



# THE QUEST

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





## 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 over 190 certified teams that have deployed to over 220 disasters and missing person searches. Thanks to mutual aid agreements, teams can deploy nationwide—several of them internationally—wherever disasters occur.

## OUR 2020-2021 BOARD

George Leis, Chair

Dennis Kuykendall, Vice Chair  
and Treasurer

Mike Diani, Secretary

Richard Butt

Robert Dodge, M.D.

Battalion Chief Robert Harris

George Haynes, Ph.D.

Wilma Melville

Jeff Wenig

Crystal Wyatt

### READY, SET, SCAN!

When you see a QR code in  
The Quest, use your smart  
phone camera to scan and  
learn more. ▶



*Photos in this publication taken by Susan Bollinger, California Task Force 4, Eliot Crowley, Sharon Hanzelka, Emily Hodges, Kate Horwick, Alicia Jewell, Dave Lindee, Victoria Linsen, Nebraska Task Force 1, Dane Mehl, Karyn Newbill, Troy Overman, Tony Panzica, Abby Roeser, Amy Sandberg, Denise Sanders, USAID, Virginia Task Force 1, and Shevaun Williams.*

# 25 YEARS STRONG

2021 marked a quarter-century from the moment we first asked the world to join us in turning rescued dogs into rescuers. Each of those 25 years has afforded opportunities to learn and grow stronger in our mission, including:

- Certifying 168 SDF-trained search teams for deployment—one team for every life lost in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.
- Evolving our training program to a holistic approach that recognizes the emotional intelligence of dogs and focuses on enhancing the human-canine bond.
- Positioning SDF as a champion of shelter and rescue dogs to form canine search teams, saving the lives of countless dogs whose energy and drive disqualified them from most family homes but are valuable assets in search work.
- Committing to the lifetime care of each dog accepted into our search program, whether they complete training or not.
- Implementing an innovative approach to handler training, focused on elevating the handler's skills and commitment during initial training and throughout their career to ensure a stronger, more successful team.
- Supporting search teams across the country through advanced training that prepares them to respond when needed, ultimately utilizing their skills and experience for more than 220 deployments.

Through it all, our community of supporters has enabled us to overcome challenges and succeed. In the past few years alone, SDF rebuilt structures lost to a wildfire that ravaged our campus and navigated unprecedented COVID shutdowns to continue our nationwide efforts of recruiting dogs and training search teams.

Every rescued dog given another chance and every deployment taken on by a search dog and their handler is made possible by our generous friends who open their hearts to our mission. We thank you wholeheartedly for sustaining SDF these past 25 years. As we continue to recruit and train the next generation of two- and four-legged heroes, we know there will be more milestones to commemorate with you by our side.



## WOOF PACK VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers! From pushing paper to scooping poop, our fantastic volunteers cheerfully pitch in to do it all and are a vital part of SDF's mission. Just some of the ways our volunteers have provided valuable support to SDF over this past fiscal year include:

- Kennel cleaning
- Canine calming and enrichment
- Canine meal prep
- Helping in the Canine Pavilion
- Rubble safety
- Being a "victim" for search training
- Canine health clinic
- Administrative support

The passion and selflessness of these individuals fills us with gratitude and reinforces our commitment to our shared mission—and we certainly couldn't do it without them! Thank you to these wonderful individuals who assisted SDF in 2021:

Lucinda Anderson  
Karen Branch  
Annie Brown  
Donnell Buckley  
Kristi Cargill  
Cara Cattanach  
Marlee Cattanach  
Steve Cattanach  
Cecilia Rogers  
Janet Chamberlain

Sharon Cromartie  
Shirley Denny  
Kate Devlin  
Leah Evert-Burkes  
Virginia Feyh  
Joan Field  
Kelty Forman  
Vita Franco  
Sue Gary  
Tracy Gilman

Lisa Hammond  
Tom Higgins  
Mary Anne Kendall  
Mary Looby  
Josephine Lynch  
Judy Mangione  
Sean Moran  
Dan Munday  
Linda Munday  
Lori Myers

Diane Noda  
Pam Nothwang  
Karen Prechtel  
Kayann Stables  
Carol Wan  
Estelle Weber  
Kirk Wellington  
Jessie Wellington  
Dianne Williams  
Jessica Zaiss

We also want to express our gratitude to the SDF Woof Pack Flight Crew, pilots from our nonprofit partners Angel Flight West, Angel Flight Central, and Pilots N' Paws, who donated their time, planes, and fuel to transport search candidates from all over the country to our campus in California.

From everyone at SDF—staff, board, handlers, and canines—thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We're so grateful you're part of the pack!

*Want to become  
Part of the Search®  
as a volunteer? ▶*



# CANINE RECRUITMENT IN THE COVID AGE: IT TAKES A VIRTUAL VILLAGE

With many in-person restrictions still in place in our nation's shelters in 2021, how did we continue to find canine search candidates to recruit for our program? We took the quest virtual and enlisted the eyes and ears of our SDF community!

New in 2021, our Volunteer Canine Recruitment Support Initiative was launched to organize a core team of volunteers to monitor California area shelters and rescues for potential leads. Each volunteer monitors 10-15 shelters and rescues on social media, and our Canine Coordinator meets with recruitment volunteers quarterly via Zoom to check in with them and update them on new SDF needs or requirements. In total, SDF received 413 leads generated from this program in 2021.

In addition to this group, we also have volunteers monitoring national shelters and rescues via social media for dogs with qualities that would make them potential search dog candidates. The group's 60 members have submitted over 350 potential candidates to date.

We've also seen success with our "Refer a Dog" web form that we rolled out in 2020. Since inception, we've received over 180 submissions online, with five dogs formally recruited into our search program.

Critical to the success of our recruitment efforts are the shelter and rescue staff who continually assess dogs in their care for the attributes required of search dog candidates. Throughout 2021, SDF continued to nurture these important relationships, launching a quarterly email newsletter to share candidate updates with shelter and rescue partners and creating new recruitment videos tailored to shelter and rescue environments to streamline the identification of potential canine recruits.

As COVID has underscored again and again, our relationships are essential to our success. We could not have gotten through the last year without all of you, our incredibly supportive community, and we are so grateful that you're Part of the Search®!



In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we achieved:

**290**

SHELTERS & RESCUE GROUPS ENGAGED

**691**

DOGS EVALUATED FOR  
SDF'S TRAINING PROGRAM

**53**

DOGS RECRUITED INTO  
SEARCH DOG TRAINING

*Do you know a dog  
with hero potential?  
Refer your special  
canine to our  
search program! ▶*





# SEARCHING FOR HIS ONE AND ONLY

Remus originally came to SDF in 2018 as a one-year-old pup. He was smart, funny, and highly trainable—in fact, he had already mastered 3rd level American Kennel Club trick training! But because Remus was fearful of new people and picky about other dogs, he wasn't a good fit for search training, so we began exploring other careers that would better suit his temperament. After spending more time getting to know Remus, we realized that instead of a career, he would prefer someone of his own who understood his unique needs.

Although most of our Lifetime Care dogs find families within months, we knew Remus was special, and it might take a little longer to find his match. Determined to give Remus his ideal, happy life, the search for a home began.

Because Remus is strikingly handsome, there was no shortage of interested adopters. Applications poured in and Remus had meet-and-greets with several potential families. Even with careful vetting, supervised meets, and trainings for adopters at our campus and their homes, Remus' first few homes didn't work out. That's how we learned one more critical detail about Remus. He tends to bond with one family member over others and doesn't want to share affection.

Remus not only wants to be your only dog; he wants you to be his only human!

Taking this into account, we renewed our efforts to find Remus his perfect person. When a camp ranger expressed interest in adopting Remus, we knew we struck gold! Remus' adopter was aware of his past and thought her peaceful lifestyle outdoors would be perfect for Remus.

It was a great fit. Remus spent his days hiking, swimming, camping, and fetching sticks and balls in the woods. Everything was wonderful—that is, until COVID emerged. As things began to shut down, so did the campground where Remus' adopter worked. Forced to move in with family, their transition was difficult, and Remus did not get along with the family's dog. Reluctantly, his adopter brought Remus back to us.

Because of our supportive community, SDF can offer this safety net to all of our Lifetime Care dogs. No matter what life throws at them, we have their backs, and they can keep "coming home" to SDF as many times as it takes.

Though we enjoy having quirky, playful Remus around, we know his "fur-ever" home is still out there. We won't give up looking until his perfect match is found. Could it be you?



## OUR LIFETIME CARE PROMISE

Pledged at SDF's inception, our promise continues to stand true: Once rescued, our recruits will never need to be rescued again.

The persistence and dedication our staff devotes to placing these dogs is a testament to the significance of that pledge. Finding the right home or job involves patiently exploring all avenues and interviewing countless potential adopters. It also means actively supporting new placements and monitoring their ongoing care.

Last fiscal year, we supported 198 canines in our Lifetime Care community. Whether they go on to thrive in a new career or as the newest family member in a loving home, we're always there if they need us, committed to helping them live the life they deserve.

Read more about Remus! ▶



# CANINE TRAINING

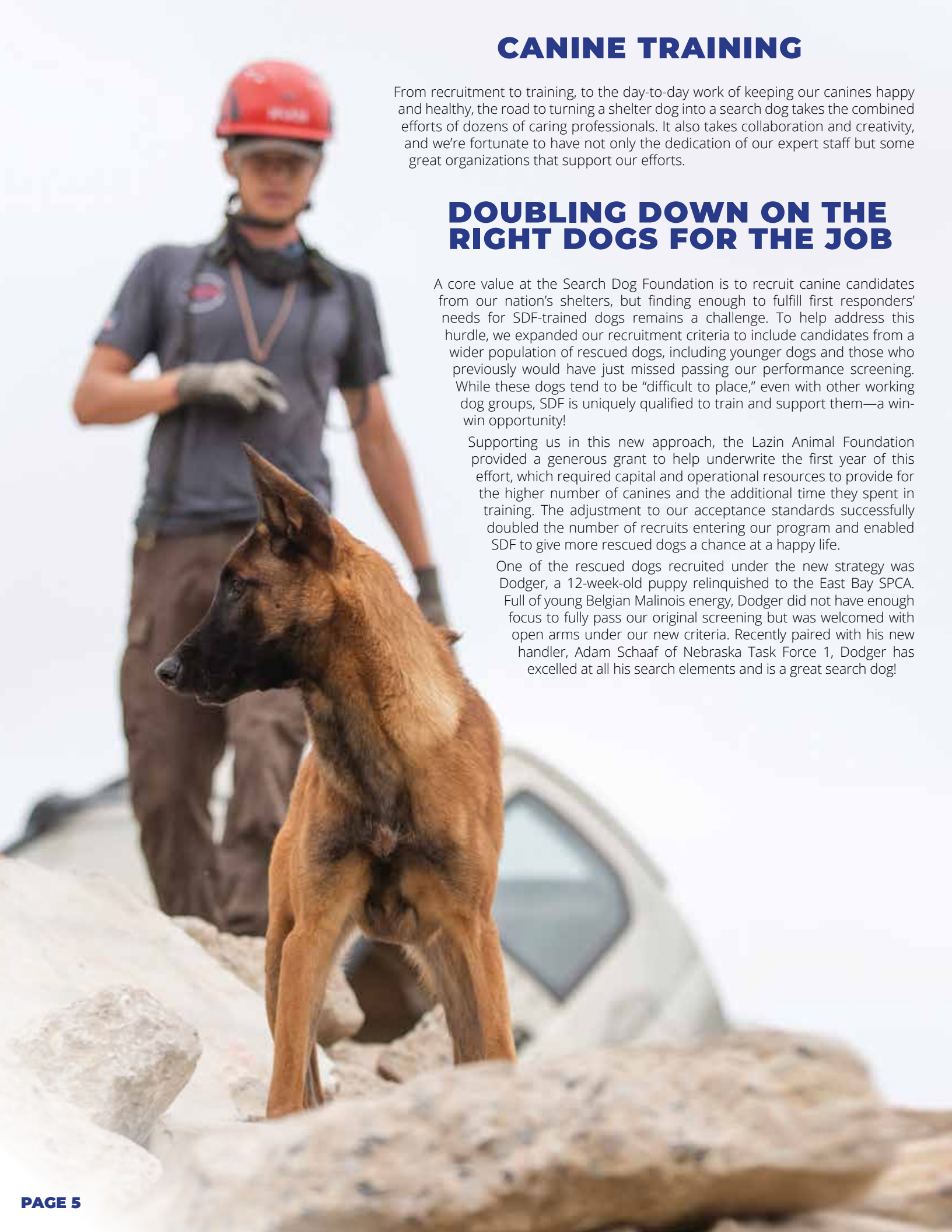
From recruitment to training, to the day-to-day work of keeping our canines happy and healthy, the road to turning a shelter dog into a search dog takes the combined efforts of dozens of caring professionals. It also takes collaboration and creativity, and we're fortunate to have not only the dedication of our expert staff but some great organizations that support our efforts.

## DOUBLING DOWN ON THE RIGHT DOGS FOR THE JOB

A core value at the Search Dog Foundation is to recruit canine candidates from our nation's shelters, but finding enough to fulfill first responders' needs for SDF-trained dogs remains a challenge. To help address this hurdle, we expanded our recruitment criteria to include candidates from a wider population of rescued dogs, including younger dogs and those who previously would have just missed passing our performance screening. While these dogs tend to be "difficult to place," even with other working dog groups, SDF is uniquely qualified to train and support them—a win-win opportunity!

Supporting us in this new approach, the Lazin Animal Foundation provided a generous grant to help underwrite the first year of this effort, which required capital and operational resources to provide for the higher number of canines and the additional time they spent in training. The adjustment to our acceptance standards successfully doubled the number of recruits entering our program and enabled SDF to give more rescued dogs a chance at a happy life.

One of the rescued dogs recruited under the new strategy was Dodger, a 12-week-old puppy relinquished to the East Bay SPCA. Full of young Belgian Malinois energy, Dodger did not have enough focus to fully pass our original screening but was welcomed with open arms under our new criteria. Recently paired with his new handler, Adam Schaaf of Nebraska Task Force 1, Dodger has excelled at all his search elements and is a great search dog!





# FIT BODY, BALANCED MIND

At SDF, we're proud of our holistic approach to caring for the whole dog. With this in mind, we've implemented some new strategies to keep our canines happy and fit.

Our enrichment program keeps our dogs busy while kenneled by employing a rotating schedule of different food puzzles with varying textures and tastes (such as cored apples with peanut butter inside and Kong toys stuffed with vegetables, yogurt, or ground meat). These treats do an excellent job of fulfilling our canines' cravings for something tasty while keeping their brains interested and engaged.

To prevent injury and work off their treats, our canines take part in a three-times-per-week fitness program. In collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania, SDF implemented a pilot program called "Fit to Work," designed by the Penn Vet Working Dog Center to improve a dog's physical and mental endurance. It's also been a terrific way to help our staff further develop their skills in interacting, communicating, and bonding with our dogs.

As a fun supplement to their Fit to Work gym days, our canines now enjoy a brand-new agility yard with natural grass. An Eagle Scout candidate kindly donated his time to build equipment for the space, complete with a sway bridge, high plank, and ladders. We also have a set of FEMA-approved agility equipment now placed on our showgrounds that is lightweight, semi-portable, and composed of diverse materials and textures so dogs get accustomed to a wide variety of surfaces they may encounter in real-life scenarios. These additions enable our team to train multiple dogs on various agility obstacles simultaneously, making sessions more efficient for greater numbers of dogs each day.



THE  
**RACHAELRAY**  
FOUNDATION

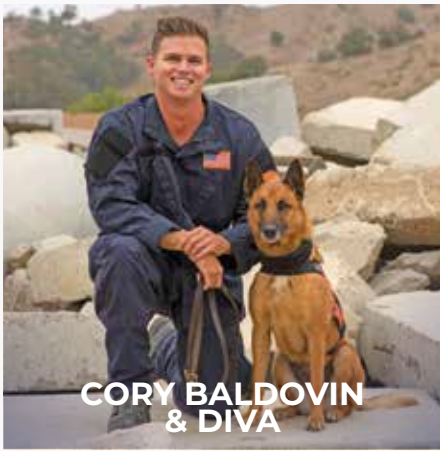
## THE RACHAEL RAY RESCUE BRIGADE DID IT AGAIN!

Year five of this special initiative did not disappoint, helping to raise \$573,689 thanks to everyone who donated during the dog days of summer. The Rachael Ray Foundation provided a generous grant to launch the 2021 Brigade, supporting the recruitment of rescued dogs into our

program and their lifetime care as members of our forever family. We are grateful to each and every one of you who joined the cause to care for the potential canine heroes found in our nation's shelters.

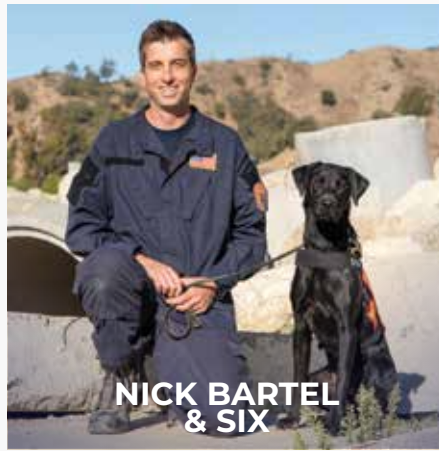
And we are excited to share that The Rachael Ray Rescue Brigade will be back in 2022, giving you the opportunity to help more shelter dogs become search dogs!





**CORY BALDOVIN  
& DIVA**

California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire  
Donated by an Anonymous Donor  
Recruited by Trevor Lawrence  
Sponsors: Mary and Jeff Kröll



**NICK BARTEL  
& SIX**

California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire  
Donated by Claire Tousley Klatt  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**ERIK FALKENSTROM  
& LESLIE**

California Task Force 4  
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District  
Donated by Kaiser K9  
Sponsor: Arc Aspicio



**JOHN PAUL "J.P."  
HILSABECK & BOND**

California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire  
Recruited from Dogs for Better Lives  
Sponsor: Ann Cooluris



**NICK MEDINA  
& MATTIS**

California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire  
Donated by an Anonymous Donor  
Recruited by Charlie Freeman  
Sponsors: Carol George and Roger Stewart



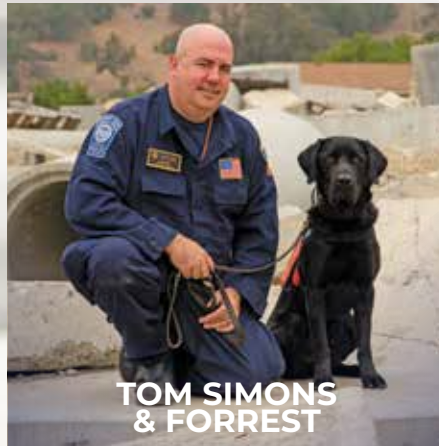
**BRIAN MEDLEY  
& NAVY**

California Task Force 4  
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District  
Recruited from Alert Dogs for Life  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



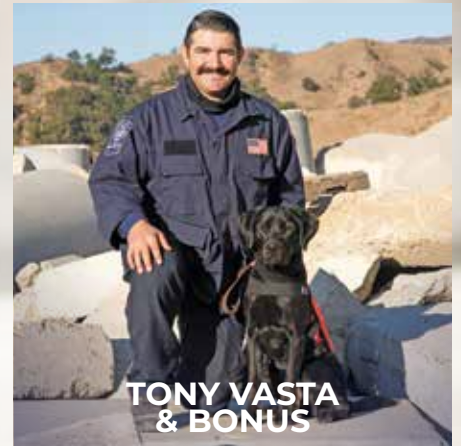
**ED RUIZ  
& HARPER**

California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire  
Recruited from Interquest Detection Canines  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsors: Nanci Denney Bergin, Anonymous Donor



**TOM SIMONS  
& FORREST**

Utah Task Force 1  
Salt Lake City Fire  
Recruited from Train A Rescue  
Recruited by Kirsten Fulk  
Sponsor: Farmers Insurance



**TONY VASTA  
& BONUS**

California Task Force 4  
Contra Costa Fire  
Recruited from Dogs for Better Lives  
Sponsor: Ann Cooluris



## NEW SEARCH TEAMS PAIRED

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 SEARCH TEAMS...



# ADVANCED SEARCH TEAM TRAINING

Despite ongoing COVID-related shutdowns, we met the challenge by establishing appropriate protocols and were thrilled to welcome search teams back to our National Training Center for deployment readiness trainings.

We opened our campus to non-USAR teams such as the National Association of Canine Scent Work, which held their Nose Work Trial certification test here, and Superfit Canine, which held the largest workshop on campus since the start of COVID. We also sponsored a certification test in Chicago to ensure teams across the country could continue to be deployable and prepared to respond to disasters.

To keep handlers and canines sharp and ready for anything they might encounter in the field, our staff carefully enhanced and modified our campus training props. These adjustments enable these unique simulations to remain dynamic tools that constantly present novel problems for teams to solve. We rearranged rubble piles, added more vehicles such as a fire truck and school bus, and reconfigured our advanced training props to create deeper and more complicated hides. We also installed additional lighting equipment to facilitate night searches and used a fog machine to mimic real weather scenarios.

Throughout the year, SDF averaged more than 16 days each month of advanced search team training on our campus—in addition to the daily training of our canine candidates.

## SEARCH TEAM FUND

Established in 2008, the Search Team Fund is a financial assistance program offered by SDF to lessen the burden of out-of-pocket expenses for search dog handlers. Since it was established, we have not only added more benefits to this program, but have now also expanded eligibility to include all qualifying canine disaster search teams in the United States. Whether the dog and handler were initially trained and paired by SDF or are now reaching out as an already established team, our Search Team Fund is an available resource to help them stay deployment-ready.

**98**

ACTIVE & RETIRED SEARCH  
DOGS RECEIVED HEALTHCARE  
SERVICES TOTALING  
**\$129,664**

**4**

PETCO LOVE CANINE CANCER  
FUND GRANTS TOTALING  
**\$35,811**

**77**

SEARCH TEAM GRANTS TOTALING  
**\$47,474**



# DEPLOYMENTS

## 1 — STRUCTURE COLLAPSE

December 13, 2020 – Crete, NE  
Andrew Pitcher & Storm

## 2 — MUDSLIDE PRE-STAGING

January 26, 2021 – Santa Cruz, CA  
Mike Stornetta & Rocket

## 3 — MISSING PERSON SEARCH

February 21, 2021 – Castleton, NY  
Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax,  
Adam Leckonby & Luka, Brook Rowley & Echo

## 4 — STRUCTURE COLLAPSE

March 29, 2021 – San Diego, CA  
Aide Barbat & Delta, Billy Walkenhorst & Victor,  
Joe Zakar & Dora

## 5 — MISSING PERSON SEARCH

May 20, 2021 – Papillion, NE  
Steve MacDonald & Molly, Andrew Pitcher & Storm,  
Mark Schroeder & Koda, Damon Wirth & Koa

## 6 — MISSING PERSON SEARCH

June 24, 2021 – Sprakers, NY  
Brian Girard & Keila, Adam Leckonby & Luka

## 7 — MISSING PERSON SEARCH

August 5, 2021 – Omaha, NE  
Steve MacDonald & Molly, Andrew Pitcher & Storm,  
Mark Schroeder & Koda

## 8 — EARTHQUAKE

August 15, 2021 – Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
Kristi Bartlett & Ivan

## 9 — HURRICANE HENRI PRE-STAGING

August 21, 2021 – Long Island, NY  
Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax,  
Adam Leckonby & Luka, Brook Rowley & Echo

## 10 — HURRICANE IDA

August 27, 2021 – New Orleans, LA and Orange County, NJ  
Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax, Steve  
MacDonald & Molly, Brian Medley & Navy, Brook Rowley &  
Echo, Mark Schroeder & Koda, Mike Stornetta & Rocket,  
Rudy Valencia & Topa

## 11 — VEHICLE CRASH

September 17, 2021 – San Ramon, CA  
Brian Medley & Navy





# CERTIFICATIONS

WHILE ADVANCING THROUGH THEIR CAREERS, SEARCH TEAMS MUST PASS AN EVALUATION EVERY THREE YEARS THAT ALLOWS THEM TO DEPLOY WITH THEIR TASK FORCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THESE SEVENTEEN TEAMS THAT STAND READY TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES.



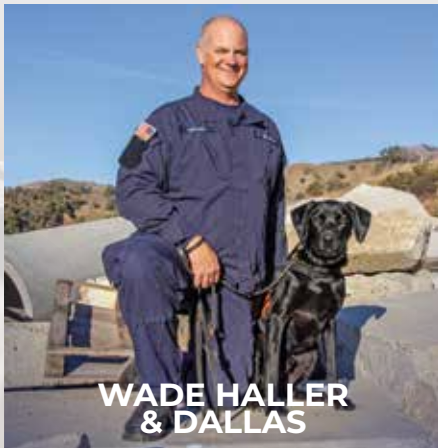
**KRISTI BARTLETT  
& IVAN**

Virginia Task Force 1  
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue  
FEMA Re-certification: November 2020  
Donated by: Kim Newman  
Sponsors: GJ and Rebecca Pelissero, Lucy and Stephen Swartz, Arc Aspicio, Oluv C. Joynor Foundation, Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project  
Named in honor of Ivan Matesevac



**DEREK CHAKY  
& SCOUT**

Texas Task Force 1  
Carrollton Fire Rescue  
FEMA Re-certification: November 2020  
Recruited from James River Humane Society  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsors: Scott Florance, Valerie Roddy, Patrick Shields of Quinn Emanuel LLP



**WADE HALLER  
& DALLAS**

California Task Force 5  
Long Beach Fire  
FEMA Certification: October 2020  
Donated by John Thomas  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



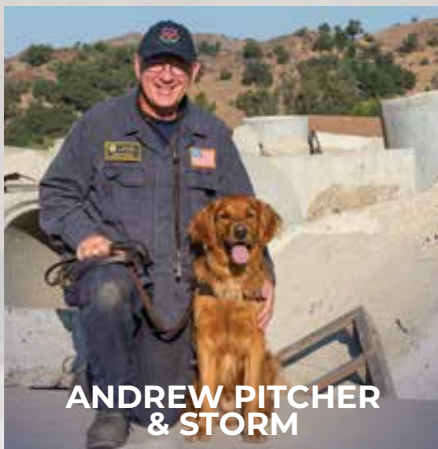
**KIEGON LIST  
& CHLOE**

California Task Force 7  
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District  
FEMA Certification: April 2021  
Recruited from Cheyenne Animal Shelter  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsors: Nahikian Family Foundation, Anonymous Donor



**PATTI KRAFFT  
& BILLY**

Texas Task Force 1  
Dallas Fire-Rescue  
FEMA Re-certification: November 2020  
Recruited from Humane Society of the South Platte Valley  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsors: Elinor Plumer, Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project  
Named in memory of William M. Sparuk



**ANDREW PITCHER  
& STORM**

Nebraska Task Force 1  
FEMA Certification: November 2020  
Sponsor: Julie Croker



**SEAN QUIGLEY  
& GENO**

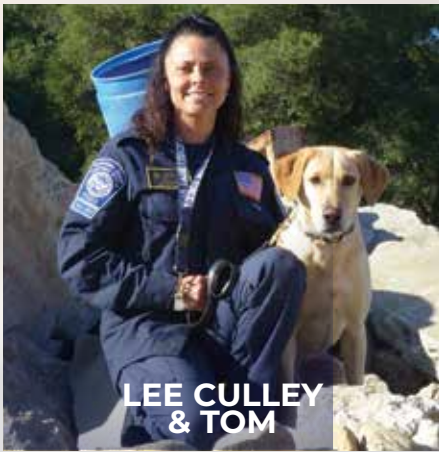
California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire  
FEMA Certification: October 2020  
Donated by Bill Bailey  
Recruited by Greg Strickland



**MARK SCHROEDER  
& KODA**

Nebraska Task Force 1  
FEMA Certification: November 2020  
Recruited from Lab Rescue OK, Inc.  
Recruited by Jason Smith  
Prep home: The Perry Family  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family





**LEE CULLEY  
& TOM**

Utah Task Force 1  
FEMA Re-certification: January 2021  
Recruited from Los Banos Volunteers for Animals  
Recruited by Heidi Miller  
Sponsors: Jill Bee and Loren Glasser, Sean McGrath and the  
McGrath Family  
Named in memory of Tom McGrath



**ERIK FALKENSTROM  
& LESLIE**

California Task Force 4  
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District  
FEMA Certification: April 2021  
Donated by Kaiser K9  
Sponsor: Arc Aspicio



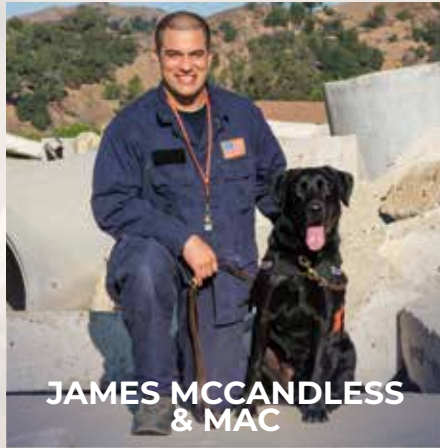
**TYLER GREEN  
& MILA**

California Task Force 5  
Orange County Fire Authority  
FEMA Certification: October 2020  
Donated by a private owner  
Recruited by Trevor Lawrence  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



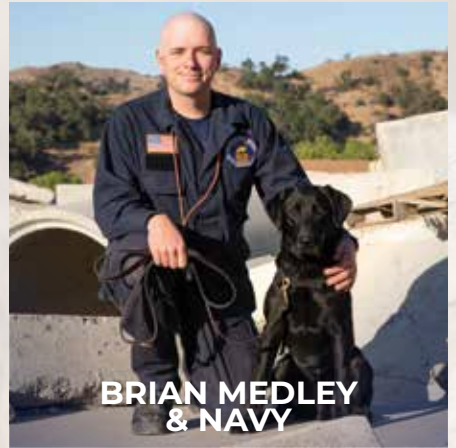
**STEVE MACDONALD  
& MOLLY**

Nebraska Task Force 1  
FEMA Certification: November 2020  
Recruited from Salt Lake County Animal Services  
Recruited by Trevor Lawrence  
Sponsor: Tracy and Rascal



**JAMES MCCANDLESS  
& MAC**

California Task Force 7  
West Sacramento Fire  
FEMA Certification: April 2021  
Donated by Chris Ronisvalle  
Sponsor: Patricia Snyder  
Named by Teresa MacPherson



**BRIAN MEDLEY  
& NAVY**

California Task Force 4  
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District  
FEMA Certification: April 2021  
Recruited from Alert Dogs for Life  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**RUDY VALENCIA  
& TOPA**

California Task Force 4  
Berkeley Fire  
FEMA Certification: January 2021  
Recruited from Western Hills Humane Society  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsor: Ann Cooluris



**TONY VASTA  
& BONUS**

California Task Force 4  
Contra Costa Fire  
FEMA Certification: April 2021  
Recruited from Dogs for Better Lives  
Sponsor: Ann Cooluris



**DAMON WIRTH  
& KOA**

Nebraska Task Force 1  
Lincoln Fire Rescue  
FEMA Certification: November 2020  
Recruited from Salt Lake County Animal Services  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family





# GUNNY

Years of Service 2012 - 2021  
Handler Adrienne Seibel  
Oklahoma Task Force 1  
Tulsa Fire  
Donated by Jeff Ivy  
Sponsors: Fern Marks and Bill Prentice, Judith Sykora



# HALEY

Years of Service 2010 - 2021  
Handler Linda D'Orsi  
California Task Force 8  
Chula Vista Fire  
Donated by Nancy King  
Sponsors: Janet and Greg Van Huisen



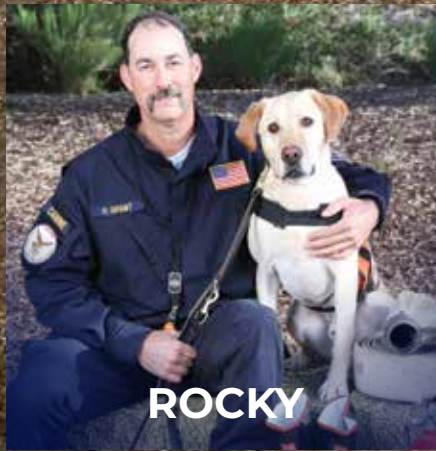
# MAXIM

Years of Service 2012 - 2021  
Handler Luis Garcia  
Baja California Task Force 3  
Recruited from Humane Society of Del Norte  
Recruited by Laura Rathe  
Sponsors: Otilia and Emma Diaz



# REX

Years of Service 2009 - 2020  
Handler Wade Haller  
California Task Force 5  
Long Beach Fire  
Donated by Barbara Ornbaum  
Recruited by Penny Woodruff



# ROCKY

Years of Service 2014 - 2021  
Handler Robert Grant  
Texas Task Force 1  
Plano Fire Rescue  
Donated by the May Family  
Sponsors: Kathi and Steve Levine



# ROSIE

Years of Service 2012 - 2021  
Handler Fidel Gomez  
Baja California Task Force 3  
Tijuana Rescue Squad  
Donated by Katherine Timmerman  
Recruited by Heidi Miller



# TANNER

Years of Service 2013 - 2021  
Handler Madison Warner  
Utah Task Force 1  
Weber Fire District  
Recruited from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue  
Recruited by Jamie Kitz  
Named in honor of Steven Tanner Burhoe, Jr.



# VITA

Years of Service 2015 - 2021  
Handler Garreth Miller  
California Task Force 3  
San Francisco Fire  
Recruited from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family  
Named in honor of Vita Franco



# RETIREMENTS

AS THESE TEAMS HANG UP THEIR GEAR A FINAL TIME, WE REFLECT ON THEIR CAREERS TOGETHER, DEVOTING COUNTLESS HOURS TO TRAINING, PREPARING, AND DEPLOYING TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AS YOU BEGIN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF YOUR LIVES!



**OLLIE**

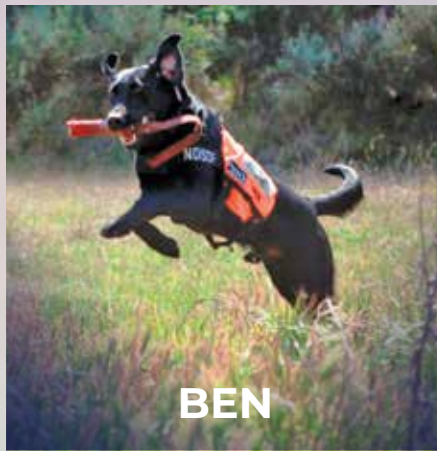
Years of Service 2014 - 2021  
Handler Donovan George  
California Task Force 5  
Orange County Fire Authority  
Recruited from Western Hills Humane Society  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsors: Roberta Hoyt, Julie Brandau Community  
Service Memorial Project  
Named in honor of Gaile Russ





# RAINBOW BRIDGE

WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LIFE OF SERVICE



**BEN**

**April 18, 2008 – June 3, 2021**

Handler Eric Darling  
California Task Force 5  
Donated by Janet Eisen

Sponsors: Janet and Greg Van Huisen, Arc Aspicio



**MARTINI**

**August 28, 2007 – January 22, 2021**

Handler Aide Barbat  
California Task Force 8  
San Diego Fire-Rescue

Recruited from Yolo County Animal Services

Recruited by Penny Woodruff

Sponsor: The McGrath Family Foundation



**RILEY**

**October 1, 2007 – August 6, 2021**

Handler Eric Gray  
California Task Force 2  
Santa Barbara County Fire

Recruited from South Bay Purebred Rescue  
Sponsors: Marith Levers, Dodson Foundation



**RIPLEY**

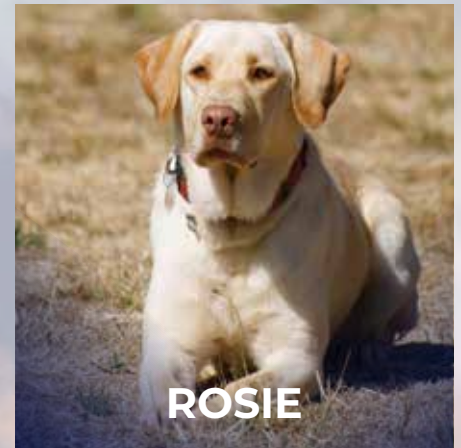
**March 17, 2011 – November 7, 2020**

Handler Jason Vasquez  
California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire

Recruited from Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center

Sponsor: Dr. Liz Fernandez

Named by Steve Dowty



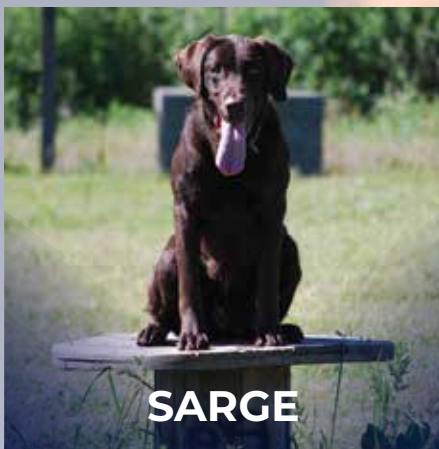
**ROSIE**

**April 4, 2009 – July 28, 2021**

Handler Fidel Gomez  
Baja California Task Force 3  
Tijuana Rescue Squad

Donated by Katherine Timmerman

Recruited by Heidi Miller



**SARGE**

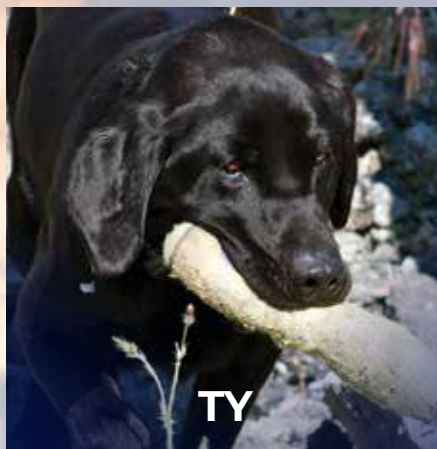
**July 20, 2007 – July 28, 2021**

Handler Aide Barbat  
California Task Force 8  
San Diego Fire-Rescue

Recruited from Merced County Animal Shelter

Recruited by Julia Ford

Sponsors: The McGrath Family Foundation, Julie Brandau  
Community Service Memorial Project



**TY**

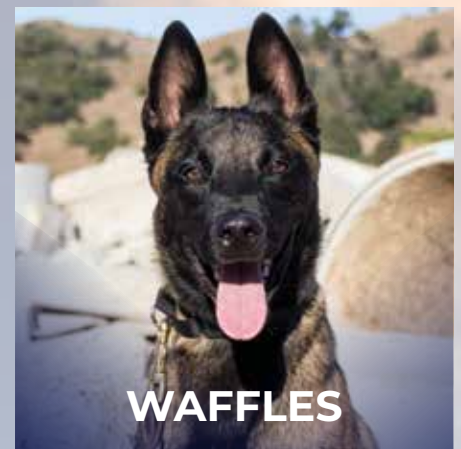
**June 1, 2008 – June 2, 2021**

Handler Dennis DiMarzio  
California Task Force 2  
Los Angeles County Fire

Recruited from Southern Oregon Humane Society

Sponsor: Dodson Foundation

Named by Rosemary Schumacher



**WAFFLES**

**October 29, 2017 – June 11, 2021**

Handler Eric Gray  
California Task Force 2  
Santa Barbara County Fire

Recruited from Ventura County Animal Services

Sponsors: Doris and Howard Busloff



# CORPORATE PARTNERS

## BOBCAT COMPANY

Without dynamic, challenging search scenes, it would be impossible to train our canines to perform in real-world scenarios. So, at our National Training Center, we have several search areas and training props that simulate real-life disasters—from massive rubble piles to steep, brush-covered hillsides and derailed train cars. Making these training areas takes creativity and a lot of help, and we are incredibly thankful to our friends at Bobcat Company for their donation of a track loader and an excavator. This equipment allows SDF to safely develop and maintain staged environments, which in turn allows us to continue challenging and preparing our nation's search teams for any disaster situation.



**MOXIE**

**February 22, 2010 – May 4, 2021**

Handler Brent Koeninger  
Oklahoma Task Force 1  
Oklahoma City Fire

Recruited from Humane Society of Ventura County



**SALSA**

**January 5, 2007 – April 5, 2021**

Handler Dane Yaw  
Oklahoma Task Force 1  
Oklahoma City Fire

Recruited from Guide Dogs of America  
Sponsor: The Burri Family



**WYLIE**

**April 5, 2005 – December 3, 2020**

Handler Doug Van Iwaarden  
California Task Force 5  
Orange County Fire Authority

Recruited from Guide Dogs of America  
Sponsors: Beatrice and Gene King, Sharon Farrar,  
CFWC – Marina District

## VMLY&R

We are so grateful for our relationship with VMLY&R, a partnership that goes back over two decades and has garnered SDF a wider and more diverse audience each year. Because of the pro bono campaigns created by this distinguished advertising firm, SDF's search dogs have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, TIME magazine, and People magazine (to name a few), raising awareness and support from people all over the world. In 2021, VMLY&R continued to run pro bono ad placements and is working to launch an exciting new campaign in the coming months! Thank you to the wonderful team at VMLY&R for believing in our work and for advancing our mission so significantly.

### DID YOU SEE AN SDF AD?

If you see one of our ads in a publication, raise your paw! Many pro bono placements are secured last-minute, so we don't always know when they'll run. If you spot one, please snap a photo and email it to us at [Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org](mailto:Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org) along with the publication name!





# WAYS TO GIVE

All gifts that support Search Dog Foundation's annual, capital, and endowment are essential to our mission and are greatly appreciated.

## ESTATE GIFTS

The simplest and most popular way to include SDF in your estate plans is through a bequest, designating a specific dollar amount, asset, or percentage of your estate to SDF in your will. You will join nearly 300 other visionary individuals as an SDF Guardian, ensuring the future legacy of our mission to save lives—human and canine.

## GIFTS OF STOCK

If you own appreciated stock, reviewing your investments with a donation strategy in mind could mean significant tax savings for you and a simple way to give more to the cause you care about.

## MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

These thoughtful gifts provide a special way to pay tribute to a friend or family member or to acknowledge a birthday, anniversary, or other significant event.

## MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers offer giving programs that double or even triple charitable contributions made by their employees. Check with your employer to see if your company has a matching gift program.

## CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

Cash gifts are always appreciated and critical to carrying out our programs. Gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Over 3,800 individuals, foundations, companies and groups came together to support our life-saving mission during our 2020-2021 fiscal year. We are grateful for each of your contributions and worked diligently to use every dollar wisely.

## FINANCIAL POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

<u>Total Assets</u>	\$ 37,520,667
Current Assets	\$ 5,660,494
Investments in Endowment	\$ 5,546,522
Fixed Assets	\$ 26,220,772
Other Assets	\$ 92,879
<u>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</u>	\$ 37,520,667
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,679,984
— Current Liabilities	\$ 1,054,506
— Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 1,625,478
Net Assets	\$ 34,840,683

*A healthy endowment supports the stability of our work. Unless otherwise restricted, planned gifts are allocated to our endowment or to capital projects as needed, and the investment income from our endowed funds are re-invested to facilitate diversified income streams and act as a reserve for our programs if needed.*

## ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 31, 2021

<u>Total Public Support and Revenue</u>	\$ 7,217,752
Contributions	\$ 2,254,883
Grants	\$ 1,854,006
Planned Giving Income	\$ 545,586
In-Kind Donations	\$ 988,460
Investment Income	\$ 598,173
Merchandising Income	\$ 11,341
Other Income	\$ 965,303

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

<u>Total Operating Expenses</u>	\$ 6,065,084
Program Services (80%)	\$ 4,866,069
General & Administrative (10%)	\$ 622,713
Fundraising (10%)	\$ 576,302

<u>Total Non-Operating Expenses</u>	\$ 804,811
Site improvements of our National Training Center and other capital items	\$ 564,811
Principal payments on the note payable for acquisition of the National Training Center's land	\$ 240,000



## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTION

At 70 ½ years old, you are eligible to rollover your IRA distribution directly to SDF and can use it to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution beginning at age 72. Also known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), this transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

## GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

Did you know that Search Dog Foundation has a four-star rating on Charity Navigator? This means you can have confidence that your contribution will be used effectively to advance our mission. There's also an opportunity to leave a review about our work!



To learn more about these or other gift opportunities, please contact **Director of Philanthropy, Debra Roets, at 888-4K9-HERO x 112.**

*You can also easily make a donation through our website! ▶*







6800 WHEELER CANYON ROAD  
SANTA PAULA, CA 93060  
(888) 459 - 4376



**THANK YOU FOR BEING  
PART OF THE SEARCH®!**

[SearchDogFoundation.org](https://www.SearchDogFoundation.org)



**SOCIALIZE**  
WITH THE SEARCH DOGS