center is:
6800 Wheeler Canyon Road
Santa Paula, CA 93060