



SAVING LIVES
2
AT A TIME
2020



"When I got out of the Marines I could no longer do the job I was trained to do. Not only was I experiencing moderate to severe anxiety and depression, I was and still am dealing with chronic pain and trying to cope with that reality. I pushed myself as long as I could to convince myself it wasn't that bad, I could do this on my own. I stayed at home and alone as much as I could and when I had to go out I would rush to get in and out as fast as possible. Since matching with and finally being able to be with Cheeto 24/7, my life has felt easier. I am sleeping better, still waking up but when I do, he is there to support me. I can leave the house and go shopping with less anxiety and stress. In public Cheeto provides me with space boundaries as well as being a distraction. Both for me to

focus on him and less on the things I would typically over focus on and for others to be more focused on him rather than myself. With space boundaries it makes being in lines to enter events, checkout at grocery stores, passing through airport security much easier. It lowers my anxiety and feeling the need to be tense and on edge, focusing on others all around me. I feel he has lessened my depression overall and he supports me on the days it is worse. While he is not a silver bullet, curing all my issues, he is the best partner supporting me so I can get back to living life. Allowing me to attend university and pursue an end goal of attaining a doctorate in psychology.

I want to thank Shelter to Soldier, the sponsors and all supporters for everything you have done for me. Without all of you, I do not know where I would be or how I would be managing at this time. Cheeto makes my life brighter and gives me a reason to get up every day and push onward."

— Joseph Boring, USMC

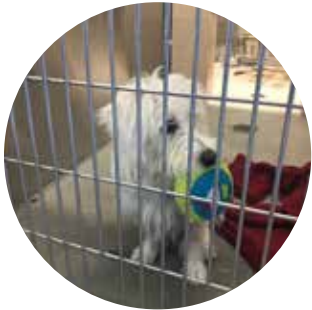




EVERY DAY 20 US Veterans On Average Commit Suicide

(U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs)

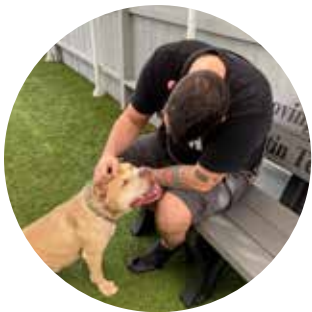
More than 500,000 servicemen and women are living with invisible wounds, from depression to post-traumatic stress disorder and 320,000 are experiencing debilitating brain trauma (Wounded Warrior Project).



EVERY DAY Approximately 1,800 Dogs Are Euthanized Nationwide

(American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

Each year, America sees approximately 3.3 million dogs enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide. Shelter to Soldier provides them a future with a purpose and a life that is fulfilled by their bond with a veteran in need.



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 (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or other psychological injuries associated with traumatic service experiences.

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2
AT A TIME

Photo credit: Los Angeles Rams



Media Coverage



Partnership

In partnership with CBS 8News, Dog Tags follows the journey of Buddy the service dog trainee from his adoption in 2019 to his upcoming graduation with his veteran handler, Shane Krutchen, USMC.





Each year, in partnership with HolliDay...Anyday!, Shelter to Soldier presents an evening of thanks to its Red Star Sponsors who help to keep the mission moving forward to serve more homeless dogs and veterans in need. The event is hosted at the gorgeous home of Holli and Anthony Lienau, where guests enjoy small bites, cocktails, dessert and live music while celebrating the success stories our sponsors make possible.



This year our 8th Annual Be the Light Gala was held virtually to help increase our impact for homeless dogs and post-9/11 combat veterans in need.



1st Annual Golf Tournament at Singing Hills Golf Resort at Sycuan helped us raise a critical portion of funds to contribute to our lifesaving mission.





OPERATIONS | THANK YOU

Anaheim Ducks Foundation, Inc.
Friese Foundation

LPL Financial
Manitou Fund

Olivia Rotert Trust
Wintercreek Foundation

Thank you to Henry Schubach for funding our HENRY SCHUBACH MEDICAL WARD which supports our dogs recovering from surgeries, new dogs requiring quarantine post-adoption, and special care and isolation for dogs that become ill.



Thank you to the sponsors who have contributed to our training facility in Oceanside, CA.

Anonymous Donor



Rennie Gabriel
& Dianne
Merryl



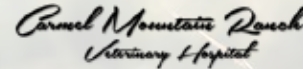
The Wintercreek
Foundation



Red Star Sponsorship | \$15,000

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. You will also have a special part in the graduation ceremony for the service dog and veteran.

2+ Shelter to Soldier Dogs



Rennie Gabriel



NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Matsuri
Foundation

Dianne Merryl



The Wintercreek
Foundation

Seven Woods
Foundation

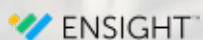
1+ Shelter to Soldier Dog



Morrow Legacy Foundation

1 Shelter to Soldier Dog

Mollie Carter & Kevin Mignogna



Ann & Andy Evans

Chris & Rick Fink



Rotary Club of La Mesa

Nanci & Jack Simkin

Jennie V. Foundation

SPONSORSHIPS | MAKE A DIFFERENCE

\$15,000

Each service dog/veteran team costs our program an average of \$15,000 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 dogs are trained over 9-12 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.

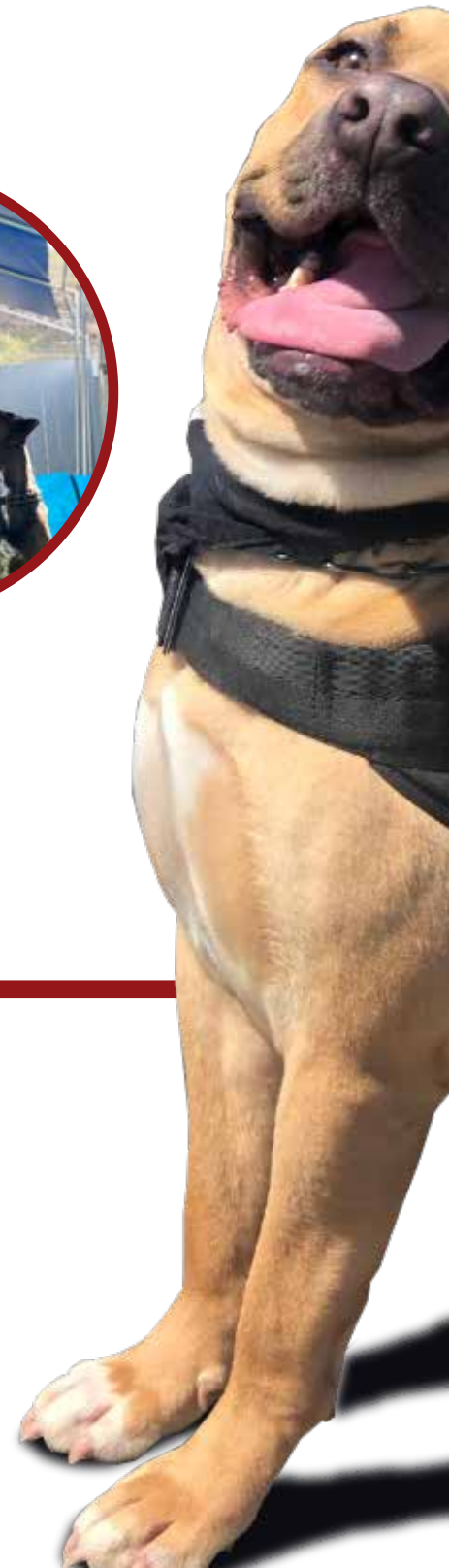
Some commands learned:

- Watch
- Block
- Behind
- Center
- Touch
- Closer
- Right
- Under



Shelter to Soldier visits local shelters and rescue groups and evaluates dogs 6 months to 1.5 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.





Upon qualified match – **veteran handlers train for an average of 7 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.



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!



Three tests are required prior to completion of training:

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

**ONE YEAR
+ \$15,000**

**= TWO LIVES
SAVED!**

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS



Career Change Dogs | ESAs + Pet Dogs

Dogs who are not able to complete our psychiatric service dog training program due to training progress are career-changed to Emotional Support Animals (ESAs). ESAs are placed with active duty military or veterans who are recommended an ESA by a mental healthcare professional. While ESAs do not have the same public access rights as service dogs, they still serve a very important role as a companion to a deserving recipient.

- Shelter to Soldier is honored to have graduated 8 Emotional Support Animals in 2020.
- Dogs who display behavioral challenges making them unsuitable as psychiatric service dogs or ESAs are adopted out as pet dogs.
- Shelter to Soldier had one pet adoption in 2020.





Shelter to Soldier Canine Ambassadors | Therapy Dog Team

This is a group of certified Therapy Dogs, and their dedicated handlers. These teams work in a variety of capacities to provide comfort and love to members of the veteran and active duty military community. Our Canine Ambassadors attend each STS Veteran Applicant interview, work with our veterans to strengthen their handling prior to placement with a service dog, attend Shelter to Soldier events, visit with active duty military and their families, work with active duty service members and veterans during trauma recovery therapy, and participate in veteran group therapies and events in the community.





White Star Sponsorship | \$10,000

This sponsorship funds our Department of Veteran Services, which is committed to providing support to applicants and students of our program, increasing outreach efforts to support more veterans through Southern California, as well as supporting the Shelter to Soldier student through handler training, graduation and beyond.



Flaming Family Foundation

Morrow Legacy Foundation

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, LLP



Ryan Robinson



Blue Star Sponsorship | \$5,000

This sponsorship level supports our general operating expenses for the program. This sponsor level is also dedicated to youth initiatives in fundraising for our program.

Samuel I & John Henry
Fox Foundation

Donovan Guffey

Anthony & Holli Lienau

The Mariner Foundation

Richard Pearson

Bridget Rose Foundation, Inc.

Mason Smith



For Giving Tuesday 2020, Eagle Scout and Shelter to Soldier Volunteer, Mason Smith, raised over \$2000 to support the flagpole project, that helped (along with other fundraisers) to build Shelter to Soldier's first official flagpole. We now proudly wave the flag of the United States of America at our training facility.



COMMUNITY | THANK YOU

Thank you to our community partners who continue to support our program and our service dogs in training.



SHARING THE MISSION | PARTNERS

GRADUATED | TEAMS

NIGEL + DUSTIN | JANUARY 2021

Sponsored by UNITE Doggy 'Poo

SHAWN + WILSON | JANUARY 2021

Sponsored by The Fish Market

HENRY + PENNY (ESA) | JANUARY 2021

Sponsored by Jack & Nanci Simkin

TONY + LOLA (ESA) | DECEMBER 2020

Sponsored by The Charitable Foundation (San Diego)

LITO + HALIA | DECEMBER 2020

Sponsored by Northrop Grumman

ALONSO + GLORY | NOVEMBER 2020

Sponsored by Rennie Gabriel & Dianne Merryll

BRANDON + COOPER | AUGUST 2020

Sponsored by Los Angeles Rams

ANONYMOUS + GRUMMAN (ESA) |

AUGUST 2020

Sponsored by Northrop Grumman

BEN + LIMA | AUGUST 2020

Sponsored by Petco Foundation

MATT + JULIO | AUGUST 2020

Sponsored by David C. Copley Foundation

BRENDAN + THISTLE | AUGUST 2020

Sponsored by Rennie Gabriel & Three Dog Bakery Encino

BILLY + SOPHIA (ESA) | SEPTEMBER 2020

Sponsored by HolliDay...AnyDay!

KENDRICK + KAI (ESA) | JULY 2020

Sponsored by ASMC PDI

TROY + MILLIE (ESA) | JULY 2020

Sponsored by Dianne Merryll

REY + KEETA | JULY 2020

Sponsored by Chris & Rick Fink

TYLER + BENNY (ESA) | MARCH 2020

Sponsored by The Thursday Club Juniors

KIOWA + MARLOW | MARCH 2020

Sponsored by La Mesa Rotary

TERI + RIDDLER | JANUARY 2020

Sponsored by NCSSTS

ADAM + BASH

Sponsored by Wintercreek Foundation

JOSEPH + CHEETO

Sponsored by Petco Foundation

RICHARD + SETH

Sponsored by the Friends + Family of Seth Freidell

JOEL + DUKE

Sponsored by Rotary Club of La Mesa

JOHN + ACE

Sponsored by Matsuri + Seven Woods Foundations

JAIMIE + MOOSE

Sponsored by Petco Foundation

AARON + LIBERTY

Sponsored by Mission Beach Women's Club

EVAN + BANDIT

Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Charitable Foundation Los Angeles

VIC + MIA

Sponsored by: Griffin Funding

DAVE + THURSDAY

Emotional Support Dog

Sponsored by The Thursday Club Juniors

ANGEL + JAX |

Sponsored by UNITE

JAYSON + MIESHA

Sponsored by Griffin Funding

KEVIN + ANNIE

Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Brentwood

JEREMY + LUNA

Sponsored by: Integriv

JONATHON + BERKELEY

Sponsored by: Berkshire Hathaway Home Services (BHHS) Calabasas Office

LIZ + CHARLIE

Sponsored by: Schubach Aviation

KAREN + SEVEN

Sponsored by: FINE Magazine with Schubach Aviation

MASON + GRIFFIN

Sponsored by: Griffin Funding

RICKY + PLATO (*RETIRED)

Sponsored by: Plato Pet Treats

CHRIS + JADE

Sponsored by: Integriv

BEN + TANK (*RETIRED)

Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation

TOM + SANDY

Sponsored by: Ranch + Coast Magazine + Wintercreek Foundation

JAMES + CALVER

Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation

VIC + KIRA (*RETIRED)

Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation

JAMES + TYBERIUS

Sponsored by: Magic 92.5 and Cafe Coyote

TEAMS | IN TRAINING



KAREN + GRACE

David C. Copley Foundation

DARREN + VALOR

Care Credit

KRYSTINE + SCOUT

Petco Foundation

SHANE + BUDDY

David C. Copley Foundation

COLLIN + RAMSEY

Los Angeles Rams

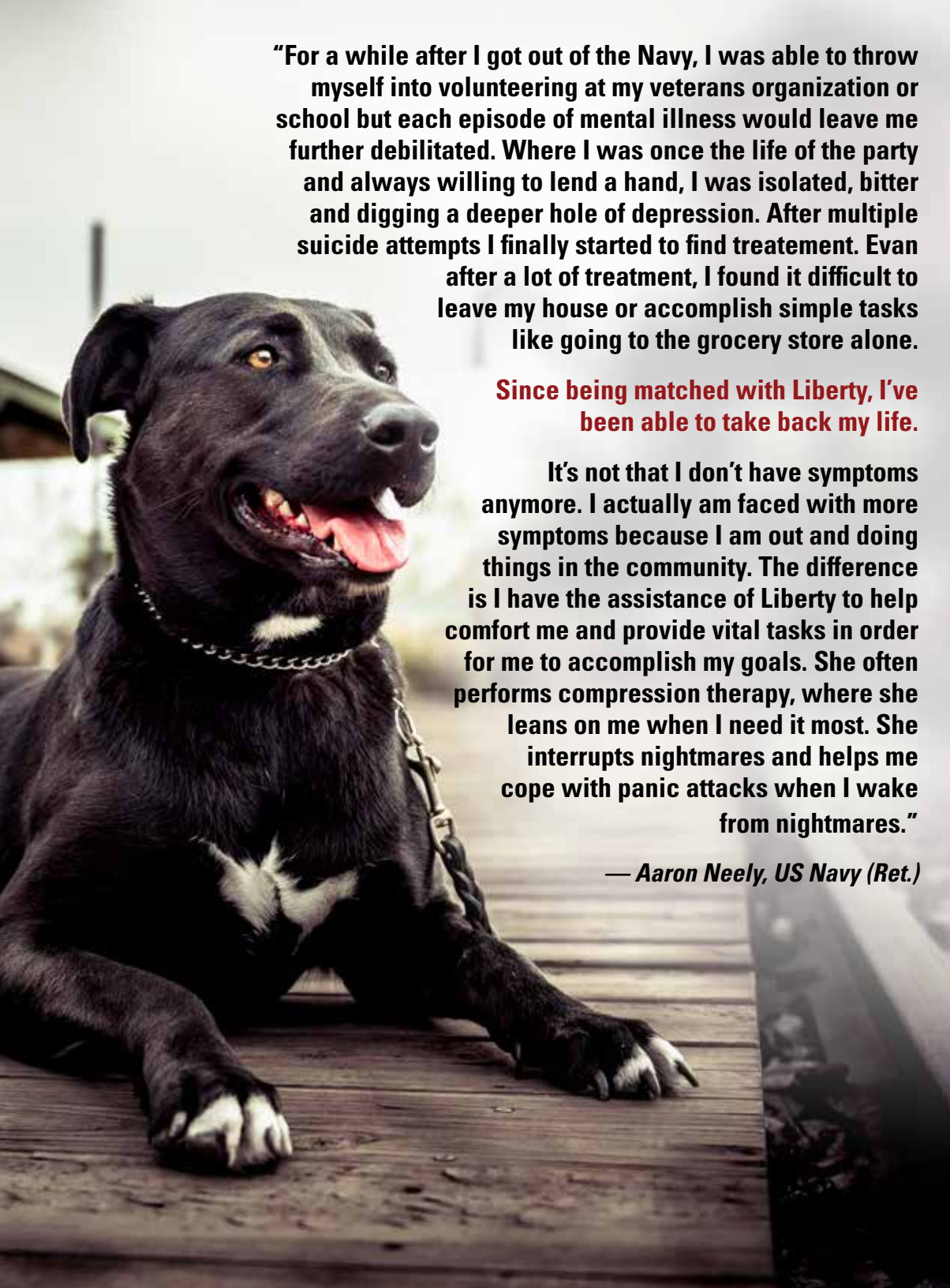
RICHIE + MILK DUD

Morrow Legacy Foundation

SHAWN + ANNIE

Seven Woods Foundation, Matsuri Foundation

Since 2012, we have placed 39 service dogs with veterans, 11 Emotional Support Animals, and we have adopted 70 dogs for our program.



"For a while after I got out of the Navy, I was able to throw myself into volunteering at my veterans organization or school but each episode of mental illness would leave me further debilitated. Where I was once the life of the party and always willing to lend a hand, I was isolated, bitter and digging a deeper hole of depression. After multiple suicide attempts I finally started to find treatment. Even after a lot of treatment, I found it difficult to leave my house or accomplish simple tasks like going to the grocery store alone.

Since being matched with Liberty, I've been able to take back my life.

It's not that I don't have symptoms anymore. I actually am faced with more symptoms because I am out and doing things in the community. The difference is I have the assistance of Liberty to help comfort me and provide vital tasks in order for me to accomplish my goals. She often performs compression therapy, where she leans on me when I need it most. She interrupts nightmares and helps me cope with panic attacks when I wake from nightmares."

— Aaron Neely, US Navy (Ret.)



OUR PACK | LEADERSHIP + TEAMWORK



COFOUNDERS

Graham Bloem | Animal Behavior College - Certified Dog Trainer

Kyrié Bloem | Bachelor of Arts, Masters of Science

Krys Holc | Certified Public Accountant



Shelter to Soldier is committed to operating our service dog training program in an efficient manner, utilizing the skills from our certified team of dog trainers to take shelter dogs with no training to the elite level of training required of them to become psychiatric service dogs.

Shelter to Soldier's training department has accreditations, certifications and memberships through organizations like:



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
*Nicky Moore / Animal Behavior College -
Certified Dog Trainer, Bachelors of Science
in Business Management*

Shelter to Soldier is proud to employ 6 veterans and 4 military spouses.



MAKING A WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Shelter to Soldier is paving the way of support for veterans on the homefront. With the growth of our program this year, we have expanded our services to veterans and have created job opportunities for some of our graduates.



INDIVIDUAL THERAPY

Approved veteran applicants have the opportunity to attend one-on-one therapy sessions with our mental health liaison, David Moss LCSW, at no cost to the patient.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & RESOURCE CONNECTIONS

Shelter to Soldier has expanded our network with the Veterans Administration and supporting clinics, enhancing our collaborative efforts with case managers and nurse practitioners at Southern California VA Hospitals, and veteran advocates at regional Vet Centers.



SUPPORTING OUR GRADUATES LONGTERM

Though a joyous new beginning in a positive direction, graduation for our veterans can come with challenges. We work together with the training team to engage and support our graduates to encourage and promote their continued success. We are proud to share exclusive social opportunities such as theater tickets, concert tickets, sporting events, museums, and more donated to us by our community partners as well as host social events where graduates can come together in a safe environment to continue training and share their journey with their service dog.

**Veteran Advocate and
Case Manager, Dustin
Potash, U.S. Army, MPA
and Shelter to Soldier
Recipient**

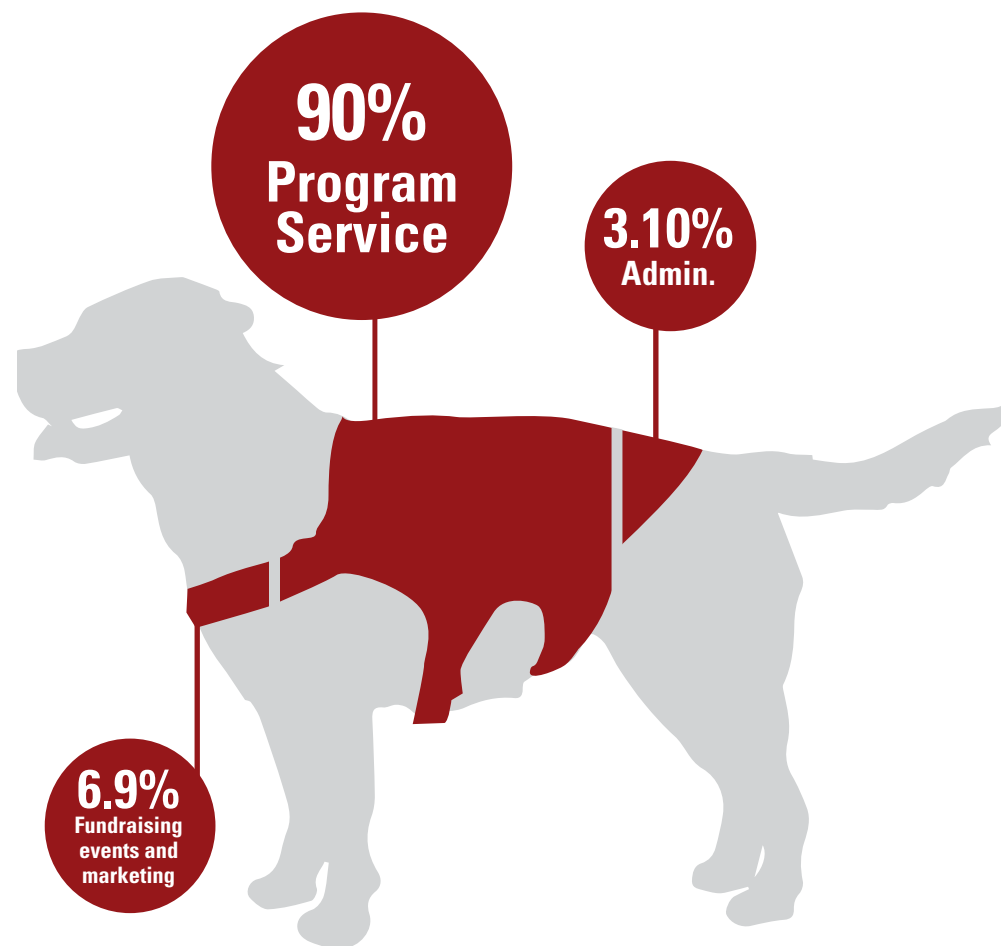


**Shelter
to Soldier
provides lifelong
training support to all
graduates of the program,
free of charge.**



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. Each dollar donated has a direct impact on the success of our dogs and veterans in need.



ACCREDITED BY



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 20 years and has extensive animal related business and management experience.

KYRIÉ BLOEM, MS CO-FOUNDER | VICE PRESIDENT

As the administrative director for our program, Kyrié plans all events and fundraising programs, serves as our grant writer, coordinates our volunteer team, and facilitates day to day operations of the charity.

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. She is the Vice President and CFO of Goodsell and Company CPA firm.

DR. LIZ GREY, DVM BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Grey is a veterinary doctor and owner of a private practice Carmel Mountain Ranch Veterinary Hospital, located in Carmel Mountain Ranch, San Diego. She has been practicing veterinary medicine for 33 years and her family is very patriotic. With a desire to give back to the brave men and women who protect our freedoms and a love for animals, Dr. Grey feels honored to serve on the Board of Directors for Shelter to Soldier.

DAVID MOSS, LCSW BOARD MEMBER

David has been working as a clinical social worker since 2001 in many capacities. He has had the honor of working in the private sector, public sector at the County, State, and Federal levels, multiple non-profit arenas, and in various medical, educational, research, and home health settings. Working full-time for the Department of Veteran Affairs for the past 11 years, David currently serves as the Mental Health Clinic Coordinator for the entire North County Region of San Diego providing clinical and administrative coordination/oversight of the North County Outpatient Mental Health Clinics.

MICHAEL FORD BOARD MEMBER

Michael is a San Diego native passionate about supporting the communities in which we live and work. He has worked with Cox Communications for 14 years and is a member of their Public Affairs team, specifically focused on Community Relations and corporate giving. He currently oversees the programs and support for the Cox Charities Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Cox Communications, which to date has given over 6 million dollars throughout Southern California. Mike is passionate about animal rescue.





**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**

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San Diego, CA 92101

Facility Address
2909 San Luis Rey Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92058

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