

# the QUEST

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



*WTC Grand Opening*

SPECIAL EDITION

# A VISION REALIZED

## A Special Message from Founder Wilma Melville



Wilma and Search Dog Murphy, searching at the Oklahoma City bombing site in 1995.

**Over twenty years ago**, as I stood in the driveway of my Ojai home, I saw my life beginning to take an important turn. You see, I had just returned from Oklahoma City where my Search Dog Murphy and I combed the wreckage, searching for survivors of the Alfred P. Murrah building that had been bombed. I returned home determined that, out of that unfathomable tragedy, some good must come.

Standing there, I realized that improving disaster response was the way to make a significant difference, and honor those that perished on that day in April of 1995. I had a vision of how I wanted to help, but didn't know exactly how I would

accomplish this or what the end result would look like. All I knew is that our nation needed more, better-trained Canine Disaster Search Teams and that a small, strong and dedicated organization could provide them a home, a place to train and a place to share experiences learned, passed along from generation to generation.

As we opened the gates of the National Training Center (NTC) to the world, I was and still am in awe of just how much this incredible Search Dog family – Handlers, volunteers, staff, Board Members and YOU, our supporters – has accomplished together. This place isn't JUST the home of the Search Dog Foundation (SDF), or JUST a place where rescued dogs and First Responders come together to form a life-saving resource for our communities in need. Rather, it's our collective gift to America, in honor of all who came before to get us to where we are today.

I am proud to say we have completed a monumental endeavor – we have turned my vision from so many years ago into something you can see, feel, experience and treasure for yourselves. And while our Grand Opening marked the end of a long journey, it also stands as the first step toward the future of Canine Disaster Search in this country. There is still much to do, and my hope is that there will always be more work to be done.

You see, most would think that as I drive through the gates of the NTC, I surely must have feelings of joy and pride in the accomplishment. Well, truth be told, there's a bit of that but there are much larger feelings of focus on what comes next. You see, rightly or wrongly, I consider myself a visionary.

Fortunately, there is a wonderful staff at SDF seeing to the day-to-day operations and continually elevating and improving our programs. Consequently, I am



Wilma at the ground breaking of the NTC in 2010. Photo by Mary Long

focused on the future and where the emphasis of SDF will be put in the months and years to come.

So, while we enjoyed this historic moment in September – the grand opening of the National Training Center – I look forward to seeing this organization grow with you at our side. The gates are now open and as we walk through them together, let's welcome others from all over to join us – all focused on the future and the many more milestones we will accomplish.

Thank you for being with us then, now and tomorrow. It has never been with more heartfelt enthusiasm and humility that I say, proudly, "Thank you all for being Part of the Search!"

*Wilma Melville*



Founder Wilma Melville and Founding Trainer Plus Davern, with SDF's first three Handlers: Rob Cima, Randy Gross, and Rick Lee. Photo by Karyn Newbill

# THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

On September 23, 2017, we celebrated the grand opening of our National Training Center – two decades after Wilma first shared her vision for a facility created specifically for the training of Disaster Search Dogs.

As SDF Search Teams from across the country marched through our entrance, Wilma proudly urged over the speakers, *“Please join me in welcoming home America’s Search Teams!”* Our Handlers and Search Dogs were greeted with waving SDF flags and cheering from supporters lining their path.

Though we were missing teams deployed for disasters in Mexico and Puerto Rico, over 40 of SDF’s active and retired Search Teams celebrated the official opening of the NTC with us, helping to personally thank those who helped build the campus. Teams and guests eagerly toured the newly completed Frank McGrath, Jr. Family Welcome Center and Bechtel Handlers’ Lodge.

In addition, the weekend included two days of active training on various props at the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation Canine Training Grounds, including the DeMartini Covered Training Arena, Nutro “Room to Run” Direction and Control Yard, Carlee’s Train Wreck and Maggie’s Rubble Pile. Also featured were the Collapsed Freeway simulation and an updated training environment.

We are delighted to share a few of our favorite photos from the Grand Opening celebration and look forward to sharing many more as we continue to grow and enhance our beloved home.



All photos on pages 3 and 4 by Susan Bollinger, Kevin Hess, Travis Mauck, Karyn Newbill, Tony Panzica and Zack Warburg

# THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER



# BUILDING OUR HOME AT THE NTC

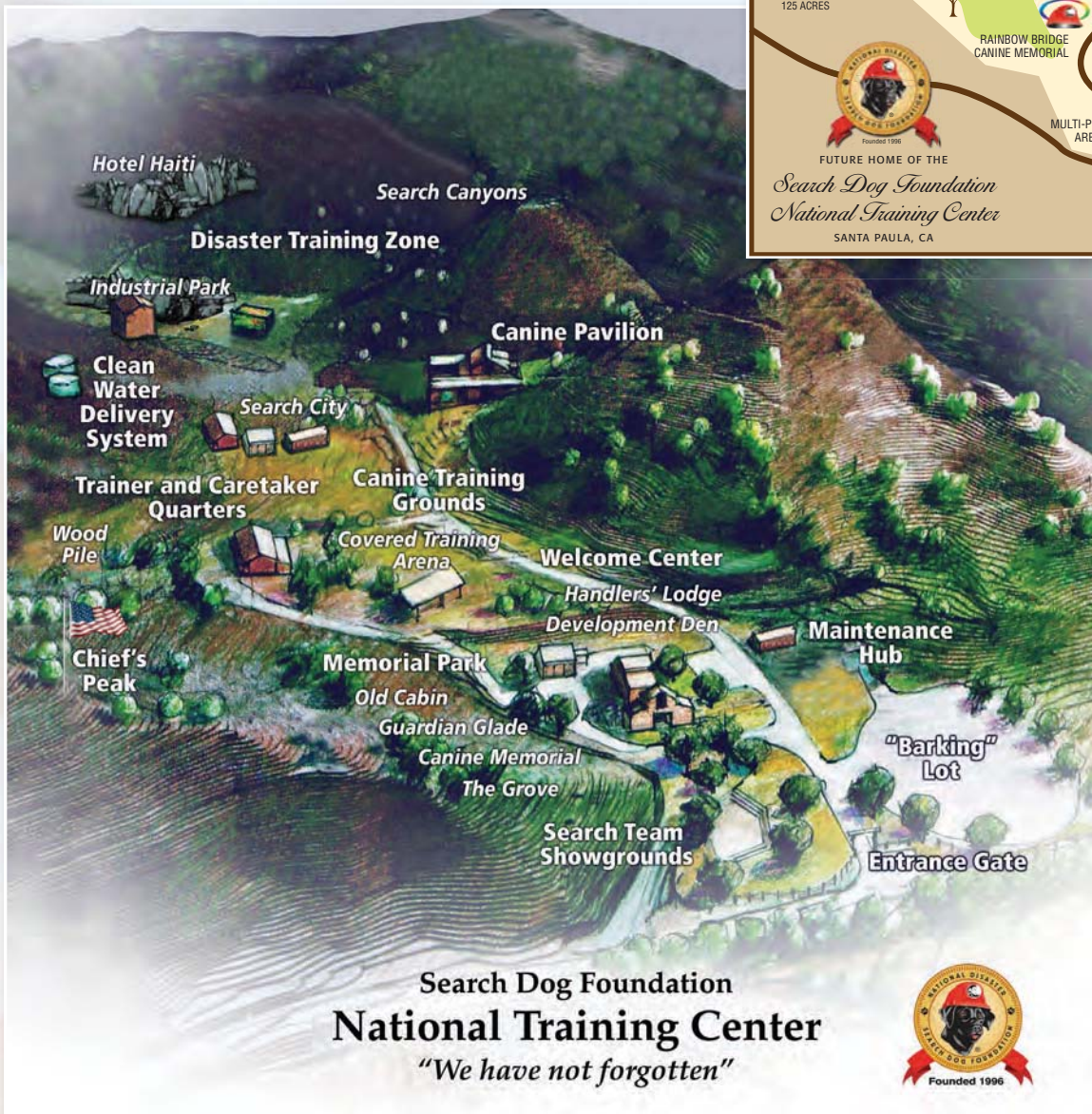
## A First-of-its-Kind Training Center for Disaster Search Dogs

The location of our National Training Center is magical in its own right – 125 acres of rustic and intricate trails, canyons and beautiful landscapes nestled in the quiet foothills of Santa Paula, CA. A working cattle ranch for over 100 years, the NTC property is an ideal spot for SDF's permanent home.

On campus, rescued and recruited dogs have a warm and comforting place to live while becoming rescuers themselves. First Responders from across America and beyond have an inviting place to stay while training, and SDF staff have comfortable accommodations while working diligently to further our mission. Given the vast opportunities presented by the canyon's wonderful features, the site plan for the NTC has gone through a natural evolution since the initial drafting in 2008:

### 2008 Map

The first map designed for our current NTC property in Wheeler Canyon.



### 2014 Map

An updated design incorporating more training props and the essential Clean Water Delivery System.

Harry Katz  
 Rosalind Katz  
 Carrie and Craig Kawahara  
 Terry Kaylor  
 Shirley Keating  
 Janet Kehlenbeck  
 Susan and Peter Keller  
 Wynne and Michael Keller  
 Richard Kelley  
 Eric and Rena Kelley  
 Estelle Kelley and Jason Weber  
 Dimples and Maurice Kellogg  
 Doris and Jim Kelsey  
 Susan Kemper and Cam Warren  
 James Kerchenfaut  
 Thomas Kershaw  
 Beatrice and Gordon King  
 Kanani and Paul King  
 Nancy King  
 Virginia King  
 Pat Kinn  
 Jacqueline Kious  
 Marvel Kirby  
 Adrienne Kitko  
 Toni Klassen  
 Kline Construction Company  
 Faith & James Knight Foundation  
 Jim Knox  
 Mary Koehert  
 Koehler Plumbing  
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 Sally and Alban Konishi  
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 Douglas and Jonathan Lee  
 Cynthia Lees  
 Jonne Legg  
 Margaret Leighton  
 Diane Leister  
 Edward and Stefanie Leland  
 James Leonard  
 Geraldine and Gerald Leri  
 Barbara Lerma  
 Marith Levers  
 Melanie Elaine Levitt  
 Margaret Levy  
 Anita Lewis  
 Becky Lewis  
 Lori Lietzke  
 Laurie D. Lima  
 Limoneira Company  
 Dave and Kimberlee Lindee  
 Mary Lindsay  
 Marikay Lindstrom and Bill Linder  
 Sue Lipsey  
 Susan Liszeski  
 Michele and Vernon Livergood  
 Lynn and Jack Loacker  
 Kate Logue  
 Bill and Kristin and Kristin Loomis  
 Liz Lord  
 Laura Loughlin  
 David Lounsbury and Edi Young  
 Arline Lovett  
 Grant Loyd  
 Christine and Greg Luchanin  
 Arlene Lucier  
 Ludwick Family Foundation  
 Mary Ellen Lukasiewicz  
 Jacqueline Lynch  
 Maureen Lyon  
 Mac Brown Excavating  
 Jolanta Macek and Van Delashmutt  
 Mary Ellen Maclean  
 Magnum Fence  
 Mainstreet Architects + Planners  
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 Beverley and Karl Mallette

Monrene Malmstrom  
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 Pearl Martin  
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 Mary McNaughton  
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 Richard and Elaine Meeker  
 Subhash Mehta  
 Joanne Mejia  
 Wilma Melville  
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 Patricia O'Leary  
 Helen Olson  
 Loren and Kim Olson  
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 Orion Landscapes  
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 Linda and Gregory Osborne  
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 Mary and Mark Osmolski  
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 David and Elizabeth Ouimette  
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 Paleo Solutions  
 June Palmer  
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 Robert and Tricia Paramore  
 Pat Parker  
 Sarina and Frank Wong  
 Gloria Paul  
 Pearson Matching Gifts  
 Pebble Beach Riding and Trails  
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 Pebble Beach Company  
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 Chara Perloe  
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 Petco Foundation  
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 Connie Phelps  
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 Holly Phillippen  
 Ermon and Linda Pickard  
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 Renee Pittin  
 Jane and Chuck Pivetti  
 Cathy Plesha  
 Elinor Plumer  
 Karan Pohl  
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 Darrell and Helen Poplock  
 Margaret Porto  
 Judith Posnikoff  
 Postscripts Federated Club - CFWC  
 Bryna and Jay Potsdam  
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 Heloise Power  
 Precon Products  
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 Quality Paving  
 Celeste Quimby  
 Susan Quinn  
 Joyce Raby  
 The Rachael Ray Foundation  
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 Phyllis Raimondi  
 Ramsay Family Foundation  
 William Randall  
 Janet Rasmussen  
 David and Alana Rathbun  
 Ray Rieman Construction  
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 Gail and Martin Reed  
 Suzanne and Brian Reed  
 Karla Rees  
 Carlton Reiley, MD and Nancy Reiley  
 Debbie Reinstedt  
 Cheryl Revkin  
 Susan Reynolds  
 Reyes Masonry Contractors  
 James and David Rez  
 Jordan Rieff  
 Rio School District  
 Julia Ripley  
 Lisa Ripley  
 Kelly Riseley  
 Wendy Ritchie  
 Allyn and Joseph Ritz  
 P. C. Roberts  
 Carol Robinson  
 Louise and David Robinson  
 Laura Rockenberger  
 Rose Rockey  
 Sharon Roehl  
 Julie Roessig  
 Jackelyn Rolin

Dale Root  
 Ted Rose  
 Lynne Rosenberg  
 Rotary Club of Santa Paula  
 Nina and Mark Rubin  
 Ric Ruffinelli  
 R.W. Scott Construction Co.  
 San Buenaventura Research Associates  
 Judith Sanders  
 Sandra Sanders  
 Yvette Sanville  
 Cheri and Larry Savage  
 Scaife Family Foundation  
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 Dr. Scholl Foundation  
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 Marc Schwager  
 Jeanne Schwarzkopf  
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 Heather Scott  
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 Leslie and Rich Selfridge  
 Mary Severson  
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 M C Sharpe  
 Brian Shaw  
 Tracy Shaw  
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 Gerald Shortall  
 Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation  
 Jean Sieloff  
 Signs of Success  
 Bobbi Simmers  
 Katharine Simmons  
 Karen Simonsen  
 Simpson Strong-Tie  
 Dorothy Singleton  
 Andrew Sisolak  
 Geraldine Skarakis  
 Stacy Skredsvig  
 Roseann Skrovan  
 Adrienne and John Slagboom  
 Rhoda and Robert Slifka  
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 Debra Smith  
 Marjorie and Morley Smith  
 Marshall Smith  
 Arlene Smutny  
 Cynthia Snell  
 Cindy Snow  
 Patricia Snyder  
 Alison Sommers-Sayre  
 Jon Sorensen  
 Southern California Laborers Training  
 School & Apprenticeship  
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 Dan and Marie Spiegle  
 Freda Spretisma  
 Veda Sroka  
 Kathy Stahl  
 Betty Stanley  
 Laurie Stanley  
 Walter Stansky

Arlene Stanton  
 Steelcraft  
 Nancy Stegens  
 Claire Steidel  
 Patricia Steinhauser  
 Susan Steinruck  
 Dr. Carrie Stempler  
 Merry Stephen  
 Adele Hillman Stern  
 Beth Stevens  
 Doug Stevens  
 Natalie Stewart  
 Joyce and William Stillwell  
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 Ronald Stone  
 Stone Imagery  
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 Nancy Swift  
 Loretta Swit  
 Eoi Takagi  
 Metta Tanikawa  
 Ninon Tantet  
 Jacqueline Tauriello  
 Aileen Taylor  
 Dan and Angela Taylor  
 Dr. Laura Taylor and Eric O'Connor  
 Paul Taylor  
 Richard and Janet Taylor  
 Katrina Taylor-Wenger  
 Grace Tazewell  
 Tracy Tempest  
 Sandi Terkelsen  
 Carol Teter and John Lovejoy  
 Eileen Thomas  
 Joanne Thomas  
 Michael Tichenor  
 Leslie Kiki Tidwell  
 Sara Tiede  
 Katherine Timmerman  
 Karla Timpani  
 Patricia and Ryan Todd  
 Fran Toll  
 Robin Torch  
 Debra Tosch  
 Robert J. McWade  
 Scott Trammell  
 Travis Agricultural Construction  
 Theresa Trejo  
 Tri County Office Furniture  
 Tristar Vet  
 Diane Trobaugh  
 Janet and Lamar Troutman  
 Terry Truitt  
 Trussell Technologies  
 Katherine Tucker  
 Marie Tudisco  
 Janet and Frank Tullis  
 Robert and Stephanie Turner  
 Peter Tweedt  
 UBU Sports  
 United States Army Reserve  
 United States Navy Reserve  
 Jean and Richard Van Camp  
 Luann Van Campen  
 Thomas Van Meter  
 Joseph and Susan Vasek

Hortense Vasquez  
 Steelcraft  
 Margaret Veach  
 Marina Velez  
 Gasper and Constance Ventimiglia  
 Volentine Family Foundation  
 Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation  
 Justin Wade  
 Liz Wainstock and Suzanne Little  
 Robert and Karen Walker  
 Rosemary Walker-Butler  
 Ashley Wallace  
 Waller Design  
 The Wallis Foundation  
 Cathy Walsh  
 Judith Ward  
 Pat Ward  
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 Corlis Ciji and Tony Ware  
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 Water Resource Engineering Associates  
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 Paul Weber  
 Joanne Weckbacher  
 Wende Weckbacher  
 The Weiler Foundation  
 Craig Weissman  
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 Olivia Werner  
 Robert Werner  
 The Adele A. and Harold J. Westbrook  
 Foundation  
 Pamela Wiegardt  
 Sally Wiener  
 Daniel Wietchy  
 Carol Weter and John Lovejoy  
 Eileen Thomas  
 Joanne Thomas  
 Michael Tichenor  
 Leslie Kiki Tidwell  
 Sara Tiede  
 Katherine Timmerman  
 Karla Timpani  
 Patricia and Ryan Todd  
 Fran Toll  
 Robin Torch  
 Debra Tosch  
 Robert J. McWade  
 Scott Trammell  
 Travis Agricultural Construction  
 Theresa Trejo  
 Tri County Office Furniture  
 Tristar Vet  
 Diane Trobaugh  
 Janet and Lamar Troutman  
 Terry Truitt  
 Trussell Technologies  
 Katherine Tucker  
 Marie Tudisco  
 Janet and Frank Tullis  
 Robert and Stephanie Turner  
 Peter Tweedt  
 UBU Sports  
 United States Army Reserve  
 United States Navy Reserve  
 Jean and Richard Van Camp  
 Luann Van Campen  
 Thomas Van Meter  
 Joseph and Susan Vasek



# BACK ON OUR PAWS

## Forging Ahead in the Wake of the Thomas Fire

When we evacuated the NTC campus on December 4<sup>th</sup>, we weren't sure if we would have a home to come back to after the devastating Thomas Fire swept through our canyon. We spent much of December with our canine candidates housed in comfortable rooms at a local Ventura hotel – socializing and training in the parking lot and nearby park. The candidates even stretched their legs and played in the sand at the nearby Ventura State Beach. Eighteen days later, our staff and Search Dogs in training eagerly returned to the NTC, happy to have some normalcy restored.



### Pointing a Nose to the Future

We have begun moving forward with our insurance company and will rebuild the areas affected in the coming months. As of this printing of the Quest, we have completed debris removal and cleanup and, when our building permits are approved, we will begin restoration of these valuable training areas. In the meantime, our training team continues to use other areas of our campus daily, to train with our Search Dog candidates as well as with visiting veteran Search Teams. Like the resilient and dedicated shelter dogs we recruit, we remain committed to the task at hand and focused on achieving our goals!



### Damage in a Simulated Disaster Zone – What was Affected at the NTC?

Though the landscape is now very different compared to what we left behind the night of the fire, we are grateful that all of our staff and dogs were safe. We were relieved that our main buildings – the Welcome Center, Handlers' Lodge, Canine Pavilion and Caretaker's Quarters – were largely unaffected, as were the Showgrounds, Canine Memorial Wall, Guardian Glade and the Covered Training Arena.

Some other key areas of the campus, however, were not so lucky. Search City, a mini neighborhood

simulation built to replicate various disasters, burned to the ground with only remnants of the buildings and vehicles remaining. (as seen above) One of the train cars in our Train Wreck prop was destroyed and, sadly, the historic Boone's Cabin, containing relics from over one hundred years of history, is completely gone. Other features of the campus, including our water treatment system and landscaping, were also significantly impacted.

### For The Dogs. For Our Communities. For Our Country.

As we get back on our paws and continue fulfilling our mission to strengthen disaster response in America, we are inspired by the tremendous support of our SDF Family. This may have been a bump in the road but, thanks to you and your generous support, we are confident and optimistic about the successful impact our collective work will make on human- and animal-kind!



Handler Jeff Ivy and the Sacramento Fire crew in Montecito, CA.



Handler Matt Kirk and the CalOES Fire crew taking a break from fighting the Thomas Fire.

***We send our heartfelt gratitude to the outstanding emergency responders (including some of our own Handlers) who worked the front lines of the fire, the hotel staff at the Ventura Beach Marriott and the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach who provided comfortable accommodations for our dogs and staff, our incredible volunteers for stepping up to help in every way possible, and to YOU for supporting us as we move into the future together.***

Photos by SDF staff, Jeff Ivy, and Matt Kirk

# THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

## Functional, Flexible and FUN! How We're Putting the NTC to Good Use...

With 125 acres of "Doggie Disneyland," as the Handlers call it, the NTC is a desirable and accommodating destination for Canine Disaster Search Teams from around the world. Historically, the trouble with training sites has been the inability to change rubble piles over time and the lack of ever-changing, dynamic search scenarios that consistently challenge Handlers and Search Dogs alike. Before the NTC, there was simply no single

site that provides such an environment for Search Teams to utilize and hone their life-saving skills.

Now, with the NTC designed specifically for Disaster Search Dogs and their Handlers, SDF has the ability to provide training props that can be adjusted over time to better address the need for teams to continually refine their abilities and skills. Additionally, the NTC offers professional training staff on-site to help work through any training

issues with support and encouragement, and features a variety of designated areas to train in real-world deployment simulations.

The NTC truly is a special place for our nation's Canine Disaster Search Teams – from the moment a dog and Handler set paw and foot on our campus for the first time, to the Canine Memorial which allows these amazing canines' legacies to live on forever.



### Educational Workshops

From Drive & Decoy Workshops that build on each dog's innate desire to search, to participating in specialized studies such as Canine Decontamination, the NTC provides opportunities to delve deep into the world of working dogs and stays on the cutting edge in the field of Canine Disaster Search.

### Advanced Search Team Training

As Search Teams mature through their careers, their training needs evolve as they gain experience and need to be challenged more. The NTC allows us to adjust our training props to create basic search problems for new teams and more complicated scenarios for veteran teams. This flexibility makes the NTC unique and more efficient, so teams can return to our campus knowing they will face new training setups over time.



Photos on pages 8 and 9 by Susan Bollinger, Kate Horwick, and Dave Lindee





## Deployment Simulations

Search Dogs and Handlers are able to train on various single components of Disaster Search at many sites throughout the country. What is much more difficult to find is a site that can provide a full-scale

deployment simulation, combining elements learned at each site. The NTC, with acres of disaster training props, steep ravines and wide open areas, provides the space and scenarios for a replicated deployment

situation. These simulations are essential to ensuring that Search Teams are prepared before they ever face these challenges in the real world.

## Introductory Handler Courses

Every SDF Handler must complete an intensive two-week-long Handler Course prior to being presented with the leash to his or her Search Dog. This course includes everything from basic canine care to more advanced scent theory training. With a curriculum designed to prepare Handlers for every stage of their Canine Disaster Search careers, completion of the Handler Course marks a milestone moment for each Search Team's career.



## On-Site Canine Care

Inside the Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion, SDF designed a fully-equipped veterinary care facility, with treatment and surgical spaces as well as an x-ray room, allowing for medical care to be provided on-site when necessary.

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## Following Our Noses to What's Next for the Search Dog Foundation

Since our founding, SDF has always strived to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to Canine Disaster Search. SDF looks for the most innovative, relevant and important training curriculums and tools that

provide teams the best preparation possible before facing real-life deployments.

By offering continuing education courses and workshops, enhancing our existing training props to provide new challenges for our teams, building new

ones as Search Teams return from deployments with lessons learned, and creating the ability to certify teams on-site, the NTC will provide a centralized hub for learning and sharing ideas for Canine Disaster Search Teams around the world.



### Deployment Readiness Training

Ongoing training is vital to the deployment readiness of each Search Team. SDF will provide continuing education workshops and seminars to keep teams in peak performance shape, with their skills sharpened and ready to deploy at a moment's notice.



### Hotel Haiti

SDF's Search Teams and their canine partners combed the wreckage of Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after a devastating earthquake in 2010. We will recreate this unique search scenario at the NTC, naming the collapsed structure Hotel Haiti in honor of what is often described by Handlers as one of the most difficult deployments of their careers.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## Lifetime Care

Lifetime Care homes are an important part of our SDF Family – providing loving homes for those dogs who are not able to complete our training program. The NTC will be a place for them to receive training to ensure a successful relationship with their new four-legged family members.



## Search Team Certification

Canine Disaster Search Teams across the country must be certified for deployment every three years by either their state or FEMA. SDF hopes to provide the NTC as a site for these certifications to help increase the number of our nation's Search Teams functioning at the highest level of deployment readiness.



# TRANSFORMING FROM RESCUED TO RESCUER:

## The Journey of a Search Dog



It takes a very special dog to complete our evaluation and training program. Each Search Dog must possess an innate, unrelenting desire to hunt, with laser-like focus on the task at paw and a temperament suitable for sometimes stressful situations – all while being able to get the job done with a wagging tail.

This unique set of traits is not always immediately identifiable, especially in a shelter environment. It takes a village to find, evaluate and train a former stray—transforming chaotic raw talent into happily-applied, refined skills.



### FINDING A POTENTIAL RECRUIT:

#### *The face of a Search Dog*

Identifying a candidate often happens as the recruiter is swinging a toy while walking down the aisle of a shelter, seeing which dogs react appropriately.

### EVALUATING A CANINE CANDIDATE:

#### *Intense toy drive, focus and energy*

Once a dog seems interested in the toy, our recruiters take the dog to a fenced area where they can further evaluate if the dog's need to possess the toy is insatiable. Running through a battery of tests that also gauge agility and athleticism, our recruiters will make a decision if the dog should be brought to our NTC for a final formal evaluation by our trainers. *(Read more about Canine Recruitment on pages 14-15)*

### FINDING THEIR PURPOSE:

#### *Canine heroes in training*

When some of our Canine Candidates arrive at the NTC, they may have the toy drive and focus needed to succeed as a Search Dog, but they've often been told they're a "bad dog" for these very same behaviors. Some will not even make eye contact with humans. Our Trainers help each dog understand that we want them to bark, but with a purpose, and that we love their boundless energy when channeled into their work. Finally, these recruits learn that they are loved, needed and have a very important purpose in life. *(See our current Canine Candidates in training on pages 16-17)*



**MEETING THEIR HANDLER:**

*The partnership of a lifetime*

The bond between Handler and Search Dog is one that is obvious when standing in a room with the team or witnessing their teamwork on a rubble pile. After two weeks of intensive training during SDF’s Handler Course, the newly paired teams begin a working relationship that could take them through an 8 to 10 year career together. From the moment the leash is handed from Trainer to Handler, that Search Dog knows that they have a home and a job for life. *(Meet our Class of 2017 on page 18)*

**GOING HOME:**

*Meeting their new family*

Our Search Dogs live and train at the NTC before being partnered with their First Responder-Handlers. So when the teams leave together on graduation day, they head home to be introduced to the entire family. The addition of a Search Dog to the home dynamic is a big change and an even greater commitment — as trainings, demonstrations and potential deployments all mean time spent away from family. Our Handlers’ families aren’t often in the spotlight, but we are grateful to each and every one for their support and the countless hours, miles and energy poured into the teams’ invaluable work.

**TRAINING FOR THE INEVITABLE:**

*Preparing for disaster and deployment*

Graduation does not mark the end of training for a Search Team. Achieving state or federal certification can take 6 to 12 months of training and, even then, the work continues as teams progress in mastering new deployment simulation scenarios to further their readiness. While no amount of training can necessarily prepare Search Teams for never-before-faceted challenges encountered at a real disaster, SDF pledges ongoing advanced training support throughout their careers to ensure they are as ready as possible when called upon to respond. *(See our Search Teams that certified in 2017 on pages 22-24)*



**THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSION:**

*Deployment to a disaster zone*

It’s not a matter of if, but when disasters will happen, and it’s our job to prepare our teams for the types of search scenarios they may come across in the real world. To do this, our teams bring back the lessons learned at each deployment so that future generations of Search Teams can benefit from their experiences and be better prepared the next time. A deployment is the culmination of all the training and preparation these teams put in for months or years before they receive that call. *(See photos from our 2017 Deployments on pages 20-21)*

**THE GOLDEN YEARS:**

*Closing of a chapter*

When a Search Dog begins to slow down or has trouble on the rubble, it is up to the Handler to determine if retirement is calling. Though it can be difficult to hang up their search vest, retirement also means that a Search Dog gets to play with toys beyond training and enjoy more time at home with family. SDF offers medical coverage for our Search Dogs throughout their entire lives to help ensure they are well taken care of, all the way until they join their fellow heroes on our Canine Memorial wall at the NTC. *(Read about our Search Dogs that retired or crossed the Rainbow Bridge in 2017 on pages 25-27)*

**OUR LIFETIME CARE PROMISE:**

*Once rescued, no dog that enters our program will ever need to be rescued again*

Since our founding, SDF has pledged that no dog accepted into training will ever be returned to the shelter. Through our Lifetime Care program, we find a suitable career change or loving home for any dog that does not successfully complete our training. We promise that no matter the reason, each and every dog will find purpose and enjoy their new life. *(Learn more about our Lifetime Care program on page 29)*

## QUEST FOR CANINES

**295**  
DOGS WERE  
EVALUATED

**21**  
OF THOSE DOGS  
WERE OFFICIALLY  
ACCEPTED INTO  
SDF TRAINING

**147**  
RESCUE PARTNERS ACROSS THE  
COUNTRY HELPED EVALUATE DOGS  
FOR OUR TRAINING PROGRAM



### From shelter dog to Search Dog: Daisy finally finds her way home thanks to the Humane Society of Broward County and Florida Task Force 1

During the summer of 2017, an energetic Black Lab named Stella caught the eye of the staff at the Humane Society of Broward County (HSBC). Their staff felt that she was destined to have a job as she had been in and out of shelters in multiple states her entire life. Stella had been adopted to several homes, but she always ended up back in a shelter after a few weeks and was in danger of being euthanized. The reason? She had too much energy, drive and focus on the toy, which made life difficult for her adoptive families.

Recognizing that these same traits are the exact behaviors SDF looks for in potential Search Dogs, the HSBC called us right away.

*"We are extremely proud and honored to have been able to be a part of Stella's incredible journey," shares Adoption Coordinator Jinnette Pantalone. "This experience was a first for us as a shelter, and we are beyond thrilled for Stella! She was a dog that no one wanted because they thought she was untrainable, but now this incredible girl is just steps away from becoming a real hero!"*

SDF reached out to our Southeast Region Canine Recruiter, Greg Strickland, who is also a veteran Search Dog Handler himself, to evaluate the pup. After several evaluations and videos sent to SDF's training team, Greg adopted Stella and flew her to SDF's National Training Center in California.

*"The shelter staff felt Stella had a special kind of energy about her and knew if she was not adopted that she would be euthanized," remembers Greg. "An evaluation was conducted, with the assistance of several local Canine Handlers, in which Stella excelled. She was very energetic and had a desire to please and play no matter what environment she was placed in. We quickly realized that Stella had what it took to start the training of being a rescued dog turned into a rescuer."*

Because SDF already had an active Search Dog named Stella (paired with Handler Matt Kirk in San Diego), this bouncy new addition to our training program was renamed Daisy, in honor of longtime SDF supporter Nancy Link's beloved Black Lab.

Daisy has been a quick learner as she progresses through SDF's training program and has continued to impress our Trainers with her efficiency in the search and her consistent eagerness to please.

*"After searching, Daisy leans into her trainer's legs and looks up with her big brown eyes with the tug toy in her mouth, basking in pride. She's an incredible dog," shares SDF Trainer Mandy Tisdale.*

Daisy is looking forward to meeting her new Handler in July, when our Trainers will pass the leash during her Graduation Ceremony at the NTC. We are so grateful to the HSBC for recognizing Daisy's true potential and to Greg and his teammates on Florida Task Force 1 for evaluating her. All of you have given this special dog a new "leash on life" and the chance to help save lives as a Search Dog!

### Rachael's Rescue Brigade: Working together to give homeless dogs a new life



In 2017, SDF was honored to introduce **The Rachael Ray Rescue Brigade**, a philanthropic project supporting our efforts to recruit rescued dogs for the SDF training program. After The Rachael Ray Foundation™ generously donated \$150,000 to launch the initiative, our community joined in, helping us cover the costs of:

- Connecting with shelters and breed rescue groups across the country to find, evaluate, and transport rescued dogs to our National Training Center; and
- Caring for these special dogs throughout their entire lives.

Thanks to The Rachael Ray Foundation and all of you who participated, we successfully raised

\$360,152 together to provide shelter dogs with a forever home and a job they love!

We are thrilled and grateful that **The Rachael Ray Rescue Brigade** could shine such a bright spotlight on this important part of our mission.

*About The Rachael Ray Foundation™ and Nutrish®: A portion of proceeds from each sale of Rachael's pet food, Nutrish®, is donated to The Rachael Ray Foundation™, which helps animals in need. Through March 2018, more than \$27 million dollars have been donated to animal charities and other organizations that do good for animals. The funds are used for food, medical supplies, treatments, and more.*

Photos on pages 14 and 15 by Kate Horwick and The Rachael Ray Foundation

# QUEST FOR CANINES

## Our 2017 Rescue Partners

We are grateful for our Rescue Partners throughout the country. Partners in **bold** had canines who entered our program in 2017.

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria – Alexandria, VA  
Antioch Animal Services – Antioch, CA  
Arlington Animal Shelter – Arlington, TX  
Atlanta Lab Rescue – Atlanta, GA  
Bakersfield SPCA – Bakersfield, CA  
Balch Springs Animal Shelter – Mesquite, TX  
Baldwin Park Animal Care Center – Baldwin Park, CA  
Bark 'N' Bitches – Los Angeles, CA  
Bay Area GSD Rescue – Fulton, CA  
Berkeley Animal Care Services – Berkeley, CA  
Bruno The Companion Animal Rescue – Denver, CO  
Butte Humane Society – Chico, CA  
Cache Humane Society – Logan, UT  
Canoga Animal Shelter – Canoga Park, CA  
Carson Animal Shelter – Gardena, CA  
Charleston Animal Society – Charleston, SC  
Chula Vista Animal Care Facility – Chula Vista, CA  
**City of Berkeley Animal Shelter – Berkeley, CA**  
City of Carrollton Animal Adoption Center – Carrollton, TX  
City of Chicago Animal Care and Control – Chicago, IL  
City of Corona Animal Services & Enforcement – Corona, CA  
City of Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care & Services – Rancho Cucamonga, CA  
City of Sacramento Animal Services – Sacramento, CA  
City of Terrell Animal Adoption Center – Terrell, TX  
**Columbia Humane Society – Saint Helens, OR**  
Contra Costa Animal Services – Martinez, CA  
County of San Diego Department of Animal Services – Bonita, CA  
Dallas Animal Services – Dallas, TX  
Dallas Pets Alive! – Dallas, TX  
Dallas Street Dog Advocates – Richardson, TX  
Davis County Animal Care & Control – Kaysville, UT  
D.A.W.G. – Santa Barbara, CA  
**Dog Gone Seattle – Seattle, WA**  
Downey Animal Care Center – Downey, CA  
Farmers Branch Animal Services – Farmers Branch, TX  
Freedom Service Dog Rescue – Englewood, CO  
Friends of the Forney Animal Shelter – Forney, TX  
Fort Worth Animal Care & Control Center – Fort Worth, TX  
Fur the Love of Paws – North Platte, NE  
Furry Friends Rescue – Fremont, CA  
Garland Pet Adoption Center – Garland, TX  
German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies – Westminster, CO  
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Oregon – Sherwood, OR  
Gilmore County Animal Shelter – Ellijay, GA  
**Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue – San Francisco, CA**  
Good Shepherd Rescue – Dallas, TX  
Gypsy Soul Rescue – Pittsburg, KS  
Hanford Animal Shelter – Hanford, CA  
Harbored Souls Rescue – Fort Worth, TX  
**Haven Humane Society – Redding, CA**  
Hearne Animal Shelter – Hearne, TX  
Heartstrings Animal Advocates – El Dorado, KS  
Herd U Needed A Home – Bend, OR  
Humane Rescue Alliance – Washington, DC  
Humane Society Mountain Shelter – Blairsville, GA  
**Humane Society of Broward County – Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
Humane Society of Ochochos – Prineville, OR  
Humane Society of Utah – Murray, UT  
Humane Society of Ventura County – Ojai, CA  
Jackson County Animal Control – Phoenix, OR  
Jameson Animal Rescue – Helena, CA  
Jefferson County Animal Shelter – Port Townsend, WA  
K-9 Specialized Training & Consulting – Antioch, CA  
Keller Humane Society of N. Texas Welcome Home Adoption Center – Benbrook, TX  
**Klamath Animal Shelter – Klamath Falls, OR**  
Lancaster Animal Services – Lancaster, TX  
Lawrence Humane Society – Lawrence, KS  
Lodi Animal Services – Lodi, CA  
Los Angeles Animal Services – Los Angeles, CA  
Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control – Castaic, CA  
Marin Humane – Novato, CA  
Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue – Mount Airy, MD  
Midwest Animal ResQ – Raytown, MO  
**Mohawk Hudson Humane Society – Menands, NY**  
Mussle Dogs – Oakdale, CA  
Napa Animal Services – Napa, CA  
Newberg Animal Shelter – Newberg, OR  
Northwest SPCA – Oroville, CA  
O'Connor Animal Shelter – Concordia, KS

Onslow County Animal Shelter – Jacksonville, NC  
Operation Kindness – Carrollton, TX  
Panhandle Animal Shelter – Ponderay, ID  
Pasadena Humane Society – Pasadena, CA  
PAWS Chicago – Lincoln Park, IL  
Payette Partners Ranch – New Plymouth, ID  
Pickens County Animal Shelter – Jasper, GA  
Plano Animal Services – Plano, TX  
Pomona Animal Shelter – Pomona, CA  
Prairie Paws Adoption Center – Grand Prairie, TX  
Red Oak Animal Control – Red Oak, TX  
Rescue Ranch, Inc. – Yreka, CA  
Richardson Animal Shelter – Richardson, TX  
Right Start Kennel – Sheboygan Falls, WI  
Riverside County Animal Control – Riverside, CA  
Rogue Valley Humane Society – Grants Pass, OR  
**Sacramento County Animal Care and Regulation – Sacramento, CA**  
Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter – Bradshaw, CA  
Salt Lake County Animal Services – Salt Lake City, UT  
San Bernardino City Animal Shelter – San Bernardino, CA  
San Diego Humane Society – San Diego, CA  
Santa Barbara County Animal Services – Santa Barbara, CA  
Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter – Santa Cruz, CA  
Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center – Santa Paula, CA  
Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society – Santa Ynez, CA  
Scratch My Belly Rescue – Rancho Santa Fe, CA  
Seagoville Animal Shelter – Seagoville, TX  
Second Chance for Homeless Pets – Salt Lake City, UT  
**Second Chance Pups – Lincoln, NE**  
Southern California Labrador Retriever Rescue – Torrance, CA  
Southern Oregon Humane – Medford, OR  
South Los Angeles City Shelter – Los Angeles, CA  
South Utah Valley Animal Services – Spanish Fork, UT  
SPCA of Monterey County – Salinas, CA  
Stanislaus Animal Services – Modesto, CA  
St. Bonnies Animal Sanctuary – Canyon County, CA  
Sutter Animal Services Authority – Yuba City, CA  
**Tehama County Animal Services – Red Bluff, CA**  
The Colony Animal Services – The Colony, TX  
The Haley Graves Foundation – Summerfield, NC  
TK Hot Kennels – Meridian, ID  
**Tracy Police Department Animal Services Unit – Tracy, CA**  
Tri City Animal Shelter Cedar Hill – Cedar Hill, TX  
Tulare County Animal Control – Visalia, CA  
**Union County Animal Services – Blairsville, GA**  
Utah Animal Adoption Center – Salt Lake City, UT  
Utah Lab and Newfoundland Rescue – Jordan, UT  
Vanderpump Dog Foundation – Los Angeles, CA  
Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo, CA  
Weber County Animal Services – Ogden, UT  
West Valley City Animal Shelter – West Valley City, UT  
Woof Project – Vancouver, WA

### Join the Canine Recruitment Booster Club!

*Your gift to the Canine Recruitment Booster Club helps provide the funding needed to help SDF continue recruiting rescued dogs and giving them a new "leash on life" as Search Dogs. Contact Director of Development, Rhett Mauck at (805) 229-0075 or [Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org) to learn more.*



Search Dog Bear searching on the rubble pile at the NTC.

# MEET OUR CANINE CANDIDATES IN TRAINING



**Amber**  
Donated by a Private Donor  
in Fillmore, CA  
Sponsor: Julie Croker  
Named by the  
Skall Family in memory of  
Amber Skall



**Bode**  
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from a  
Private Donor in Spokane, WA  
Sponsor: Jill Bee



**Paul**  
Recruited by Charlie Freeman  
from Charleston Animal  
Society in Charleston, SC



**Cody**  
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk  
from Golden Gate  
Labrador Retriever Rescue  
in San Francisco, CA  
Sponsor: The Joel & Dena  
Gambord Family



**Daisy**  
Recruited by Greg Strickland  
from the Humane Society  
of Broward County  
in Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Named by Nancy F. Link  
in memory of Daisy Link



**Dallas**  
Donated by a Private Donor  
in Menifee, CA  
Sponsor: Joel & Dena  
Gambord Family



**Flyer**  
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk  
from Haven Humane Society  
in Anderson, CA  
Sponsor: Joel & Dena  
Gambord Family



**Hawkeye**  
Recruited by  
Kirsten Fulk from Freedom  
Service Dog Rescue  
in Englewood, CO



# MEET OUR CANINE CANDIDATES IN TRAINING



**Knox**  
Recruited by Greg Strickland  
from Animal Welfare League  
of Alexandria  
in Alexandria, VA  
Sponsor: The Frances and  
John Wahl Foundation



**Koda**  
Donated by a Private Donor  
in Broken Arrow, OK  
Sponsor: Joel & Dena  
Gambord Family



**Loki**  
Recruited by  
Kirsten Fulk from German  
Shorthaired Pointer  
Club of Oregon Rescue  
in Sherwood, OR

**Ruffy**  
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk  
from a Private Donor  
in Niland, CA  
Sponsor: Patricia Snyder



**Sage**  
Recruited by  
Kirsten Fulk from a  
Private Donor  
in Oakdale, CA



**Skylar**  
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from  
Jackson County Animal Care &  
Control Center in Phoenix, OR  
Sponsor: Arc Aspicio



**Sonny**  
Donated by a Private Donor  
in Malibu, CA  
Sponsors: Nanci Denney Bergin;  
Joel & Dena Gambord Family



**Thor**  
Recruited by  
Kirsten Fulk from  
a Private Donor  
in Grants Pass, OR

## **Sponsor the Journey of our Search Dogs - From Rescued to Rescuer.**

*By sponsoring our Canine Class,  
a Candidate's kennel run here at  
the NTC, or a specific Candidate in  
training, your generous gift will help  
provide the funding needed to recruit,  
care for and train the next generation  
of Search Dog heroes! Contact  
Director of Development,  
Rhett Mauck at (805) 229-0075 or  
Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org  
to learn more.*

# CLASS OF 2017

# 7

**NEW SEARCH  
TEAMS  
PARTNERED**

# 4

**FEDERAL & STATE  
TASK FORCES  
IN THE U.S.  
RECEIVED NEW  
CANINE ASSETS**

# 6

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS  
THROUGHOUT  
THE COUNTRY  
RECEIVED NEW  
SEARCH DOGS**



**Brandon Andersen & Winnie**

Sacramento Metro Fire  
California Task Force 7  
(Sacramento)

Sponsor: The Lois & Allan Friedman Family  
Named by William & Winifred Freeman Foundation  
in honor of Winifred (Winnie) Freeman



**Joe Zakar & Dora**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
(San Diego)

Sponsor: Joel & Dena Gambord Family



**Marc Valentine & Charlie\***

Montebello Fire  
California Task Force 5  
(Orange County)

Sponsors: Arc Aspicio; The Stella & Arthur  
Pepper Foundation; Cynthia Petrovits



**Mike Toepfer & Deacon**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
(Los Angeles County)

Sponsors: Otilia & Emma Diaz;  
Mars, Inc.



**Clint Schepe & Georgia**

Chula Vista Fire  
California Task Force 8  
(San Diego)

Sponsors: Mary & Jeff Kroll



**Bob George & Shadow**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
(Los Angeles County)

Sponsors: Joyce & Alex Carasa; Mars, Inc.



**Vincent Fuccella & Hank**

Sacramento Fire  
California Task Force 7  
(Sacramento)

Named in memory of Henry "Hank" Salvatori,  
of the Grace Ford Salvatori Foundation

## Support our Active Search Teams Serving America.

*By joining the Search Team Booster Club or making a gift to the Search Team Scholarship Fund, your support ensures that SDF Teams will be ready the next time disaster strikes - from the two-week Handler Course all the way through retirement, you can help our teams every step of the way.*

*Contact Director of Development, Rhett Mauck at (805) 229-0075 or [Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Rhett@SearchDogFoundation.org) to learn more.*

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

# PASSING THE LEASH

## Partnering Handlers and Search Dogs

Each quarter, SDF Trainers pass the leash to Handlers from across the country at our Search Team Graduation Ceremonies. These celebrations honor not only each Handler and Search Dog partnership, but also recognize the many hours of effort, focus and determination that got them to that point.

Canine Candidates in SDF's program train for approximately eight to twelve months before being paired with a Handler. Concurrently, Handlers undergo an extensive interview process and are expected to attend search trainings prior to entering SDF's intensive two-week Handler Course at the NTC. From basic heeling to search strategy and scenting,

the Handlers learn as much as possible about dog handling in the two weeks they spend on campus. This entire process helps ensure that both Handler and Search Dog are dedicated to the overall search component of their Task Force and to their career together as a team for the next eight to ten years.

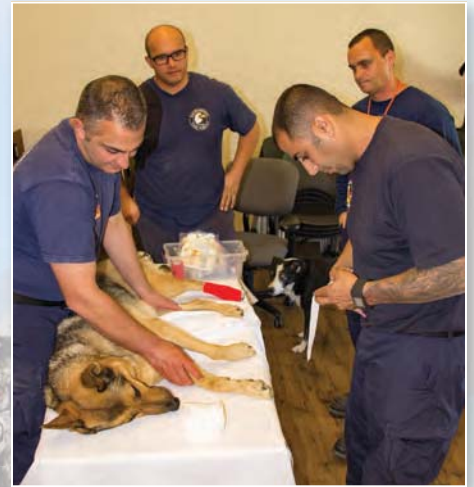
SDF's commitment to the search doesn't stop there. We continue providing advanced training support to help the teams prepare for certification for deployment, which typically is achieved between ten to twelve months after their pairing. From the moment a Search Team is certified, they continue

focusing on deployment readiness, which is the ultimate objective for every Search Team.

As Search Teams strive for deployment readiness, SDF offers advanced training scenarios at our NTC that simulate the disasters these Handlers and Search Dogs will see together in the real world. By training on various search elements prior to encountering them at the scene of an actual disaster, teams are prepared to conquer the now known challenges they may face. That preparation is the deployment readiness which will help them save lives the next time disaster strikes.



*Veteran Sacramento Search Team Chris Bergquist & Kari search the rubble during a training support visit.*



*San Diego and Sacramento Handlers practice their canine medical care skills during SDF's Handler Course at the NTC.*



*SDF's newly partnered teams are introduced at a Search Team Graduation Ceremony in November 2017.*

# DEPLOYMENTS

# 42

**SDF-TRAINED  
TEAMS WERE  
DEPLOYED  
TO 16 DISASTERS**

# 10

**U.S. STATES OR  
TERRITORIES  
WERE ASSISTED BY  
SDF SEARCH TEAMS**

## **Flood Pre-Staging – Los Angeles, CA**

Josh Flores & Cajun, Jason Vasquez & Ripley – January 22

## **Flood – Trabuco Canyon, CA**

Alex Van & Winnie – January 23

## **Landslide – Hollywood Hills, CA**

Eric Ingstad & Java, Cynthia Sato & Roxy – January 30

## **Tornado Pre-Staging - Dallas, TX**

Derek Chaky & Scout, Robert Grant & Rocky,  
Patti Krafft & Billy, Andi Sutcliffe & Skye – April 2

## **Missing Person Search – Bethlehem, NY**

Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax – April 5

## **Missing Person Search – Irvine, CA**

Donovan George & Ollie, Doug Van Iwaarden & Sadie – April 27

## **Tornado – Canton, TX**

Derek Chaky & Scout, Robert Grant & Rocky, Patti Krafft & Billy,  
Laurel Pitman & Sonic, Andi Sutcliffe & Skye – April 29

## **Missing Person Search – Eagle Mountain, UT**

Madison Warner & Tanner – May 16

## **Building Collapse – Utica, NY**

Greg Gould & Dax, Brian Girard & Keila – June 19

## **Missing Person Search – Dallas, TX**

Andi Sutcliffe & Skye – June 25

## **Vehicle Crash – Yorba Linda, CA**

Doug Van Iwaarden & Sadie – June 17

## **Hurricane Harvey – Gulf States**

Roxanne Bauman & Cole, Brent Brainard & Decker, Linda D’Orsi & Haley, Davis Doty & Jester, Keri Grant & Tucker, Robert Grant & Rocky,  
Wade Haller & Rex, Eric Ingstad & Java, Patti Krafft & Billy, Steve MacDonald & Lilly, Andrew Pitcher & Chief, Mike Stornetta & Rocket,  
Andi Sutcliffe & Skye, Doug Van Iwaarden & Sadie, Damon Wirth & George – August 25

## **Hurricane Irma – Florida & Virgin Islands**

Kristi Bartlett & Ivan, Brent Brainard & Decker, Tom Carney & Allie, Linda D’Orsi & Haley,  
Eric Darling & Ben, Donovan George & Ollie, Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax,  
Marshia Hall & Lilah, Eric Ingstad & Java, Matthew Kirk & Stella, Ed Martinez & Fritz,  
Garreth Miller & Vita, Andrew Pitcher & Chief, Mike Stornetta & Rocket,  
Eli Thomas & Vader – September 5

## **Earthquake – Mexico City, Mexico**

Jake Armendariz & Clancy, Dennis Clark & Rugby,  
Jason Dobbins & Diva, Gary Durian & Tanker, Luis Garcia & Maxim,  
Fidel Gomez & Rosie, Manny Sampang & Eva – September 19

## **Hurricane Maria – Puerto Rico**

Kristi Bartlett & Ivan, Chris Bergquist & Kari, Brandon Budd & Josie,  
Eric Gray & Riley, Jason Vasquez & Ripley – September 20

## **Missing Person Search – Richmondville, NY**

Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax – October 27



*SDF Search Team Robert Grant & Rocky finish searching a destroyed apartment complex in Rockport, TX, after Hurricane Harvey. Photo by Joe Raedle / Getty Images*



*SDF Search Teams Jason Vasquez & Ripley and Josh Flores & Cajun on standby for flood pre-staging. Photo by CA-TF2*



*SDF Search Teams Derek Chaky & Scout, Andi Sutcliffe & Skye, Patti Krafft & Billy, Robert Grant & Rocky in Texas for tornado pre-staging. Photo by TX-TF2*



*SDF Search Team Cynthia Sato & Roxy search following a landslide in Hollywood Hills, CA. Photo by CA-TF1*

SDF Search Teams (L to R) Jason Vasquez & Ripley, Brandon Budd & Josie, Chris Bergquist & Kari, and Eric Gray & Riley may look like they're on vacation but the blown out windows in the buildings behind them tell a very different story after Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico. Photo by CA-TF2



*"We all showed up to do what we know how to do and what the dogs know how to do. It's worth every bit of sweat equity that we put into it..."*

**– Andi Sutcliffe  
Handler of Search Dog Skye**



Rocket searching in Florida, following Hurricane Irma. Photo by CA-TF4

Kristi Bartlett & Ivan searching in St. Thomas following Hurricane Irma. Photo by VA-TF1



Both trained by SDF, Clancy (left) of USA-2, based in Los Angeles County, and Maxim (right), of Baja California Task Force 3, based in Tijuana, Mexico, have trained at the NTC and worked together in Mexico City to search for survivors following the devastating earthquake. Photo by USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance



SDF Search Teams with USA-2 leave March Air Force Base for Mexico City. Photo by USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance



Search Dog Maxim and Handler Luis Garcia work with rescuers to search for survivors in the rubble in Mexico City. Photo by Fidel Gomez

# SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES

**2**  
SDF TEAMS  
CERTIFIED FOR  
THE FIRST TIME

**16**  
VETERAN  
SDF TEAMS  
RE-CERTIFIED

**69**  
SDF-TRAINED  
SEARCH TEAMS  
STOOD READY  
TO DEPLOY



**Roxanne Bauman & Cole (UT-TF1)**

**Layton Fire**

*Re-Certification: March 2017*

Recruited from El Dorado County Animal Services

Recruited by Penny Woodruff

Sponsors: Sallie Jo & Richard Massa

Named by Carol & John Marengo



**Brent Brainard & Decker (CA-TF8)**

**San Diego Fire-Rescue**

*Re-Certification: October 2017*

Recruited from Sioux Falls Area Humane Society

Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center

Guardians: Nancy Baumer; Kathleen Pierce

Sponsor: Janet Eaton

Named by Erik Nagy



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

**Los Angeles County Fire**

*Re-Certification: November 2017*

Donated by Penny Woodruff

Guardians: Kari & David Eisenacher

Sponsor: B & B Foundation

Named by Debra Geiger & Eliot Crowley



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

**Civilian**

*Re-Certification: November 2017*

Recruited from Los Banos Volunteers for Animals

Recruited by Heidi Miller

Sponsors: Jill Bee; Sean McGrath

Named in memory of Tom McGrath



**Linda D'Orsi & Haley (CA-TF8)**

**Chula Vista Fire**

*Re-Certification: October 2017*

Donated by Nancy King

Prep Home: Karen Klingberg

Guardians: Nuelda & Russell Ames; Ruth Ann & Frank Simpson

Sponsors: Janet & Greg Van Huisen;

CFWC - Sierra Cahuenga District



Search Team Linda D'Orsi & Haley train on a new site in their hometown of San Diego, CA during a SDF training team visit.

# SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES



## Eric Darling & Ben (PA-TF1)

**Ridley Park Fire**

*Re-Certification: January 2017*

Donated by Janet Eisen

Guardians: Marina Bigongiari; Deborah Cornils;  
Jane Devlin; Cheri Rosche; Jan & Ted Rose  
Sponsor: Janet & Greg Van Huizen; Arc Aspicio



## Davis Doty & Jester (CA-TF5)

**Orange County Fire Authority**

*Re-Certification: March 2017*

Recruited from High Sierra Animal Rescue

Recruited by Penny Woodruff  
Guardian: Martha Deming  
Sponsor: Nutro Products, Inc.



## Brian Girard & Keila (NY-TF2)

**NYS Division of Homeland Security  
& Emergency Services**

*Certification: June 2017*

Recruited from Brightside Animal Center

Recruited by Kirsten Fulk

Sponsor: The DeMartini Family  
Named by The DeMartini Family



## Frankie Grant & Merlin (UT-TF1)

**Unified Fire Authority**

*Certification: January 2017*

Recruited from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue

Recruited by Elise Lalor

Guardians: Joyce & Robert Wire

Sponsors: Carol & John Marengo; Patricia Snyder



## Keri Grant & Tucker (TX-TF2)

**McKinney Fire, Retired**

*Re-Certification: June 2017*

Recruited from Yolo County Animal Services

Guardians: Janet & Richard Schmidt

Sponsors: Beth & Greg Apke



## Sonja Heritage & Asta (CA-TF5)

**Civilian**

*Re-Certification: April 2017*



Search Team Davis Doty & Jester walk to the rubble pile during their Certification Evaluation in Riverside, CA in March 2017.



## Steve McDonald & Lilly (NE-TF1)

**Civilian**

*Re-Certification: April 2017*

Recruited from San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter

Recruited by Heidi Miller

Sponsor: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project

# SEARCH TEAM MILESTONES



## Julie Padelford-Jansen & Ricochet (FL-TF2)

**City of Miami Department of Fire-Rescue**  
*Re-Certification: October 2017*



## Andrew Pitcher & Chief (NE-TF1)

**Civilian**  
*Re-Certification: April 2017*  
 Recruited from Roice Hurst Humane Society  
 Guardian: Barbara Phelps; Michael Walker  
 Sponsors: Lynn & Glenn Cardoso  
 Named in memory of Chief Mike McGroarty



## Laurel Pitman & Sonic (TX-TF2)

**Dallas Fire-Rescue**  
*Re-Certification: June 2017*  
 Recruited from The Animal Foundation  
 Guardians: Susan & Tom Ginnity  
 Sponsors: Jill Bee; Janet & Greg Van Huisen;  
 Katy Trail Animal Hospital



## Andi Sutcliffe & Skye (TX-TF2)

**Civilian**  
*Re-Certification: June 2017*  
 Recruited from Western Hills Humane Society  
 Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
 Guardians: Marikay Lindstrom & Bill Linder  
 Sponsors: Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation;  
 Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project  
 Named by Kellee Matthews



## Jason Vasquez & Ripley (CA-TF2)

**Los Angeles County Fire**  
*Re-Certification: November 2017*  
 Recruited from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center  
 Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
 Guardians: Alexandra & Robert Ennis; Joan Risse  
 Sponsor: Dr. Liz Fernandez  
 Named by Steve Dowty



## Madison Warner & Tanner (UT-TF1)

**Weber Fire District**  
*Re-Certification: March 2017*  
 Recruited from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue  
 Recruited by Jamie Kitz  
 Prep Home: Marty & Bill Wiggins  
 Guardian: Juanita Gonzalez  
 Named in honor of Steven Tanner Burhove



Search Dog Skye is ready to go!



## RETIRED TEAMS



### Jagger

*Years of Service 2008 - 2017*

#### Handler Jason Smith

Oklahoma City Fire • Oklahoma Task Force 1  
 Recruited from Haven Humane Society  
 Recruited by Laura Rathe  
 Guardian: Sharon Barulli



### Rico

*Years of Service 2009 - 2017*

#### Handler Marc Valentine

Montebello Fire • California Task Force 5  
 Donated by Mary Deets



### Salsa

*Years of Service 2008 - 2017*

#### Handler Dane Yaw

Oklahoma City Fire • Oklahoma Task Force 1  
 Recruited from Guide Dogs of America  
 Puppy Raiser: Debra Murphy  
 Guardians: Mary McClure; Meredith Vargo  
 Sponsors: Brian, Connie, Peter & Martha Burri



### Sarge

*Years of Service 2010 - 2017*

#### Handler Aide Barbat

San Diego Fire-Rescue • California Task Force 8  
 Recruited from Merced County Animal Shelter  
 Recruited by Julia Ford  
 Sponsors: The McGrath Family Foundation;  
 The Julie Brandau Community Service  
 Memorial Project



### Tanker

*Years of Service 2012 - 2017*

#### Handler Gary Durian

Los Angeles County Fire • California Task Force 2  
 Donated by Adam Cooper  
 Recruited by Lyz Gregory  
 Guardian: Mary Parker  
 Sponsors: Linda Heizer Seaman; Mars, Inc.



### Taz

*Years of Service 2008 - 2017*

#### Handler Mark Edwards

Oklahoma City Fire • Oklahoma Task Force 1  
 Recruited from Humane Society of Del Norte  
 Recruited by Laura Rathe  
 Guardians: Deb & John Hartley; Sandra Sanders



*Search Team Dane Yaw & Salsa share a hug after a long day of searching with the SDF training team in Tulsa, OK.*

All photos on pages 24 and 25 by Susan Bollinger, Kate Horwick, Mary Long, and Tony Panzica

# RAINBOW BRIDGE

## Gone, but never forgotten...

When a canine hero crosses the Rainbow Bridge, they may be done searching here with us but they will never be forgotten.

At SDF's National Training Center, every Search Dog is honored on our Canine Memorial Wall in a beautiful space meant for our Handlers, friends and family to reflect and remember those dogs who served our country and the world in the greatest times of need.



### BONNIE

October 12, 2003 – November 17, 2017

Handler Bill Simmes

New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention & Control

New York Task Force 2

Donated by Becky Rutledge

Guardians: Cheryl & George Keohan; Robert Montgomery

Sponsors: Ryan Zanin; The Charles Lafitte Foundation



### JAKERS

February 2, 2004 – May 4, 2017

Handler Jeff Ivy

Sacramento Fire

California Task Force 7

Recruited from El Dorado County Animal Services

Guardian: Lynn Loacker

Sponsor: A Good Neighbor Foundation



### COMET

July 4, 2003 – October 18, 2017

Handler Michele Vaughn

Salinas Fire

California Task Force 4

Donated by Deresa Kenney

Prep Home: Charity Marshall

Guardian: Mary Severson

Sponsors: Averil Nero and the Pebble Beach Riding and Trails Association; Elinor Plumer



### KURA

April 30, 2002 – April 21, 2017

Handler Greg Gould

New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention & Control

New York Task Force 2

Recruited from Canine Companions for Independence

Sponsors: Nan Bush & Bruce Weber; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



### ELLIE

August 4, 2004 – October 2, 2017

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



### MARSI

July 19, 2003 – July 7, 2017

Handler Jason Geary

New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention & Control

New York Task Force 2

Donated by John & Joy Doyle

Guardian: Janice Kozlowski

Sponsor: Young & Rubicam



## TANKER

**October 8, 2006 – December 17, 2017**

**Handler Gary Durian**

**Los Angeles County Fire**

**California Task Force 2**

**Donated by Adam Cooper**

**Guardian: Mary Parker**

**Sponsors: Linda Heizer Seaman; Mars, Inc.**



## TAZ

**March 26, 2008 - September 9, 2017**

**Handler Mark Edwards**

**Oklahoma City Fire**

**Oklahoma Task Force 1**

**Recruited from Humane Society of Del Norte**

**Guardians: Deb & John Hartley;  
Sandra Sanders**



## TRAPPER

**December 28, 2001 - June 22, 2017**

**Handler Marshia Hall**

**Temple Terrace Fire**

**Florida Task Force 4**

**Recruited from Guide Dogs of America**

**Puppy Raisers: Miguel Ola & Judi Gomez**

**Guardians: Joan Ambeault;  
Janice & Michael Torres**

**Sponsors: Danielle & Jason Connor;  
The Allstate Foundation**

May 1, 2017

I wanted to write this letter to be passed on to the donors that donate and continue to support such a selfless organization. When I first received Jakers in 2006, I didn't realize the investment needed to produce a canine of this caliber. I admit, I was selfish then, not realizing the gift that had been provided to me.

The years went by and while Jakers and I had a few, what we call, "jobs," what I didn't realize was the impact Jakers made every day. Jakers, as you know, is very sick and his life is coming to an end and, I have been reflecting on years of memories I have with my partner.

I have had many firefighters come to me and say that, when on shift, they felt it was Jakers who kept a calm presence in the fire station and they were able to decompress with a good distraction from the calls. I had no idea what impact a disaster search dog can have on so many people.

Jakers, while ready for a disaster at any given moment, really never went off the clock. Jakers' loyalty was all day every day.

A big THANK YOU to the men, women and organizations that contribute to the Search Dog Foundation. The canines, while very well prepared for a disaster, provide an even bigger service to the men and women of the fire service.

The service I speak of is silent and without fanfare. Your service is through your donations and commitment to the Search Dog Foundation. The value of the foundation is priceless and the men and women work so hard to provide these valuable assets for us to be ready. The big thank you goes to all of you supporters who work so hard and commit to helping fund an even bigger calling.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ivy  
California Task Force 7  
Sacramento Fire

# SEARCH TEAM FUND

**73**  
ACTIVE & RETIRED  
SEARCH DOGS  
WHO RECEIVED  
HEALTHCARE  
SERVICES TOTALING  
\$103,233

**24**  
HANDLERS'  
GRANTS  
TOTALING  
\$13,988



**4**  
PETCO  
FOUNDATION  
CANINE CANCER  
FUND GRANTS  
TOTALING  
\$23,444

**12**  
CANINES  
RECEIVED 19  
PRESCRIPTIONS  
FROM  
BOEHRINGER-  
INGELHEIM  
VALUED AT  
APPROX. \$19,000

In 2008, SDF created the Search Team Fund. The benefits program began with an initial offering of a Handlers' Grant, but quickly grew to incorporate a Canine Healthcare Fund, dog food vouchers, and additional ways SDF could better assist our Handlers and Search Dogs. While the specific programs included in the Search Team Fund have changed through the years, the intent has always remained the same – to give SDF Search Teams the assistance they deserve so that Handlers never have to choose between caring for their canine partners and caring for their families. Ten years later, we proudly continue to offer these benefits, enabling teams throughout the country to stay focused on training and being ready for deployments when the time comes.



Search Team Lee Culley & Tommy search the rubble during a Superfit Canine training workshop in Camp Atterbury, IN. Photo by Superfit Canine

## Handlers' Grant

In addition to the ongoing support provided by our Training team, SDF also offers the Handlers' Grant. Handlers can apply as individuals or training groups for grant money to improve their deployment readiness. In 2017, the SDF Handlers' Grant Committee awarded 24 grants for travel to training workshops throughout the country, materials to build or improve shared training equipment at home, and training tools and resources that strengthened the skills of our Search Teams.



Search Dog Stella received funding for her treatment from the PFCCF and was able to return to full duty quickly. Just a few months after surgery, Stella and Handler Matt Kirk responded to the Montecito mudslides in January 2018, where they served for a week searching for survivors. Photo by Camila Lemere

## Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund

The Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund was established in 2012 to provide funding for active and retired working canines in urban search and rescue, wilderness, human remains detection, military and police disciplines that have been diagnosed with any form of cancer. Partnering with the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo Company®, SDF administers this grant program and, in 2017, four working canines were helped with financial assistance through the Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund.

If you know of a working dog team that fits the PFCCF criteria above, please contact SDF Program Manager Kate Horwick at [Kate@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Kate@SearchDogFoundation.org) for more information on how we can help.



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

## Canine Healthcare Fund

SDF is committed to ensuring that every dog receives top-notch medical care from recruitment all the way through to retirement. In 2017, we covered veterinary expenses totaling \$103,233 for our active and retired Search Dogs, including:

- Wellness services, including annual exam, heartworm test, fecal test, urinalysis test, Rabies, DHLPP (or DHPP), Parvo/Coronavirus, Bordetella vaccinations, and blood work;
- Prescription medications;
- Health certificates for SDF-related travel;
- Accident, injury, or illness;
- Physical therapy;
- Cancer treatment (likely to be jointly funded with the Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund);
- Chiropractic or other alternative care;
- End of life care;
- Other conditions as needed

## Metacam®

It is difficult to keep a Search Dog resting when injury or old age prevent them from continuing the active lifestyle they have always known. Thanks to our longtime partnership with Boehringer-Ingelheim Vetmedia, Inc. (BIVI), the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication Metacam® is available free-of-charge to all SDF canines for relief from arthritis and pain stemming from certain soft tissue injuries, as prescribed by their veterinarians. We are grateful to our friends at BIVI for allowing our dogs of all ages to continue pain-free as they recover from an injury or enter their golden retirement years.



## LIFETIME CARE

### Once Rescued, These Dogs Will Never Need to be Rescued Again

SDF's Lifetime Care program is our unwavering promise that every dog that enters our training program gets a wonderful life and never has to worry about re-entering the shelter system. Some of those that do not graduate from SDF are trained for another career like drug detection or companion dogs for military veterans suffering from PTSD. Others are destined to become beloved family pets, so SDF finds

an adoptive family for each of these extraordinary animals and offers training and support to both canine and family.

In either case, whether changing careers or finding a loving home, SDF continues to stay in touch with the new handler or family and act as the dog's advocate for life – making sure that he or she is receiving excellent care in a happy, healthy environment.

# 3

**DOGS ENTERED  
OUR LIFETIME  
CARE PROGRAM**

# 6

**DOGS WERE  
GIVEN A NEW  
CAREER**

### From Stray to Savior: Virgil's Journey to Find his Purpose in Life

In April 2017, an adorable Black Lab was picked up as a stray from the streets of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Virgil's original owner had given him to a friend but the exuberant pup had escaped from the home and his new owner did not want to pay the impound fee. While playing in a yard with kennel staff, the Klamath Animal Shelter Director saw the energy and toy drive in Virgil that we look for in our Search Dogs and immediately called Kirsten Fulk, SDF's Oregon-based Canine Recruiter.

After passing initial evaluation, Virgil began his Search Dog training at SDF's National Training Center. For the first few weeks, Virgil enjoyed training and did well but it soon became clear that, while he enjoyed the play aspect of our training program, he did not quite have the level of drive needed to progress further in his learning. Knowing Virgil still had a wonderful work ethic and enjoyed having a job, SDF's Trainers felt strongly that he would be well-suited for another type of work.

Our team contacted Julie Noyes, a Search Dog Handler and Diabetic Alert Dog Trainer based in Arvada, Colorado, and she was thrilled to have Virgil join her pack! Originally named Weston, Virgil joined the roster with the Ron & Vicki Santo Diabetic Alert Dog Foundation and was renamed in honor of

a former Chicago Cubs baseball player who was a friend of founder, Hall-of-Famer Ron Santo. After eight months of training, Virgil was ready to be partnered and begin his life of service. Little did we know, he would begin his work much sooner than anyone anticipated.

Julie passed the leash to Virgil's new partner, an eight-year-old girl with diabetes and within five minutes of their pairing, Virgil began to alert that the girl's blood sugar levels were too high. She was able to be treated right away thanks to her new four-legged best friend, Virgil, who now stays at her side every day.

SDF is so thankful for all who helped make Virgil's journey possible – from the Klamath Animal Shelter to Julie Noyes and the Ron & Vicki Santo Diabetic Alert Dog Foundation. It takes a village to ensure dogs like Virgil find their purpose in life and we are so glad to have all of you as *Part of the Search!*

*"I am so grateful for Virgil and the chance to give him a job. The Search Dog Foundation stands true to their beliefs about second chances, even if it did not work out for them. And now, Virgil is a life saver every day."*

– Julie Noyes  
Diabetes Detection Trainer



In 2018, SDF is proud to call our Lifetime Care program **"Daisy's Fund,"** in honor of Daisy Link. A wonderful and loving companion to SDF supporter Nancy F. Link, Daisy embodied the extraordinary qualities that make dogs such a vital part of our lives, and exemplify the profound nature of the animal-human bond. A true canine hero to those that knew her, it is a fitting tribute to call this wonderful program **"Daisy's Fund"** to pay homage to the canines that make our lives whole.



# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

## Young & Rubicam: *Part of the Search for 16 years*

When the towers of the World Trade Center fell on the morning of September 11, 2001, the world would never be the same for many Americans, including those involved in the field of Disaster Search. 13 SDF Search Teams answered the call to the collapsed buildings and searched for days trying to locate survivors left behind in the rubble.

In the aftermath of the attacks, world-renowned advertising firm Young & Rubicam (Y&R) reached out to our small organization to help share SDF's story and the critical importance of the work of our

Search Dogs and their Handlers. In 2002, Y&R began a National Awareness Campaign to help keep SDF's mission in the minds and hearts of people across the country.

The original "Pledge" ads, created and placed at no cost to SDF, stood out in the pages of publications like the Wall Street Journal, Time magazine and others. Over the years, as SDF has grown, Y&R has

continued to show enduring support for our mission with several new ad campaigns that have helped the public discover and learn more about the work we do.

The partnership that has been forged over the last 16 years between Y&R and SDF has been vital to our successes and growth as an organization, assuring our country has the resources necessary to save lives following disasters. We look forward to new endeavors with our friends at Y&R and are truly grateful that they continue to be *Part of the Search*.

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



Clockwise, from bottom: The three original print ads created by Y&R in 2002 to help SDF build awareness about the lifesaving work of Canine Disaster Search Teams; updated print ads created in July 2016, honoring veteran Search Dogs who have served our country; the "Chalkboard" ad that highlighted the importance of our training program in 2015.



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

## THE PLEDGE

I promise to be worth every cent of the \$10,000 that it took to train me.  
 If you are ever trapped under a ton of rubble, I promise to sniff you out.  
 I promise to go about my work with a wagging tail, even when my paws get tired and sore.  
 I promise to ignore all other more fascinating smells and concentrate on the scent of live humans.  
 I promise never to give up.

THE NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION™  
 The most highly trained search and rescue dogs in the nation need your support.  
 To donate, call us at (888) 646-1242 or visit [www.SearchDogsUSA.com](http://www.SearchDogsUSA.com)  
 BE PART OF THE SEARCH™

## THE ROOKIE

THE NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION™  
 It's his first day. In a year's time, after we've spent \$10,000 training him, he'll be ready.  
 Maybe he'll rescue somebody you love. To donate, call us at (888) 646-1242 or visit [www.SearchDogsUSA.com](http://www.SearchDogsUSA.com)  
 BE PART OF THE SEARCH™

## THE \$10,000 DOG

**HEART:** Big, beautiful, kind. Doesn't mind working overtime.

**NAME:** Buddy

**EYES:** Very expressive. Can look very sad, or very happy. Trained to interpret non-verbal directions.

**BACK:** Unbreakable.

**TAIL:** Wags incessantly, particularly when searching for survivors.

**ROSE:** Trained to ignore all scents but that of a live human being.

**PAWS:** Tough, but still get sore sometimes. Can climb ladders and virtually walk tightropes.

**BARK:** Expressive. Urgent. And the most beautiful sound in the world if you're caught beneath the rubble.

**EARS:** Listens to every word you say. Understands and obeys dozens of verbal commands. Watches his crowd commandant everything.

THE NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION™  
 The most highly trained search and rescue dogs in the nation need your support.  
 To donate, call us at (888) 646-1242 or visit [www.SearchDogsUSA.com](http://www.SearchDogsUSA.com)  
 BE PART OF THE SEARCH™

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

### AT&T: Restoring Communication with Compassion in Disaster Zones

Beginning in 2004, the AT&T Foundation has provided unwavering support for SDF, donating over \$562,000 in funds and sponsoring teams throughout the country. Our collaboration with the AT&T Network Disaster Recovery Program has allowed SDF to participate in 36 events across the nation to educate business and government officials on the importance of a quick response by Canine Disaster Search Teams, as well as the need for reliable communications following disasters. This combined educational opportunity has helped numerous communities better understand the resources available to them to assist in their recovery efforts – offering invaluable peace of mind when the unthinkable occurs.

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



At an AT&T sponsored demonstration in Houston, Texas: SDF-trained teams Andi Sutcliffe & Skye (above) and Laurel Pitman & Sonic (left).



### Zignature: Fueling Our Elite Canine Athletes During Training

In the fall of 2017, SDF partnered with internationally-distributed pet food company Pets Global to give our canines a Physiologically Tuned™ diet. Search Dog training begins on the inside with what we feed our canine athletes. Thanks to Pets Global providing its premium Zignature® limited-ingredient formula free-of-charge, SDF can ensure our Search Dogs in training are physically ready for their workouts. We also look forward to offering discounted Zignature® dog food options to our active Search Teams across the country in 2018.

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

Canine Care Specialist Jenn Mueller prepares a meal for our Canine Candidates at the NTC.



Photos on pages 30 and 31 by Kate Horwick, Kelly Morrison, Young & Rubicam, and Zignature®







# A NOTE OF THANKS

Margaret Myers  
Susan Myers  
Karon Myers-Almquist  
Christine Nagle  
Lorraine Nagle  
Erin Nagy  
Julie Nagy  
Barbara and David Nakada  
Noriko and Nancy Nakanishi  
Gary Nasalroad  
Alexia Naso  
Ramona George Naumann  
Bonnie Nealan  
Karin Neel  
Beth Needel  
Edward Neegan  
Ken Neel  
Victoria Neil  
Barbara Nellis  
April and George Nelson  
Alexandra Nelson  
Brenda Nelson  
Elizabeth Nelson  
Lorraine Nelson  
Neil Nelson  
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Michael and Janis Nesterak  
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Julie Newen  
Larry Newen  
John Newman  
Kathleen Newman  
Nancy Newman  
Kim and Bruce Newsom  
Cheryl and Twyla Newton  
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Kim Ngo  
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Sarah Nichols  
Dana and Bob Nicholson  
Karen Niemczak  
Linda Nicot  
Matt Nielsen  
Gary Niemczak  
Jacqueline and Leo Niffeler  
Christine Niles  
Catherine Nisselson  
Joanne Nissen  
Nina Noble  
Maed and Marcia Noldeman  
Kelley Nolan  
Jacqueline Nolte  
Chiyo Nonomura  
Hana and Omar Nor Al-Deen  
Linda and Chuck Northwick  
Barbara Norton  
Pam Northway  
Carol Novak  
Susan Novy  
Marlyn Nunn  
Brad Nyberg and Anne Loo  
Gerald Nyberg  
Judith Nyros  
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Joseph Oberweiser  
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Sally O'Brien  
Theresa O'Connell  
Laura O'Connor  
Barbara O'Dea  
Dwight Richard Odle  
Bill O'Donnell  
Cathy Odell  
Rachael O'Flaherty  
David Ogden  
Margaret Ogden  
Ellenore O'Haranhan  
Joan O'Hoff  
Patricia O'Leary  
Edward Pisdora  
Ron Pughes  
Karen and Kim Olson  
Carol Gay Olson  
Sandra Olson  
April Olson  
Gail O'Neill  
Sheila O'Neill  
Maureen Ong and Carl Vanderbosch  
Rebecca Ong-Sutherland  
Cristina Onose  
Cynthia Onozco  
Norma On  
Kathleen Orthmann  
Robert Otis  
Stephanie Rachmeler  
Constance Oshinsky  
Mary and Mark Osmolski  
Kathleen Ostrom  
Rose Marie Otey  
Deborah Otis  
Carol O'Toole  
David and Elizabeth Oumette  
Liza Owczak  
Amanda Owens  
Lucille Owens  
June Ozmon  
Warren and Gail Paap  
David Pacheco  
Eric Padgen  
Jane Pahlman  
John Paley  
Nancy Palm and David Salene  
Leslie Palmar  
Mary Palmer  
Kate Palmieri  
Monika Paluszinski  
Courtney Parer  
Tony and Patty Panzica  
Kathleen Pappas  
Ashley Pardo  
Lillian Park  
Leigh Parker and Bill Brown  
Patricia Parker  
Marina Patis and Frank Wong  
Linda Parlapiano  
Sandra Parlin  
Arlene Pava  
Virginia Parry  
Tom Paschal  
Julia Pasquale  
David Pasqualli  
Donna Passal  
Shawn Pate  
Faustina Passarelli  
Simone and Jack Patterson  
Ann and David Patton  
Gloria Paul  
Janet and Robert Pawluk  
Susan Payette  
John and Beverly Pearce  
Paula Pearson  
Laura Pearson  
Karen Pearson-Bell  
Sharon and Stephen Peck  
Patricia Pedersen  
Barbara Peoley  
Elena Peffy  
Amy Pejic  
Georgann Polkowicki  
Maja Penberthy  
Rodriguez and Lisa Pendergrass  
David Penfield  
Susan Penn  
Catherine Penna  
Martha Peppas  
Lori Peera  
Patricia Penello  
Eric Pezer and Paul Hardin  
Patricia Pennington  
Jasmine Perkins  
Jean Perloff  
Vivian Perrett  
Erin Perry  
Erk Perry  
Janet Perry  
Rebecca Perry  
John Persinger  
Barbara Petak  
Alyson and Keith Petras  
Charlotte Jo Peters  
Joy Peterson  
Audrey Peterson  
Jan Peterson  
George Rizzo  
Elen Robb  
Robert and Anne Roberts  
Kathleen and Lowell Roberts  
Alice Roberts  
Cynthia Roberts  
Liana Roberts  
Liana Roberts  
Lionel Roberts  
Barbara Robertson  
Deborah Robertson  
Jacquelyn Robertson  
Linda Robertson  
Patricia Robertson  
Richard and Carole Robinson  
Joan and Charlie Robinson  
Louise and David Robinson  
William and Gerry Robinson  
Drew Robinson  
Kimberly Robinson  
Rebecca Robinson  
Vicki and Mike Roche  
Elen and Robert Rodrick  
Tom Rodgers  
Kellie Roberts  
Elen Rodriguez  
Frank Rodvick  
Pamela Roeming  
Leslie Rosebeck  
Debra and Steve Roseel  
Debra Roots  
Dorina Rogers  
Faith Rogers  
Louisa Rogers  
Franka Rogers  
Brian and Susan Pihmer  
Roxanne Romah-Picard  
Patti Romar  
Sandra Romaszewski  
Andrea Roosh  
Dale Root  
Kenneth and Monyque Rose  
Katherine Rose  
Melanie Rosen  
Steven and Mary Ann Rosenberg  
Joyce Rosenberg  
Lynne Rosenberg  
Genevieve Pater-Richards  
Carolyn Polanso  
George Pollis  
Ivina Polnerantz  
Marianne Popko  
John Popolizio  
Philip Poruch  
Geraldine Porter  
Judith Poznickoff  
Bridley Post  
Bryna and Jay Potsdam  
Cheryl and Herbert Potter  
Allison Potter  
Pauline Potter  
Linda Pounds  
Ann Powner  
Heloise Power  
Kristina Powers  
Jane Prather



At its founding in 1996, SDF embraced the challenge of strengthening disaster response in our nation and laid out two primary goals of positive transformation – to transform rescued

dogs into rescuers and to transform and continually improve the training and resources offered to Canine Disaster Search Teams.

Twenty-two years later, these two goals continue to drive our actions and have guided our programs, pilot endeavors and the growth and changes we've implemented in order to creatively and productively enhance our own operations and the services we provide. We always want to do better – for emergency response teams serving across America and for our dogs, be they active Search Dogs, retired or part of our Lifetime Care community.

When we perceive an unmet need or identify room for improvement, we work to address it – sometimes with inevitable bumps along the road, but always recognizing that it takes collaboration to solve the large challenges facing our mission. We cannot and do not do it alone.

2017 was no exception with Task Forces, universities, veterinarians, trainers, shelters, rescue groups, foundations, companies and individuals working together to further our shared mission. We welcomed seven new members to the Board of Directors who, along with our now retired Board Members, oversaw a completion plan for our National Training Center's construction.

The Grand Opening of our National Training Center (NTC) on September 23, 2017, was more than a decade in the making and required the collective efforts of a small army that included, in addition to the Board, the U.S. military's Innovative Readiness Training program, Diani Construction, staff, Handlers, volunteers and 908 donors – all contributing the passion, sweat, expertise and dollars needed to get the historic job done. As the first permanent training facility dedicated to Canine Disaster Search Teams, the NTC is a major milestone in our ongoing effort to better support America's response network, giving them a place to always return for professional training, advanced learning opportunities and a forum to share their lessons learned from deployment experiences.

In collaboration with Virginia Task Force 1, we hosted our very first deployment simulation at the NTC – an intensive two-night exercise engaging most of our staff and 125-acre campus where 21 of our tireless volunteers participated as victims. We also partnered with Dr. Erin Perry, from Southern Illinois University, to conduct research on a newly developed canine decontamination process for Handlers to use during deployment.

Learning opportunities like these help prepare Search Teams across the country for deployment, regardless of whether or not they were initially partnered with an SDF Search Dog. Our aim is to not only provide Task Forces with Search Dogs, but to also offer training and additional support to strengthen their response efforts.

Back-to-back disasters in August and September of 2017 saw a record 37 SDF-trained Search Teams and their teammates deploy for a total of 36 days to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and to the deadly earthquake in Mexico City. With 15 federal and state Task Forces responding, the incidents were a firm reminder that we must aid and sustain our nation's response network for future deployments as best we can.

We at SDF are striving to do just that by expanding our capacity to fulfill requests for Search Dogs and offering advanced ongoing education to teams. All the while, we continue to engage more than 150 shelter and rescue groups to find those special dogs with Search Dog potential and thank our rescue network for helping SDF give them a new life they love.

We also thank the more than 1,000 individuals, foundations, companies and community groups who come together each year to help fund our mission. Your generosity fuels this important work, enabling SDF and our service partners to successfully tackle our challenges together.

The power of our community was perhaps no more on display than on December 4, 2017, when the Thomas Fire scorched part of our campus. From the brave first responders fighting the blaze to those of you who sent us your thoughts, services and dollars in support – your good deeds helped us through our toughest challenge of the year. Though the fire was a setback, we have completed the debris removal and clean-up process and look forward to moving ahead with reconstruction in the coming months.

Striving for creative and effective transformation has been at the heart of SDF since day one and we are committed to keeping it there. We know we can succeed with dogged determination and with our many partners like you, for whom we are so grateful.

Thank you all for being *Part of the Search!*

George Haynes  
SDF Executive Director/CEO



SDF's Board of Directors. Back row (L to R): George Haynes, Jeff Wenig, Robert Dodge, George Leis, Dennis Kuykendall, and Michael J. Diani. Front row (L to R): Wilma Melville, SDF Founder, and Cathie Walker. Photo by Serenity Nichols

## Audited Financial Statements for our Fiscal Year – October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

### BALANCE SHEET as of 9/30/17

Current Assets	8,275,617
Fixed Assets	26,774,503
Other Assets	53,435
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>35,103,555</b>
Current Liabilities	2,265,658
Long Term Liabilities	4,755,258
Net Assets	28,082,639
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>35,103,555</b>

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 10/1/16 - 9/30/17 Public Support and Revenue

Contributions	2,133,426
Grants	1,185,022
Gifts to Endowment	576,108
Year End Appeals	137,459
In-Kind Donations	2,586,921
Investment Income	389,772
Sponsorship Gifts	89,767
Merchandising Income	29,081
Other Income	7,783
<b>Total Public Support*</b>	<b>7,135,339</b>

### Expenses

Program Services (86%)	4,708,279
General and Administrative (5%)	275,021
Fundraising (9%)	516,313
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,499,613</b>

**Net Income** ..... **\$1,635,726**

\*\$1,297,150 of total public support is restricted to the National Training Center (NTC) capital campaign and does not fund general operations. Funds expended on construction of the NTC are captured as assets on our Balance Sheet.



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Santa Paula | CA 93060  
888.459.4376  
www.searchdogfoundation.org

*I promise to always be there, at your side,  
every step of the way until the job is done.*



*Search Dog Cajun rests faithfully next to Handler Josh Flores during a break from searching in Montecito, CA.*

**Make your gift today and help us train incredible dogs just like Cajun to become rescuers in the hands of first responders.**

Together, we can give them a job in service to humanity.  
Together, we can make a difference.  
Together, we are the Search Dog Foundation.

**Save Paper!**

Send your email address to [Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org)  
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