



## Happy Holidays from Veterans Moving Forward!



### Message from the President

Welcome to the December 2016 edition of our Newsletter.

VMF achieved some significant accomplishments during 2016 - I invite you to read the articles below for an overview of our program accomplishments and a salute to our terrific volunteers and our veterinary and trainer supporters!

Our need for new puppy raisers continues. If you are interested in becoming a puppy raiser, or know someone who is, please contact Michele Khol, Director of Canine Operations at [mkhol@vetsfwd.org](mailto:mkhol@vetsfwd.org).



On behalf of VMF's Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and canines I wish each and every one of you a blessed and Merry Christmas and a wonderful and prosperous 2017!

**Ken Dowd**  
**President/CEO**  
**Major General (R)**

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### VMF Program 2016 Accomplishments

The following highlights some of VMF's significant program achievements during 2016. Thank you to all of our donors, partner organizations, volunteers, supporters and staff for all you do every day to help VMF successfully execute our mission. **During the past year we placed one Service Dog, Prince, who also recently passed his Public Access Test (PAT), and have three ADITS (Eagle, Finn and Vincent) that have been matched with their respective veterans and are in the final phase of their training.** Early in 2017 these three ADITS will be placed with their veteran and begin their service dog careers.

**Two of our ADITs (Eagle and Vincent) recently completed their Therapy Dog evaluations with Alliance of Therapy Dogs. As part of his final training regimen Vincent is providing therapy canine services on a weekly basis with Marilyn Finch Williams, LCSW Psychotherapist at the Median Center for Resilience and Brain Training in Fairfax.**



We acquired one new ADIT, Albie; in 2016, and welcomed three new raisers - Josh Baker, Randi deWeese and Leann Seigfried, as well as new puppy sitter, Jen Hamilton to our volunteer team. A big thank you to **Snitker Goldens** for donating ADIT Albie, the third puppy provided to VMF by Snitker Goldens. And thank you to **Guide Dogs of America** for their donation of four puppies in 2015, two of which have been matched with their Veterans and will be placed in early 2017 to start their service dog careers.



In May we moved into our new **Canine Training and Veteran Support Center** in Dulles, and in July welcomed more than 200 guests to our Grand Opening & Open House celebration. To support our Veterans and Veteran applicants, we established a wonderful partnership with the **Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation at Vinson Hall** in which Vinson Hall provides high-quality lodging accommodations for our visiting Veterans and Veteran applicants during their trips to VMF for interviews and training.

We have continued our partnerships with **Merial**, the company that supplies flea and heartworm preventatives for our ADITs and Service Dogs. **Vienna Presbyterian Church and Church of the Holy Comforter** continue to be two of VMF's most loyal supporters of our volunteers, provider of transportation for our visiting Veterans and assistance on various VMF projects.

Within our canine therapy program, we welcomed **three new Therapy Teams during 2016 - Lyle Kellman and TD Max, Danielle Alexander and TD Lance, and Hanna Siemering and TD Pi.**

We are proud of our 2016 accomplishments, and look forward to continued success and growth in 2017! **Thank you to all our friends, supporters and advocates - you help keep us motivated!**

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## Christmas Message from VMF



*During this Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our mission possible. In this spirit we say sincerely,*



***Thank You and Best Wishes for the Season and the New Year!***

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## Volunteer Highlight

This month VMF is highlighting our entire team of incredible volunteers - truly the source of energy and manpower that makes VMF go! In addition to performing core VMF functions (such as puppy raising, canine training, health and welfare, veteran interviewing, screening and training, administrative support, and marketing activities), **during 2016 our volunteers made more than 150 total appearances at 37 outreach events**, not including Cocktails with Canines (our annual charity event) or the Grand Opening & Open House for the Canine Training and Veteran Support Center. These events were conducted at venues across the DC Metro, Northern Virginia and Maryland area - **introducing VMF to hundreds of event attendees, speaking with more than 30 veterans interested in obtaining a service dog, and raising more than \$10,400.00 in individual donations to support VMF operations**. Our volunteers' dedication, energy and devotion to our program is truly remarkable and a difference maker!



Thank you VMF volunteers for stepping up to represent VMF so well throughout the year. You are absolutely essential to effectively spreading the word about VMF, our program and the canine services we provide to veterans. VMF volunteers are special people!

A huge thank you to our Veterinary Partners - **Dr. Donna Krochak** of VCA Alexandria, **Market Street Animal Clinic**, **Dr. Daniel Murphy** of Capitol Hill Animal Clinic, **Clifton Centreville Animal Clinic**, **Dr. Nancy Bromberg** of VCA Southpaws and **Dr. Heidi Jung** of Designated Animal Healing, LLC - these dedicated veterinary specialists and clinics generously provide their care and services for VMF's ADITS and service dogs.

A special thank you to canine trainers **Shera Beck**, **Pawfect Pups** and **Pete and Terri Hill**, **Complete Control K9**. These dedicated and talented individuals provide local training support for SD Prince and his veteran and SD King and his veteran - a great example of the extended VMF family supporting our veteran-service dog partners in their continuing journey in life as a confident and capable team.

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## Update on Recent Events

**2016 Kappa Sigma Champions' Weekend.** VMF members Mike Dorula, Blake Myers, Donna Dorula & ADIT Vincent, Dana Richardson & ADIT Eagle and Danielle Alexander & TD Lance attended this annual gathering of representatives from Kappa Sigma chapters across the United States on Saturday, 19 November in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Kappa Sigma's Military Heroes Campaign** has been a key donor and supporter of VMF for several years, and this event afforded VMF the opportunity to meet with the Foundation Officer and Staff, as well as more than 100 Chapter representatives from



across the U.S. In addition to personal (and canine) meetings and discussions, we presented an overview of our program for ADIT training, ADIT and veteran matching, and follow follow-on support to our Veteran and Service Dog partner teams. **Thank you Mike, Donna & Vincent, Dana & Eagle and Danielle & Lance for your great participation. Thank you Kappa Sigma for inviting us to participate and for your generous support of VMF and our mission!**




**Oakton Elementary School - Girls on the Run.** Michele Khol & ADIT Finn, Donna Dorula & ADIT Vincent and Mike Turner & SD/TD Josh represented VMF at this event in support of Oakton's Girls on the Run club, an organization that has adopted VMF for its fundraising efforts during the 2016-2017 school year. **Thank you Canine Team volunteers and thank you Girls on the Run!**



**Church of the Holy Comforter - Pennywise Jewelry Sale.** VMF members Michele Khol, Jill Baker & ADIT Dutch and Mike Turner & SD/TD Josh represented VMF at this fundraising sale on 20 November at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna. All proceeds from sale were donated to VMF. **Thank you Michele, Jill & Dutch and Mike & Josh for representing VMF, and thank you Church of the Holy Comforter and Pennywise Thrift Shop for your generous support of VMF!**


**Madison High School School.** Jill Baker & ADIT Dutch, Randi DeWeese & ADIT Albie, Danielle Alexander & TD Lance and Mike Turner & SD/TD Josh represented VMF at this Student Wellness Day event on 7 December. **Thank you Canine Team volunteers!**

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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.

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VMF is proud to have earned the GuideStar Exchange Gold Logo as a symbol of our commitment to transparency and accountability. We encourage you to visit our [GuideStar profile](#).

WATCH OUR DOGS GROW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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