



**SHELTER TO SOLDIER**



**SAVING LIVES**  
**2**  
**AT A TIME**



# SHELTER TO SOLDIER

SAVING LIVES 2 AT A TIME



**"Saving Lives, Two At A Time,"** our organization helps adopt a dog from a rescue and helps save a veteran from the perils of mental injury associated with traumatic combat experiences. We know that the healing impact that a highly trained service dog provides for psychological treatment in this population improves their overall quality of life, relationships, confidence and sense of security. Our service dogs help these veterans integrate back into society and find their purpose, often for the first time since their military service.

***"Graham, thank you for what you are doing for me and other fellow combat veterans sir. You have a special place in heaven saved for you sir. I can't thank you enough for what you have done for us sir, I seriously think Ty saved my life."***

**— CORPORAL JAMES NORVELL**





## **EVERY 69 MINUTES** **A US Veteran Commits Suicide**

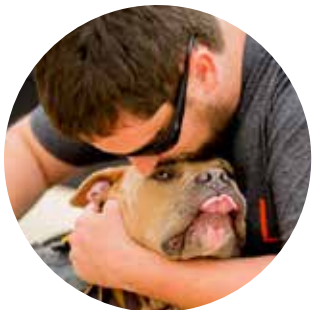
20 veterans and 1 active duty military personnel commit suicide every day across the US. They sacrificed everything to protect our freedom and it's our turn to give back to them.



*Allison Shamrell Photography*

## **EVERYDAY 3200 Dogs** ON AVERAGE **Are Euthanized Nationwide**

Some dogs are better suited for a life with a job. We provide them a future with a purpose and a life that is fulfilled by their bond with a veteran in need.



*Nine10 Photo*

## **SHELTER TO SOLDIER** **A 501c3 Nonprofit Organization**

Shelter to Soldier adopts dogs from local shelters and trains them to become psychiatric service dogs for post-9/11 combat veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or other psychological injuries associated with traumatic service experiences.

SAVING LIVES  
2  
AT A TIME

**GIVING**

**SUPPORT OUR MISSION**



**Media Coverage**

*Rancho Santa Fe*  
**REVIEW**



**MAGIC**  
92.5



**RANCH & COAST**  
San Diego's Ultimate Lifestyle Magazine

**The San Diego Union-Tribune**



**YAHOO!**  
FINANCE

**Military Press**

# HOW SPONSORS **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



## **Red Star Sponsorship | \$12,000**

Becoming a Red Star Corporate Sponsor begins a year-long co-marketing campaign with your company and Shelter to Soldier working closely with our Public Relations Director. Shelter to Soldier will adopt a dog from a local shelter, give it a special name to reflect your support, train the dog over 12-18 months and then place the dog with a post-9/11 combat veteran suffering from PTSD and/or TBI. Your company will also have a special part in the graduation ceremony for the service dog and veteran.



## **Event Sponsorship**

Event sponsorship of any amount allows us to use your funds to offset the costs of running our fundraising events. Event sponsor branding is important to us, and is included in marketing materials and media coverage involved in our fundraising events.

Contributing to or hosting a fundraising event for Shelter to Soldier also helps us continue our mission, and allows your company to demonstrate your philanthropic efforts and commitment to our veteran community and shelter dogs in need.



## **Employee Volunteer Day**

To get your company more involved in giving, we encourage your employees to support our cause, hands on, by participating on our event volunteer team at one of our many events throughout the year.



Griffin Funding



NORTHROP GRUMMAN

The Wintercreek Foundation





## \$12,000

Each service dog/veteran team costs our program \$12,000 from adoption to graduation. This includes the adoption, housing, medical care, grooming, food, treats, training, training equipment, bedding, toys, testing, handling training, service dog equipment and documents, graduation and materials for the veteran recipient and service dog pair.

**Shelter to Soldier visits local shelters and rescue groups** and evaluates dogs 8 months to 2.5 years of age, of any breed, weighing 45-70 lbs, and in good health for our service dog training program.

*We evaluate temperament for: desire to work and have a job, food or moderate toy drive, the way the dog handles new environments, people and noises, and an overall stable and social demeanor.*



Three tests are required prior to completion of training:

- Canine Good Citizen
- ADI Public Access Test
- Task-Related Test



**Shelter to Soldier dogs are trained over 12-18 months** to be highly obedient and handler-focused in all environments, to ignore distractions, and to mitigate symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression through task-related work.

*Some commands learned:*

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| – Under      | – Center  |
| – Over       | – Touch   |
| – Block      | – Closer  |
| – Right Side | – Find it |
| – Behind     |           |



**GRADUATION!** We celebrate the dedication of the dog and handler once they successfully complete all necessary training and pass required tests.

***This is where the journey truly begins for the veteran/service dog team!***



**ONE YEAR  
+ \$12,000  
= TWO  
LIVES  
SAVED!**

Upon qualified match – **veteran handlers train for 3-5 months** time depending upon handling abilities and how well the team picks up on training.

*Handlers learn to communicate effectively with their dog to create a loving bond while learning all commands and service dog laws/regulations to prepare them for a life with a service animal.*



## BENJAMIN KILHEFNER US NAVY RETIRED

My life was in a downward spiral. During my deployments I was responsible for treating almost 1,000 casualties while on patrol with IED explosions and taking constant fire. I was in Afghanistan as a Corpsman in the United States Navy, and during my second deployment with the Marines as a Fleet Marine Force, I lost a lot of fellow soldiers.

After medically retiring, I had a difficult time transitioning. I have lost 15 of my guys to suicide due to PTSD within the last 2 years. I understood that depth of despair and found myself there many of times. I knew I needed to get more help. After an exhaustive search, I came across Shelter to Soldier. I applied to the program and submitted all my paperwork the same day. I was committed to make a better life for me and my family. Now I have a new outlook on life because of Shelter to Soldier.

I hadn't been out of my house in months and was shaking uncontrollably when I walked onto the property. Graham said, "I need to get you to a dog." That's when he introduced me to Tank! He literally jumped into my lap and instantly made a connection with me. Within a few minutes, everything I was experiencing completely disappeared and Tank calmed me down. I haven't felt like that in years. I knew Tank and I were meant to be from that moment.

The following week that we started training together, my PTSD began to subside. It was so amazing that I could get this relief from a dog. Our graduation was August 2015 and we never looked back. Our first night together, I was having a severe nightmare and he nudged his nose under my arm and woke me up. I got out of bed and cuddled with him, until I was ready to go back to sleep. Tank also helps me with school; he nudges my leg to let me know when to leave a classroom for a break. Because of Tank, I have finished my bachelor's in Technical Management and am continuing on for an MBA in Health Services. He has been a tremendous support and I couldn't be happier. He has made me smile more and helps me be a better father, husband, and friend. His presence in my life has allowed me to share my story with others, something I never thought I would do. Without the help and support of Shelter to Soldier, I wouldn't be where I am at today - I would have been another statistic that's known as a number.

It is with my deepest gratitude towards Shelter to Soldier that I thank them for providing me with Tank. Most importantly they have made a stand to help veterans in crisis like me. Now I have my best friend, who goes everywhere with me and is always there when I need him the most. Thank you!



## TANK

I'm Tank, formerly known as Armando! The San Diego Department of Animal Services Central Campus rescued me and provided me with a great temporary home in their shelter while I waited for my new adventure.

One day, Graham and Kyrié, Co-founders of this group called Shelter to Soldier, came to my kennel and smiled at me. They got down on their knees and called my name through the fence, so I wagged my tail really, really hard to impress them. They walked away to the next dogs, wrote something on a pad of paper, and I knew for sure it was another missed opportunity for me. A few minutes later, one of the great people that take care of me came and got me from my kennel to interact with them!

I showed Graham and Kyrié how much I loved spending time with them, I wrapped my arms around their necks, and wagged my tail so hard that Kyrié even squealed. They were really nice and I could tell that they liked me, too. Graham dropped things on the ground and banged things loudly around me, and I really thought he was crazy, but I didn't jump or budge - I just looked at him a bit confused. I guess it worked because they took me home! Someone FINALLY took me home! 79 days it took (I counted), but I finally had a new home.

Graham took me to work with him, and I really loved learning new tricks because most of them involved me loving on him and the other volunteers at Shelter to Soldier, which is my FAVORITE! One day, this man came to visit me and my dog friends at Graham's work, and he seemed very frightened and nervous. He was shaking like a leaf, and could barely speak. Graham got me from my room and took me to the man, named Ben, and I really wanted to make him better, so I wrapped my paws around his neck and licked his face. It worked, he stopped shaking, but then he started crying, so I just kept loving on him.

Ben came to visit me often, and since I knew my tricks, Graham was teaching Ben more than he was teaching me. After a little while, I went to a fancy ceremony and everyone was clapping and crying happy tears for me and Ben. I don't know why they were clapping for me, all I know is that I really love Ben, and that I get to be with him everyday. I make him better when he gets shaky like he was the first day, and he brings me with him everywhere! I love his family, and they all love me. I'm really lucky, and I hope my other dog-friends from the shelter also get to find great adventures like I did - they deserve it!





"The meaning of life  
is to find your gift.  
The purpose of life  
is to give it away."

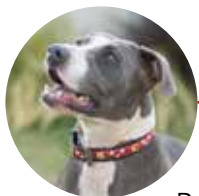
— Pablo Picasso





### **CHARLIE** 3 YEARS OLD

Charlie is a 3.5 year old wire-haired terrier mix adopted from Rancho Coastal Humane Society. He was the sweetest dog when we adopted him, but he struggled with a moderate fear of new surroundings, certain noises, different footing and new people. Today, he is a confident dog, and truly excelling at the service tasks he has learned to help out his veteran handler-in-training, Liz. *Sponsored by: Schubach Aviation*



### **ANNIE** 2 YEARS OLD

Annie is a super goofy, cuddly, blue/brindle, 2 year old pointer/pit bull mix who we adopted from San Diego Department of Animal Services in Bonita, CA. She needed a job and a purpose to direct her energy towards, and she is loving her time in our program. *Sponsored by: Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Brentwood Office*



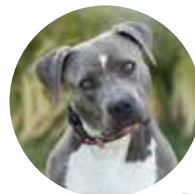
### **CHARGER** 3 YEAR OLD

Charger is a 3 year old male pitbull terrier mix. We adopted him from San Diego Department of Animal Services Gaines St. Campus. He was eager to work and has excelled in his training program because of his working drive. He is a Shelter to Soldier training team favorite, and will be placed as an Emotional Support Animal with a post-9/11 combat veteran soon. *Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation*



### **SHELLEY** 3 YEARS OLD

Shelley is a 3 year old pitbull mix who we adopted from the Animal Pad. She came to us with some behavioral issues making her difficult to adopt out, and is now excelling in her training and true to her breed, really enjoying the psychiatric service dog tasks she is learning because she loves to love. *Sponsored by: Northrop Grumman*



### **MIESHA** 2 YEARS OLD

Miesha is a 2 year old blue/brindle pitbull mix who we adopted from San Diego Department of Animal Services Bonita shelter where she was highly cared for, but yearning for a life in a new home. Today, Miesha is loving her service dog training program, and especially her training breaks to swim in the doggie pool! *Sponsored by: Griffin Funding*



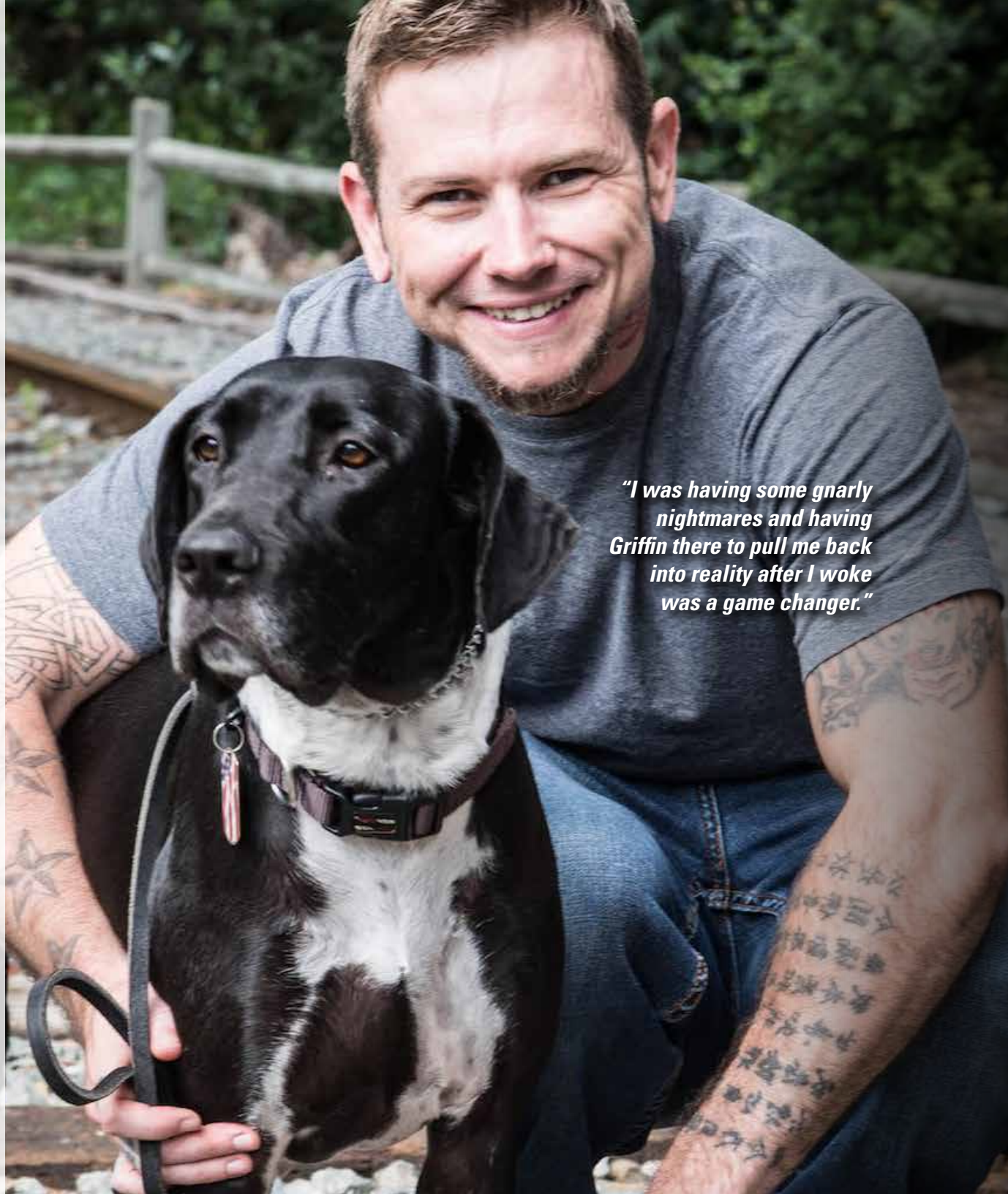
### **LUNA** 1.5 YEARS OLD

Luna is a 1.5 year old white pitbull mix rescued by a good samaritan off of the streets of Tijuana, Mexico, emaciated, hungry, and dying from Sarcoptic Mange. Leigh Ann provided Luna with a new life by getting her all of the veterinary care she needed, helping her to recover, and finding her a new purpose through our program. Luna is very affectionate, loves to be touched and cuddled, and will be a great therapy for a veteran who needs her support soon. *Sponsored by: Integriv*



### **BERKELEY** 2 YEARS OLD

Berkeley was one of 22 dogs rescued from a hoarding situation, when her and all of her family members were thankfully taken into the loving care of the Bonita animal shelter. The staff there referred to Berkeley as a "pocket lab" because of her small size for the breed. Today, she is in handler training with her new veteran handler, Jonathon, and she couldn't be more proud to be a psychiatric service dog. *Sponsored by: Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Calabasas Office and Charitable Foundation Los Angeles Chapter*



*"I was having some gnarly nightmares and having Griffin there to pull me back into reality after I woke was a game changer."*

Mason Crosslin, US Army Ret. is an OIF veteran who suffers from Post Traumatic Stress. For years, he had the support of his service dog, when tragically and suddenly Chase passed away from lymphoma in September. Overnight, his primary treatment for his PTS was gone as was his dearest companion and sense of security.

Upon reaching out to us, Mason met Griffin and a special bond developed.

A week after graduation, Mason attended a **Shelter to Soldier** benefit with The Thursday Club Juniors. For the first time in a while, he was confident in a 130+ crowded public event and felt safe with Griffin by his side.

Griffin is a rescue from the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services shelter in Bonita, CA. Her adoption, care, housing and training through our program, was generously sponsored by Griffin Funding, San Diego-based mortgage bankers dedicated to giving back to our veterans and helping shelter dogs in need.

*"I'm so blessed and grateful to have these amazing people (Shelter to Soldier) in my life! We love our training time!"*



# TOGETHER SINCE

## **JAMES & TYBERIUS | May 2013**

Sponsored by: Magic 92.5 and Cafe Coyote

## **VIC & KIRA | November 2014**

Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation

## **BEN & TANK | August 2015**

Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation

## **TOM & SANDY | August 2015**

Sponsored by: Ranch & Coast Magazine & Wintercreek Foundation

## **JAMES & CALVER | August 2015**

Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation

## **CHRIS & JADE | January, 2016**

Sponsored by: Integriv

## **RICKY & PLATO | February, 2016**

Sponsored by: Plato Pet Treats

## **KAREN & SEVEN | July, 2016**

Sponsored by: FINE Magazine with Schubach Aviation

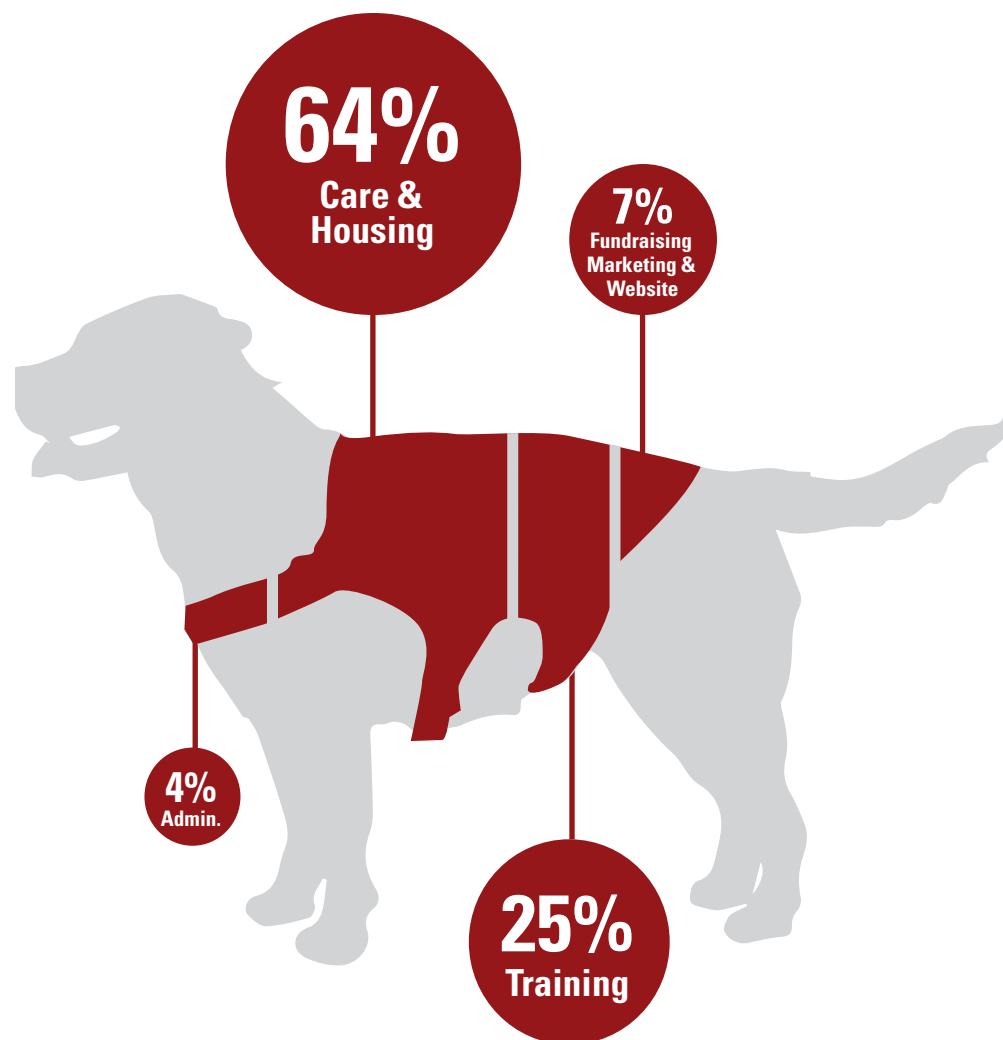


# FINANCING | A MATCH



## HOW DONATIONS ARE USED

Shelter to Soldier has amazing community support and a strong volunteer team behind us. Thanks to these relationships, we are able to direct the vast majority of revenue to programs and services. Our steady growth has allowed us to build a strong leadership and administrative team to run the program efficiently. We believe in making each donor dollar go as far as possible to making our program impact the lives of more dogs and veterans in need.





## **GRAHAM AND KYRIÉ BLOEM & KRYS HOLC** FOUNDERS

With a mutual love for animals and commitment to do something about the troubling epidemic of veteran suicide affecting our nation, Shelter to Soldier Cofounders formed Shelter to Soldier with a mission to "Save Lives, Two at a Time."

## **KRYSTYNA HOLC, CPA** CO-FOUNDER | TREASURER

Krys keeps all Shelter to Soldier financials organized and ensures our program is working to its fullest potential for efficiency.

## **GRAHAM BLOEM, ABCDT** CO-FOUNDER | PRESIDENT | TRAINING DIRECTOR

Graham's passion for helping and working with dogs and veterans runs deep. He has been a professional dog trainer for 15 years and has extensive animal related business and management experience.

## **KYRIÉ BLOEM, MS** CO-FOUNDER | DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

As the administrative director for our program, she plans all events and fundraising programs, serves as our grant writer, coordinates our volunteer team, and manages all veteran applications and social media platforms.

## **LtCol BRIAN DENNIS** BOARD MEMBER

Brian is an accomplished marine that has and continues to honorably serve our country. His life changed for the better when he rescued a wounded, earless dog named Nubs in war-torn Iraq. He is currently stationed in Japan and continues to give back through his military service and through his work with Shelter to Soldier.

## **DAVID MOSS, LCSW** BOARD MEMBER

David is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in private practice as well as the VA Medical Center. David joined our Board of Directors this year to help serve our veterans as the mental health liaison.

Logo: Vic Martin, US Navy Ret.



**SHELTER TO SOLDIER**



**Bringing Post-9/11  
Combat Veterans  
Together with Trained,  
Rescue Dogs to Help  
Both Recover and  
Move Forward**

**Discover How You  
Can Make a Difference  
in Two Lives at  
[shelertosoldier.org](http://shelertosoldier.org)**

**Mailing Address**  
2665 Fourth Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92103

855.287.8659  
[shelertosoldier.org](http://shelertosoldier.org)

