



Introducing the Rachael Ray Canine Rescue Recruitment Program at Freedom Service Dogs

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF SHELTER DOGS

We are excited to collaborate with The Rachael Ray Foundation who is funding the The Rachael Ray Canine Rescue Recruitment Program at FSD. In 2018, our goal is to recruit 175 dogs from shelter and rescue groups in Colorado and surrounding states, allowing us to grow our service dog training program and meet the increasing needs of clients on our waitlist.

The Rachael Ray Canine Rescue Recruitment Program at FSD locates and evaluates shelter dogs to find appropriate service dog candidates to assist veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, children on the autism spectrum, and teens and adults with mobility challenges. As a leader in the service dog industry, FSD is one of only a few organizations that train shelter dogs to become assistance dogs. FSD does not use a breeding program because of our commitment to giving shelter and rescue dogs a new leash on life. The service dogs we train can assist with tasks including waking a veteran from a nightmare; interrupting stimming behaviors for a child with autism; picking up dropped items, opening doors, and finding help for individuals with mobility challenges.

The ideal service dog candidate is between one and two years of age, weighing 40 to 100 pounds with a calm temperament and willingness to work. FSD uses positive reinforcement, clicker training, and treat training, so candidates must be food-motivated. We want our service dogs to wag when they work and enjoy their jobs. The Rachael Ray Canine Rescue Recruitment Program at FSD currently works with shelters and rescue groups in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.

 For more information about The Rachael Ray Canine Rescue Recruitment Program at FSD, please contact Fran Menley, Dog Intake Manager, at FMENLEY@FREEDOMSERVICEDOGS.ORG or 303-922-6231 X210.



Pemmy came to FSD from Midland Humane Coalition in Midland, Texas and is currently on the path to become a service dog.



Cipher came to FSD from Foothills Animal Shelter and graduated as a service dog for a veteran in 2017.

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GREAT GIFTS



Rachael Ray and her dog Isaboo



Tom Scanlan with his Australian Shepherd, Kodi

View From the Tall End of the Leash

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR: TOM SCANLAN, RETIRED, BRIGADIER GENERAL U.S. AIR FORCE

Welcome to 2018! For the last 30 years, Freedom Service Dogs of America (FSD) has been providing life-changing assistance dogs to people in need. Over the years, we have grown from primarily serving individuals facing mobility challenges to serving veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and helping young children on the autism spectrum. We understand the impact service dogs can have on individuals and their families. Our FSD service dogs are truly life-changing.

What hasn't changed is our dedication to serving clients, our love for the shelter dogs that enter our doors, and our appreciation for the supporters and volunteers who give so much to make FSD an amazing organization. We successfully graduated 29 client/dog teams in 2017, including 12 veterans and five families who participated in our new Disco's Dogs program. We also settled into our wonderful new facility.

It truly takes a village to train our dogs, match them with deserving clients and provide life-time support to our teams—all free of charge. We are grateful to our generous donors and sponsors who so willingly underwrite these efforts.

Last year, volunteers donated more than 11,000 hours of service to FSD—the equivalent of five staff members! Our foster families provided 4,100 nights to our dogs-in-training compared to 2,800 nights the prior year. We could not do this work without our dedicated, caring volunteers. Thank you for your help in changing the lives of the dogs we train and the clients we serve.

This past year, our Faces of Freedom Sporting Clay Tournament events surpassed the million-dollar mark, raising much-needed funds to support our veterans! Please join us in Denver on June 29 or in Midland, Texas on September 21 for the 2018 Faces of Freedom Tournaments. If diamonds are more to your liking, save October 20th for Diamonds in the Ruff, which will be held at the brand new Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight Museum at the Centennial Airport.

Thank you again for your continued support and belief in the mission of FSD. We look forward to all that 2018 will bring, in this Chinese Zodiac Year of the Dog! 🐕



ABOUT

FREEDOM SERVICE DOGS
OF AMERICA

Freedom Service Dogs of America is a Denver-based nonprofit organization that unleashes the potential of shelter dogs by transforming them into custom-trained, life-changing assistance dogs for people in need. Clients include children, veterans and active duty military, and other adults. Their disabilities include autism, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Since being founded in 1987, Freedom Service Dogs has paired hundreds of client-dog teams at no cost to the client. For more information, visit freedom servicedogs.org.

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SPECIAL THANKS: pattyspetphotography.com and momentsinfocusphotography.com.

Service Dog Retirement and New Beginnings

VETERAN RETIRES HIS FAITHFUL SERVICE DOG AND GRADUATES WITH A NEW PARTNER

Have you ever wondered what happens when the time comes for a service dog to retire? Freedom Service Dogs is committed to providing a lifetime of support to our clients, doing our best to ensure they don't go a single day without a service dog by their side. As service dogs approach their golden years, FSD works with clients to begin training a successor dog. While a successor service dog can never replace the special bond our clients develop with their dogs, they step in to fill the need left by their predecessor, and pave the way for a new bond to blossom.

One of our longtime clients, David, a U.S. Air Force veteran, adored his service dog, Summer, a beautiful yellow Labrador. She was his constant helper, assisting him with walking, brace and balance, picking up dropped items, and opening doors; and she was his best friend. David knew Summer was starting to slow down, and wanted to make sure she had the retirement she deserved. While FSD started to train David's successor dog, Otter, a goofy black Labrador, we also began looking for a new home for Summer. We were thrilled to find her the perfect place to enjoy her retirement: a family with two young children, who Summer loves. In October of 2017, FSD hosted a retirement party for Summer; David was able to meet her new family and know she was going to be in good hands. David and his new service dog, Otter, celebrated their new partnership at FSD's graduation on December 14. We are proud of David's hard work and patience with Otter, showing him the ropes like a seasoned service dog handler!



David with Summer at her retirement party



Summer loving retirement



David with his new service dog Otter

2017 GRADUATES

MEET THE 2017 GRADUATING TEAMS

In 2017, 29 client-dog teams graduated from Freedom Service Dogs. Here are a few photos of our amazing teams.

To view the entire gallery, visit FREEDOMSERCEDOGS.ORG/GRADUATION.

Save the date for our next graduation!

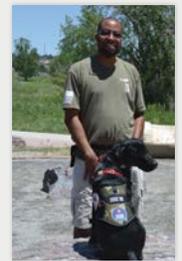
June 23, 1-3p.m.



Nate & Loggins



Casey & Jada



Charles & Rubix



Mekai & Tickle



Tessa & Dumplin'

2017 Events

Faces of Freedom: Midland PRESENTED BY CORE LAB

MORE THAN \$330,000 RAISED FOR FSD

On September 22, 2017, nearly 250 supporters participated in our Faces of Freedom Sporting Clay Tournament in Midland, Texas at Windwalker Farms Sporting Clays. John, a veteran who graduated from FSD with his service dog, Agave, in 2013, shared his story about how his life has changed because of his partnership with Agave. More than \$330,000 (net) was raised at the tournament, making it our most successful Faces of Freedom event ever!

The Faces of Freedom Sporting Clay Tournament was founded in 2013 by Core Laboratories in Denver. In 2016, the tournament expanded to Midland, Texas. Proceeds from Faces of Freedom benefit Operation Freedom, a Freedom Service Dogs program that helps veterans and military personnel with disabilities regain their independence and return to their communities. Team Gresham, led by Senior VP of Core Lab Jim Gresham, raised more than \$160,000!

Since 2013, Faces of Freedom Sporting Clay Tournament has grossed more than \$1,000,000 to help veterans like John receive the life-changing gift that only a service dog can provide. Many thanks to our generous sponsors for their continued support.



presented by



The 10th Annual Doggie Plunge PRESENTED BY BAIRD

DOGS SWIM AND SPLASH FOR A GOOD CAUSE

On September 9, 2017, more than 600 dogs (and their humans!) had a wagging-good time at the Doggie Plunge, presented by Baird. For the 10th year in a row, Pirates Cove Family Aquatic Center, in Englewood, Colorado, opened their facility for this day of fun before closing for the season so the canine attendees could swim, splash, and play the day away! This day is all about letting dogs take their leashes off and just be dogs, but it is also a way to fuel the mission of FSD. More than \$23,000 was raised, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and attendees. Is your dog already thinking about the next Doggie Plunge?



Save the Date **FOR THE 11TH ANNUAL DOGGIE PLUNGE**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

Stay tuned to
FREEDOMSERCEDOGS.ORG
for details.

Save the Date
FOR THE 2018 TOURNAMENTS

JUNE 29 FACES OF FREEDOM DENVER
presented by PowerShift

SEPT 21 FACES OF FREEDOM MIDLAND
presented by ConocoPhillips Core Lab

FREEDOMSERCEDOGS.ORG/FACES



FSD Board Chair Tom Scanlan and FSD client John with his service dog, Agave, stand proudly with members of Team Gresham, from left to right: David Schmidt, Clay Bomer, Jim Gresham, and Bobby Fowler

Diamonds in the Ruff

A SPARKLING EVENING

On October 14, 2017, more than 400 guests gathered at Infinity Park Event Center in Glendale, Colorado for the 6th annual Diamonds in the Ruff, presented by Visa. Erika Gonzalez and Jeremy Hubbard of FOX31 Denver were the evening's emcees, and former Denver Broncos running back Reggie Rivers was the auctioneer.

Guests shopped the fabulous silent auction and had the opportunity to purchase a flute of champagne for a chance to win a one-carat, custom diamond pendant, donated by Larry Blauweiss of Fifth Avenue Designs. A record-breaking \$258,000 was raised for FSD.

Save the Date FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL DIAMONDS IN THE RUFF

OCTOBER 20, 2018

Stay tuned to
FREEDOMSERVICEDOGS.ORG
for details.



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A SPECIAL THANKS TO



for donating this custom one-carat diamond pendant.



For information about event sponsorship opportunities, please contact Nadine Pace, Events and Community Partnerships Manager, at NPACE@FREEDOMSERVICEDOGS.ORG or 303-922-6231 X216.

Volunteer Vignette

GABE KOROLUK, FSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gabe Koroluk has been a volunteer with Freedom Service Dogs since 2016 when he joined the board of directors. Gabe serves as a co-chair and member of the finance committee. One of his main goals in volunteering is to use his professional background in investing and finance to help ensure FSD continues on solid financial footing for years to come.

Gabe first heard about FSD when his family was searching for a service dog for his then-seven-year-old son, Noah. They did extensive research and were pointed to FSD based on positive feedback from clients. At that time, FSD did not serve children under the age of 12, so he was referred to Disco's Dogs (now a program of FSD), which specialized in working with young children on the autism spectrum.

Noah was born with a rare genetic condition causing him to be non-verbal with some significant cognitive challenges. He is a sweet and loving boy, but his challenges often limit his ability to interact with peers. Gabe and his wife, Amy, felt a canine friend would provide Noah with additional opportunities to communicate. And while Noah was a little nervous at first about Ender—the four-legged, fuzzy creature that would occasionally walk up to him and lick his face, which can be sensory overload to a sensitive kid—the two became best friends. Ender now waits by the door for Noah to come home from school, and they go immediately running through the house to play!

Ender has helped Noah in so many ways, drawing him out of his “world” so he can interact more with others and motivating him to move, play, and go places that he would otherwise avoid. Because Noah is nonverbal, if you call his name, he is unable to respond, but with Ender by his side, Gabe and his wife are able to keep track of Noah much easier.

Gabe was especially excited when Freedom Service Dogs merged with Disco's Dogs. There is a large need in the community for well-trained service dogs and skilled companion dogs for children on the autism spectrum. The merger allows FSD to serve this expanded population with a proven, successful model.

Gabe's vision for FSD is to fully take advantage of the amazing new facility, which offers incredible potential to expand the number of veterans and individuals with disabilities that FSD is able to serve. He also wants to encourage others to get involved because everyone has something to give: time, donations, or talents to help fuel the mission of FSD.



Gabe Koroluk with his son Noah and Ender, Noah's service dog

To learn more about ways you can get involved, please call **303-922-6231** or email **INFO@FREEDOMSERCEDOGS.ORG**.

Our Caring Community

BRECKENRIDGE BREWERY



Todd and Terry Usry of Breckenridge Brewery with service dog in training Zipper at the ZIPA release party

Breckenridge Brewery has gone above and beyond for FSD over the years. From being a beverage sponsor for numerous events, to donating proceeds from tours of their brewery to FSD, and most recently, creating a special IPA called 'ZIPA' that was released May 18, 2017. Through May 18, 2018, Breckenridge Brewery will donate \$1 to FSD for every ZIPA pour at the Farm House Restaurant at its Littleton brewery and at its brewpub in Breckenridge. These dollars will help supplement the cost of training Zipper and other service dogs in training.

For more information, visit BRECKBREW.COM.



Zipper and his namesake ale, ZIPA



Adoption Pupdate

ONE DOG'S STORY, FROM GUS TO ROMAN

Gus was in FSD's adoption program for quite some time. Although he was smart and sweet, he made it clear that he would prefer to "work" as a family pet. He was looking for a very specific home with a patient, loving family, and he simply had not found them yet. Sure, Gus had his favorite people at FSD, and all the staff and volunteers loved him dearly, but what he really needed was a permanent place to hang his leash. When the Smith family stumbled upon Gus on FSD's website, they were smitten. Gus spent Halloween weekend with the family to see how he would fit in with their other three dogs. Play/nap/ repeat was the theme of the weekend, as Gus eased his way into the hearts of the Smiths and his new playmates. He was finally home. "Most people think we're crazy, and we don't argue with them," the Smiths explained. "We just say that we are 'pack people' and our pack ebbs and flows as dogs in need find us. We weren't looking to expand our pack, but when we saw Gus on FSD's website, we felt led to help him, and he was a perfect fit."

As the weeks passed, Gus's proud physical stature and eagerness to "protect and serve" earned him the name "Roman," which he responded to with surprising ease. Roman is loving life with his forever family and spends his days romping and roughhousing with his canine siblings, snuggling, and napping in the sunshine.

To say we are happy for Roman is an understatement. We are so grateful to the Smith family for taking a chance on this very special dog, and giving him the kind of life that all dogs deserve to live. The Smiths—people and pups—are just as happy with their newly expanded pack.



Gus (now Roman)

"Roman may have come to our home for Halloween, but it has definitely been our treat to adopt him into our family. Thank you, Freedom Service Dogs!"



Roman with his new canine siblings



Roman eating with the pack

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GLASS THAT DOES GOOD

Glassybaby gives back to FSD in August

During the month of August, 2017, Glassybaby, a company out of Seattle, Washington that makes hand-blown glassware, selected FSD as the beneficiary of their "Dog Days of Summer" promotion. Throughout the month of August, 10% of all of their website sales were donated to FSD to support our Operation Freedom program, which matches service dogs with veterans. The fundraiser was a huge success, raising more than \$25,000 for FSD! Glassybaby has a commitment to give back to many different causes throughout the year, donating a percentage of the proceeds from each of their drinkers (glasses) to various charities. Their popular "Papa" drinker has raised thousands of dollars for FSD.



A FALL AFFAIR

Westwind Management Company raises funds for the Disco's Dogs Program at FSD

Westwind Management Company held their 2nd annual charity event, "A Fall Affair," and chose FSD as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the event. Because of the incredible support of the guests in attendance, by the end of the evening, Westwind Management surpassed their goal, raising more than \$24,000 to sponsor THREE Disco's Dogs families: Team Tickle, Team Tico, and Team Falkor.



INTERESTED IN ADOPTING A FURRY FAMILY MEMBER FROM FSD?

Browse adoptable dogs at freedom servicedogs.org or call 303-922-6231.

If you have adopted a dog from FSD, we would love to hear updates and see photos. Please send them to econley@freedom servicedogs.org, post and tag on Facebook @FreedomServiceDogs, or on Instagram with #adoptfsd.



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DONATE:

Freedom Service Dogs of America is one of the few organizations in the United States to transform shelter dogs into custom-trained service dogs and provide them to clients at no cost. Your tax-deductible donation helps us continue our work of giving dogs a new purpose and changing the lives of individuals with disabilities. Visit freedom servicedogs.org/donate or call **303-922-6231** to make a donation.

Send A Card To Show You Care

SHOW THE PEOPLE (AND PETS!) IN YOUR LIFE HOW MUCH THEY MEAN TO YOU BY SENDING A FREEDOM SERVICE DOGS E-CARD

Each e-card you send does twice the good! Your donation will honor those you love AND help Freedom Service Dogs give the life-changing assistance of a service dog to those in need.

Choose from a variety of options at
FREEDOMSERVICE DOGS.ORG/STORE

