

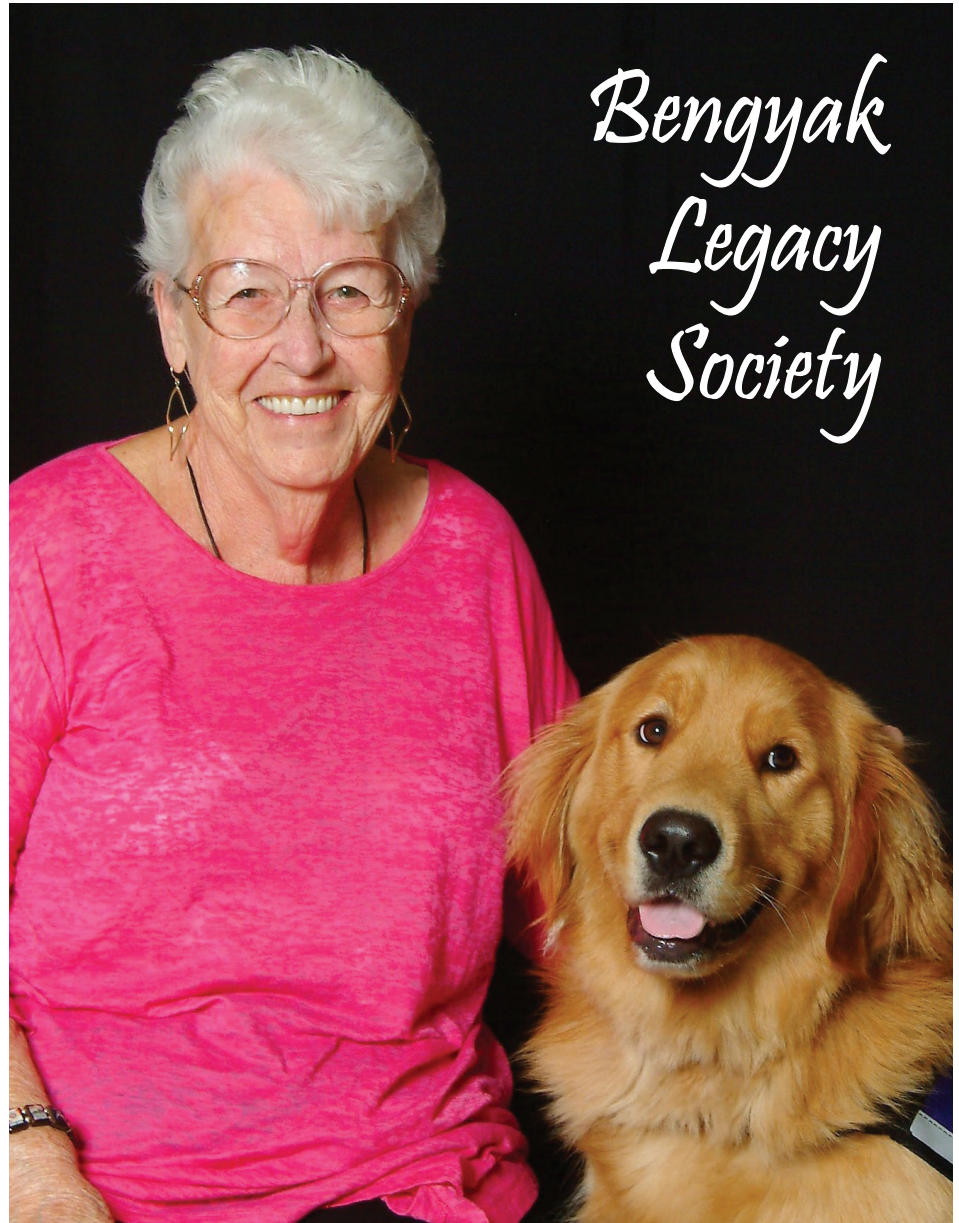


Mission Statement: Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for veterans and other individuals in need through training hearing and service dogs, providing therapy dogs for first responders and school resource programs, and owning an off-leash dog park.

News

PRINTS

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Eleanor Bengyak, pictured with her service dog Rufus, established the Bengyak Legacy Society in memory of her late husband Victor and son Patrick. She chose DFL as the recipient of donations in her memory to be used in training service dogs.

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NEWSPRINTS

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What's New?

The Dogs For Life (DFL) Board of Directors agreed to reestablish a program, with a slight twist, that was originally included in its 2002 mission. When the Vero Beach Police reached out to partner with DFL for therapy dogs to visit the department, our service dog teams stepped up to lend a paw. These highly trained dogs are “taking off their vests” and being used to bring love and comfort in a way only dogs can do to our hard working dispatchers and law enforcement officers.

DFL created a new dog bandana featuring the First Responders Flag for use with the program. Each color stripe was designed to represent and honor one of the many service-based professions.



Yellow: Rescue Personnel

Green: Military

Silver: Corrections

Blue: Law Enforcement

Gold: Dispatchers

Red: Firefighters

White: Doctors, Nurses, EMS

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In Memory of Eleanor Bengyak

Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Ave, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 • (772) 567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org



Eddie Boatwright and service dog Rosie the Riveter

From *the* President

You will be as happy to learn as I was that DFL completed its 15th year of re-accreditation with Assistance Dogs International. Every five years, staff, volunteers and the DFL Directors prepare various demonstrations and are subject to interviews as part of this process. With DFL being one of only five organizations in the State of Florida to hold this esteemed accreditation, we work very hard to maintain this status.

I am also happy to report to you that the annual auditing process of DFL's financial practices have been completed with a clean bill of health from Offutt Barton Schlitt LLC, Certified Public Accountants. We realize trust is the most crucial factor in any donor's giving decision and we want to uphold only the highest standards. As our donors and volunteers continue to trust DFL, we will continue to hold our service dog program to these standards.

The Board of Directors wants to sincerely thank our Treasurer, Kathi G. Schumann, for her most generous gift ever! Her "Two for One Birthday Challenge" not only raised unexpected funds for our puppies, but also showed a great outpouring of support for Mrs. Schumann's role in our organization.

From *the* Founder & CEO

The summer months at DFL have traditionally been as busy as the winter, however this year things were a bit slower than normal. This has been a tremendous help around the office as we are just about to meet our "let's go paperless" goal that we set three years ago.

I am especially happy to see the DFL website take such a transformation and allow for direct online donations as well as dog park membership renewals. Automating these processes has allowed staff and volunteers to devote time to other tasks.

As we move into the fall months, we're busy preparing for the 2nd Annual Patriots For Puppies Fundraiser, the end of the year annual appeal, and Christmas celebrations. We wish all our volunteers, donors, clients, and members a happy holiday season and all the best for 2023.



Shelly Ferger and Eleanor Bengyak

In Memory *of* Eleanor Bengyak

It is with a heavy heart that Dogs For Life, Inc. says "we'll see you in that morning" to our Founding Board Member Eleanor Bengyak. Eleanor was instrumental in helping Shelly Ferger establish the 4.5 acre, 12th Street property as the first off-leash dog park in Indian River County. With the support of her husband Victor, son Patrick and grandchildren, her presence was woven into every aspect of DFL. It was amazing to see Eleanor train two service dogs in the program: first, Mitzi to tap the 911 emergency phone, and then years later Rufus, to carry her oxygen tank and pick up things off the floor. Rufus accompanied Eleanor to many doctor appointments and lunches as she and her daughter-in-law Betty McCalister ran errands and participated in playing bridge. Eleanor supported the DFL mission by establishing the Bengyak Legacy Society to raise funds to train service dogs for veterans. Eleanor was a true patriot. She will be missed but never forgotten.

Kris Hasenauer

US Army (Ret.), PA-C, CEO of Emerald Medical, LLC

An Open Letter About PTSD

Why do so many of us struggle to come to terms with our PTSD? As an observation, I see the veteran population in two camps when it comes to this subject. We are in denial of our symptoms (as was my case), or it defines our world and has more control than it's should. The reality is treatment and control lie in the middle of these two extremes.

The person in denial (me), will go on for years avoiding addressing their trauma in a conversation. We maintain control through staying busy, self medicating and making excuses for our breakthrough symptoms. The second group (you know who you are) defines everything they do or experience by their trauma. Their PTSD becomes their identity. Both of these circumstances are robbing you of a life. The walk to the middle of these extremes is the treatment process. Staying in the middle is the management of the disease. PTSD is never gone; it is treated and managed.

Treatment and management of PTSD can look different for all of us, the basic concepts are the same however. The first step is realizing you need help, and seeking that help. Next is finding a behavioral health and/or medical treatment system that improves your symptom management.

These management techniques and treatments can evolve over time. As you grow and change your

treatment regimen may change as well. Give yourself the grace and respect to have ups and downs and find the tools that work for you.

When you are assessing your treatment options realize each different modality is a tool to be used. Just like you can't fix a car with one wrench or build a house with one hammer, one treatment modality may not be the best for the most effective symptom control.

Treatment tools are as follows: support groups, individual and group therapy, EMDR, SGB, Hyperbaric Oxygen therapy, medication and pharmaceutical assisted therapy. This list is not all encompassing and treatment options evolve constantly. The point being is there are options and some combination of things may be your best management system.

The overwhelming number of treatment options can be a lot to digest. It is definitely more than I can explain in this letter. Any questions about the things listed above can be directed to my office and we can point you in the right direction.

Remember - it is ok *not* to be ok! You can get help! PTSD is manageable but never gone. Self care, medical and behavioral health treatments will allow you to find a plan that works for you. The journey can be difficult but so worth it in the long run.

There are people in your corner!



Kris Hasenauer and his service dog Jasper

Mental Health First Aid Class

On June 23, 2022, DFL hosted a mental health first aid workshop, facilitated by Denise Sudnick with the Mental Health Collaborative of Indian River County. Attended by DFL staff, volunteers and clients, the workshop covered topics published by the National Council for Behavioral Health such as trauma, stigma, culture, recovery and well-being. The roll of the first aider is very important in recognizing when someone is in a crisis and there is a need for a "Call to Action." We are fortunate in Indian River County to have the Mental Health Collaborative and the Mental Health Association to partner with DFL in our mission.

Michelle Dale, President

American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County

4th Annual Walk-A-Thon for Suicide Awareness

Our American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County's Walk-A-Thon for Military/Veteran Suicide Awareness and Veterans Resource Expo took place November 6th at Riverside Park. We are proud that it was our fourth year of hosting this event in support of our Indian River County Veterans who are struggling with PTSD, and we very much appreciate the community's support.

22 veteran suicides a day is unacceptable! Bringing awareness to this statistic is vitally important and the number one mission for the Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County.

Our PTSD Recovery and Support Groups in conjunction with Dogs For Life, Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County and the Mental Health Association have been in existence for four years now. In our Walk-A-Thon packet this year we included



testimonials by our veterans who wanted others to know how these sessions have helped them heal.

One veteran's testimonial clearly shows how the support groups and the follow-up care received was life-saving. I had the pleasure of meeting this veteran and it was my honor to give the veteran a big hug. Being able to do this warmed my heart and verified even more why we keep doing what we do to raise awareness and funds to keep our sessions going. This veteran signed up for our Walk-A-Thon on November 6th. Oh, my heart!

It was a blessing to have Chris English as our guest speaker at this year's Walk-A-Thon. Chris, who struggled with his own PTSD after multiple tours while serving in the Army from 1993 to 2014, is the inspiration behind our Next Generation PTSD support group. They feel that Chris is their mentor.

Chris believes that the "strongest thing you can

do is ask for help," and that doing so takes away the stigma because asking for help is truly a strength rather than a weakness. He has his own non-profit, "Texas Hunters for Heroes – West Texas," where he provides hunting and fishing trips to help veterans "reset" and have a safe place to explore the outdoors.

As President of American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, I will continue to promote and use as an example what we do in Indian River County for our veterans who are struggling with "the battle within." I've spoken about the importance of not being afraid to put yourself out there and make known to the public who Gold Star Mothers are and what we do in each individual chapter to help our veterans. We want our mothers to know that by helping others we are also helping ourselves to heal from the loss of our loved ones.

A congressional resolution passed in June 1936 designated the last Sunday of September as Gold Star Mother's Day. In 2011, President Obama amended the name of the day to "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Sunday" to include all family members.

This year's Gold Star Mother's and Family's Sunday was September 25th. Our Gold Star Mothers and Families of Indian River County held a service on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary to recognize and honor the surviving mothers and other family members of our fallen service members. Our service included family members whose loved ones are honored on the island in the Gold Star Grove. We offered a prayer for our loved ones, shared short stories about them and always remember to SAY THEIR NAMES so they will never be forgotten. We also placed white roses at the site of their cenotaph, or plaque, to celebrate their life. Afterward, breakfast at the American Legion Felix Poppell Post 39 was a fun gathering of Gold Star families, veterans and others who joined us to be a part of the day.

As the Vice President of DFL, I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this special organization that helps our veterans and others with disabilities and struggles in life to learn, grow and heal.

Chuck Gerrald, First Sergeant
Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County

Gone and Forgotten



Chuck Gerrald and Max

This is the story of so many of our veterans. Young men and women pay their debt to their country. We give them tasks that no human should be asked to do. The soldier's innocence is taken away from them. Their growing brains are

permanently changed. Many develop a condition that can never be cured. They come home with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

So your innocence is gone. You've seen things you can not "unsee." You feel like you don't fit in with your friends. Less than one percent of the population "gets you." It's hard for you to concentrate. It's hard for you to function during the day because you don't sleep at night. You hibernate because you don't fit in. It is safe to sit on the couch in your den. Life starts passing you by. You become depressed. You are wounded.

This is life after war for many. Welcome to PTSD, the incurable diagnosis. Although PTSD has no cure currently there are promising treatments that work to reduce the symptoms. The medical community is on the edge of finding new methods to cure PTSD permanently. These treatments are just on the horizon. Our task is to get our vets there. The thought of losing another vet when new treatments are so close is unbearable. We must get them to hold on until the cure is here. Until then we can offer treatments that are turning lives into something worth living. Some of these treatments are considered experimental and not covered by insurance. Many are paying out of their pockets while others are receiving financial help. There is a way to get help to our vets.

Our task is to find them and let them know that there is help. So many vets get lost in the Veterans Affairs system. They think that this is their only avenue for help. It is not. The private sector can offer services the VA cannot offer. We need to bridge this gap. Soon these treatments will be mainstream but until then we are finding work arounds.

I fear that we are forgetting about our injured veterans. We are war weary, and I get that. We have short attention spans and there are a lot of distractions in the world today. We are moving on to the next "thing" because that is what we do. However, the vets cannot be forgotten or left behind. Wars are fought for the long game. Our vets are playing the long game too. Our mission is to find those vets who are suffering, help them get treatment for their wounds and have a support system in place to help them move forward. Our support group is helping make a big

difference in the lives of our vets. If you know a vet who is struggling – send them to our group. We have resources available that many are not aware. We offer a veteran community that understands the soldier. Everyone involved

is a veteran and there is no VA affiliation. We meet Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at Dogs For Life. We have a female only group for veterans and a first responder group on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at Dogs For Life, too. All are welcomed.



Father Dave Newhart

Chairman of the Board, Veterans Council of Indian River County

Veterans Resources Available

Last year in October, as many of you know, I was elected as Chairman of the Board of the Veterans Council of Indian River County. Since that time there have been several other changes to the council. Just recently we elected three new board members—Ingrid Hernandez, US Army from Next Gen; Jeff Palleschi, USMC and owner of 21st Amendment Distillery; and Clifford Labbe, Indian River County Sheriff's Office. Each of these new board members brings skill sets that are invaluable to our organization.

The core mission of the VCIRC will always remain "TO BE THE PREMIER PROVIDER FOR THE VETERANS OF IRC." We will always be there for rapid aide, projects, outreach, and transportation, but we realize the need is greater than our organization alone can meet; it requires us to enlist the help of others. Like the hub of a wheel, we will continue to connect with other organizations to assist where we do not have the resources.

Our goal is "no veteran is left behind." It takes

all of us supporting and working together to accomplish this task. By working with Dogs for Life, Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Treasure Coast Mental Health,

and Indian River State College, to name a few, we can provide more resources for our veterans.

As we help support and sponsor other organizations and their events we are grateful for your support of VCIRC. We greatly appreciate our generous donors who enable us to reach our veterans in need.

Please feel free to contact me for more information on upcoming events, including the return of "Night at the Races."



The PAWS Act

The Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act of 2021, also known as the PAWS Act, requires the Veterans Administration to implement a 5-year pilot program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. The West Palm Beach VA Medical Center was selected to participate in the pilot, and they have partnered with Dogs For Life to offer a new program to veterans.

DFL's veteran service dog teams will volunteer to show other veterans how they trained their own dogs at DFL. The program will educate on how service dogs are trained, the laws pertaining to service dogs, and the unbreakable bond that must exist between owner and dog to create a successful service dog team. The role of service dogs for veterans is no secret in the mental health arena, and DFL hopes this new program will help spread information in south Florida about the ways service dogs can benefit veterans.



Hell Week . . . Really?

By Frank Pelland, US Navy SEAL, Retired



Frank Pelland and Stryker

Hell Week. Is it really hell? Yes, really! “Hell” truly describes that week. In 1955 a brand new Ensign (moi) entered class 14 of BUDS (Basic Underwater Demolition School), a 3-month training program (which in the ‘60’s was integrated into the newly formed SEALs training) at the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado, California, along with about 80 other officers and enlisted. We were told that the first week was called Hell Week and that it would start on Sunday morning and continue through noon on Saturday. OK, I thought, let’s get going.

And get going we did! From dawn to almost the next dawn for the next six days we wore fatigues, boondockers and orange Kapok life jackets 24-7 while competing in races up and down the strand, the stretch of beach running from the Hotel Del Coronado south to Tijuana. Many of the races were 7-man teams carrying 7-man rubber rafts on their heads while running in and out of the surf and up and down soft sand dunes to make sure that there was enough sand in our

boots to draw blood. Some races, usually an hour south and then back, were on foot, still fully dressed and still running through surf and over sand dunes. Anyone who stopped – for any reason – was dropped from the class and returned to the fleet. Other daily competitions included middle-of-the-night ocean races in the rafts that we paddled ashore in pitch darkness through punishing surf onto the boulders in front of the Hotel. The most arduous exercise was “racing” through hip-deep mud flats. All of these events produced points for the teams. We rested between races by doing calisthenics.

When did we sleep? I can’t remember. Totaling no more than 4 to 5 hours for the week didn’t seem to slow anyone down because the missing sleep was replaced with food, lots and lots of food. Dawn breakfasts, midday lunches, early evening dinners and midnight feasts, each a 30-minute sumptuous break, supplied enough energy to keep us going.

A bright spot, a gleaming light at the end of the tunnel, was the promised reward for the 7-man boat crew that accumulated the most points in the week-long competitions. At the outset we learned that the highest scoring crew at the end of Friday, the 6th day, which was reached at about 3:00am Saturday, **WOULD NOT JOIN SATURDAY’S TRAINING!** Their Hell Week would be considered

successfully completed, and they would be free to sleep in Saturday morning. SLEEP IN?? In the beginning, this “light at tunnel’s end” did not gleam very brightly. But as Saturday got closer, the prospect of skipping Hell Week’s final half day took on a luster second only to dying and going to heaven. My boat crew, I modestly mention, won this competition with its sleep-in reward. And it was glorious!

Less than half of the starting class remained



around 12 weeks later, with most of the departures happening during Hell Week. The physical punishment during that week took its toll, but it was not the only reason for the attrition. During every hour of every day the instructors constantly urged us to quit, usually by promising immediate

Sponsorship

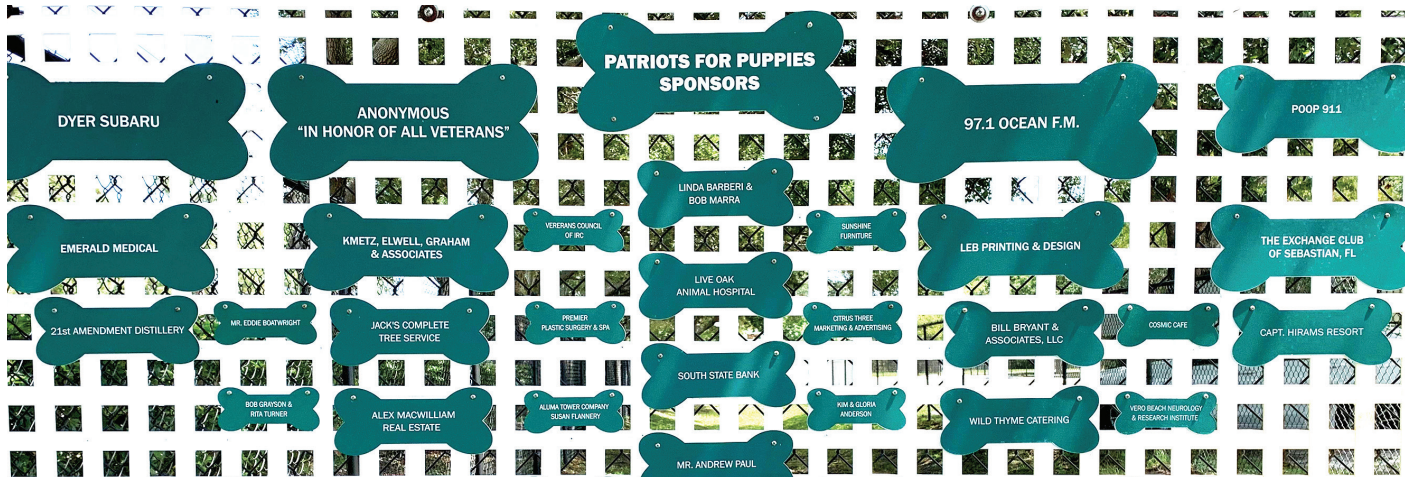


Patriots For Puppies



A Fundraiser in 2023 to Benefit Dogs For Life Programs

Sponsor this Military-themed Golden Oldies Dance and Show and have your business recognized at the front entrance of Dogs For Life on a donor bone for 1 year!



For additional information contact Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO
office@dogsforlifevb.org • 772-567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org

(Hell Week, continued)

hot showers, long sleeps, clean clothes, medical treatment for our blistered and bleeding feet and other missing comforts. Their job was to force us to quit. It often worked, because staying with the program required much more than muscles. We had to have an unwavering and unshakable determination to do whatever we were told to do, under whatever conditions we faced, and whether or not we thought it was possible. Without that mindset, we had no chance.

So during that week, the survivors just never stopped trying. Giving up on a task was an automatic ticket home. One example involved an overweight trainee, fondly known as Big Bernie, who was as strong as an ox and could swim like a dolphin but who could not do even one chin-up. Bernie hung there, straining to lift his chin, his feet never touching the ground, letting go only when the instructor told everyone to do so. If he had let go sooner because he could not pull himself higher he would have been transferred out. Why? Because

there is no room in UDT for anyone who would give up on something just because he thought it was impossible. Example: Picture yourself on a midnight sneak attack 100 feet down. Your regulator hose gets snagged and torn in a kelp bed and cuts off your air supply. You turn to your swim buddy to share his mouthpiece while signaling him to begin a slow ascent. You will live to swim another day as long as he calmly and swiftly hands you his mouthpiece and joins you in kicking upward. Both of you know that his one tank might not have enough air for the four minutes it will take to reach the surface, but in that moment both of you also do not doubt that you will make it. If it looks impossible, that suggests only that it will take a bit longer. This live-saving mindset is what you always have in the Teams, thanks in large part to that ultimate selection process we call – respectfully and thankfully – Hell Week.

Frank Pellen will be DFL's Guest Speaker as part of the Continuing Education series at the Training Center on Friday, December 9th at 1:30 pm.

DFL Team Nominated for Award

Dogs For Life Veteran Service Dog team Andy Beebe & Truffle recently were nominated for the Purina Dog Chow's Visible Impact Award in partnership with the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans.

The award celebrates the remarkable impact service dogs have on the daily lives of veterans experiencing post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and recognizes these outstanding service dogs and the organizations that trained them.

Nearly 3.5 million military veterans suffer from PTSD, and service dogs have demonstrated to reduce the severity of PTSD symptoms and suicidal behaviors, which is why the work we do at DFL is so important.

"Truffle challenges me to be and do more," Beebe said. "Her energy and confidence demand that I entertain her in ways that challenge me. She has done and does so much for me that I owe it to her to afford her opportunities to work and be what she clearly loves being... a service dog. I find myself thinking of ways of satisfying her thirst for service work, and in turn find myself in more challenging social situations. It's a symbiotic relationship."

As part of the nomination, Andy took part in the following Q&A:

Q: Which branch did you serve and how long?

A: I am a 27-year retired USAF Chief Master Sergeant (E-9)

Q: What tasks does Truffle perform for you?

A: Lap – she straddles my lap both by smelling my hormones and on command. Kisses – she kisses my face by smelling my hormones as well as on command. Hugs – she leans, pushes, wraps legs, etc. to establish physical contact on command. Legs – she stands facing rearward between legs allowing and providing pressure on complete control; wags tail when someone approaches from behind.

From the moment she saw me, her reaction was one of providing comfort and service. I think if she could talk, she'd have said "Let's do this!" As a PTSD patient, her energy, passion and zest for life are what I've needed to better participate in life around me. For a lab, she's relatively small, lending to service life. She's literally my partner. We comfort and care for each other in ways that remarkably grow stronger each day. We predict each other's behavior in ways no one could recognize or understand. If she could talk, we'd complete

each other's sentences. Expressions are often all we communicate with, but she's a great talking companion too. Truffle is a creature of habit, waking each day to breakfast, a walk, a tummy rub on the floor of the closet, waiting excitedly for the swimming pool jets to come on, playing on the patio, an afternoon nap and snack, a swim, dinner, another walk and bed. We hike, fish, camp, boat, kayak, swim, and travel. Truffle gives me confidence, companionship and comfort that encourage me to



Service dog Truffle and Andy Beebe, CMSGT USAF (Ret.)

leave home more and experience more outside my home. While she does offer the support I need to be among greater numbers of people, the attention she brings is often a challenge. She takes me to restaurants, movies, malls and shopping centers, and even jury duty.

Q: Describe a situation in which Truffle performs one of those skills and how you better cope with PTSD.

A: During training, I took Truffle to meet for one of our routine classes at the mall. As we walked through a shoe store, Truffle stood on her hind legs and began kissing my face. She'd never done this before, so my immediate reaction was to ask her if she needed to go outside. It instantly occurred to me that she had just relieved herself as is the standard before entering a public place with a service dog. I immediately realized that she had just, for the first time in public, responded to the hormonal release associated with my stress of being in a public place. I was overcome with emotion on realizing she was comforting me in a way someone has to experience to completely comprehend. I dropped to the floor and we hugged and kissed and I thanked her for being my partner. I promised her I would do the same for her. Forever.

Welcome Spirit and Bullet

By Meg Peterson

Two new puppies recently joined the DFL pack — meet Spirit and Bullet!

Spirit and Bullet hail from NEADS World Class Service Dogs in Princeton, MA. As a member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI)'s breeding cooperative, DFL is eligible to receive purpose-bred puppies from other members such as NEADS.

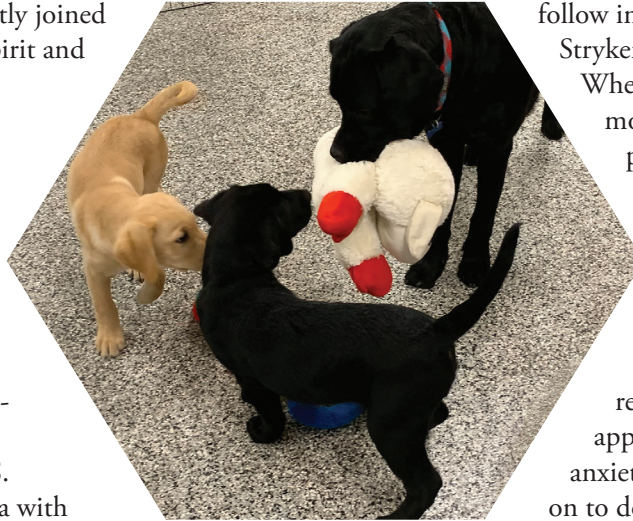
The pups flew to Florida with Puppies in Flight, ADI's partnership program with American Airlines.

American Airlines employee Beth May and her partner Ron Piracci volunteered to escort our pups on their flight from Boston to Miami.

Beth has been a Puppies in Flight volunteer since 2013. She has done over 50 transports, with Spirit and Bullet being #53 and #54! Beth reported that Spirit and Bullet were great travelers. "They were playful and rambunctious at the airport, but once on the plane they turned into calm, well-behaved little gentlemen. This is a true testament to the purposeful breeding and constant imprinting they receive from the moment they are born. This also makes them great ambassadors to the program as other passengers are always so impressed."

DFL volunteers Roxanna Hinzman and Cheryl Marshall met the flight in Miami and brought the pups to their new home in Vero Beach. DFL is immensely grateful for the efforts of Beth, Ron, Roxanna, and Cheryl in ensuring Spirit and Bullet's safe arrival.

Spirit and Bullet now live with foster families called "puppy raisers" who regularly bring them to DFL and participate in their training classes. It is the foster family's job to reinforce the pups' training and teach good behavior at home, all while providing lots of loving care. Spirit and Bullet will



Service dog Stryker plays with Spirit (left) and Bullet.

follow in the paw prints of pups like Stryker, Chip, Chance, and Rosie.

When they reach 10 to 18 months of age, DFL expects to partner them with clients.

Since 2002, DFL has been pairing clients with task-trained dogs that alert to the sound of a smoke alarm, summon emergency assistance, retrieve essential items, and apply deep pressure to calm anxiety. Spirit and Bullet will go on to do great things!

Would you enjoy caring for a service dog or puppy? Are you interested in becoming a dog trainer one day? If so, fostering a pup is the place to start!

If you are willing to provide a loving home and



Puppies in Flight volunteers Ron Piracci (with Spirit) and Beth May (with Bullet).

can devote the time to attend weekly classes and other events, please visit the "educational programs" tab on DFL's website to learn more about the Puppy Raising & Foster Dog Program.

DFL is always looking for more volunteer puppy raisers. Contact DFL to see if you are eligible. Spirit, Bullet, and the rest DFL's 4-legged team members would love to meet you!

Kathi G. Schumann's Birthday Bonanza for DFL

It was always a challenge to Mrs. Schumann's friends and relatives to find the perfect gift for her birthday. This year she made it easy for everyone and offered a "Two for One" Birthday Challenge where she would match a \$1 donation to Dogs For Life with a \$2 donation of her own. What a fabulous way for donors to triple the value of their contributions!

When asked how she was inspired to offer such a challenge, Mrs. Schumann mentioned she has been encouraging family and friends to donate in her honor to DFL since 2013. "DFL needs ongoing funds to operate. The dogs and puppies need to be cared for, the staff has to be paid and the property must be maintained. Giving to DFL is an investment in the future of our veterans and the service dogs who enhance their quality of life through task training – doing things you and I take for granted every day."

Mrs. Schumann has been a passionate supporter of DFL for many years. She has served as president of the DFL Board and is currently Treasurer, so she knows the operating costs involved with acquiring and training the dogs. "I had seen other organizations offer matching funds, so this 'Two for One' Birthday Challenge seemed a perfect way to help DFL financially with current and expanding programs."

And what a success it has been! 195 donations were made with total proceeds of over \$120,000. A big thanks to all who participated in this unique and unexpected way to celebrate a birthday.



Kathi G. Schumann and Prinz



A Birthday Tea Party was held for Kathi G. Schumann on August 4, 2022 at Sealantro British Cafe. Participants included (l to r standing) Eddie Boatwright, Linda Barberi, Shelly Ferger, Grace Rummell, Shanen Cox, Ann Nolan, Nancy Kicherer, DVM and Harry Taylor. Seated are Laurie Iodice, Michele Dale, Kathi G. Schumann, Toddy Offutt-McKeown, and Kathy Allston.

Schumann Birthday Donors

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Nina Baranchuk	Britta Gwinn	Paul and Karen Miret	Beth Stryker
Linda Barberi	Gael Habernickel	Carole Mize	Janet Sweeney & Craig W. Lindsey
Jo Anne Barnhart	Roger and Kendra Haines	Judith Moore	Ann Sweeney, III
Nancy Barnhouse	Carlos and Doris Halcomb	Diane Morgan and John Warner	Roger and Donna Sweetland
Katherine Bauman	Doris Hall	Bill and Sandra Moruzzi	Bob and Macy Swift
Nancy Benedict	Ann Hamner	Charles and Elizabeth Murphy	Chris and Sheri Taylor
Bessemer Trust - John and Mary Jane Hanley	Tony and Dale Hampton	Bert Nelson	Howard and Marlene Teich
Todd and Debbie Bevan	Judith Hansen and Pablo Gonzalez-Menocal	Father Dave Newhart	Phil and Kat Tettleton
Ann Beyerle	John Hartwig	Anna Nichols	The Elizabeth C. Lambertson Foundation - Pamela A. Admire
Susan Biggs	Elaine Heile	Ann Nolan	The Linda & Melvin Teetz Family Foundation
Harriett Biggs	Norman Hensick	Patrick and Lisa O'Brien	Earl and JoAnn Tindol
Mark Birtel	Highlands Animal Hospital - Dr. Eddie Mahoney, DVM	Betsy O'Hara-Brown	Doris Tropf
George Blythe	Grace Hinkley	Harry Offutt III	Janet Turban
Eddie and Gail Boatwright	Edna Hitzel	Toddy Offutt-McKeown	Turn 5, Inc. - Steve Voudouris
Charles and Kathleen Boehnker	Eleanor Holford	Joan Ohl	Maureen Turner
Bogosian & Power Chartered - Barbara Power	Mayme Hunt	Lee Orre	Janis Tweedy
Laura Bonney	Stephanie Hurtt	Page 2 Design - Page Franzel	Jan Tyrrell
Sally Bricker	James and Lisa Hyde	Next Generation Veterans IRC	Kathy Vergara
Cindy Brown	ImageNet Consulting of the Treasure Coast - Raymond Clark	Pam Pelliccia	Julie Vergara
Al and Nancy Cabral	Larry and Sherry Ingham	Rene Perez	Vero Beach Eagles Club - Judy Ley
Marilyn Cance	Laurie Iodice	Lauren and Kathy Phelps	Vero Beach Veterans, Inc. - Ken Dale, Commander
Lauren Carr	IR Region Antique Auto Club America - Phil LoGiudice	Gene Preston	Nancy Vickers
Tom and Kate Carroll	Jack's Tree Service - Brad Reschak	Robert and Toby Reisman	Vietnam Veterans of IRC - Tim Nightingale, Pres.
John and Linda Colontrelle	Kristen and Jack Jolly	Kimberly Reynolds	Ann Waggaman
Kathi Consi	Richie Keller	Kathy Rice	Ginny Walker
Chris Consi	Rebecca Kempton	Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation	David Walsh
Pat Coverdale	Nancy Kicherer, DVM	David Risinger	Shawn Ward
Michelle and Ken Dale	Don and Nancy Klein	Susan Rodgers	Sherry and Norm Warrell
Patsy Daniels-Lindley	Edward Kropp	Cheryl Roseland	Charlie Watson
Sherrie Davidson	Edward Kropp	Ruby T. Hicks Revocable Trust	Herbert Whittall
Steve Defren	Lynn Kudlack	Walter and Adele Rummel	David and Milly Wood
Marge Desmery	Michele Laibe	Grace Rummel	Michael and Lucy Wright
Darrin Dickerson	Timothy and Bonnie Large	Wayne Sandlin	Steve and Gwen Wurster
Sally Dunn	Sharon Letts	Wayne Sandlin	Barry and Vickie Wyatt
Shelly Ferger	Richard Lewis	Judy Schmidt	Tony and Sharon Young
Helen and Bob Ferguson	Jack and Susie Ley	Bob and Marta Schneider	Marty Zickert
Julie Fisher and Gerald Biala	Judith Little	John and Diane Schoenfelder	
Steven Fishman & Bonnie Josephson	Peter and Jill Lukesh	Polly Schoonover	
Daniel and Laurie Fourmont	Tammie Mandeville	Kim and John Schumann III	
Brenda Fuller	Rhonda Martin	Mark and Cheri Schumann	
		Kathi and John Schumann Jr.	
		Sandy Schumann & Milt Thomas	
		Gene and Martha Schumann	
		Teddi Seaman	

Fundraisers and Grants for DFL



The Florida Eagles DDC

Standing (l to r): Gloria Calhoun, Judy Langley, Jim and Sherry Moore. On floor: DFL Volunteer Puppy Raiser and Air Force Veteran Cheryl Marshall with Chance, DFL CEO Shelly Ferger with Stryker and DFL Volunteer and Army Veteran Sean Timberlake with Judy.



Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774

Donna Knerr, Board of Directors Chairman, Joseph Palowich, Exalted Ruler, DFL CEO Shelly Ferger and Flo Synenko, Grant Coordinator.

Anonymous Donor Helps DFL



A very generous Anonymous Donor has been helping Dogs For Life by sponsoring our organization at various functions around Indian River County. It is this donor's way of keeping DFL at the forefront of the minds of veterans and their families in the hopes that they may realize that a service dog could be in their best interest. The Anonymous Donor says they are happy to honor DFL by sponsoring a booth at any event that might draw veterans.

Two such events held lately included the Veterans Council of IRC Clay Shoot and the Veterans of IRC Golf

Tournament. DFL CEO Shelly Ferger commented, "Our volunteers, staff and teams in training are always happy to attend these sponsored events. It's their way of giving back to DFL, as well as showing off their well-trained service dogs. Many times, veterans attending these events will approach our dogs and ask the handler questions like, 'What are these dogs trained to do?' and 'How do I apply?' Of course, we always tell them the dogs are free to our heroes because of our donors."



Service dog Rosie expresses her thanks.

Marisel Febo and Honcho

By Katherine Bauman

Marisel Muñoz Febo is proud of her family's military history. It's been a driving force in her life and helped connect her with Dogs For Life in Vero Beach.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Marisel is a third-generation veteran, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, who served in World War II, and her father, who served in Vietnam. "I grew up listening to my grandfather tell stories of World War II," said Marisel.

Marisel spent close to 12 years in the Puerto Rico Air National Guard, 156th Airlift Wing, four of those in active duty by Presidential orders. She was deployed to Bogota, Colombia; Germany; and the United Arab Emirates. A Master Sergeant, she specialized in information management, protocol and many other duties for the Wing Commander. She was part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Horn of Africa and Operation Joint Forge.

Muñoz, now 52, enlisted at age 27 before finishing her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Puerto Rico. "I was the oldest in basic training in 1997," said Marisel, who started as a "weekend warrior" to supplement her income. She jumped at the chance to go full-time when offered a technician job while finishing her master's degree in English curriculum.

"If not for my time in the desert, I'd probably still be enlisted," said Marisel. "The Gulf War tour drained my energy and I got very sick." She was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress and in 2008 accepted a medical discharge.

Struggling with PTSD and other health issues, Marisel decided to move to the United States at age 40. It was then when she first considered getting a service dog and reached out to DFL's founder and CEO Shelly Ferger. "That was over five years ago, but Shelly said the veterans they assist had to live in Indian River County. I decided to move here in 2017."

Recovering from health issues, including back surgery, vertigo, nerve damage and neuropathy, Marisel decided she was ready for a service dog,



Marisel Febo today with her service dog Honcho

and her doctor concurred. After two months, Ferger decided Honcho, a yellow Labrador Retriever, was a good fit for Marisel. "He's my angel. He's saved my life, my guardian angel," she said. Honcho has been in her life since August 2021. Honcho helps Marisel with balance issues, picking up dropped items and providing deep pressure for calming. "When I'm anxious, I say 'lap' to Honcho and he comes and sits on my lap," she said. "It's like he's hugging me. He's so sweet."

"Shelly is the strongest woman I've ever met. I feel lucky to be involved with Dogs For Life. I hope to be a part of it for a very long time. This place is a healing place for me. It's such a positive environment, a great place. I tell everyone I know to go there. I know it works."

For information on the Service Dog training program, contact DFL at 772-567-8969, by email at office@dogsforlifevb.org or online at dogsforlifevb.org.



Marisel in Puerto Rico Air National Guard

Website Enhancements

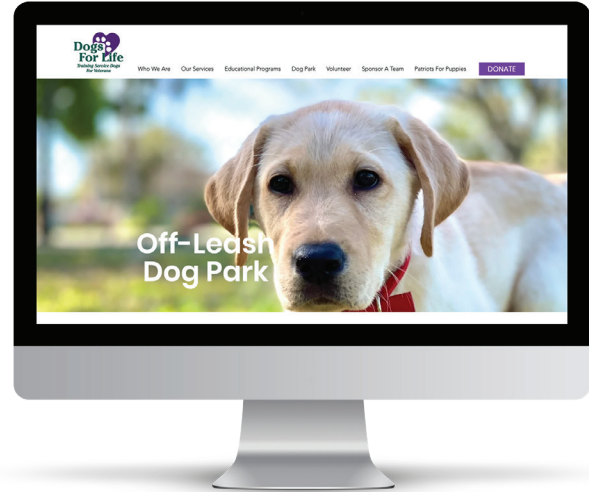
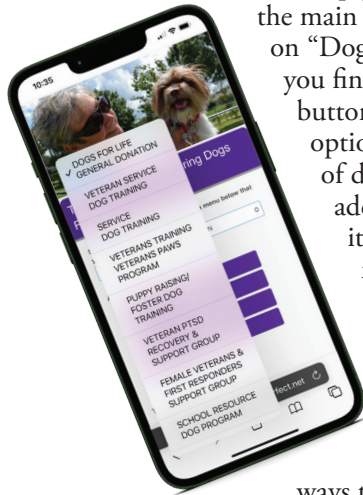
By Dustin Tackett

Dogs For Life is constantly working on ways to make things more convenient for its members, and we are happy to announce that you can now renew your Off-Leash Dog Park membership directly from the DFL website.

Simply make your way to the center of the main menu of the website, click on “Dog Park” and scroll down until you find the “Membership Renewal” button. It’s as simple as that! This option is just the latest in a number of digital capabilities DFL has been adding to its user experience, but it’s not the only change we’ve made.

Our donation portal has changed as well, now allowing donors to select specific DFL programs to which they’d like their donations to be allocated.

We know options like these are important and we’ll continue to work on ways to enhance the overall experience. Stay tuned for more to come.



Texas Service Dog Conference Benefits DFL Trainers

DFL trainers were able to attend the Texas Service Dog Conference this year, bringing back valuable information pertaining to service dogs, particularly in the veteran sector.

An interesting topic at the Texas conference was a John Hopkins Research study on veterans who received Post Traumatic Stress Disorder service dogs. The study concluded that receipt of a service dog was associated with PTSD symptom reduction, including lower depression and greater quality of life. The average age of participants was 44 years old; 74% were male, 25% were female, and 1% of participants identified as non-binary. The top breeds used for service dogs were Labradors (50%), Golden Retrievers (15%), and German Shepherds (9%).

The Assistance Dogs International Conference was received via videos due to the California time

difference. Topics included assessing a service dog’s welfare, puppy socialization and testing, managing volunteers, the unique process of matching handler and dog, fraudulent and poorly trained service dogs and their impact, and psychiatric dogs for military veterans with PTSD and their families. We look forward to incorporating all this educational information into our continuing education series.



DFL volunteers and trainers are in the process of a two-year study that will eventually qualify them as Certified Service Dog Trainers, all within the standards of Assistance Dogs International.

Julie Vergara and Stevie Ray

By Katherine Bauman

Julie Vergara's dog was 7 months old when she adopted him from a local Humane Society. Stevie Ray was very skittish, submissive, and shy around dogs and people, especially men. Vergara believes it was because of trauma he'd experienced early in his young life.

Thanks to a recommendation from a friend, she joined Dogs For Life's Off-Leash Dog Park when he was 10 months old. Stevie Ray learned basic obedience, how to socialize with other canines and people, and, by age 2, earned his Canine Good Citizen certification.

"Stevie has always been a very sensitive dog, but by coming here he knew he was in a safe place," said Vergara.

Vergara also completed the Dog Park Ambassador program, which trains volunteers to be Dog Park mentors. Ambassadors help members understand dog behavior and assist new members in finding a compatible group for their dogs.

"It's important to understand how dogs communicate," said Vergara. "Growling, for example, that's how they talk to each other. When you hear a growl, it doesn't necessarily mean there will be a fight. It's just a way of one dog telling another to back off or stop an unwanted behavior. They are a lot smarter at telling each other how they feel than most humans are!"

Stevie Ray will turn 13 in January and is still a member of the Off-Leash Dog Park.

"For me as his owner, I have tremendous peace of mind bringing him here," said Vergara. "Some of the major reasons why are the grounds being so well maintained, the park is fully fenced in along with all dogs being assessed before joining for their temperament and the requirement of always having

up-to-date vaccinations. This makes the nominal annual membership fee worth every penny and more."

Vergara also is a monthly donor to the non-profit organization founded by DFL CEO Shelly Ferger. Vergara supports DFL because she believes in its mission and how it's evolved over time.

"I've always admired the foresight DFL has had, especially in helping veterans retiring down in our area along with those coming back from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and seeing their need for service dogs," said Vergara.

DFL's Service Dogs for Veterans program "task trains" dogs to assist their veterans with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of post-traumatic stress. DFL also has hearing and service dog programs for non-veterans.

A program DFL offers that Vergara believes is invaluable is the testing of members' dogs' personalities and temperaments to make sure they're a good fit.

"They will do an evaluation on your dog to see if it can be trained as a service or hearing dog. I really admire that. It's a win, win, win," said Vergara. And if the owner's dog isn't the right personality, Ferger and DFL trainers will help the member find a suitable dog.

Vergara's monthly donation also is matched by her employer, making her contribution even more valuable to DFL. She's fortunate to work for a company that offers such a benevolent program.

She does it all for her "pride and joy," who is named after the famed musician Stevie Ray Vaughan.

When crate training Stevie, it was Vaughn's "Life Without You" song that would calm him down and help her mix-breed Husky fall asleep, said Vergara.

For more information on the monthly donor program, go to the DFL website at www.dogsforlifevb.org.



Julie Vergara and Stevie Ray

Canine Good Citizen Test

As Dogs For Life prepares its class for the annual graduation ceremony, all in training must pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. After achieving this milestone, the specialized task work begins. Teams also start taking their dogs into public places accompanied by a trainer, learning proper public etiquette as well as preparing for the Assistance Dogs International Public Access Certification.



Seated (l to r): Steve Defren, DFL Puppy Raiser and Trainer, with Chance, Sarah Lang with Bradley, Howard Teich with Tucker, Meg Peterson, DFL Puppy Raiser and Trainer, with Rosie, Cheryl Marshall, DFL Puppy Raiser and Trainer, with Swift. Standing: Marcia Adache, DFL Trainer, Harry Taylor, DFL Trainer with Stryker, Jim Hyde with Otis, IRC Sheriff's Deputy Mark Birtel with Chip, Gabriele Harrison, DFL Trainer, and IRC Sheriff's Deputy Ron Garrison with Ellie Mae.

Learning Pet CPR and First Aid

On October 23, Jessica Davis, BS, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA Canine Behaviorist and Treat Lady of Affordable Dog Training, led a PetTech certified "PetSaver Program," teaching pet CPR, first aid & care for DFL staff, volunteers and clients. Chip was happy to lend a paw and even gave the instructor a kiss.



Jessica with Chip

TSA Training at VB Airport



Dogs For Life Teams need a variety of experiences while training for public access. We are fortunate to have the Vero Beach Regional Airport TSA right here for these experiences.

From left: Ganella Flood, Lead Transportation Security Office, Marisel Febo with Honcho, Edward Lloyd, Supervisory Transportation Security Office, Gary Lockyer Security Training Instructor, Earl Tindol with Arrow, and Wanda Haaland with Lola.

Cub Scout Pack 589 Visits DFL



Sebastian Cub Scout Pack 589 members pose with Dogs For Life volunteers during their visit to the training center.

Dogs for Life was pleased to host scouts and their parents from Sebastian Cub Scout Pack 589 on October 13, 2022 for an educational presentation about DFL's mission and a tour of the facility. The presentation and tour were facilitated by Shelly Ferger, and the scouts met a panel of two- and four-legged DFL representatives. Shown seated above are (l to r) IRC Deputy Sheriff Sergeant Ron Garrison and Ellie Mae, his school resource dog; IRC Deputy Sheriff Mark Birtel and Chip, his school resource dog; "puppy raiser" Steve Defren and Chance, a DFL puppy in-training; Phil Tettleton and Sully, his service dog; Sean Timberlake and Judy, his service dog; and "puppy raisers" Meg and Don Peterson with Stryker and Rosie, DFL puppies in-training. The scouts were very enthusiastic and quick to learn all about DFL. They asked many great questions, a few of which even stumped the panel! The evening concluded with a "meet and greet" in the dog park, where the scouts were able to interact with the dogs. There was a lot of smiling and tail-wagging, and a fun time was had by all!

Pet Therapy for VBPD



Pictured (l to r), Lt. Phil Huddy, Shelly Ferger, Kathi G. Schumann, Phil Tettleton and Sully, Maureen Turner and Angus, Sean Timberlake and Judy, Meg Peterson and Rosie, Marsiel Febo and Honcho, Kimberley Mann-Day and Elvis, and Dani Ley and Ollie pose with Chief David Currey and other members of the Vero Beach Police Department.

The Vero Beach Police Department recently collaborated with Dogs For Life to provide therapy dogs to its officers, communications personnel, and staff. DFL volunteers have graciously provided their time and service canines to visit the department on a regular basis starting in November. This collaboration has been in development for several months and has been created to support the department's overall vision of a larger wellness plan for its personnel.

Research has shown that the use of therapy dogs promotes the release of serotonin, dopamine, and oxytocin in the brain. These chemicals give us senses of pride, joy, happiness, and love. Dogs for therapeutic purposes can lower an individual's blood pressure and anxiety, along with improving mood. Therapy dogs can increase feelings of support.

The VB Police Department hopes using of DFL therapy dogs will assist them in the development of their future agency peer support program. Therapy dogs can reduce the stigma associated with individuals seeking emotional and mental health support. They can also be a great benefit when conducting a debriefing and defusing after a

critical incident involving agency personnel. The use of therapy dogs aids in officer retention and recruitment as well. The department may be seen as more appealing than other agencies that do not have a therapy dog or wellness program. The potential applicant has the belief that the VB Police Department values the overall health and well-being of their employees. It can also extend the careers of existing department personnel by alleviating the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and managing their emotions.

This partnership between the VB Police Department and DFL can become a resource for other public safety agencies without such a program. It has the ability to build trust and engagement between the public and law enforcement. The therapy dog program could assist families of deceased and injured officers as well. Lastly, the program may have the ability to serve as outreach at future department events and aid in recruitment events.

The VB Police Department hopes for a long and lasting relationship with DFL. We feel our efforts will encourage other public service agencies to consider a therapy dog program of their own.

"We are excited to partner with DFL and their therapy dog program," said Chief David Currey. "Taking some time out of our work day to relax and interact with a therapy dog will add to our employees' better well-being."



"Sip and Shop" Fundraiser



Dogs For Life Service Dog Teams attend a DFL fundraising benefit "Sip and Shop" hosted by J.McLaughlin, located at Vero Beach Village Shops on October 21, 2022. Pictured (l to r) are Phil Tettleton and Sully, Maureen Turner and Angus, Dennis Och and Zoe, Wanda Welch, Assistant Store Manager, Barbara Gormas and Lola, Sean Timberlake and Judy, Cheryl Marshall and Stryker, and Harry Taylor and Chip.



In Memory of Chere McCoy

Dogs For Life, Inc. is saddened to have lost a true patriot and friend in Air Force Veteran Chere McCoy.

Chere and Shelly worked together many years ago offering dog first aid classes at Shelly's Canine Community Center in Vero Beach. Chere was very involved in pet disaster rescue, especially the rescue of ferrets. She had a big heart and was willing to help any animal in need.

When she decided to train a service dog for herself she naturally rescued a dog, a Chihuahua mix she named Stella. The little dog was challenging to train, to say the least. Chere was dedicated and brought the dog to full certification. She was particularly proud of this little dog as was DFL.

Eventually Chere and Stella retired to North Carolina where she was able to live her dream of rescuing many farm animals, updating us regularly via entertaining videos. Stella did her life saving job notifying neighbors when Chere fell into a creek and broke her neck. Unfortunately, Chere passed after a brief illness, leaving her animals in good hands with a trusted and loyal friend.

Eleanor Bengyak (1937–2022)

By Katherine Bauman

Eleanor Bengyak's family is reeling from the sudden death of their matriarch, and Dogs For Life lost a decades-long advocate when she died unexpectedly on Oct. 11, 2022.

"Family meant everything to her," said Sharon Caudill, one of two surviving grandchildren. "She was the glue who held us together."

Mrs. Bengyak, who would have been 85 on Oct. 29, was fully independent until two weeks before her death, Sharon said. She lived with her service dog, Rufus, a 6-year-old golden retriever who has now been retired. She lived across the street from DFL for 58 years and had a front-row seat when the former horse pasture was turned into a dog park. She watched as concrete blocks came together to form DFL's offices and training center. She witnessed the once dog obedience classes transform into training programs for hearing and service dogs for veterans and individuals with disabilities.

"When we first learned they wanted to put a dog park there and Indian River County wanted them to put a concrete wall along the east side of it, I took a petition up and down the street against it. We didn't want the concrete wall," said Eleanor during a 2021 interview for DFL's newsletter, NewsPrints.

So, instead of a wall, a fence was erected and there's now a gate in the fence right across the street from Mrs. Bengyak's house and concrete pavers leading the way to DFL CEO and founder Shelly Ferger's office. "We became involved with Dogs For Life the minute they leased the property," Eleanor said.

Mrs. Bengyak, a career banker, was an original member of the Dog Park, member and past president of the Board of Directors, and founder of the fundraising Bridge Tournament and Bengyak Legacy Society.

Mrs. Bengyak moved to Vero Beach in 1962

with her parents and 5-year-old son, Patrick. She bought her house on 15th Avenue in 1964, raising her son there and eventually sharing it with her second husband, Victor, for 37 years. Victor, a retired New York City firefighter, died in 2014. She lost her son Patrick McCalister in January 2020.

Both men shared Eleanor's passion for DFL.

Victor's obituary listed his "beloved service dog, Mitzi" as a survivor. The Bengyak Legacy Society was created at that time, with donations going to support DFL. Patrick's obituary also listed DFL for memorial donations, as did Mrs. Bengyak's.

An avid bridge player and teacher of the game, Mrs. Bengyak started a Bridge Tournament to raise money for DFL's programs. The tournament started

10 years ago at the River House with six tables and 24 players, and before the pandemic had grown to over 25 tables and 100 players, hosted over the years at Bent Pine or Vero Beach Country Club.

"She had me working with her (on the bridge tournament) when I was a little girl, 13 or 14 years old," said Sharon. "I put in all the scores for her manually. That was our together time."

Mrs. Bengyak's funeral was on Oct. 16. Rufus' service vest was buried with her, Sharon said.

Also surviving are grandson, Patrick Jr.; four great-grandchildren, Cheyanne, Neil Jr., Alayna and Ava; and four great-great-grandchildren, Jaxan, Alexander, Zachariah and Adilyn. She also leaves behind three nieces and other extended family and friends.

Rufus is making his new home with Cheyanne and 5-year-old Jaxan. "Jaxan and Rufus are best buddies," said Sharon. "They've been friends since Jaxan was a baby."

Though retired as a service dog, Rufus continues providing the family with much needed comfort as they recover from this unexpected loss.



Tributes and Memorial Gifts

In Memory
of
Robert G. Bowman
And Robbie

Our Dogs Leave
Paw Print Memories
In Our
Hearts Forever

In Honor Of

Marcia Adache's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Steve Defren
Shelly Ferger

Kathy Allston's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Steve Defren
Shelly Ferger

Laura Bonney's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Steve Defren
Shelly Ferger

Sally Bricker's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Steve Defren
Shelly Ferger

George P. Burdell

Judith Hansen and Pablo
Gonzalez-Menocal

Chris Consi's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Steve Defren
Shelly Ferger

Shanen Cox's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Steve Defren

Steve Defren's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Shelly Ferger

Shelly Ferger's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Brenda and Darryl Daniels
Steve Defren

Roxanna Hinzman

Terri Calleson
Annie Dziergowski
Shelly Ferger
Christina Lewis

Cheryl Marshall's Birthday

Linda Barberi
Steve Defren
Shelly Ferger

Marcia Michael's Birthday

Shelly Ferger
Virginia McKeown

Kathi G. Schumann - Mother's Day

Donovan Schumann
Gene and Martha Schumann
John Schumann Jr.
Kim and John Schumann III
B.A. Waggaman

Harry Taylor's Graduation

Patti Schell

Kathy and Julie Vergara

Patti Schell

In Memory Of

"Sadie" Allston

Hap and Kathy Allston
Shelly Ferger

Frank Casiglia

Christine Fiore-Velez
Judy Greene
Jonathan Singer

Lynn Cheshire

Laura Bonney
Shelly Ferger
Don and Meg Peterson

"Mitzi" Clinton

Shelly Ferger

"Kodi" Keelan

Linda Barberi

Edward F. Ruf

Linda Barberi
Laura Bonney
Chris Consi
Carmen Cunningham
Shelly Ferger
Kelly Hayhurst
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SAVE THE DATE

Military Themed Golden Oldies Dance & Show

2nd Annual Patriots For Puppies



Saturday, February 4, 2023 ★ 5:30 - 9 PM

Pointe West Country Club ★ 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach

Dancing ★ Live Music ★ Food ★ 50/50 Raffle

A Fundraiser To Benefit Dogs For Life Programs

- ★ Service Dog Training
- ★ Veterans Training Veterans PAWS Program
- ★ Veteran Service Dog Training
- ★ Veteran PTSD Recovery & Support Group
- ★ Female Veterans & First Responders Support Group
- ★ Pet Assisted Therapy Program - VBPD
- ★ School Resource Dog Program - IRCSSO
- ★ Puppy Raising - Foster Dog Training
- ★ Off-Leash Dog Park

**For additional information to sponsor this event contact Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO
office@dogsforlifevb.org • 772-567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org**