



ACCOMPLISHMENTS
& FINANCIALS



**FREEDOM
SERVICE DOGS
OF AMERICA**

★
★
30 YEARS
★

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



2017

www.freedom servicedogs.org



A Message From Our Board Chair and President & CEO



Board Chair Tom Scanlan with his dog Kodi

It's hard to believe that 30 years have passed since Freedom Service Dogs of America was founded by Michael and PJ Roche in 1987. The horrific accident that left Michael paralyzed was the catalyst for the Denver couple to train their rescue dog, Oreo, to become Michael's service dog—and to then launch a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with mobility impairments live more freely with the assistance of trained shelter dogs.

Three decades later, FSD has grown from a local, two-person operation to a nationally recognized leader in service dog training with more than 30 staff members and hundreds of volunteers who donated hours equivalent to 5.5 full-time employees. But while our size and scope have changed, our mission remains the same: to carry on Michael and PJ's legacy and their commitment to increasing the independence of people living with disabilities by custom-training dogs to meet each client's individual needs.

2017 marked our first full year at our new and greatly improved training center. Having doubled the space for our staff and service dogs in-training, we're redoubling our efforts to more quickly and more adequately meet the needs of the veterans and other individuals with disabilities that we serve.

To that end, we introduced two new programs that expand the range and impact of our work. Operation Full Circle teaches veterans to help train their FSD service dogs and provides an opportunity for them to “pay it forward”

by helping to train service dogs for other veterans. In 2017, eight veterans graduated from the program, and we hope to have another six to eight graduates in 2018.

In August 2017, FSD combined forces with local nonprofit Disco's Dogs to grow and improve the services we provide to families with children that are on the autism spectrum or have other neurocognitive disabilities. Today, we're thrilled to be able to custom-train service dogs for children as young as 5 years old who are living with autism.

As the need for custom-trained service dogs and therapy dogs increases, FSD is working tirelessly to meet that need. In 2017, we reached out within Colorado and beyond our borders to establish partnerships with shelters that can serve as new sources for suitable service dog candidates. At the same time, we ramped up our dog training and caretaking staff to better meet the demand for these life-changing dogs.

With your generous support, we are building a strong foundation for a more purposeful, more effective, and even more successful organization. Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us truly transform lives.

Michele Ostrander Tom Scanlon



President & CEO Michele Ostrander
with her dog Toodles



“What then is freedom? The power to live as one wishes.” ~Marcus Tullius Cicero

Your Investments Make An IMPACT

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Freedom Service Dogs of America is one of the few organizations in the United States to transform shelter dogs into custom-trained service dogs. Your investment and belief in our mission allow us to give the life-changing gift of a service dog to our clients at no cost. Here are a few of the teams made possible by your support in 2017.



MARIE & MAE

“Everything is better with Mae. I am tending to my time and schedule better, I am much more engaged in the present and mindful of where I am in a given moment, and I am just doing so much better overall. I actually look forward to going places now, which I really never did before.”

U.S. Army veteran Marie with service dog Mae

MEKAI & TICKLE

“Tickle has improved Mekai’s quality of life so much by being with him at all times and providing him with comfort—and he has helped me so much by helping Mekai. And now we have this reassurance that he will get me for help if Mekai needs it! Plus, we just love him to pieces!”

Katie, mother of Disco’s Dogs graduates Mekai and service dog Tickle (pictured at right)



CHRIS & MULLEN

“Mullen increases the love in my family and has drawn us close. Also he builds my confidence about being in public places and controls my patience levels more. Mullen has improved my life in every way, such as bonding with my family, getting outdoors more, teaching us how to love again, and building my way towards independence one day at a time.”

Operation Full Circle graduates Chris and service dog Mullen

2017

AT A GLANCE

In 2017, Freedom Service Dogs put the pieces in place to create a framework for continued growth and success. With a new training center, additional staff, and extended programs, we set out to transform even more lives last year. Here's a look at our 2017 accomplishments.

198 DOGS



from shelters and rescue groups welcomed at our training center

29 DOGS

GRADUATED FROM OUR TRAINING PROGRAM



5 DOGS

PAIRED WITH FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM-RELATED DIFFERENCES



13 DOGS

matched as service dogs with veterans

2

DOGS graduated as SKILLED COMPANIONS



4 DOGS

matched with individuals with other disabilities

5

PROFESSIONAL THERAPY DOGS GRADUATED



500+ INDIVIDUALS
spent time with our therapy dog graduates



144 DOGS

adopted into
loving homes



**13,250+
HOURS**

logged by professional
trainers



**MILLIONS
OF TAIL WAGS**

**11,280+
HOURS**

logged by
volunteers,
equivalent to



5^{1/2}

FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

1,347,789

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT
TRAINING CLICKS

260,912

DOG
KISSES



8,858
POUNDS OF KIBBLE



**400
AT-RISK
YOUTHS**

benefited
from our
Pawsitive
Connection
program



**450
POUNDS**

of training treats



**3,200
HOURS**

LOGGED BY
PAWSITIVE
CONNECTION
INTERNS

from the Graduate School of
Social Work Animal-Assisted
Social Work program at the
University of Denver

2018 EVENTS

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!

SUMMER
GRADUATION

JUNE 23

Parker Arts, Culture
& Events Center

Parker, CO

FACES OF FREEDOM SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

JUNE 29

presented by



Kiowa Creek Sporting Club

Bennett, CO

SEPTEMBER 21

presented by



Windwalker Farms Sporting Clays

Midland, TX

DOGGIE PLUNGE

SEPTEMBER 8

presented by



Pirates Cove Water Park

Englewood, CO

DIAMONDS IN THE RUFF

OCTOBER 20

presented by



**Wings Over the Rockies:
Exploration of Flight Center at
Centennial Airport**

Englewood, CO

2017 **FACES OF** SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT **FREEDOM**

Our fifth annual Faces of Freedom Sporting Clays Tournament was the best attended and most successful yet. More than 400 total participants joined the friendly competitions on July 28 in Bennett, Colorado, and Sept. 22 in Midland, Texas, raising a record \$400,000.



To date, the Faces of Freedom tournaments have grossed more than \$1 million to benefit the veterans who receive service dogs through our Operation Freedom program.

presented by





10TH annual

DOGGIE PLUNGE

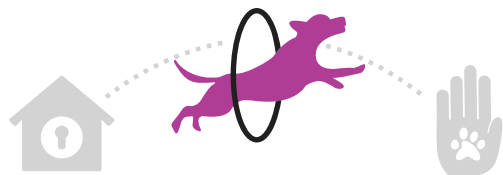
2017



Our wettest and wildest fundraiser, the 10th annual Doggie Plunge took place on Sept. 9 at Pirates Cove Water Park. The event was paradise-in-a-pool for the 600 pooches and their people who swam, splashed **and raised more than \$23,000 to support the programs and services of Freedom Service Dogs.**

PRESENTED BY

BAIRD



Diamonds

IN THE

RUFF

presented by
VISA

2017



Thanks to the generosity of our guests and sponsors, the event raised a record-breaking \$258,000 for FSD.

"Brilliant" best describes our sixth annual Diamonds in the Ruff gala, which took place on Oct. 14 at Infinity Park Event Center in Glendale, Colorado. More than 400 friends of Freedom Service Dogs shopped our silent and live auctions, enjoyed a delicious dinner, sipped champagne in hopes of winning a custom one-carat-diamond pendant, and were wowed by a special performance of service dogs in-training and their trainers.





WAYS TO GIVE LEAVE YOUR PRINT

**Want to leave your
“paw print” on the
life-changing work of
Freedom Service Dogs?
Here are just a few of
the many ways you can
make an impact.**

INCLUDE FSD IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS

Whatever your stage of life, family situation, or financial status, you can plan a gift today that will ensure you leave a lasting legacy to the people and dogs whose lives are transformed by Freedom Service Dogs.

Consult your advisor for details.

GIVE APPRECIATED STOCK

Donating appreciated stocks or securities is a great way to help Freedom Service Dogs while maximizing your tax position. Gifts of this type are 100 percent free of capital gains and also eligible for income tax deductions.

MAKE AN IRA ROLLOVER GIFT

Making an IRA rollover gift is a great way to support the life-changing work of Freedom Service Dogs while also taking advantage of increased tax benefits. You can request a gift of any amount, up to \$100,000, to be transferred to FSD each year. Contact your IRA account manager to request a transfer to FSD or to learn more.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lindsay Ganassa

📞 **303-922-6231 x218**

✉️ **lganassa@freedom servicedogs.org**



THANK YOU

for Your Support in 2017

Your belief in our mission and investment in our cause allowed Freedom Service Dogs to provide custom-trained, highly skilled service dogs at no cost to adults and children in need. We are so appreciative of your compassion and generosity, which is helping to transform the lives of shelter dogs and their human partners.

\$100,000+

Anonymous
Broe Family Foundation
Eric + Jessie Decker Foundation

The Estate of Shannon Fallon DiTolla
Team Gresham
The Rachael Ray Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous
Community Health Charities
The William H. Donner Foundation
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Halliburton Charity Golf Tournament
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Foundation

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\$25,000 - \$49,999

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\$1,000 - \$9,999

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The Bayless Charitable
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Laboratories, Inc.
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Corporation
Susan Calonge
Jerry Carle

Cars for Charity
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Harlene Cavanaugh
Central Florida Autism
Institute, Inc.
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David Chidester
Ruth Clark
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Kay Cohen
Michael Coleman
Brian & Rachel Collie
The Collier Foundation
The Colorado Health
Foundation
Colorado State Bank
Foundation
Colorado State Society,
NSCAR
The Colorado Trust
The Community Foundation
Concho

Thank You



COLORADO GIVES DAY DONORS!

On Dec. 5, 2017,
FSD received more
than \$113,000
from 670 generous
supporters in
Colorado.



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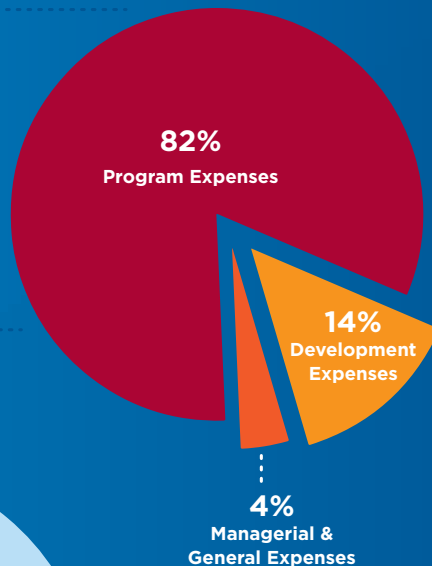


2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$2,543,104
<i>Dog Training and Care</i>	\$1,638,176
<i>Public Education and Other</i>	\$904,928
Development Expenses	\$434,034
Managerial & General Expenses	\$119,291
Total Expenses	\$3,096,429

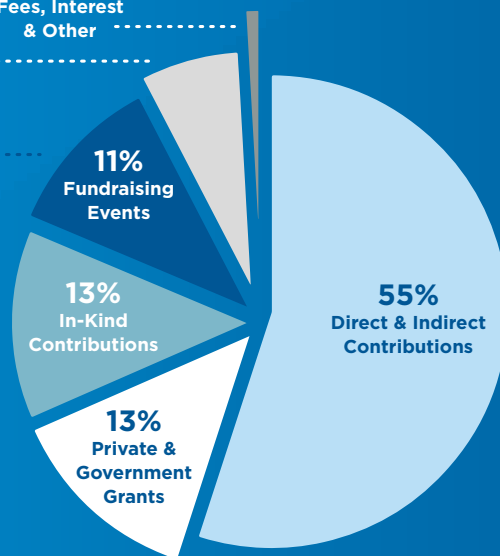
TOTAL



PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

TOTAL

Direct & Indirect Contributions	\$2,844,435
Private & Government Grants	\$693,875
In-Kind Contributions	\$668,240
Fundraising Events	\$570,103
Fees, Interest & Other	\$46,375
Capital Campaign Direct & Indirect Donations & Grants	\$347,851
Total Revenue	\$5,170,879



2017 END OF YEAR

Total Assets	\$9,476,833
Total Liabilities	\$1,547,323
Net Assets	\$7,929,510



ABOUT



**7193 S DILLON CT
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112**

PHONE: 303.922.6231

FAX: 303.922.6234

www.FreedomServiceDogs.org

EIN 84-1068936



Freedom Service Dogs of America is a Denver-based nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by transforming shelter dogs into service dogs and custom-training them for individual needs. Clients include children, veterans, active-duty military, and other adults. Their disabilities include autism, traumatic brain injury (TBI), 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 more than 400 client-dog teams at no cost to the client. For more information, visit **freedom servicedogs.org**.

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