



From Board Chair, Mike Kitchens

2014 was an incredible year for Smoky Mountain Service Dogs in many ways. Thanks to the giving spirit of our volunteers and donors, we are well positioned to continue in pursuit of our mission: “Enhancing the quality of life for veterans with disabilities by providing mobility assistance service dogs” (at no cost to the veteran). We are very proud to be able to continue to carry out our mission with no paid administrative staff, which allows us to direct approximately 96 cents of each donated dollar directly to the care and training of our dogs, and deserving recipients.

Please join me in this brief Christmas Prayer for our troops. “For Christmas we ask for protection for our soldiers. Our soldiers are lonely and away from their families and away from a nation they love with all their hearts. Give our soldiers peace in their hearts, peace of mind, bravery and courage to fight, and protect them from harm. Please keep them whole in spirit and have them keep their eyes and hearts on You. Amen



We are blessed and proud to be a part of the lives of our veterans on their road to independence. Since we placed our first dog Copper in 2013, SMSD has had the honor to serve seven combat injured Veterans and the 2500 Veteran students of Western Kentucky University’s Veteran Affairs Department with our wonderful facility dog, CanDoo. This year we have had the privilege of providing service dogs to three well deserving veterans.

U.S. ARMY VETERAN SGT. ROBERT HARRIS AND “BEARDEN”



Robert Harris served eight years in Iraq with the 3rd Armored Division and the 1st Cavalry. A nuclear, biological and chemical warfare specialist, he was injured as a result of enemy fire. On June 26, 2014, Robert graduated with his mobility assistance service dog, “Bearden, who was sponsored by the Bearden High School JROTC Cadet Corps.

Upon graduation, Robert said, “Oh, he’s going to be a great help to me, I already know that and we just got to work as a team, that’s the big thing. Recent reports from Robert tell us he and Bearden have become a stellar working team.

**U.S. MARINE VETERAN SGT. BRADLEY WALKER
AND “BELLA”**



U.S. Marine Sgt. Bradley Walker suffered the loss of both legs in Iraq, in 2006, when the Humvee he was driving detonated an improvised explosive device (IED). On July 17, 2014, Walker, of Dandridge, Tennessee, graduated with his mobility assistance service dog, “Bella.” Engaged to be married, Bradley will soon be moving into a handicap accessible house that is being built for him by “Homes for Our Troops.”

Speaking effusively about Bella, Bradley said, “She’s something wonderful! I’m planning on going back to school after the house is built and I am married. Bella will be my constant companion every step of the way.”



**US ARMY VETERAN STAFF SGT. KEVIN JANKOWSKI
AND “BLITZ”**



Jankoski spent ten years serving in the Army. After Operation Desert Storm, Jankoski's spine started to deteriorate after suffering a back injury when thrown from the turret of an A-1 tank. On October 16, 2014 Kevin graduated with his mobility assistance dog “Blitz”.

“My words of thanks will never be enough to express my feelings for what you have given me back. I have been able to see my kids play soccer, take my son on an outing, and have not missed an outing yet with my family. Blitz makes me laugh every single day. Thank you all for your commitment, what you do breaths life back into those that have lost hope”.



Meet Our Canine Family

When we say we are all about the dogs, we're not kidding. These good looking boys and girls are all in training and are at various stages of learning skills. Our future service dogs!



'Millie'



"Zena"



"Stryker II"



"Nitro"



"Bradley"



"Hooligan"



"Freedom"



"Patriot"



"Hope"



"Ruger"



"Brice"

We Love our Volunteers

The words 'thank you' can never be said too many times when it comes to how we feel about our volunteers. All the work involved in caring for and working with our dogs, could never be accomplished if not for their dedication and commitment to SMSD. We thank all our volunteers and want them to know that our board of directors and our trainers recognize how much they contribute to this organization and are most grateful. God bless them all!



They work hard . . . and they love it

Behind what you see at SMSD is a very passionate, hardworking board of directors. They have accomplished so much because each one of them has vision and resolve.

Mike Kitchens, Larry Denney, Pat Chappell, Steve Rieth, Suzy Kitchens, Elaine Lintner, Carla Werner, Deb Sciarretta, Judy Handley and Founding Friends, Gail Alexander & Rhoni Standefer

Each of them wishes every one of you many blessings in the coming year!



Smoky Mountain Service Dogs is a 501©3 organization. All tax deductible donations can be made using PayPal on our website or mailed to SMSD, 110 Tooweka Circle, Loudon, TN. 37774

Merry Christmas from Smoky Mountain Service Dogs