



SHELTER TO SOLDIER



*Saving Lives,  
Two at a Time*

# SHELTER TO SOLDIER

SAVING LIVES, TWO AT A TIME

Riley and Todd's journey together was made possible by Red Star Sponsorship from



**Tea3 Foundation**  
Giving of Time, Talent, & Treasure



*"Riley has helped me recognize my worth and value. He also has given me the ability to trust again and see how much fun this world can be. Riley makes me feel safe and not alone."*

*"Riley has helped me realize that I have a bright future ahead of me and my problems are not as big as I was making them out to be. He is a big 'why' for me to get out of bed and make the best of the day."*

*"I knew immediately that I was supposed to be there and Riley was the dog for me. Honestly, he and I won the lottery the day we met each other."*

*Todd, US Army*

Todd, US Army Veteran, was an infantryman and is a Purple Heart recipient. After his years in the service, Todd began having difficulty trusting other people, always felt on high alert; and had trouble finding joy in things he used to love. He felt he lacked purpose and a reason to live. His dedication to the training program with Riley was inspiring, and as a team they have thrived since graduating our program in November 2022. Riley was a failed scent detection dog, homeless and lacking a purpose himself. He soared through the Shelter to Soldier training program, thrilled to have a job and eager to have a forever home to call his own.



## **EVERY DAY** 17 US Veterans

### **On Average Commit Suicide**

*(U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs)*

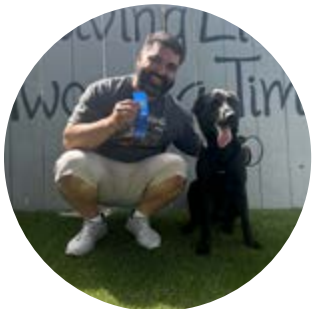
More than 500,000 servicemen and women are living with invisible wounds, from depression to post-traumatic stress disorder and 320,000 are experiencing debilitating brain trauma (Wounded Warrior Project).



## **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 is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that adopts dogs from local rescues and shelters and trains them to become psychiatric service dogs for post-9/11 veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST). The program also places emotional support animals (ESAs) with active duty military and veterans in need and deploys the Shelter to Soldier Canine Ambassadors, a team of therapy dogs, to provide visits of love and comfort to local military, veterans and their families.

SAVING LIVES  
2  
AT A TIME  
2022-23



## Media Coverage



The San Diego Union-Tribune



Los Angeles Times



THE COAST NEWS



## Partnership

Presented by Subaru and in partnership with 100.7 BIG FM, Dog Tales On the Road shares the success stories of the Shelter to Soldier program with the community weekly, on air, while also serving as a platform for quarterly fundraising events engaging community partners.





Each year, 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. Guests enjoy small bites, cocktails, dessert and live music while celebrating the success stories our sponsors make possible.

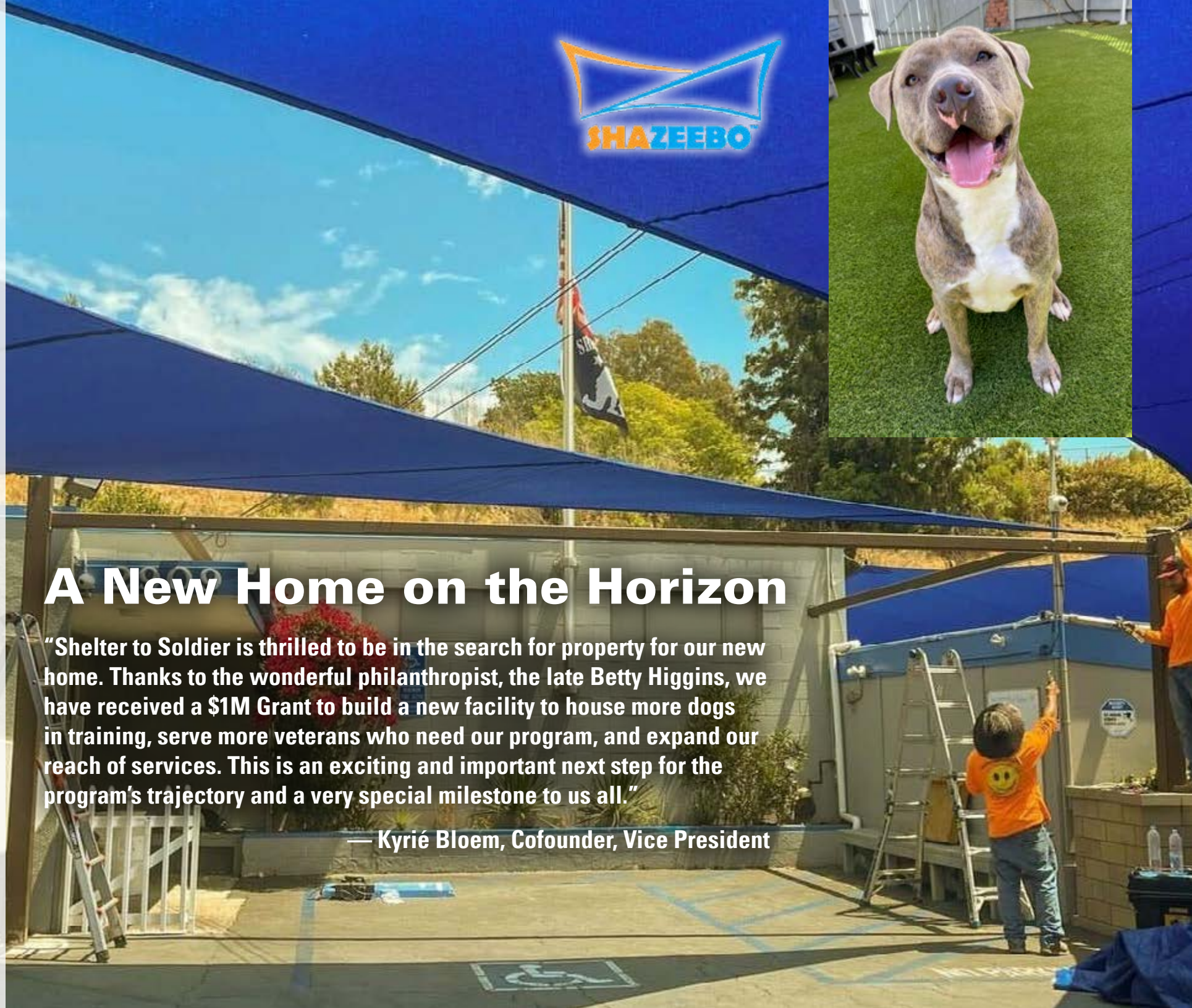




## A New Home on the Horizon

"Shelter to Soldier is thrilled to be in the search for property for our new home. Thanks to the wonderful philanthropist, the late Betty Higgins, we have received a \$1M Grant to build a new facility to house more dogs in training, serve more veterans who need our program, and expand our reach of services. This is an exciting and important next step for the program's trajectory and a very special milestone to us all."

— Kyrié Bloem, Cofounder, Vice President





### RED STAR Sponsorship Gifts Over \$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 12-24 months and then place the dog with a post-9/11 veteran suffering from PTSD, TBI, and/or military sexual trauma (MST). You will also have a special part in the graduation ceremony for the service dog and veteran.

### 3+ Shelter to Soldier Dogs



**Tea3 Foundation**  
Giving of Time, Talent, & Treasure



**UNITE**  
DOGGY PCO  
DOG SHAMPOO

### 2+ Shelter to Soldier Dogs



**The Charitable Foundation**



**DEMPSEY CONSTRUCTION**



**Nanci & Jack Simkin**



### 1+ Shelter to Soldier Dog



**Jolie Budau**

**Lisbeth Eddy**

**Team Keeping Finn**

**Maddy & Zander Fryer**

**Rose Gonzales**

**Melanie Mayer**

**Elizabeth Mueller**

**Peek Family Foundation**

**Dr. Fred and Kim Pike**

**Karen & Jeff Shabel**



**SPONSORSHIPS | MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## \$18,000

Each service dog/veteran team costs our program an average of \$18,000 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 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:*

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



**Shelter to Soldier visits local shelters and rescue groups** and evaluates dogs 11 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
- Public Access Test
- Task-Related Test

**ONE YEAR  
+ \$18,000**

**= TWO LIVES  
SAVED!**

# EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

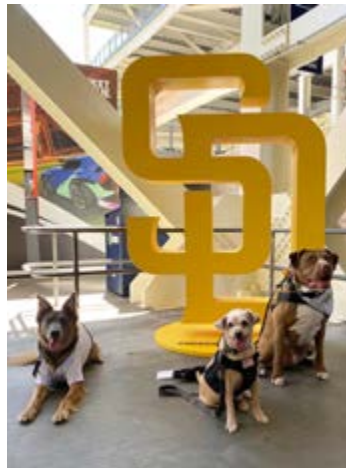


## Career Change Dogs | ESAs + Pet Dogs

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.

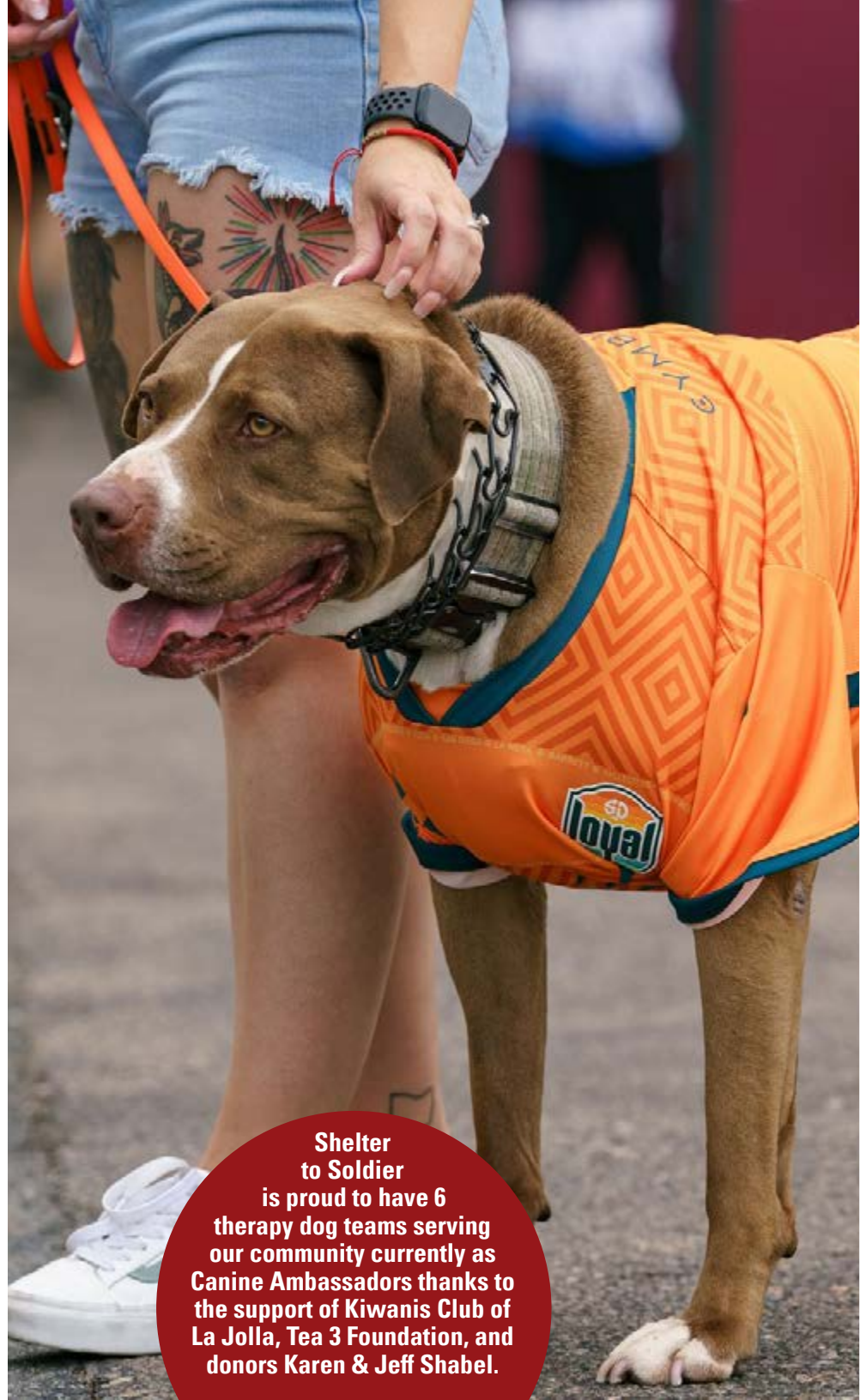
- Shelter to Soldier is honored to have graduated five Emotional Support Animals in 2023
- Dogs who display behavioral challenges making them unsuitable as psychiatric service dogs or ESAs are adopted out as pet dogs.
- Shelter to Soldier had two pet adoptions in 2023





## 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.



Shelter to Soldier is proud to have 6 therapy dog teams serving our community currently as Canine Ambassadors thanks to the support of Kiwanis Club of La Jolla, Tea 3 Foundation, and donors Karen & Jeff Shabel.

## \$1,000,000 — New Land/Facility

### Betty Higgins — Wings of Freedom

## \$20,000 +

Anonymous Donor

Cox Communications

The Friese Foundation

Rose Gonzales

iRhythm Technologies

Jennie V. Foundation

Knopf Family Foundation

Michael B. O'Donoghue  
Foundation Fund

Petco Love

San Diego Woman's Club

Site SoCal

Subaru

## \$10,000 +

Avion Law

Christian Brothers

Harry & Judith Collins Foundation Fund

Howard & Judy Bassham Family Foundation

Don Jarvis in Memory of Jan Jarvis

Jeffrey 2009 Charitable Lead Annuity Trust

Mary Margaret Darling Trust

M & S Sarvak Fund

Renee Ngo

Kirk Pierce

Raising Cane's

Laurie Rounds Charitable Fund

Schubach Aviation

Ian Somerhalder Foundation

Sonja Larimore

Sycuan Casino Resort

TCWGlobal

VetFlatley Darling Fund

VetsAid Concert by Joe Walsh

## \$5,000 +

Barbara Cornelius

Bethel Family Charitable Fund

Black Market Spirits

Blodgett Trust Charitable Fund

Sharon Bogdan

The Boeing Company

Arlene Brennan

Bridget Rose Foundation, Inc.

Philomena Carle

Christensen Family Foundation

William Clark

Doctor Family

Carolyn Doherty

The Fish Market

Goodrich Family Foundation

Jet Methods

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc.

Kilroy Realty

Susan Morrow Legacy Foundation

One Paseo

Olson Family Fund

Pegasus

Angela Peto

Morton Phillips Gift Fund

Briana Robinson

Jake Today

VFW Auxiliary

Wilsey Asset Management

Suzanne Witter

Woof n' Rose Winery



## COMMUNITY | THANK YOU

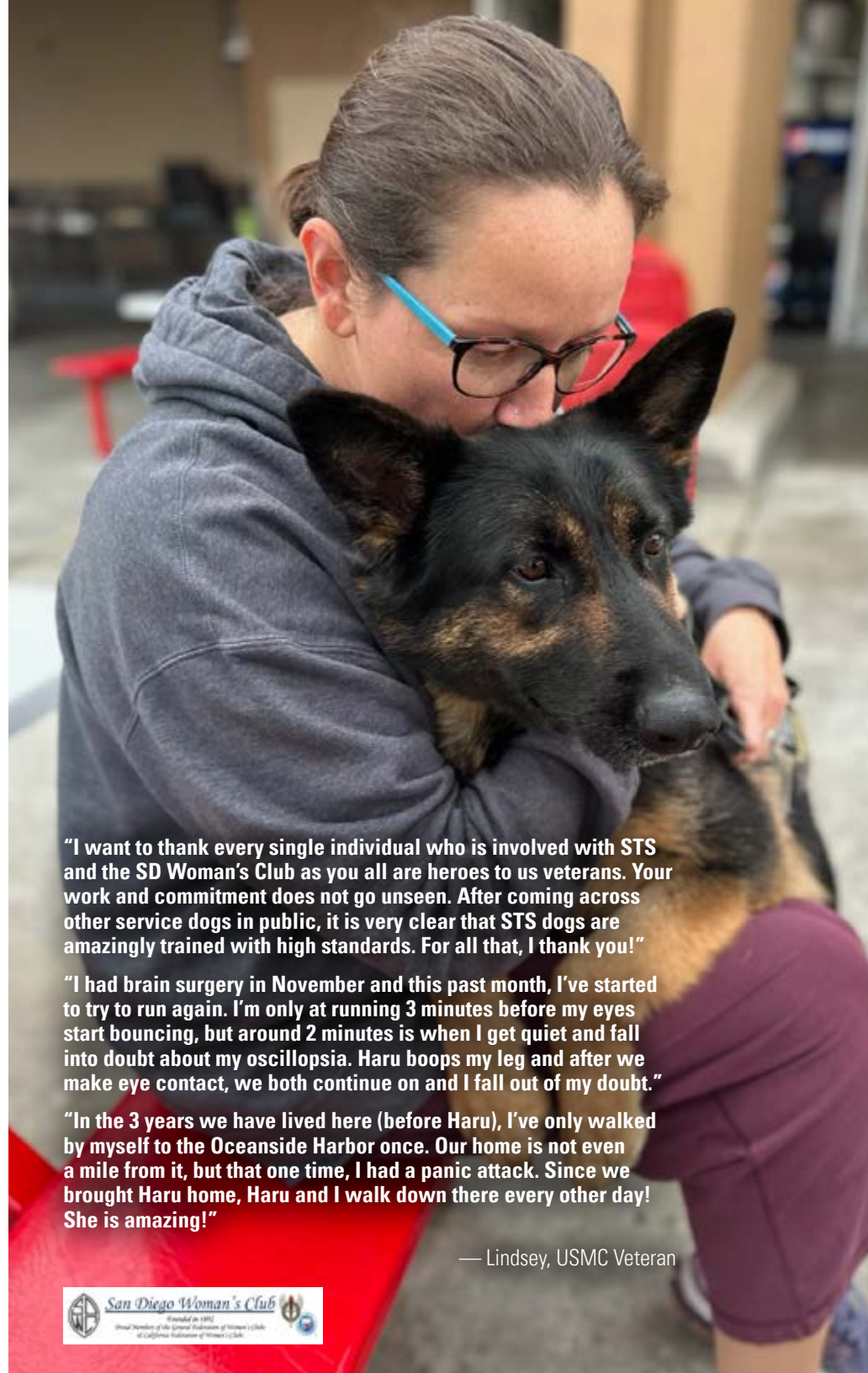
Thank you to our community partners who continue to support our program and our service dogs in training.



## GRADUATED | TEAMS

**RONEL + GUNNER | JANUARY 2024***Sponsored by Zander and Maddy Fryer***JORDAN + BARNEY | DECEMBER 2023***Sponsored by Barnes Firm***TAYLOR + SHELTON | DECEMBER 2023***Sponsored by COX Communications***LAURIE + TROOPER | DECEMBER 2023***Sponsored by SD Woman's Club***ADRIANNA + DEMPSEY | NOVEMBER 2023***Sponsored by Dempsey Construction***AARON + MURPHY | OCTOBER 2023***Sponsored by UNITE***JESSICA + LIBBY | SEPTEMBER 2023***Sponsored by Karen and Jeff Shabel***RON + DANTE | AUG 2023***Sponsored by The Boeing Company***BLAKE + EDDIE | JULY 2023***Sponsored by REACT Foundation***CLARISSA + SULLY (ESA) | JULY 2023***Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Charitable***LINDSEY + HARU | JUNE 2023***Sponsored by the San Diego Women's Club***ODLANIER + XANDER (ESA) | MAY 2023***Sponsored by Tea3 Foundation***MELANIE + LOLA (ESA) | MAY 2023***Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Charitable Foundation San Diego***MERAKI + BARLEY | MAY 2023***Sponsored by Mollie Carter & Kevin Mignogna***NELSON + MAJOR (ESA) | MARCH 2023***Sponsored by The Barnes Firm***SEAMUS + CHIEF (ESA) | FEB 2023***Sponsored by Griffin Funding***MICHAEL + ZEUS | OCT 2022***Sponsored by Tea3 Foundation***TODD + RILEY | NOV 2022***Sponsored by Tea3 Foundation***TODD + JACK | DEC 2022***Sponsored by Cox Communications***COREY + ANGUS | MAY 2022 (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by Matsuri & Seven Woods Foundations***ANONYMOUS + JASPER | MAY 2022***Sponsored by React Foundation***KELLY + JAGGER | MARCH 2022***Sponsored by Boeing***RICHELIE + MILK DUD | JAN 2022***Sponsored by Morrow Legacy Foundation***PETER + KOBE | JAN 2022***Sponsored by Boeing***CHELSEA + THISTLE***Sponsored by Rennie Gabriel & Three Dog Bakery Encino***JOHN + TIGER***Sponsored by Ensignt***SHAWN + ANNIE***Sponsored by Matsuri & Seven Woods Foundations***KAREN + GRACE***Sponsored by David C. Copley Foundation***BRADLEY + BERKLEY (ESA)***Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services***DARREN + VALOR***Sponsored by Care Credit***KRISTINE + SCOUT***Sponsored by Petco Love***SHANE + BUDDY***Sponsored by David C. Copley Foundation***COLLIN + RAMSEY***Sponsored by The Los Angeles Rams***DUSTIN + NIGEL***Sponsored by UNITE Doggy 'Poo***SHAWN + WILSON***Sponsored by The Fish Market***HENRY + PENNY (ESA)***Sponsored by Jack & Nanci Simkin***TONY + LOLA (ESA)***Sponsored by The Charitable Foundation (San Diego)***LITO + HALIA***Sponsored by Northrop Grumman***ALONSO + GLORY***Sponsored by Rennie Gabriel & Dianne Merryll***BRANDON + COOPER***Sponsored by Los Angeles Rams***ANONYMOUS + GRUMMAN (ESA)***Sponsored by Northrop Grumman***MATT + JULIO***Sponsored by David C. Copley Foundation***BRENDAN + THISTLE (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by Rennie Gabriel & Three Dog Bakery Encino***BILLY + SOPHIA (ESA)***Sponsored by HolliDay...AnyDay!***KENDRICK + KAI (ESA)***Sponsored by ASMC PDI***TROY + MILLIE (ESA)***Sponsored by Dianne Merryll***REY + KEETA***Sponsored by Chris & Rick Fink***TYLER + BENNY (ESA)***Sponsored by The Thursday Club Juniors***KIOWA + MARLOW***Sponsored by La Mesa Rotary***TERI + RIDDLER***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 (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by Petco Foundation***AARON + LIBERTY (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by Mission Beach Women's Club***EVAN + BANDIT***Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Charitable Foundation Los Angeles***DAVE + THURSDAY***\*Emotional Support Dog\***Sponsored by The Thursday Club Juniors***ANGEL + JAX***Sponsored by UNITE***JAYSON + MIESHA (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by Griffin Funding***KEVIN + ANNIE***Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Brentwood***JEREMY + LUNA***Sponsored by: Integriv***JONATHAN + BERKELEY (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by: Berkshire Hathaway Home Services (BHHS) Calabasas Office***LIZ + CHARLIE (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by: Schubach Aviation***KAREN + SEVEN (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by: FINE Magazine with Schubach Aviation***MASON + GRIFFIN (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by: Griffin Funding***RICKY + PLATO (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by: Plato Pet Treats***CHRIS + JADE***Sponsored by: Integriv***TOM + SANDY***Sponsored by: Ranch + Coast Magazine + Wintercreek Foundation***JAMES + CALVER***Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation***JAMES + TYBERIUS (\*RETIRED)***Sponsored by: Magic 92.5 and Cafe Coyote*TEAMS |  
IN TRAINING**ALEJANDRO + LUCKY***Sponsored by Logomark***STEVEN + ONYX***Sponsored by Griffin Funding***JESSICA + WAGNER***Sponsored by Subaru***TERRANCE + DUG***Sponsored by San Diego Woman's Club***JERMAINE + SALLY***Sponsored by Jack and Nanci Simkin***TIMOTHY + OLIVER***Sponsored by David C Copley Foundation***RICARDO + GOOSE***Sponsored by Keeping Finn*

Since  
2012 we have  
placed 73 dogs and  
graduated 56 service dog  
veteran/teams. 17 dogs have  
been placed as Emotional  
Support Animals. We currently  
have 25 dogs in training.



"I want to thank every single individual who is involved with STS and the SD Woman's Club as you all are heroes to us veterans. Your work and commitment does not go unseen. After coming across other service dogs in public, it is very clear that STS dogs are amazingly trained with high standards. For all that, I thank you!"

"I had brain surgery in November and this past month, I've started to try to run again. I'm only at running 3 minutes before my eyes start bouncing, but around 2 minutes is when I get quiet and fall into doubt about my oscillopsia. Haru boops my leg and after we make eye contact, we both continue on and I fall out of my doubt."

"In the 3 years we have lived here (before Haru), I've only walked by myself to the Oceanside Harbor once. Our home is not even a mile from it, but that one time, I had a panic attack. Since we brought Haru home, Haru and I walk down there every other day! She is amazing!"

— Lindsey, USMC Veteran



# OUR PACK | LEADERSHIP + TEAMWORK



## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

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

## CO-FOUNDERS

**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:



The Association of Professional Dog Trainers



AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluators



American Red Cross



International Association of Canine Professionals



CANDIDATE Associate of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans



**ANIMAL CARE SUPERVISOR**  
Lauree Gollner



**ASSISTANT ANIMAL CARE SUPERVISOR**  
Matt Nelson

Shelter to Soldier is proud to employ 1 veteran and 5 military spouses.



Our amazing training team.

The Department of Veteran Services was completely funded by a generous gift from the Michael B. O'Donoghue Foundation Fund through 2023.

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



David Moss, LCSW  
STS Mental Health Liaison



Tommy Moore  
US Navy, Veteran & Community  
Outreach Representative



Callie Espinoza  
Veteran Services Assistant



## 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.

# FINANCING | A MATCH

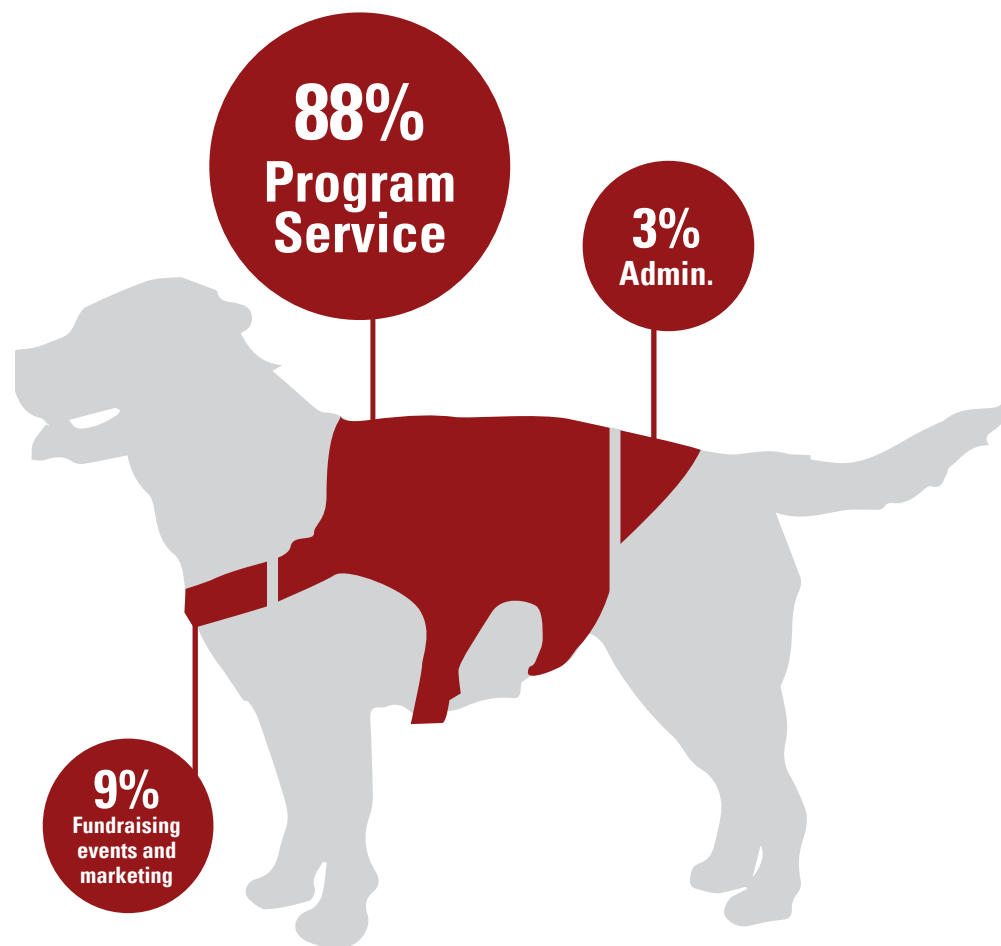


## HOW DONATIONS ARE USED

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

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.



## ACCREDITED BY



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

Graham's passion for helping and working with dogs and veterans runs deep. He has been a professional dog trainer for 22 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.

#### **NICKY MOORE, BS** BOARD MEMBER

Nicky is our Director of Training and Operations, and a graduate of Animal Behavior College's Professional Dog Training Certification program. Originally from Cincinnati, OH, Nicky has a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Management. Nicky joined the Shelter to Soldier team in 2017 as a Dog Training Assistant and has rapidly grown into a talented dog trainer and excellent leader, with a wealth of knowledge in this field. When she's not leading this pack, she loves doing Therapy Work with STS Canine Ambassador (and Nicky's personal dog), Moose, as well as training and hiking with her Dutch Shepherd, Bodhi and "Pocket Pittie", Swayze.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **BRIAN LUKACZ** BOARD MEMBER

Brian is originally from the east coast but moved to San Diego when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton. Brian flew helicopters in the Marine Corps for 13 years and completed two combat tours in Iraq in '04-'05. Seeing the ravages of PTSD on his fellow veterans first hand has made him determined to help support Shelter to Soldier. He also loves dogs and has three Rhodesian Ridgebacks at home.





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

**Become a lifesaver today at  
[sheltertotosoldier.org](http://sheltertotosoldier.org)**

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2366 Front Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Facility Address**  
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Oceanside, CA 92058

760.870.5338  
[sheltertotosoldier.org](http://sheltertotosoldier.org)  
[@sheltertotosoldier](https://www.instagram.com/sheltertotosoldier)

