



August 2020 Edition

COVID Can't Stop K9s

K9s For Warriors is relentless, and with supporters like you by our side, we are fortified. Despite a global pandemic, we have continued to safely keep our doors open, following proper safety guidelines and CDC protocols. We are continuing to graduate Warrior-K9 teams and rescuing shelter dogs from possible euthanasia. During these uncertain times with the help of our supporters such as our donors, puppy raisers, volunteers, puppy prison program, and sponsors, we continue to push forward in our vital mission to stop veteran suicide.



Since COVID-19 has affected our program and the nation, we have decided to continue with smaller class sizes, ranging from four to five Warriors per class. K9s For Warriors has reached out to Warriors in close distance, minimizing the amount of travel time a Warrior endures before arriving on campus, with hopes of reducing the potential exposure to COVID-19. Proper PPE is provided to Warriors and is required to be worn in common areas, vehicles, and they are asked to safely social distance while in the program. Including the August Warriors, we have successfully been able to graduate four classes since the global exposure to COVID-19, providing a new 'leash' on life to 16 new battle buddy teams.

Click here to watch a video for More information on how COVID-19 has affected our program and how you can help,

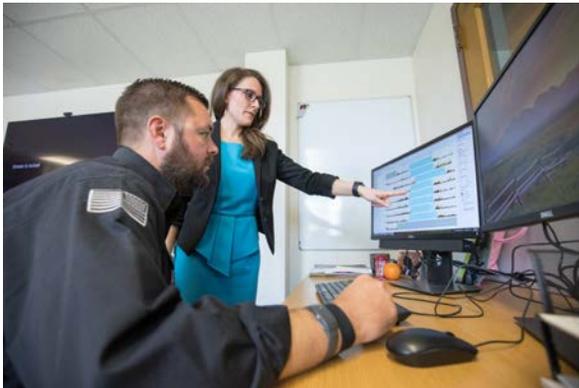


On behalf of all K9s For Warriors' staff, Warriors, and Service Dogs, I would like to thank you for sticking by us through these uncertain times. Your support means the world to all of us, and because of you, we can continue to save the lives of veterans and shelter dogs.

Sincerely,

Rory Diamond

Backed by Science



Each of our graduated Warrior-K9 teams show the success of our program, but a recently published study released from Purdue University has provided even more scientific evidence regarding the positive effects Service Dogs have on veterans who suffer from PTSD, MST, and/or TBI. The study was led by Kerri Rodriguez, a human-animal interaction graduate student, and with Dr. Maggie O'Haire, associate professor of human-animal interaction. They found that on average, the dog's training to both alert the veteran to

his/her increasing anxiety as well as providing physical contact during anxiety episodes were reported to be the most important and the most often used in a typical day.

Click here to learn more more about this study.

K9s For Warriors honored with Florida Leadership Award

K9s For Warriors just received the 2020 Florida Impact Award from Leadership Florida. We were especially recognized for our innovative service dog program, which challenges the traditional system to provide disabled veterans with a meaningful opportunity to better pursue lifesaving tools and proves rescue dogs can be heroes. The nomination came from Nan Rothstein on behalf of the Northeast Regional Council of Leadership Florida.



Battle Buddies Travel the World



Barry and Simon graduated the K9s For Warriors program in July 2017. Since graduation, the battle buddy team has traveled great lengths and have many accomplishments thanks to the support that they give to each other.

“When I returned home from Afghanistan in 2012, everything caught up with me. A part of you desires to go back because, in your head, it’s what makes sense. I hit a low point and was on so much medication that I wasn’t really there even when I was home, and my family could see when I was struggling. My therapist suggested K9s For Warriors as a potential treatment for my PTSD, helped me apply, and I was accepted into the program.

When the day finally came to depart, all I could think about was having to tread through the extremely crowded airport by myself. I was exceptionally on edge, and after an unsettling flight, I arrived in Jacksonville. After settling in on campus, Dog Day came, where we were to be introduced with our Service Dogs. As I walked through the gate, I got my first look at Simon. Looking into his soft eyes as he stared up at me, I could feel the panic float away in the look that said to me, ‘just love me, and I promise to always love you.’

It is now the year 2020, and my life has become so much better each day with my battle buddy, Simon. In the last two years, I traveled across the US and spent a year in Europe hopping from country to country. I have seen a symphony orchestra in Poland, been to the Baltic Sea, the Great Escape Prison Camp in Poland, was able to travel on a bullet train to Paris and take my wife to celebrate our anniversary with a visit to the city of love.



These are all things that could have never been possible to do or experience without Simon at my side. I was also able to see my kid perform at Lincoln Center in NY City. Staying in Times Square was a crazy and eye-opening experience, but one I did not miss.”

Chartrand Family Warrior Resource Center update

The Chartrand Family Warrior Resource Center is coming closer to its completion date! Before the drywall was put up, K9s For Warriors staff celebrated the new building by writing on the wooden beams with encouraging statements, memories, and funny jokes.



The Warrior Resource Center will house a 4-unit residential training center where graduates of

K9FW can come for recertification, additional training, or pairing with a second Service Dog upon the retirement of their initial dog, the American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC) which will assist our Warrior-K9 teams with access as needed, the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans (ASDPMV), and the K9FW Research Institute, which will provide us the ability to produce leading research regarding the positive effects Service Dogs have on Warriors struggling with PTSD, TBI, and/or MST.

To learn more about how the Chartrand Family Warrior Resource Center will be helping future battle buddy teams, [click here](#).

K9FW Flash Sale!

Staff at K9s For Warriors would like to give a special thank you to all of our supporters. Polos are now on sale for \$15! No code needed, while supplies last, get yours today!

Flash
SALE
\$15
POLOS
While Supplies Last

K9S FOR WARRIORS



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