



2021 Annual Report
Valor Service Dogs

2021 Board of Directors

Emelie Dash, MBA

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Debi Isenstein, LCSW

Behavioral Health Consultant,
Secretary

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Justin Lansford, SSG

U.S. Army (Ret)

Veteran Liaison

Dr. Stephanie

Sabshin, DVM

Veterinarian

Alex Douglass, State

Trooper

First Responder Liaison

Meet Our Team



Carol Lansford
Executive Director



Emelie Dash
Director of Operations



Ryan Bodge
*GA Program Manager,
Graduate Support Spec.*



Rose Finch
Development Coordinator



Kaileanna Albright
Service Dog Trainer



20

**SERVICE AND FACILITY DOGS
GRADUATED SINCE 2015**

11

**WITH
VETERANS**

9

**WITH FIRST
RESPONDERS**



**DOGS WORKING
IN ELEVEN STATES**

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45+ EDUCATIONAL EVENTS ATTENDED SINCE
2015 INCLUDING THE GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN

11

**DOGS CURRENTLY
IN TRAINING**

DOGS PLACED AT

**ZERO
COST**

**TO THE HERO
RECIPIENT OR
PUPPY COACH**

Our Mission

Valor Service Dogs is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization that helps post-9/11 wounded veterans and first responders regain their independence, return to civilian life, and maintain successful partnerships through the training and placing of mobility assistance and post-traumatic stress disorder support service dogs. We place these dogs at no cost to our recipients, in all 50 States.

Valor Service Dogs also strives to bring awareness and education to the public on service dogs, their training, and the laws that give service dogs and their handlers access and protection.



What Makes Us Different



Our Founder and Executive Director started Valor Service Dogs because of her husband, a combat wounded veteran with complete and permanent physical disabilities. She understands the real-life challenges facing these wounded veterans and their families and she has an exceptional ability to connect with them, ask the right questions, and pair them with their future service dog. She is unwavering in her commitment to high training standards and she is incredibly selfless when it comes to our veterans, first responders, volunteers, and dogs.

While there are many service dog organizations out there, **we are unique in a few ways:**

1) We train dogs to meet the needs of a specific person, not a one-size-fits-all approach; each client can know that their dog was specifically selected and trained just for them; **2)** We are one of the few organizations that focus on mobility and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Service Dogs, as well as Facility Dogs, allowing us to help even more veterans and first responders; **3)** We place service dogs in all 50 States, not just within a limited radius of our headquarters.

How We Make an Impact

TRAIN: We use purpose-bred Golden and Labrador Retrievers for our two-year training program. During these two years, our Director of Training leads the service dog through our specially designed training program with the assistance of a foster family (Puppy Coach) who houses and helps teach commands and socialization. All supplies needed are provided at no cost to the foster family. Our Puppy Coaches make this entire endeavor possible, and we couldn't be more thankful for their selflessness and dedication!



PLACE: We have a thorough application and placement process that enables us to ensure that qualified recipients can receive a service dog or facility dog trained specifically to their unique set of needs. We provide these service dogs at no cost to recipients across all 50 States. Each recipient spends time in Tampa, FL with our trainers to learn the ins and outs of how to work with their new companion.



EDUCATE: We believe that educating the public on service dogs, their handlers, and service dogs in training, is critical to the overall success of our program. We spend time each year at local and national events to help educate children and adults on everything that is important to know about assistance dogs. While the global pandemic made educational events difficult, we were proud to take part in the Great American Teach In video conference this year, as well as several other virtual speaking events.

Who We Help

We place **Mobility and PTSD Support Service Dogs** with post-9/11 wounded veterans and first responders. To apply, our recipients must meet the following criteria:

- ✧ Able to travel to Tampa, FL for up to 2 weeks
- ✧ Service-connected physical injury, PTSD, or TBI
- ✧ Medical or Honorable discharge/retirement
- ✧ Currently engaged with or successfully completed an individual treatment plan with a mental health provider

Our service dogs aid their hero in community reintegration, item retrieval, balance support, daily reminders, and stress and anxiety coping. They also learn many tasks and commands that can be used to make daily life easier.



WELCOME



MEET BELLE

TGH CHIEF SMILE OFFICER

We also place **Facility Dogs** with eligible recipients/facilities. These dogs work at hospitals, emergency service headquarters, and clinics serving the veteran or first responder populations.

Facility Dogs provide emotional support to patients, clients and staff and can be used by their handler to motivate and encourage the people around them. A Facility Dog works full-time at a facility under care and supervision of the handler. They have undergone extensive training and know a breadth of skills that can be used in a therapeutic way.

This is a great career path for our social and very loving dogs. These dogs still undergo extensive training, we just tailor their training to serve a group setting rather than one person.

Our Service Dogs and Facility Dogs are changing lives every day! Please visit our website for more details on our dogs, requirements, and application process.

2021 Impact and Growth

2021 was a great year for Valor Service Dogs. Six dogs graduated and were placed with their forever heroes. We couldn't be prouder of these working teams, our service dog trainers, and the volunteers that make this all possible.

2021 Graduates



Frannie graduated in February 2021 and was placed as a service dog with a first responder who was injured while serving as a deputy sheriff.



Goose graduated in May 2021 and was placed as a service dog with a first responder.



Hunter graduated in September 2021 and was placed as a service dog with a first responder.



Vinnie graduated in September 2021 and was placed with an Army veteran.



Millie graduated in November 2021 and was placed at Tampa General Hospital as a facility dog, (aka the Chief Snuggle Officer). She will provide emotional support to staff and patients.



Chip graduated in December 2021 and was placed with a hero who is both a veteran and served as a first responder for over 30 years.

2021 New Recruits



RJ – Sponsored by Scoop Soldiers, donated by Project 2 Heal



Cadence – Sponsored by the Campbell Family Foundation



Elsie – Sponsored by Darling Ingredients



Molly – Sponsored by the Campbell Family Foundation, donated by Warrior Canine Connection



Ghillie – Sponsored by Lone Goose Lodge



Walker – Donated by Warrior Canine Connection



Tubby – Sponsored by the Campbell Family Foundation



Collins – Sponsored by Quantum Peak Consulting and the Gower Family



Bogey – Sponsored by Darling Ingredients, donated by Warrior Canine Connection

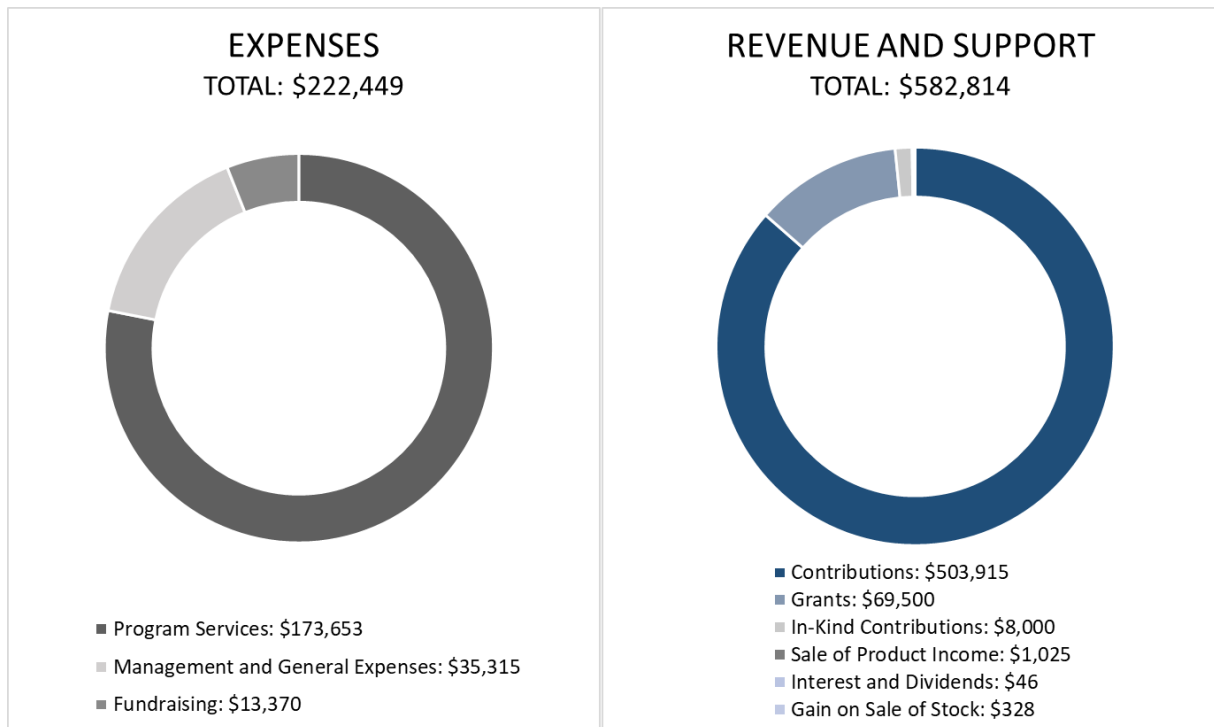
Program and Outlook

In 2021, we added 9 new puppies to our training program and graduated 6 assistance dogs. This is a significant improvement over 2020. We are excited that we are through the worst of the pandemic and that we can get back to doing what we love.

In August of 2021, we purchased our own facility in Wimauma, Florida. This new space has three existing buildings and nearly 3 acres of land. Currently, one building serves as a home for a service dog trainer, as well as for dog training space. The other two metal buildings do not currently have plumbing or air conditioning. To maximize the use of this new space and increase our capacity, we need to convert the two metal buildings into a larger training space and a breeding facility. We've already been able to expand our capacity by having a trainer living on-site, as she can offer more flexible training class schedules to our volunteers. When the two metal buildings are renovated, we will be able to do two very critical things: launch a breeding program and have a larger, handicap accessible, facility for our recipients and volunteers. These renovations will allow us to increase the number of puppies that we bring into the program each year, which increases the number of hero recipients we are able to place service dogs with. It will also allow us to better serve our recipients and volunteers who require handicap accessible facilities. Fundraising for this capital project will begin in 2022, with hopes of starting construction by the end of the year. We are excited for the future and being able to expand our impact!



2021 Financials



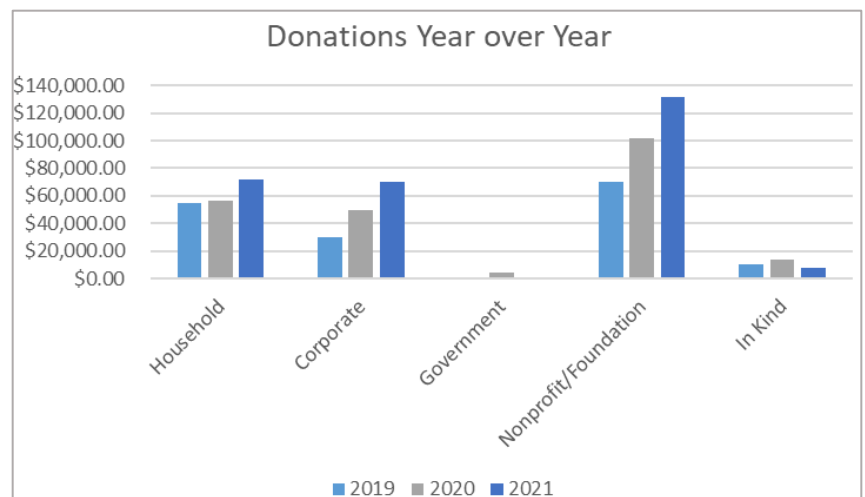
Expenses

Program Service Expenses accounted for 78% of our total functional expenses, Management and General Expenses accounted for 16%, and Fundraising accounted for 6%.

Revenue

Our Revenue was significantly higher in 2021 versus 2020. This is because of two large donations that were specifically made to assist us in purchasing the new facility and land in Wimauma, FL. These donations, totaling \$300,000, have been removed from the below graph for comparison's sake to prior years.

The Nonprofit and Foundation gift category makes up 47% of our revenue and includes the grants that we were awarded in 2021. This year, donations from Households and Corporations were both 25% of our revenue. The generosity of hard-working Americans who believe in what we are doing is incredibly humbling.



Help Us

With your support, we can continue to help veterans and first responders regain their independence, return to civilian life, and maintain successful partnerships.

DONATE TODAY!

- ✧ Send checks payable to: Valor Service Dogs
15006 McGrady Rd.
Wimauma, FL 33598

NEW ADDRESS!!

- ✧ Donate Online: Find links to donate on our website and Facebook page
- ✧ In-Kind Donations: Visit our Amazon “VSD Wishlist” and make in-kind donations
- ✧ Shop Amazon Smile: Choose Valor Service Dogs as your charity of choice
- ✧ Workplace Giving: Talk to your employer about payroll deduction and matching gift options
- ✧ Stock Donations: contact Rose@valorservicedogs.org for details

VOLUNTEER

We can't accomplish our mission without dedicated volunteers. If you live near Tampa, FL or Valdosta, GA and are looking for a life changing volunteer opportunity, contact us about becoming a Puppy Coach. No dog training experience needed!

STAY UP TO DATE

Join our monthly newsletter to stay up to date on graduations, new recruits, training, and events. Visit our website to join!

SPREAD THE WORD

Follow and share us on social media to stay up to date on all our fun filled training days and activities.

 facebook.com/valorservicedogs

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