



THE QUEST

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



OUR MISSION

The Search Dog Foundation (SDF) strengthens disaster response in America by rescuing and recruiting dogs and partnering them with firefighters and other first responders to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters. We provide highly trained search dogs and ongoing professional training to task forces across the nation at no cost to their departments or taxpayers. To date, SDF has trained 180 certified teams that have deployed to 208 disasters and missing person searches. Thanks to mutual aid agreements between states, these teams can be deployed nationwide, and several of them internationally, wherever disasters occur.

OUR BOARD

George Leis, Chair
 Dennis Kuykendall, Vice Chair and Interim Treasurer
 Mike Diani, Secretary
 Richard Butt
 Robert Dodge, M.D.
 Battalion Chief Robert Harris
 George Haynes, Ph.D.
 Wilma Melville
 Jeff Wenig
 Crystal Wyatt

2020 AND BEYOND

As we celebrate our 25 years of service to our nation and the world in 2021, we are also proud to look back on the 2019-2020 fiscal year (which ran from October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) with great pride and gratitude. In a year filled with uncertainty and separation, we found comfort in the resilience of not only our canines, handlers, and staff, but also in your steadfast belief in our mission and purpose. Your support served as an inspiration to our staff, volunteers and the search teams across the country that your generosity impacts substantially.

Over 3,900 individuals, foundations, and companies were supporters of the Search Dog Foundation during this last fiscal year. This ensures the life-saving powers of these amazing dogs will continue to serve our communities when needed most—now and for many years to come.

Thank you for being part of our Search Dog Foundation Family and for being *Part of the Search!*

Photos in this publication taken by Susan Bollinger, California Task Force 5, California Task Force 8, Eliot Crowley, Tracy Darling, Shaina Fishman, Florida Task Force 2, Sharon Hanzelka, Emily Hodges, Alicia Jewell, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Karyn Newbill, Dane Mehl, Rogue Detection Teams, Amy Sandberg, Denise Sanders, and Utah Task Force 1.

OUR FINANCIALS

AUDITED STATEMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets	\$ 4,863,176
Investments-Board Restricted Endowment	
	\$ 4,956,391
Fixed Assets	\$ 26,452,121
Other Assets	\$ 81,253
Total Assets	\$ 36,352,941
Current Liabilities	\$ 799,448
Long-term Liabilities	\$ 1,865,478
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,664,926
Net Assets	\$ 33,688,015
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 36,352,941

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$ 1,786,299
Grants	\$ 1,986,698
Planned Giving Income	\$ 1,368,560
In-Kind Donations	\$ 1,815,225
Investment Income	\$ 301,917
Merchandising Income	\$ 13,361
Other Income	\$ 535,515
Gain (Loss) on disposition of assets	\$ (0)
Total Public Support*	\$ 7,807,575

NON-OPERATING EXPENSES: \$468,361

\$228,361 expended on site improvements of our National Training Center and other capital items. \$240,000 expended as principal payments on the note payable for acquisition of the National Training Center's land.

OPERATING EXPENSES: \$6,137,844

FUNDRAISING (10%) \$585,287

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE (10%) \$620,675

PROGRAM SERVICES (80%) \$4,931,882

TOTAL
\$6,137,844

* A total of \$50,000 in public support received was restricted by donors for use in future fiscal years.

A healthy endowment supports the financial stability of SDF. The fund's value totaled \$4,956,391 as of September 30, 2020.



TAKING OUR CANINE RECRUITMENT TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH VOLUNTEER PILOT PROGRAM

From the beginning, the Search Dog Foundation has committed to rescuing dogs and giving them a renewed purpose in life.

It can be difficult to cover the country's thousands of shelters and rescues, which is why SDF has enlisted the help of recruiters throughout the United States to find and evaluate these special pups.

Located in California, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas and Utah, our recruiters visit shelters in their regions, keeping an eye out for toy-obsessed, hyperactive canines that have a natural knack for searching.

If a dog passes the initial assessment, they travel to our campus and complete a formal evaluation with our training team. This journey

happens in several ways, and as our recruitment reach grows throughout the country, we have been honored to welcome a corps of pilots to the SDF WoofPack community of volunteers.

Beginning in 2018, pilot Sean Moran began offering his time as he worked toward his instrument-rated certification. Over two years, Sean transported 18 canine candidates to SDF's campus from Alabama, Kansas, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Virginia.

As commercial airlines began to place more restrictions on canine travel, SDF found that private pilots provided safer, more reliable transportation for incoming candidates and focused on finding volunteers to help advance the journeys for potential new search dog candidates.

Then in September 2020, SDF was introduced to and partnered with Angel Flight West thanks to Harold Edwards, Jeff Moorhouse, and SDF Board Chair George Leis. Angel Flight West is a nonprofit dedicated to delivering health and hope using their planes to serve people (and now canines) with medical or other compelling needs. "Our volunteer pilots have used their

skills to help save lives for 36 years, flying people to and from medical care," said Ivan Martinez, Angel Flight West's Director of Outreach. "And we know what a difference a single flight can make. One dog can make a difference, too, and we're thrilled to play a role in making it happen."

Together, SDF and Angel Flight West are efficiently transporting canine candidates from the western United States to Santa Paula, CA, for evaluation, training and eventual pairing with a first responder-handler, given an alternate career, or placed in a forever home.

"We are grateful to the pilots and the dynamic team at Angel Flight West who support SDF by volunteering their time and their planes to help give these special dogs a new life as search dogs," shared SDF CEO, George Haynes. "Their generosity and appreciation for our mission will help us continue to elevate our recruitment of dogs from throughout the country so they can be trained as life-saving resources for our communities in need!"

If you are a pilot and would like to help SDF transport canine recruits to our campus in Southern California, email us at Recruitment@SearchDogFoundation.org today!

To learn more about Angel Flight West, visit www.angelflightwest.org.

OUR DOGS

THE RACHAEL RAY RESCUE BRIGADE

Helping SDF celebrate the

HERO DOG

in every

DOG

For the fourth consecutive year, The Rachael Ray Rescue Brigade was made possible by a generous grant from The Rachael Ray Foundation™, supporting the incredible rescued dogs that are recruited into our training program.

Thanks to everyone who donated

along with The Rachael Ray Foundation, we raised \$558,856—more than \$30,000 over our goal—directly impacting the number of homeless dogs who were given a lifetime of care as part of our SDF Family and assured they would never need to be rescued again.

This summer, The Rachael Ray Rescue Brigade will be kicking off another year to help turn shelter dogs into search dogs, so stay tuned!



THE RACHAEL RAY FOUNDATION





OUR LIFETIME CARE PROMISE

ONCE RESCUED, THEY WILL NEVER HAVE TO BE RESCUED AGAIN. SINCE OUR FOUNDING, SDF HAS PROMISED EVERY DOG IN OUR PROGRAM A PURPOSE AND A PLACE, EVEN IF THEY CANNOT COMPLETE TRAINING. EACH DOG IN THE SDF FAMILY WILL SUCCESSFULLY LIVE A LIFE THEY LOVE AND NEVER RETURN TO THE SHELTER, NO MATTER WHAT. FOR SOME, A DIFFERENT CALLING MAY EMERGE DURING TRAINING, AND WE VOW TO HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY, WHEREVER THAT MAY LEAD—WHETHER AS WORKING DOGS IN ANOTHER CAREER OR AS BELOVED PETS IN THE RIGHT HOME.



FROM FORGOTTEN TO PHENOMENAL: MEET SVEN

Sadly, when Sven's family moved out of their home, they left this handsome German Shepherd tethered to a tree in the backyard. In a last-minute act of compassion, Sven's former owners called the Lassen County Animal Shelter in Susanville, CA, to notify staff that their dog was left behind.

When shelter staff arrived at the home, no one knew how long Sven had been alone outside without food or water.

Neighbors worked together with shelter staff to cut the cable tangled around Sven's body and transported him to their facility, where he was examined. Thankfully, Sven had no physical injuries, but only time would tell how the traumatic situation might affect him mentally and emotionally.

As they spent more and more time with him, the shelter staff noticed Sven's high toy drive as well as his eagerness to play and interact with people—they were heartened to see that his friendly demeanor meant he did not seem to harbor any lingering resentment or distrust in humans.

Seeing his love of the toy and abundant energy, the staff knew they had to contact SDF about Sven! Through video evaluations, the SDF training team saw enough potential to officially welcome him in to the SDF Family.

Thanks to SDF's partnership with Angel Flight West, Sven soon found himself on a private plane ride from Northern California to Santa Paula, CA—his personal pilot described him as the perfect "paw-senger!"

After arriving at SDF's National Training Center, Sven charmed our staff and, while he showed great potential as a search dog, his medical evaluation revealed an extra vertebra in his spine. While this means Sven cannot be a working dog, he has found his forever home in Northern California.

Though Sven did not become a search dog, his new "leash on life" and path to his new loving family was only made possible by the dedicated shelter staff, volunteer pilots, and *you*.



HOLY CONSERVATION, BAT-DOG! PTERO CHANGES COURSE TO HELP PROTECT BATS

Cauldron was picked up as a stray by Animal Care of Davis County in Fruit Heights, UT, when he caught the eye of SDF Recruiter Trevor Lawrence. With his exceptional hunting skills and strong toy drive, Cauldron looked like a great search dog candidate. And he was—until a minor medical issue revealed that he needed a job with a little less physical impact on his joints. Through SDF's Lifetime Care program, Cauldron was career-changed to join Rogue Detection Teams.

Currently training in Palm Springs, CA, Cauldron is working on a bat conservation project, which helped determine his new name. According to Sarah, his handler, "Cauldron is now officially known

as 'Ptero' since we think he resembles the Australian fruit bat, Pteropus Alecto, and his first project is bat conservation!"

Sarah reports that Ptero is a quick study who loves his new career: he's found a target each day he's been on the job and has been doing well at scent training. Each success builds Ptero's confidence and enthusiasm as he continues to develop his skills. "He's an absolute joy and delights us with his lightning-quick athleticism and antics," said Sarah. "He impresses me daily with how much he wants to do his best, and his story is just incredible: a fetch-obsessed stray turned conservation hero."

Good job, Ptero! You make your SDF Family so proud!





AFTER MONTHS OF TRAINING, THE MOMENT ARRIVES WHEN A SEARCH DOG'S LEASH IS PASSED FROM SDF TRAINER TO NEW HANDLER AND THE BOND OF A LIFETIME BEGINS. WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE THIS YEAR'S PAIRINGS WITH YOU, MARKING THE BEGINNING OF NEW CAREERS FOR THESE SEVEN SEARCH TEAMS...



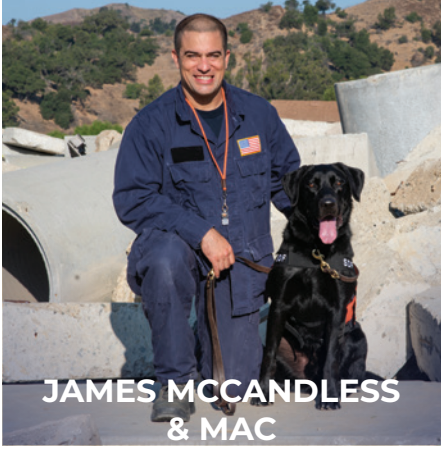
CHAD ARBERG & CORY

California Task Force 8
San Diego Fire-Rescue
Recruited from Albuquerque Animal Welfare
Named in memory of CAL FIRE Engineer
Cory D. Iverson who lost his life battling the Thomas
Fire in Ventura County, CA, on December 14, 2017



KIEGON LIST & CHLOE

California Task Force 7
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
Recruited from Cheyenne Animal Shelter
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Sponsors: Anonymous Donor and
Nahikian Family Foundation



JAMES MCCANDLESS & MAC

California Task Force 7
West Sacramento Fire
Donated by a private owner
Sponsor: Patricia Snyder
Named by Teresa MacPherson



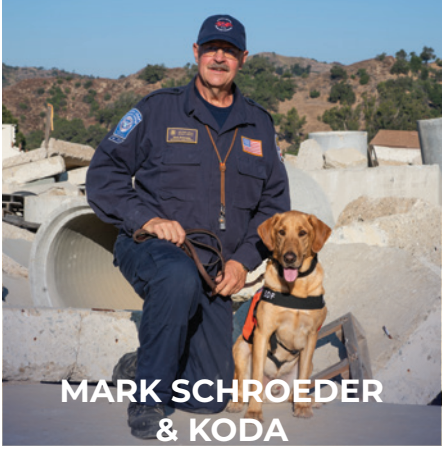
ANDREW PITCHER & STORM

Nebraska Task Force 1
Civilian
Sponsor: Julie Croker



PAUL SANDIGO & CASSIE

California Task Force 3
San Francisco Fire
Donated by a private owner



MARK SCHROEDER & KODA

Nebraska Task Force 1
Civilian
Donated by a private owner
Sponsors: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



ALEX WALLBRETT & HOSS

California Task Force 8
San Diego Fire-Rescue
Recruited from a private owner
Recruited by Trevor Lawrence
Sponsors: Walt and Faith Kalback

OUR SEARCH TEAMS

DEPLOYMENTS

1 — TORNADO

October 20, 2019 – Dallas, TX
Derek Chaky & Scout, Patti Krafft & Billy

2 — VEHICLE CRASH

January 27, 2020 – San Diego, CA
Aide Barbat & Delta, Clint Schepe & Georgia,
Billy Walkenhorst & Victor

3 — MISSING CHILDREN SEARCH

April 7, 2020 – Rotterdam, NY
Brian Girard & Keila, Adam Leckonby & Luka

4 — CLIFF COLLAPSE

April 14, 2020 – Torrey Pines, CA
Aide Barbat & Delta, Michael Brice & Blake

5 — WAREHOUSE EXPLOSION

May 7, 2020 – San Leandro, CA
Alex Mengell & Gunner

6 — TORNADO PRE-STAGING

May 22, 2020 – Montague County, TX
Robert Grant & Rocky, Patty Krafft & Billy

7 — WIDE AREA SEARCH

June 18, 2020 – Santa Paula, CA
Eric Darling & Ben

8 — MISSING PERSON SEARCH

July 25, 2020 – Hoosick Falls, NY
Brian Girard & Keila, Adam Leckonby & Luka,
Brook Rowley & Echo

9 — HURRICANE DOUGLAS

July 25, 2020 – Hawaii
Mike Devine & Sonny, Gary Durian & Frisco

10 — HURRICANE LAURA

August 26, 2020 – Texas and Louisiana
Roxanne Bauman & Cole, Lee Culley & Tom,
Marshia Hall & Lilah, Patti Krafft & Billy

11 — MISSING PERSON SEARCH

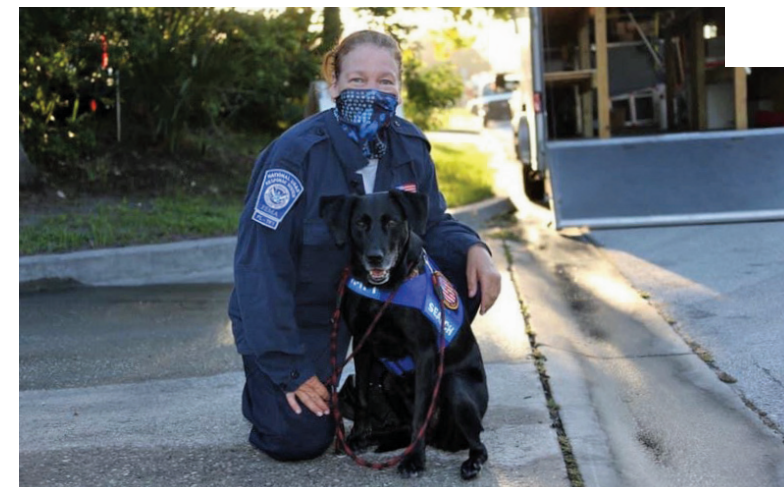
September 6, 2020 – Blenheim, NY
Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax,
Adam Leckonby & Luka, Brook Rowley & Echo

12 — VEHICLE CRASH

September 11, 2020 – Lynwood, CA
Mike Devine & Sonny, Gary Durian & Frisco

13 — ALMEDA FIRE

September 12, 2020 – Talent, OR
Roxanne Bauman & Cole



CERTIFICATIONS

AS SEARCH TEAMS ADVANCE THROUGH THEIR CAREERS, THEY MUST PASS AN EVALUATION EVERY THREE YEARS THAT ALLOWS THEM TO DEPLOY WITH THEIR TASK FORCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND EVEN THE WORLD. THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THESE EIGHT TEAMS AS THEY NOW STAND READY TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES:



ROXANNE BAUMAN & COLE

Utah Task Force 1
Layton Fire
FEMA Re-certification: January 2020
Recruited from El Dorado County Animal Services
Named by Carol Marengo



MICHAEL BRUCE & COOPER

California Task Force 5
Orange County Fire Authority
FEMA Certification: February 2020
Recruited from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue,
Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority
Sponsors: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



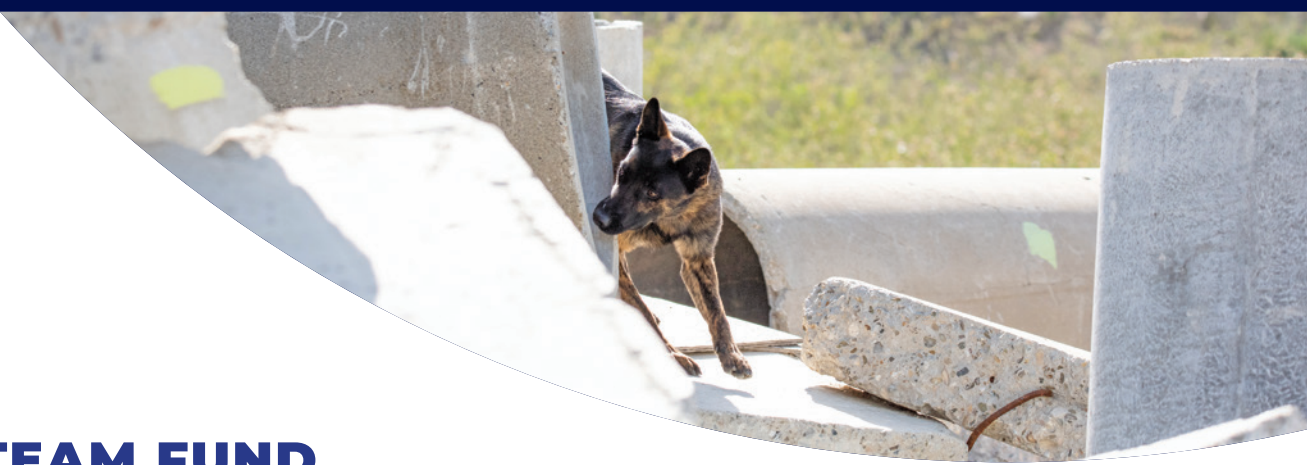
ADVANCED SEARCH TEAM TRAINING

PREPARING OUR NATION FOR THE INEVITABLE

Despite a full calendar of trainings and workshops planned during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, COVID-19 restrictions canceled much of that activity as SDF strived to protect our staff and handlers at the height of the pandemic. However, SDF still safely hosted 13 search teams from across the country for two workshops on our campus prior to limitations placed on group gatherings.

The National Training Center is the first training facility built specifically for canine disaster search teams with 125 acres filled with disaster simulation props. Each space is designed to provide real-life scenarios to challenge search dogs and handlers alike before they are deployed to a real disaster, allowing this critical learning to take place in a controlled environment ahead of time.

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift throughout the country, SDF looks forward to welcoming our nation's search teams back to our campus for many training opportunities in 2021.



IMELDA CORDOVA & DIESEL

California Task Force 5
Orange County Fire Authority
FEMA Certification: February 2020
Donated by a private owner
Sponsors: Linda Heizer Seaman, Karen B. Winnick
Named by Karen B. Winnick



ERIC DARLING & BEN

California Task Force 5
FEMA Re-certification: February 2020
Donated by Janet Eisen
Sponsors: Janet & Greg Van Huisen, Arc Aspicio



ROBERT GOERTZEN & BAILEY

California Task Force 1
Los Angeles Fire
FEMA Re-certification: February 2020
Recruited from Sioux City Animal
Adoption & Rescue Center
Sponsors: Linda Heizer Seaman, Nancy F. Link



STEVE MACDONALD & LILLY

Nebraska Task Force 1
FEMA Re-certification: February 2020
Recruited from San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter
Sponsor: Julie Brandau Community
Service Memorial Project



MICHAEL PATTERSON & KENDRI

Orange County Fire Authority
FEMA Certification: February 2020
Recruited from Sioux Falls Area Humane Society
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Sponsors: Patricia Snyder, Anonymous Donor



ANDREW PITCHER & CHIEF

Nebraska Task Force 1
FEMA Re-certification: February 2020
Recruited from Roice Hurst Humane Society
Sponsors: Lynn and Glenn Cardoso
Named in loving memory of Chief Mike McGroarty

SEARCH TEAM FUND

The Search Team Fund was established in 2008 to lessen the burden of out-of-pocket expenses for search dog handlers. Over the last decade, the fund has expanded to include: Canine Healthcare, Handler Grants, Metacam® prescriptions and the Petco Love (formerly Petco Foundation) Canine Cancer Fund. These programs enable canines to receive the best care possible and be in top form when disasters strike.

AT A GLANCE

76 ACTIVE & RETIRED
SEARCH DOGS
received healthcare services totaling
\$128,477

5 Petco Foundation Canine Cancer Fund Grants totaling **\$43,812**

40 Handler Grants totaling **\$36,416**

7 canines received 7 prescriptions from Boehringer-Ingelheim totaling approximately **\$120**

