



# 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](mailto:Recruitment@SearchDogFoundation.org) today!

To learn more about Angel Flight West, visit [www.angelflightwest.org](http://www.angelflightwest.org).

# OUR DOGS

### THE RACHAEL RAY RESCUE BRIGADE

Helping SDF celebrate the

## HERO 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...



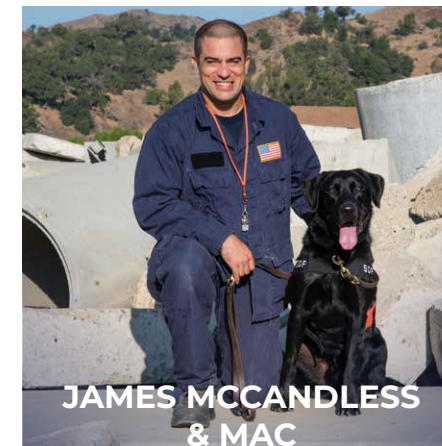
**CHAD ARBERG & CORY**

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



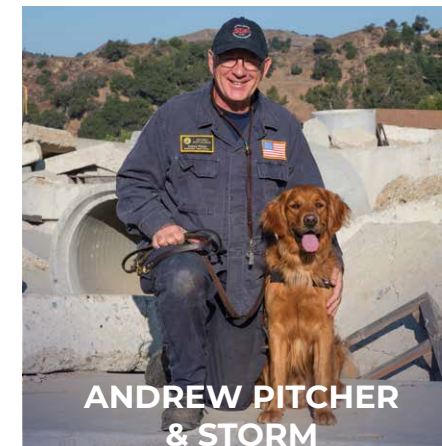
**KIEGON LIST & CHLOE**

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



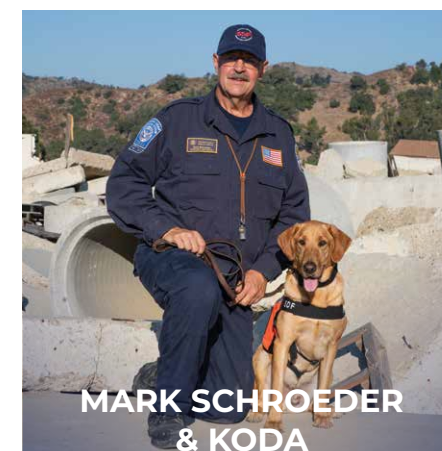
**ANDREW PITCHER & STORM**

Nebraska Task Force 1  
Civilian  
Sponsor: Julie Croker



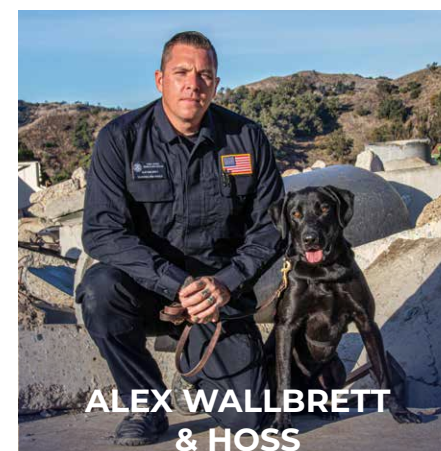
**PAUL SANDIGO & CASSIE**

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

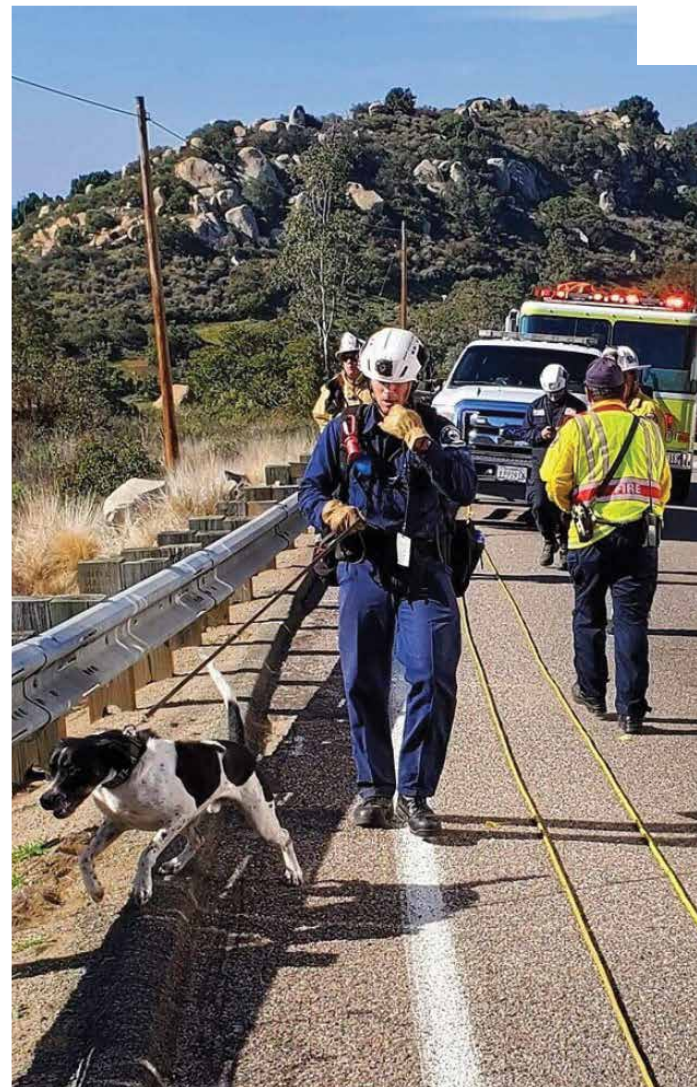
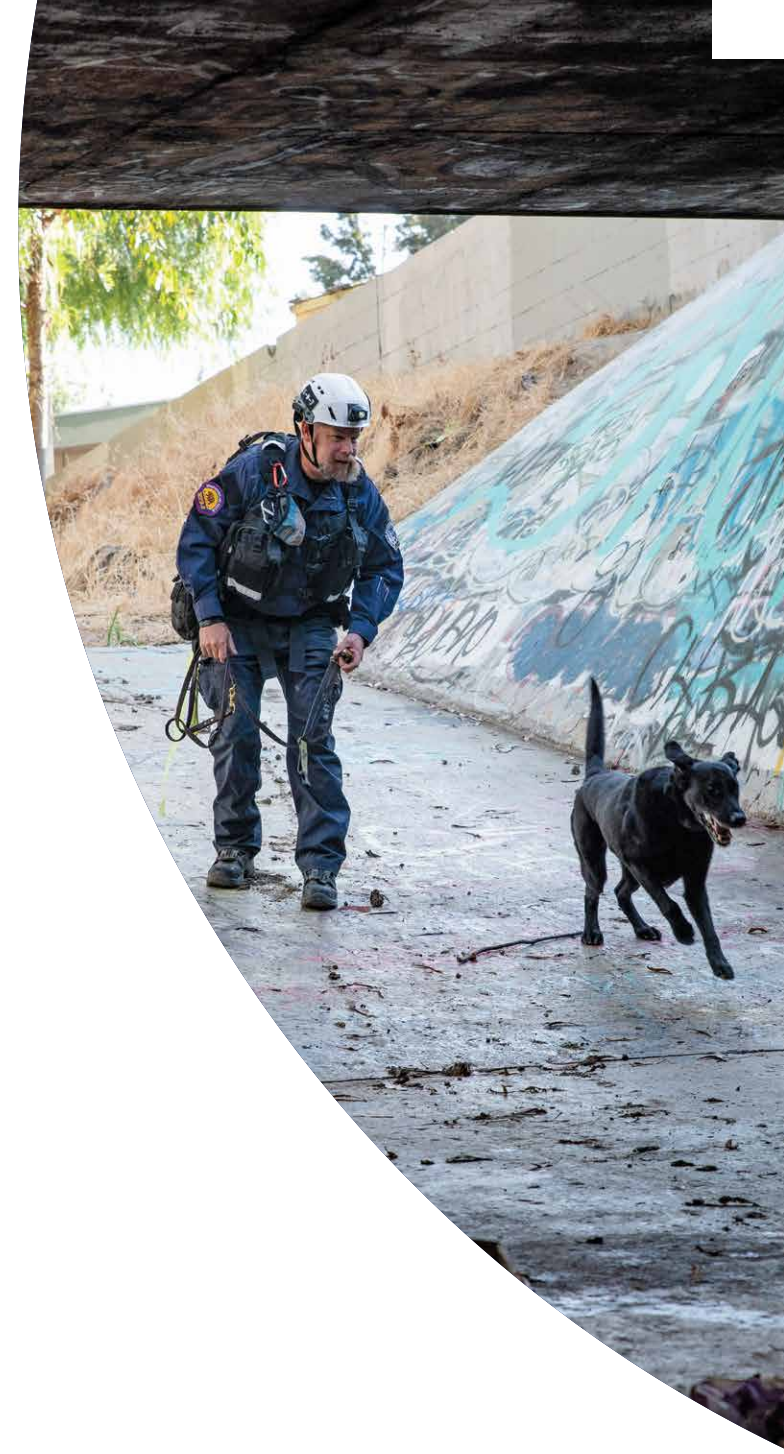
September 6, 2020 – Blenheim, NY  
Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax,  
Adam Leckonby & Luka, Brook Rowley & Echo

### 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



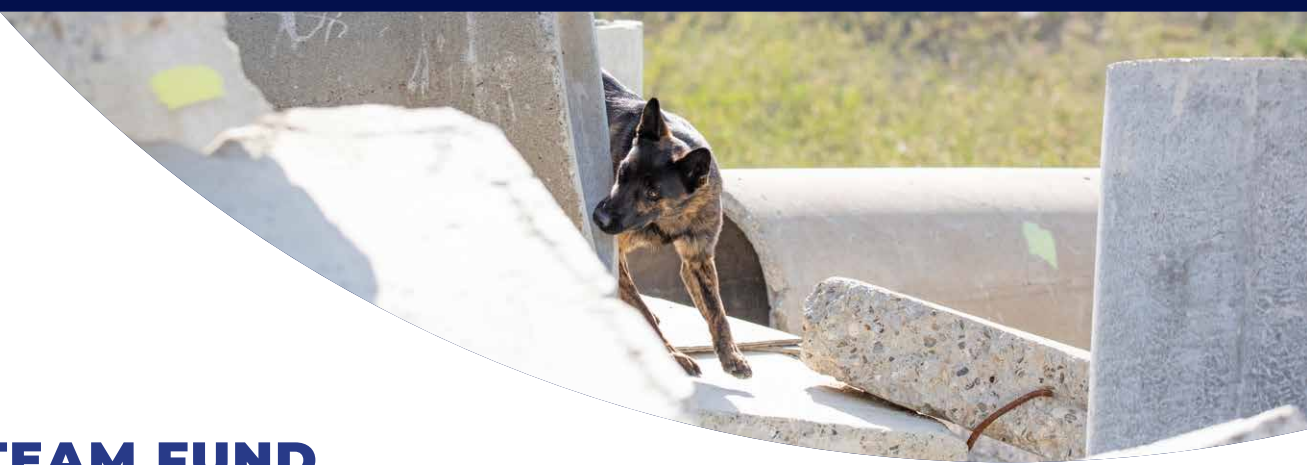
## ADVANCED SEARCH TEAM TRAINING

### 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.

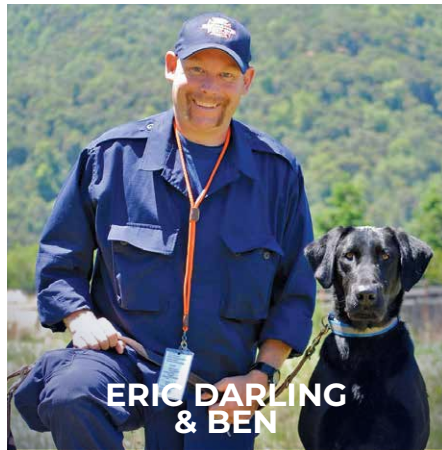
The National Training Center is the first training facility built specifically for canine disaster search teams with 125 acres filled with disaster simulation props. Each space is designed to provide real-life scenarios to challenge search dogs and handlers alike before they are deployed to a real disaster, 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

## 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.



**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

### 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**



# RETIREMENTS

## HANGING UP THE SEARCH VEST



**FRITZ**

Years of Service 2015 - 2020  
 Handler Ed Martinez  
 San Francisco Fire  
 California Task Force 3  
 Recruited from Greenhill Humane Society  
 Recruited by Kirsten Fulk  
 Sponsors: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**ROYCE**

Years of Service 2011 - 2020  
 Handler Judy Zinn  
 Oklahoma Task Force 1  
 Recruited from Santa Barbara  
 County Animal Services  
 Recruited by Heidi Miller  
 Sponsors: Janet and Greg Van Huisen  
 Named by the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation

# RAINBOW BRIDGE

WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LIFE OF SERVICE



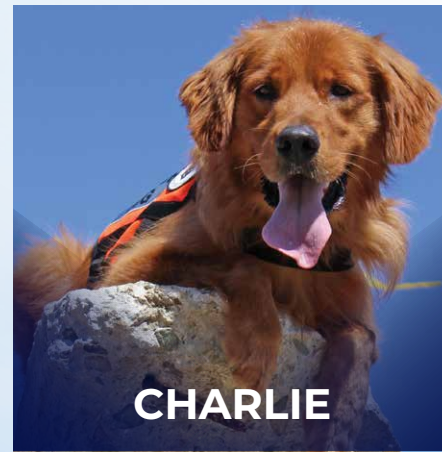
**ASTA**

**August 20, 2007 - September 21, 2020**  
 Handler Sonja Heritage  
 California Task Force 5  
 Civilian



**BELLA**

**March 7, 2007 - February 24, 2020**  
 Handler Richard Smith  
 California Task Force 8  
 Lakeside Fire Protection District  
 Recruited from City of Stockton Animal Services Center  
 Sponsor: Susan Rountree



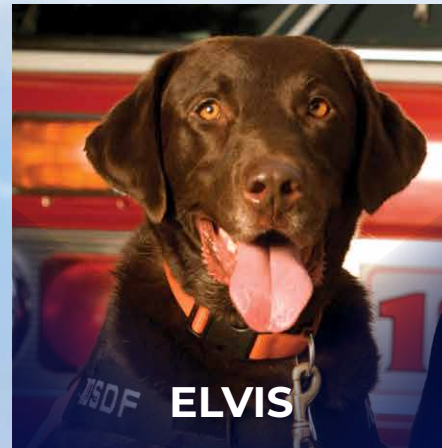
**CHARLIE**

**June 30, 2012 - February 6, 2020**  
 Handler Marc Valentine  
 California Task Force 5  
 Montebello Fire  
 Recruited from Companion Golden Retriever Rescue  
 Recruited by Trevor Lawrence  
 Sponsors: Cynthia Petrovits, Arc Aspicio



**CROCKETT**

**April 24, 2009 - March 22, 2020**  
 Handler Tim Robertson  
 California Task Force 7  
 Sacramento Fire  
 Recruited from Animal Welfare Association  
 Named by Heidi Miller



**ELVIS**

**April 17, 2006 - June 11, 2020**  
 Handler Chet Clark  
 Oklahoma Task Force 1  
 Oklahoma City Fire  
 Recruited from Santa Barbara Animal Services  
 Recruited by Heidi Miller  
 Sponsor: Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



**HAYDEN**

**August 18, 2007 - January 25, 2020**  
 Handler Mike Hargrove  
 Texas Task Force 2  
 Civilian  
 Recruited from Woods Humane Society  
 Sponsors: Beth and Greg Apke, Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation



**LEILA**

**October 6, 2008 - October 23, 2019**  
 Handler Kyle Thomas  
 California Task Force 7  
 Sacramento Metro Fire  
 Recruited from Guide Dogs of America  
 Sponsors: Elizabeth and Kurt Wampler, CWFC - Marina District



**NINO**

**March 1, 2005 - February 3, 2020**  
 Handler Jim Boggeri  
 California Task Force 4  
 Marin County Fire  
 Recruited from Placer SPCA  
 Sponsors: Ivy Zourkas, CFWC - Sierra Cahuenga District



**PEARL**

**August 3, 2005 - September 4, 2020**  
 Handler Ron Horetzki  
 California Task Force 2  
 Los Angeles County Fire  
 Recruited from High Sierra Animal Rescue  
 Sponsors: Allyn Lee, CFWC - Sierra Cahuenga District, Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



**TUCKER**

**November 8, 2008 - March 16, 2020**  
 Handler Keri Grant  
 Texas Task Force 2  
 McKinney Fire  
 Recruited from Yolo County Animal Services  
 Sponsors: Beth and Greg Apke







# OUR HUMANS

## WOOF PACK VOLUNTEERS: RAISING THEIR PAWS TO HELP

We celebrate the special individuals who have always been the backbone of our organization—from the days of working from Founder Wilma Melville's coffee table to the nationwide organization we are today, we could not continue our mission without our volunteers.

To be an SDF volunteer is to have passion and dedication, as well as to care deeply and genuinely for others—both two- and four-legged.

What we have done and will continue to achieve in the future is only possible thanks to countless people who contribute their time, skills, and support to help save lives.

With humble gratitude, we say "thank you" to all the members of our volunteer Woof Pack—near and far, past and present—for sharing your talents and efforts with our organization. Much like our search dogs, your drive and determination make our work possible. Everyone at SDF as well as search teams across America, so greatly appreciate your commitment.

We couldn't do it without you...



### This list recognizes active volunteers during the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

Lucinda Anderson  
Susan Bollinger  
Karen Branch  
Annie Brown  
Kabir Cardenas  
Talulah Cardenas  
Josh Cerf  
Janet Chamberlain  
Lauren Chinn  
Sharon Cromartie  
Shirley Denny  
Kate Devlin  
Leah Evert-Burkes  
Virginia Feyh  
Joan Field

George Foulsham  
Vita Franco  
Anna Gilchrist  
Lisa Hammond  
Chase Herman  
Melissa Johnson  
Dalton Jones  
Mary Anne Kendall  
Noah Lindee  
Sofia Lindee  
Josephine Lynch  
Andro Mathewson  
Sean Moran  
Dan Munday  
Linda Munday

Diane Noda  
Pam Nothwang  
Boris Palencia  
Brandon Ridley  
Cecilia Rogers  
Linda Roslansky  
Luz Schaible  
Brady Shoemate  
Kayann Stables  
Carol Wan  
Sarah Weigel  
Leslie Wellington  
Dianne Williams  
Karen Zuber  
and "Flight Crew" Volunteer Pilots

*\*Photo at left taken by SDF volunteer photographer Susan Bollinger.*

**INVEST IN SDF AND BECOME A GUARDIAN OF OUR FUTURE**

We are tremendously grateful to our Estate Guardians: caring individuals all over the country, and even abroad, who have included the Search Dog Foundation in their estate plans. Together, this vibrant community is made up of more than 300 individuals who are the caretakers of SDF's future, helping to ensure that dogs are given a new "leash on life" and a purpose to serve for generations to come.

Estate gifts we are fortunate enough to receive are placed in our Guardian Endowment Fund, providing for the long-term stability of our organization even in the most uncertain of economic times.

The endowment itself was established with the outpouring of support we received when 13 SDF-trained teams searched the rubble in the aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks.

Our Guardians' timeless commitment makes a profound impact on our work, both today and long into the future. And thanks to the diligence of our investment team, the endowment principal grows exponentially over time, resulting in the gifts we receive having greater impact on our mission every year. In this way, our Guardians' dedication to strengthening disaster response in America and helping rescued dogs become rescuers is held in perpetuity.

As of the end of our 2020 fiscal year, our endowment was valued at \$4,963,501.

To celebrate our Guardians' belief and meaningful investment in our work, we proudly etch their names in stone at our beautiful Guardian Glade at the front of our campus, an area dedicated to this important community of supporters, including our founder, Wilma Melville.

**INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR GUARDIAN COMMUNITY?**

Are you ready to help secure the future of SDF? Your commitment through your estate plans will impact our mission for many years to come. And if the search dogs are already part of your personal legacy, please let us know! We would be honored to celebrate your generosity, and your gift will encourage others who may be considering a similar type of contribution.

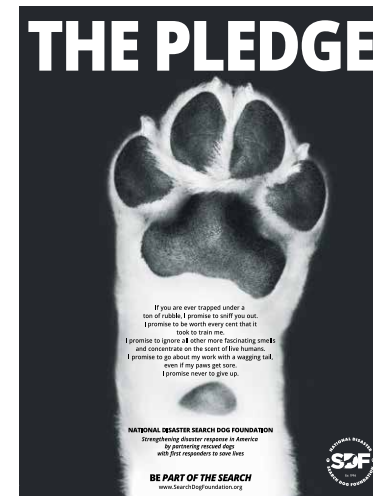
Learn more about this extraordinary community by contacting us at [Guardians@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Guardians@SearchDogFoundation.org), or calling us at (888) 459-4376.

**GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE**

SDF is proud to have been recognized by several charity watch groups for our commitment to transparency, fiscal integrity, and program management. SDF received the highest possible ranking from the following organizations:



**VMLY&R**



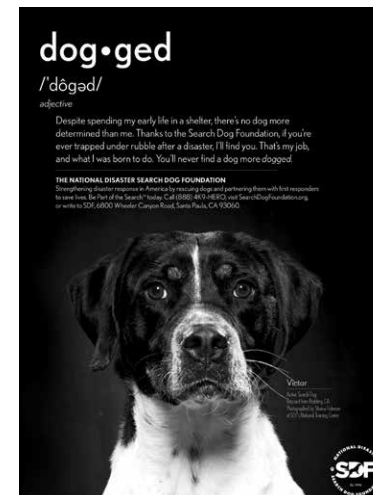
Since 2001, SDF has been privileged to partner with world-renowned advertising firm VMLY&R (formerly Young & Rubicam) to share our story and the tales of the incredible dogs and search teams we are fortunate to work with.

Beginning with the iconic "Pledge" ads and evolving with us over the last 19 years, VMLY&R helped keep SDF and our work in front of an audience we may never have otherwise reached.

Through pro bono ad placements, SDF's search dogs have graced the pages of publications like the Wall Street Journal, TIME magazine, People magazine, and others as ad space became available. Over the years, we have received countless messages of support from folks who may never have known us had it not been for VMLY&R's impactful work.

In December 2020, just a few months before the COVID pandemic restricted travel, we were able to thank our friends at VMLY&R with a special visit from some of the teams that were featured in our most recent ad series: Laura Denison & Flyer (Nebraska Task Force 1), Jason Jaszgur & Ruffy (California Task Force 1), and Billy Walkenhorst & Victor (California Task Force 8).

Thank you to the amazing team at VMLY&R for your enduring belief in our mission and for sharing our work with the world.



**LET US KNOW!**

If you spot one of our ads in a publication, please share it with us! Because many of the placements are last minute, pro bono spots, we don't know when they will run. Snap a photo and email it to us at [Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org) with the publication name and date so we can see it too!



**YOU'VE HELPED US MAKE HISTORY,  
NOW HELP US TRAIN THE  
CANINE HEROES OF TOMORROW.**



[SearchDogFoundation.org](http://SearchDogFoundation.org)



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