



SAVING LIVES  
**2**  
AT A TIME  
2019





**Post Traumatic Stress (PTS)** is a major problem for our men and women in uniform, and its effects last far and beyond the battlefield. One in five veterans returning from combat tours suffers from PTS. Many of them are so debilitated that they are unable to leave their homes or engage in any meaningful way in society. With the combination of therapy, medications and the companionship of a service dog who does not judge them but does inspire and require them to get up and out, we are seeing our veterans experience a new lease on life with a boost in their confidence, increased productivity, and improved relationships through the sense of security and companionship that their service dog provides.

**“PTSD is a silent hostage taker to those around you, yet deafening to those it has a hold of. It takes away all that you are and replaces it with constant videos of everything you want to forget but can never unsee. It confines you to a life that is secluded from everything and everyone, this being the only way you can feel safe. Through the compassion of Shelter to Soldier it has given me the ability to fight back against this paralyzing condition and find that part of me that was lost so long ago. Both Shelter to Soldier and Ace have brought me back to life, enabling me to break free from this solitary confinement and to once again experience life and live.”**

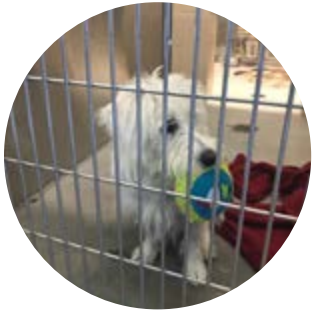
**— John W. Schulte USMC (Ret.)**



## **EVERY DAY 16 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 YEAR 670,000 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.

SAVING LIVES  
2  
AT A TIME



# GIVING

## SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Photo credit: Los Angeles Rams



Media Coverage

Rancho Santa Fe  
REVIEW



MAGIC  
92.5



The San Diego Union-Tribune



YAHOO!  
FINANCE

Military Press



Los Angeles Times



RAMSWIRE



San Diego  
MAGAZINE



THE COAST NEWS



# HOW SPONSORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## Red Star Sponsorship | \$15,000

Becoming a Red Star Sponsor begins a year-long co-marketing campaign with you 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. You will also have a special part in the graduation ceremony for the service dog and veteran.



## White Star Sponsorship | \$10,000

White Star Sponsors directly impact the lives of veterans on a large scale through our mental health services, Peer-to-Peer Counseling, community outreach to local veterans' organizations, and ongoing support to all veterans in training and veterans who have graduated our program.



## 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.

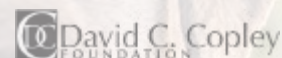


## Employees Volunteer

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.



## The Wintercreek Foundation



Chris & Rick Fink

Rennie Gabriel

Holli Lienau

Matsuri Foundation

Dianne  
Merryl

Morrow Legacy  
Foundation

NCSSTS

NORTHROP GRUMMAN



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rotary Club  
of La Mesa

Family and Friends  
of Seth Friedell

Seven Woods  
Foundation

Nanci & Jack  
Simkin



## \$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 visits local shelters and rescue groups** and evaluates dogs 4 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.*



**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





Upon qualified match – **veteran handlers train for 4-6 months** (on average) 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!**





Shelter to Soldier is proud to be located within the Pacific Pet Resort, with accommodations and training facility made possible in part by:

## Anonymous Donor



Rennie Gabriel



The Wintercreek Foundation

## THANK | YOU

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





**"The entire team at Shelter to Soldier has contributed to allowing me to live my life again. To me the team includes everyone from the front desk, training staff and the behind the scenes folks.**

**Duke has challenged me and helped me overcome several mental walls that had previously stopped me completely.**

**— Joel Brambila, USMC**







Directed  
by Vic Martin,  
US Navy Ret. and  
Shelter to Soldier  
Recipient.



## 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.



## PEER TO PEER COUNSELING

Peer support is now available at no cost to approved veteran applicants and recipients thanks to the volunteer support of Ben Kilhefner, US Navy Ret. Ben is a Shelter to Soldier Service Dog Recipient and Certified Peer Support Specialist.







## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & RESOURCE CONNECTIONS

Shelter to Soldier has expanded our network with the Veterans Administration and supporting clinics, increasing our support from the Transitional Care Team at the La Jolla VA Hospital and 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 monthly social events where graduates can come together in a safe environment to continue training and share their journey with their service dog.





# OUR TRAINING PROGRAM | TEAMWORK



## **PRESIDENT | Graham Bloem**

*Recipient of: 10News Leadership Award, Waggy Award for Animal Welfare, American Red Cross Real Heroes Award, Honeywell Life Safety Award, and the CBS8 Change It Up Award .*

**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 and a potentially troubled past 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:**



AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluators



StarMark Academy



The Association of Professional Dog Trainers



**HEAD DOG TRAINER | Stephen Snyder**



**DOG TRAINER AND MANAGER | Nicky Moore**



## **SERVICE DOG TRAINERS**

**Perry Chapman | Julie McLaughlin  
Vince Martell | Dustin Campbell | Alayna Devalasco  
Rachel Charlesworth | Lisa Johnson | Lynne Ramsey**



## TEAMS | IN TRAINING

### REY & KEETA

*Sponsored by Chris & Rick Fink*

### MATT & JULIO

*Sponsored by David C. Copley Foundation*

### SHAWN & GRUMMAN

*Sponsored by Northrop Grumman*

### BRANDON & COOPER

*Sponsored by The Los Angeles Rams*

### BRANDAN & THISTLE

*Sponsored by Rennie Gabriel & Three Dog Bakery Encino*

### TROY & DESMOND

*\*Emotional Support Dog\**

*Sponsored by Petco Foundation*

### TRONG & ARMSTRONG

*Sponsored by Cox Communications*

### KIOWA & MARLOW

*Sponsored by Rotary Club of La Mesa*

## TOGETHER | SINCE

### JAMES & PEPPER | JANUARY 2020

*Sponsored by Wintercreek Foundation*

### JESSICA & KAI | JANUARY 2020

*Sponsored by PDI 2017,  
American Society of Military Comptrollers*

### TERI & RIDDLER | JANUARY 2020

*Sponsored by NCSSST*

### ADAM & BASH | NOVEMBER 2019

*Sponsored by Wintercreek Foundation*

### JOSEPH & CHEETO | OCTOBER 2019

*Sponsored by Petco Foundation*

### RICHARD & SETH | OCTOBER 2019

*Sponsored by the Friends & Family of Seth Freidell*

### JOEL & DUKE | AUGUST 2019

*Sponsored by Rotary Club of La Mesa*

### JOHN & ACE | MAY 2019

*Sponsored by Matsuri & Seven Woods Foundations*

### JAIMIE & MOOSE | APRIL 2019

*Sponsored by Petco Foundation*

### AARON & LIBERTY | DECEMBER 2018

*Sponsored by Mission Beach Women's Club*

### EVAN & BANDIT | NOVEMBER 2018

*Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services  
Charitable Foundation Los Angeles*

### VIC & MIA | SEPTEMBER 2018

*Sponsored by: Griffin Funding*

### DAVE & THURSDAY | JULY 2018

*\*Emotional Support Dog\**

*Sponsored by The Thursday Club Juniors*

### ANGEL & JAX | MARCH 2018

*Sponsored by UNITE*

### JAYSON & MIESHA | JANUARY 2018

*Sponsored by Griffin Funding*

### KEVIN & ANNIE | OCTOBER 2017

*Sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Brentwood*

### JEREMY & LUNA | JUNE 2017

*Sponsored by: Integriv*

### JONATHON & BERKELEY | NOVEMBER 2016

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

### LIZ & CHARLIE | OCTOBER 2016

*Sponsored by: Schubach Aviation*

### KAREN & SEVEN | JULY, 2016

*Sponsored by: FINE Magazine with Schubach Aviation*

### MASON & GRIFFIN | APRIL 2016

*Sponsored by: Griffin Funding*

### RICKY & PLATO | FEBRUARY, 2016

*Sponsored by: Plato Pet Treats*

### CHRIS & JADE | JANUARY, 2016

*Sponsored by: Integriv*

### 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*

### VIC & KIRA (\*RETIRED) | NOVEMBER 2014

*Sponsored by: Wintercreek Foundation*

### JAMES & TYBERIUS | MAY 2013

*Sponsored by: Magic 92.5 and Cafe Coyote*

Since  
2012 we've  
placed 24 Service  
Dogs and 2 Emotional  
Support Dogs with  
veterans. We have  
adopted 56 dogs through  
our program.

GRADUATED TEAMS | HANDLERS & DOGS

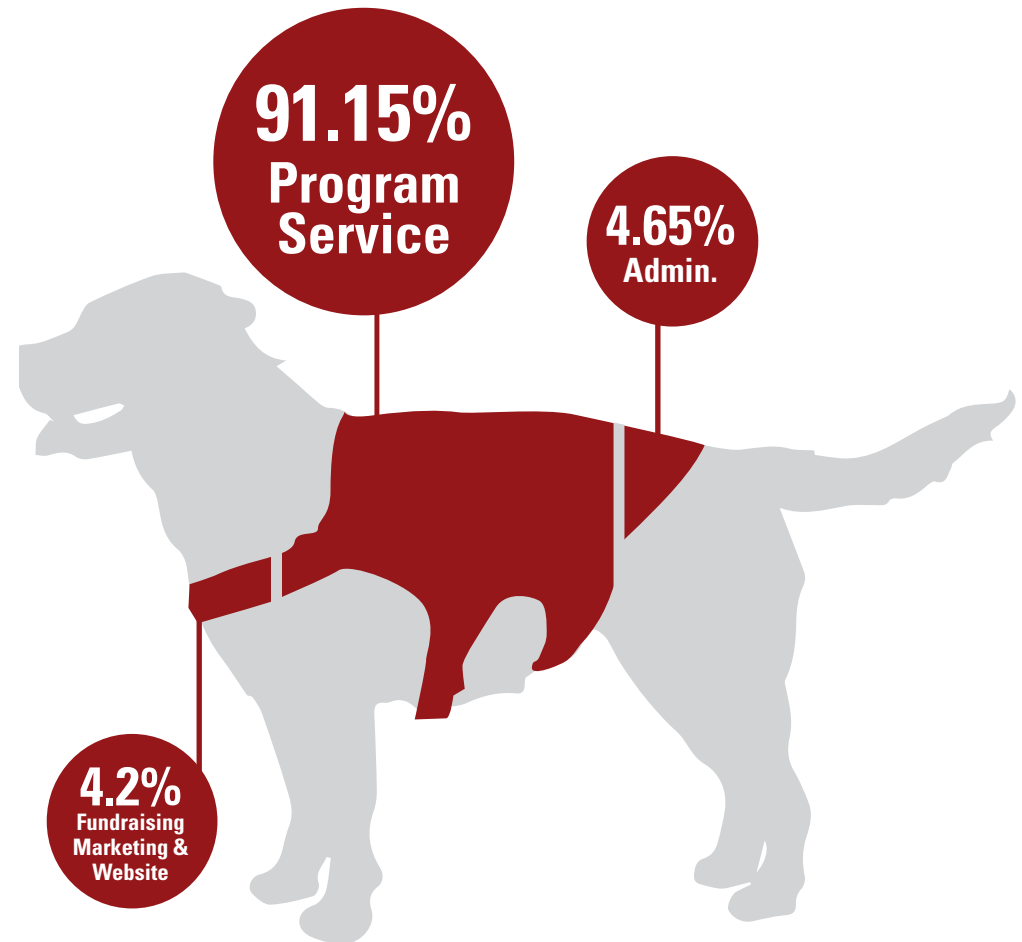


# FINANCING | A MATCH



## 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.



## ACCREDITED BY





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

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Graham's passion for helping and working with dogs and veterans runs deep. He has been a professional dog trainer for 18 years and has extensive animal related business and management experience.

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**KYRIÉ BLOEM, MS** CO-FOUNDER | VICE PRESIDENT

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

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

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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.

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**LtCol BRIAN DENNIS** BOARD MEMBER

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Brian is an accomplished marine who 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 Texas and continues to give back through his military service and through his work with Shelter to Soldier.

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**DR. LIZ GREY, DVM** BOARD MEMBER

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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 32 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.

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**DAVID MOSS, LCSW** BOARD MEMBER

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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 10 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.

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**MICHAEL FORD** BOARD MEMBER

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Michael is a San Diego native passionate about supporting the communities in which we live and work. He has worked with Cox Communications for 13 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  
[sheltertotosoldier.org](http://sheltertotosoldier.org)**

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

**Facility Address**  
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Oceanside, CA 92058

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

