



2014
paws4vets
 Combined Federal Campaign



Walter Parker, 68, (Private, U.S. Army, 1968-1972, Vietnam Veteran) using his Psychiatric Service Dog, JACKSON, to control and mitigate his PTS symptoms. After 42 years of battling PTS, Walter is reintegrating into society, reestablishing family relationships and gaining confidence that he may have finally found a way to control his PTS, all thanks to the two-year old Golden Retriever.

Says Walter, “Four months ago when a began training, I hoped JACKSON would help, now there is no doubt, he is my future.”

paws4vets.org/CFC

“Veterans have had our backs for so long and now it’s time that we had theirs.”

paws4vets CFC Program Director, Miami Phillips

paws4vets has been providing some of the world’s most highly trained Service Dogs to our Wounded Warriors since 2008. Along with their Service Dog, they also receive cutting-edge Intervention Transfer Training, Peer-to-Peer support and the backing of the entire paws4vets organization for life. paws4vets accomplishes this with hundreds of volunteers, specially trained inmates in West Virginia Correctional Centers, and over 200 trained, certified and insured Assistance Dogs.

We cannot keep up with the demand, accepting 1 out of every 75 applications.

Most of our clients have Post Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, Physical or Neurological Injuries, Dissociative Amnesia, or other psychological diagnoses. Most of our clients have had suicidal ideations and/or attempts.

The dogs have their backs.
 How about you?



Veterans (L:R) SCPO John Flanagan, USN (ret.); SGT Jason Gregory, USA (ret.); and Sgt Clay Fambro, USMC (ret.) Dogs (L:R) Psychiatric Service Dogs (In-Training): MAGNOLIA, FLEET and MYER.

“According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Veterans account for approximately 20% of the deaths from suicide in the United States. CDC estimates that between **18-22 Veterans die from suicide each day.** “

What can our dogs do for a Veteran?

- Alert to onset of Stress/Panic/Anxiety Symptoms
- Control, regulate & mitigate Stress/Panic/Anxiety Attacks
- Decrease Hyper-vigilance & Aid with Sleep
- Alert to Startle-Reflex Triggers
- Perform Behavior Interruption for Flashbacks, Nightmares & Night Terrors
- Find / Retrieve Misplaced or Specific Items
- Open/Close or Turn on/off Different Items
- Perform tasks for schedule regulation
- Call 911 & Open Doors for Emergency Personnel
- Provide Balance & Mobility Assistance
- Perform Hearing Alerts



1stLt Will Reiser, USMC (ret.) & MORGAN

paws4vets.org/CFC



April & CLAIRE's Story

April is a U.S.Navy Veteran who completed four combat tours in Iraq (2006 - 2008). April was

assigned to a forward field hospital in Northern Iraq. There she flew Medevac Missions and performed Triage duties. She witnessed hundreds of Soldiers, Marines and Iraqi children "die." Due to her seminary training, she was assigned the job of attending to the "unsavable," aiding and comforting them until they died. Says April, "I used to remember some of their names, now it's just a terrible blur."

During her second tour, April's Medevac crew were ambushed by insurgents after they landed to pickup wounded Marines. Her Crew Chief pushed her to the ground just as he was struck by several bullets. Her Crew Chief died as he fell over her. Later during this tour, April was injured and while heavily medicated in the field hospital she was raped. April reported the incident and received NO support from her senior enlisted command. April then completed two more rotations and deployments.

In late 2008, April separated from the Navy and was TOTALLY BROKEN. Over the next two year she tried everything— individual therapy, group therapy, Medication, countless medications, dosages and combinations—NOTHING WORKED. She became desperately depressed and suicidal. As April says, "I was at the end of my road - there was just no hope left."

April became a paws4vets client in Late 2010. She began working with a Psychiatric Service Dog named BOURKE. She and BOURKE worked for nearly a year allowing April to learn how to control, reduce and mitigate her stress and panic attacks, reduce her need for medication, and return slowly to society.

In November 2011, April was assigned to her permanent Psychiatric Service Dog named CLAIRE. April and CLAIRE have become inseparable.

In January 2012, April accomplished a long-standing personal goal and went to Arlington National Cemetery to pay her respects to her Crew Chief, with the strength provided by CLAIRE at her side..



Photograph by Peter Lang

Jeff & TAZIE's Story

SGT Jeff Mitchell, USA (ret.) and his Psychiatric Service Dog, TAZIE. Jeff completed two combat tours in Iraq. After his discharge Jeff spend three year as a "cave-dweller" in his parent's basement.

After taking a "couple of bottles" of his prescription medicines, Jeff woke up in the Psychiatric Ward of the Atlanta VA Medical Center in December 2009.

Jeff and his family were desperate to try anything that might provide Jeff with relief from his PTSD.

He contacted paws4vets, and began the process of getting a Service Dog in February 2010.

Jeff spent ten months trying to learn how to handle a dog and receive the benefits the dog could provide. Jeff was unable to open up enough to have the type of bond that is required between a handler and their Psychiatric Service Dog. His training was suspended and the Service Dog he had been working with was returned to a rehabilitative training venue.

Then in February 2011, he was contacted and asked if he would be interested in fostering an Assistance Dog In-Training named: TAZIE.

TAZIE is a feral rescue from Afghanistan, who had been brought to the US in 2009, and placed into the paws4prisons Assistance Dog Training Program. TAZIE—who suffered from the doggie form of PTS—had been to several training locations and had met with one training setback after another.

Jeff recalled his first meeting with TAZIE, "She was brought into the room with her tail between her legs, not looking at anyone, and only trying to get as far back in a corner as she could. That was me. She wanted to be invisible and so did I."

Jeff and TAZIE formed an almost immediate "bond," a bond he had not been able to form with anyone or anything since his returned from Iraq.

Jeff and TAZIE went through almost a year's worth of additional training and finally in March of 2012, Jeff and TAZIE became a certified Service Dog Working Team.

Client Testimonials

"This program has quite literally saved my son's life. What else do I need to say about the program? It's a miracle."

Mrs. Marion Lattimore, mother of paws4vets client Sgt Paul Martin, USMC (ret.)

"CLAIRE – she is my rock. She has given me back a part of my life and I have no doubt that with her help I will get back the rest of it in time. I would like to thank the people and the dogs of paws4vets, they have changed my life, saving it for the second time."

paws4vets client April Cook, U.S. Navy Veteran, 4-combat tours, Iraq

"I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the paws4vets program and TAZIE [his Psychiatric Service Dog]."

paws4vets client SGT Jeff Mitchell, USA (ret.).

"For the longest time I just didn't want to be here. Now I have hope for a better future thanks to ASHE [his Psychiatric Service Dog]."

paws4vets client MSgt Roger Dudley, USMC (ret.)



HM2 Buf Kloppenborg, USN (ret.) & SALLY [SD-PSY]



GySgt Chadd Jackson, USMC (ret.) & BAILEY [SD-PSY]



Sgt Paul Martin, USMC (ret.)



COL Sonny Morrow, USA (ret.) & JAKE [SD-PND]



MAJ Mike Branck, USAF (ret.) & FALLON [SD-PSY]