



Meet our New President & See Photos from Cocktails with Canines



Assistance Dogs in Training Kirby, Finn, Eagle, King, Prince & Vincent. (Photo credit: Suzanne Ager)

Veterans Moving Forward - November 2015

As a small organization, we have so much for which to be thankful. We are **thankful for:**

- **Your support & our volunteers** - you are integral to VMF's mission!
- Everyone who celebrated our five year anniversary with us at Cocktails with Canines
- **Breeders & veterinarians** who keep our Assistance Dogs in Training (ADITs) healthy
- **Veterans & active duty service members** who protect and serve our country
- The loyalty, intelligence, and healing power of **man's best friend**

As some of you heard at Cocktails with Canines, VMF continues to grow. Our canine operations will soon be moving out of donated space in the homes of our trainers and local churches and into a dedicated VMF Canine Training Facility. And at the beginning of this month, VMF welcomed new CEO and President, Major General Kenneth Dowd, U.S. Army (ret.). Read on to hear more about VMF's growth and the success of Cocktails with Canines.

Welcome New President & CEO

Major General S. Kenneth Dowd, U.S. Army (Retired) is replacing Founder and President Emeritus, Karen Jeffries, who left the President's position in January 2015 after growing VMF into a well established and respected organization in just four and one-half years.

"The support Veterans Moving Forward canines provide veterans is truly life saving, and the volunteers are the ones who make it happen," Ken shared. "I am honored to have the opportunity to lead Veterans Moving Forward and work with such a great group of dedicated men and women."



Since retiring from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service, Ken has worked with several non-profits providing services to military veterans, including Pizza 4 Patriots. He is a native of Abington, Pennsylvania, graduated from Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Kentucky, and received his commission through the ROTC program. He holds a Master's Degree in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology and is a graduate of the Army War College.

[Read more](#)

Cocktails with Canines Success

Thank you for a successful and heartwarming five year anniversary celebration. Each of our nine Assistance Dogs in Training attended with their puppy raisers, along with two Therapy Dog Teams and two Service Dogs with their veterans.

With proceeds from donations, sponsorships, silent auction, raffle and registration, the event raised over \$65,000. Thank you for supporting our mission to support veterans with physical and mental health challenges.

See [Cocktails with Canines photos](#) on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. If you are looking for a particular photo that you can't find online, email admin@vetsfwd.org.

If you attended and haven't given us your feedback yet, we'd love to hear from you. Take this short [Cocktails with Canines Survey](#) by Monday, 11/30/15.

Thank you again to our event sponsors for making the evening possible.

Three Star Sponsor: The Prufeta Family

Two Star Sponsors: Capital Bank of Maryland, Kathryn A. Condon & Associates, LLC, Freedom Bank of Virginia, SRC

One Star Sponsors: In memory of our Dad, LTG John B. (Mac) McPherson from the Family, FedBiz IT Solutions

Veteran's Best Friend Sponsors: Atlas Research, Susan Duncan & Randy Rice, growth.[period], Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mancias, Jr., Natural Mercantile of Hamilton, VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, Vexterra Group

Cyber Smiles after Thanksgiving

If you are reading this, congratulations. You survived Black Friday. But it isn't over. Thanksgiving is now also followed by Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday.

Small Business Saturday

Sugarboy's creates luxury fiber creations for people who want to pamper themselves and their pets. Sugarboy's donates a gift basket of handmade, natural fiber dog toys to each of VMF's new puppies, and now you can purchase the same [gift basket](#). 25% of each purchase goes to VMF.

Cyber Monday

You shop. Amazon gives. Go to smile.amazon.com to make the same purchases you would on Amazon, and 0.5% of each purchase goes to VMF. Dedicate VMF as your charity, and Amazon Smile gives everytime you shop.

Giving Tuesday

The Tuesday following Thanksgiving nonprofits across the globe kick off the charitable season when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. You'll likely see many appeals in your inbox and on social media for donations. VMF would like to do something a little different.



ADIT Mac is named in memory of LTG John B. McPherson

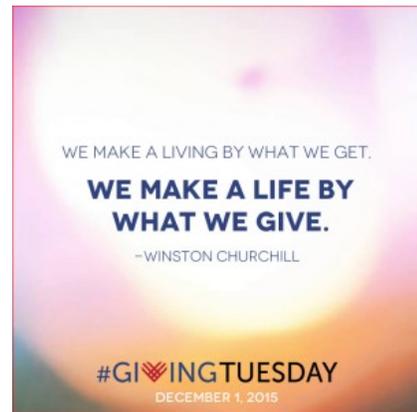


Former Redskins Linebacker Ken Harvey promotes support of the VMF mission



Sugarboy's donates this bundle of handmade goodies to each VMF ADIT.

For Giving Tuesday, please give VMF, our volunteers, and the veterans we serve the **gift of gratitude**. It provides a boost and motivation to do what we do. Please tweet your thoughts and tag @vetsmovefwd or post on our [Facebook](#) page. We look forward to hearing from you!





VETERANS[®]
MOVING FORWARD
a not for profit corporation

*Veterans Moving Forward (VMF) is a veteran-centric, non-profit foundation and 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to providing trained service dogs and canine therapy services to veterans with physical and mental health challenges across the full spectrum of needs. Your **tax-deductible donation** to VMF will help us with this mission.*

909 N. Washington Street, Suite 410 ★ Alexandria VA 22314
703.431.2212 / 866.375.1209 ★ www.vetsfwd.org



WATCH OUR DOGS GROW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



*Cross items off our puppies' [Amazon Wish List](#).
Get [holiday & greeting cards](#) with our puppies.
Shop [Amazon Smile](#) to benefit VMF.*

[Make a tax-deductible donation.](#)

Veterans Moving Forward, 909 N. Washington Street, Suite 410, Alexandria, VA 22314

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by admin@vetsfwd.org in collaboration with



Try it free today