



VETERAN'S PUPPY FOR LIFE ORGANIZATION

"Helping to Heal Wounded Souls... One Puppy at a Time!"

VPFL Monthly Newsletter ~ October 2017

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What the Heck is PTSD?

We veterans and even we here at Veteran's Puppy for Life Organization sometimes assume everybody knows or understands what is PTSD. CEO and Marine Veteran Frank Griggs has created a series of short videos explaining PTSD and how Veteran's Puppy for Life's program works to help PTSD veterans have a better life. [Click here to view the first video.](https://youtu.be/6ypZiswVFno) (https://youtu.be/6ypZiswVFno)

Meet Darling Deja!

Deja is our newest puppy. She is also going to be the

current face for VPFL. In her first month of being with us she has attended several fundraisers and brought joy to many. Everybody loves this little girl!



Meet Our Veterans & Puppies

Craig & Sam

Craig and Sam were placed together when Sam was eight weeks old. Sam, an English Golden



Retriever is now eight months old. Craig says that before Sam came home to him "Life was pretty bad. I've dealt with night terrors, isolation, and other PTSD issues. Sam has increased my quality of sleep. He reacts to my night terrors and stays close to me." In the near future as part of

his PTSD training Sam will be taught how to provide deep pressure therapy when these episodes occur.

Because our program requires socialization of the puppy, Craig has started interacting with people once again. *Even though*, the PTSD will never go away, Craig's life is more manageable with Sam "covering his six" (watching his back). The unconditional love and devotion of dogs allow many veterans like Craig to live a much better life.

It's In The Nose!

Did you know that a dog's sense of smell is 100,000 times better than a human. This is what makes them so important as service animals. When there is the slightest biological chemical change (signaling an increase in anxiety and/or stress) for the veteran, their puppy will sense it, many times well before the veteran realizes something is happening. We train our puppies to react by alerting the veteran when this happens, allowing the veteran take precautionary steps to avoid a PTSD episode.



**Giving Tuesday
December 5th**
We Need Your Help!
**We need volunteer
fundraisers to help us
meet our goal of
\$50,000**
**We need a training facility and
be able to expand our outreach
across Colorado!**
Call Frank @ 303-946-3321

Our Goals for 2018?

"Fleets cannot operate without bases." ~ MajGen John A. Lejuene, USMC Commandant 1920

We're growing! Our goals for 2018 are BIG and BOLD. Here are the challenges:

First, at this time we must rely on donated and rental spaces for Service Dog training classes. As much as we appreciate both, this puts VPFL at the mercy of the space's availability and location, and often the spaces are not conducive to canine training.

Secondly, on a daily basis we receive calls from veterans wanting us to work with them because they can't find help to train their dog. In some cases these veterans do not meet the requirements of our particular program, and we must turn them down, but we would like to offer them some type of training.

Third, we get calls from veterans wanting help in outlying areas of Colorado. To become part of our program, the veteran would have to travel long distances to come to a weekly training class in Denver, which could place them in financial hardship plus add the risk of driving a long distance weekly through inclement weather. Also, finding a training space and an instructor in these areas who would follow our training regimen would require more funding than we have available.

To better serve U.S. Armed Forces Veterans, we have created these goals (Continued on the back)

Our Goals for 2018 Continued

#1— To obtain our OWN SPACE so we can offer training classes in a space appropriate for Service Dog training on a regular and consistent basis.

THE SOLUTION: We are searching for space that would provide at least 1,500 square feet and in a safe area.

#2— To EXPAND training availability to outlying areas. As our program continues to draw the attention of more and more veterans across Colorado, we desperately want to give them the same opportunities as those living in the Metro area.

THE SOLUTION: Create a Virtual (online) Service Dog Training Program. We are already in the process of creating this! The Individual Training Concept Modules include a video teaching each concept the veteran/puppy team needs to learn, online reading reinforcement, testing of concept understanding, and a one-on-one virtual meeting with the trainer each week, which allows the trainer to help the veteran attain full accomplishment of each concept. This creates consistency in our training regimen regardless of where the veteran lives.

Both of these goals are **dependent on having a space of our own** to meet the demand of helping veterans, and allow us to reach out to those who are asking for help, including those we can't help at this time. Our greatest wish is to start moving toward financial self-sufficiency. With a home of our own, we would be able to offer training for Emotional Support Dogs, plus create self-sufficiency funding by offering basic canine training courses for both veterans and non-veterans.

We can't reach these goals without your support. Without your support we couldn't do anything to help our veterans. Without your support, lives wouldn't be changed in a positive way. **How can you help?** If you can donate, please do. All donations are tax-deductible. We are appreciative of every dollar given to us and strive to be the best stewards possible of your donations and trust. If you can't, maybe you know someone who could. Any and all referrals are just as valuable to us in reaching our goals.

Help us make 2018 the year where Veteran's Puppy for Life Organization becomes a leader in
"Helping to Heal Wounded Souls...One Puppy at a Time!"



Veteran's Puppy for Life Organization

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We are a registered Colorado Charity and
IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Veteran's Puppy for Life ~ Service Dog Graduation

Date and Time: **October 15th, 3:00p.m.**

Place: **Casa Bonita, Theater Room**

Address: **6715 West Colfax Ave. Lakewood, CO**

Come and watch our Service Dog Graduation. These veterans and their puppies have worked hard for this day. Come meet the graduates. Learn about our program and the significance of our "Challenge Coin" presentation to the veteran upon graduating.



Casa Bonita Benefit for Veteran's Puppy for Life Organization

Date and Time: **October 15th, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Place: **Casa Bonita "Celebrating 40 Years of Family Fun!"**

Address: **6715 West Colfax Ave. Lakewood, CO**

Casa Bonita is holding a benefit for Veteran's Puppy for Life Organization. Mention our program at the cashier and a portion of your food purchase will be donated to VPFL. Come and enjoy! Meet some of our veterans and their puppies! *Surprise give away drawing at our booth outside Casa Bonita!!*



Platte River Bar & Grill - Texas Hold'em Tournament

Date and Time: **November 9th, Registration 6:00 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m., Game 7:00 p.m.**

Place: **Platte River Bar & Grill**

Address: **5995 S. Santa Fe, Littleton, CO**

Are you an extraordinary Texas Hold'em player? We have 44 open player reservations. The \$50.00 Dollar buy-in includes Mexican Buffet Food Line, 10,000 chips, and a chance to win the \$1,500 Grand Prize! Fantastic prizes awarded top eight players!

Sports Memorabilia Silent Auction!

Email reservation requests to custsvc@vetpuppyforlife.org. Only 44 spaces available for this Tournament!

