



December 2013

A Holiday Salute to the many volunteers who made this happen!!! Thanks to Puppy Raisers, Socializers, and Respite Fosters. Without all of you, this would not be possible. Meet SMSD recipient/dog team graduates for 2013.



**Richard, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Ranger. U.S. Army and his SMSD Copper. Injured when thrown from a Bradley armored vehicle during combat mission in Iraq.**



**Billy with SMSD Lucy, Air Force Disposal Ordinance Specialist, injured by an improvised explosive device while serving in Iraq during Desert Storm.**



**Cody, U.S. Marine injured by improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan. Cody and Willie are going to college at LMU.**



**Alex, U. S. Army Armored Cavalry. Injured by a suicide bomber in Iraq. Shown with his SMSD Jet.**

## CANDOO SERVES AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND VETERANS AT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

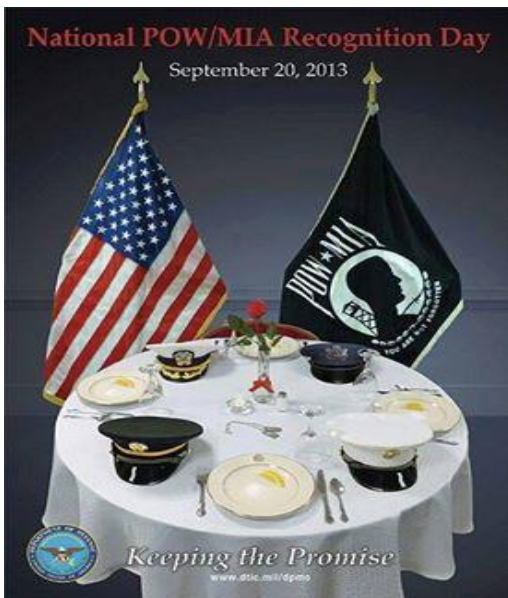


As a WKU "Hilltopper" facility dog, CanDoo does double duty



## OUR PARTNERS

Without the giving spirit of those within the community we could not exist. We have been incredibly blessed to have the support of Remington Partners, Vanquish Worldwide, The Clayton Family Foundation, Lex-Lin Gypsy Horse Ranch, Lakeside Real Estate Group, the Armed Forces Mutual Benefit Association, ATT Pioneers, Bearden HS JROTC Cadet Corps, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce, and many other businesses, civic groups, and individuals. Our fundraising events during the year were very successful. The "Fishing for Freedom" Bass Tournament, the Bearden HS JROTC Fun Run, and our "Night for Patriots" dinner were all well attended and many sponsors stepped in to insure their success.



At our fall "Night for Patriots" dinner, we honored our POWs and MIAs with the Ceremony of the Missing Man Table, narrated beautifully by Ron McDaniel. All veterans were honored by the McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Quartet and Jane Salmon as they presented the Military Hymns. The ceremony closed with Amazing Grace played on bagpipes by Ms. Kelly Shipe. Major General Max Haston was the guest speaker.

**OUR DOGS** - We currently have nine wonderful dogs in our care. Bella, Bearden, Blitz, Hero, Hooligan, Millie, Moonshine, Stryker II, and Target. Under the training of Heather Wilkerson, Derek Blair and Susan Shemwell, we are confident that they will make wonderful life partners for deserving recipients. We will continue to add to this team during 2014 with both puppies and adolescent dogs.

It has been a very busy and rewarding year for Smoky Mountain Service Dogs. Thanks to so many, we are beginning to execute our Mission.

- To provide mobility assistance dogs to disabled veterans.
- To provide service dogs to autistic children.
- To enhance the quality of lives of those we serve.

### LOOKING TO 2014

Going into 2014, we will continue to serve those in need while pursuing accreditation in Assistance Dogs International (a coalition of service dog organizations who subscribe to the “highest level” of ethics, training, and facility management procedures). Once accredited, SMSD will be the only member headquartered in a twelve (12) state area serving disabled veterans. We will continue to work diligently developing relationships with Warrior Transition Units where many of our injured recover. In addition, we will be doing in-service workshops at Veteran Administration Facilities as they manage the long term care of our wounded warriors. On the autism side, we will be working closely with the Kelly Autism Program at WKU to better understand how service dogs can be better trained and utilized to interrupt many destructive stimming behaviors. To this end, the Kelly Autism Program is conducting research with CanDoo and his interactions with the facility’s autistic children.

Donations may be made over our website at [www.smokymountain servicedogs.org](http://www.smokymountain servicedogs.org) or mailed to SMSD, 110 Tooweka Circle, Loudon, TN. 37774



**Volunteer Dennis Tissot socializing “Bella” at the supermarket.**



**Volunteer Barb Schmitt ready to take “Blitz” on his daily socializing trip.**

***SMSD Board of Directors Pat Chappell, Al Czachowski, Larry Denney, Mike Kitchens, Suzy Kitchens, Elaine Lintner, Steve Rieth, Deb Sciarretta, Carla Werner.***



**On behalf of all canines at SMSD, “Hooligan” wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season!!!!**

On behalf of the SMSD Board of Directors, I would like to thank our many volunteers and donors who give so graciously of their time and resources to help make this all possible.

**Mike Kitchens, Volunteer Chair**