



Partnering together for a Wine and Wags event!



NAVY MARINE COAST GUARD
RESIDENCE FOUNDATION



Join VMF and our non-profit, corporate partner, Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation (NMCGRF) on Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 5 - 7 pm, for Yappy Hour at Vinson Hall in McLean, Virginia.

To celebrate our partnership and support our combined efforts in helping our nation's veterans, NMCGRF and VMF are co-hosting **Yappy Hour - a wine and wags event** - on the Back Lawn at NMCGRF's Vinson Hall Retirement Community (6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, Virginia).

Yappy Hour promises to be a fun-filled evening, complete with **several of our canines in attendance**, wine, beer, soft drinks and light hors d'oeuvres, and an attendee ticket raffle with several chances to win a bottle of fabulous wine. Proceeds from *Yappy Hour* will benefit Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing at Vinson Hall and VMF's mission of providing trained service dogs to eligible veterans at no cost to the veteran.



Come join us for Yappy Hour! Tickets are available for purchase until September 22, 2017.

Purchase Tickets

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VMF dogs enriching the lives of veterans: Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI)

Veterans Moving Forward employs a unique model that places dogs in service with veterans based on the skills of the dog and the specific needs of the veteran. All VMF dogs are placed into service with veterans, as service dogs, veteran support dogs, or in one of several animal-assisted service capacities.



Vincent

The term "service dog" describes a dog that is trained specific tasks to help mitigate his veteran's disability. The American Veterinary Medical Foundation uses the term "animal-assisted intervention" to describe, in broad terms, other use of various animal species (in this case, canines) in ways that are beneficial to humans (for VMF, veterans). One type of animal-assisted intervention (AAI) involves using a dog in a living facility to provide opportunities for motivation, education, or recreation; in that context, the AAI resident dog's mission is to directly enhance the veterans' quality of life at the living facility. Another type of AAI is animal-assisted therapy, in which the animal-assisted therapy dog is an integral part of the treatment process. VMF currently has two dogs, Vincent and Neil, serving veterans in both of these capacities.



Vincent, a golden retriever, is an animal-assisted intervention resident animal at the Northern Virginia Health Care Center at Birmingham Green in Manassas, Virginia. Vincent's puppy raiser, Donna D., says this about Vincent, who came to VMF in 2015: *"He is a very special dog because he is such a joyful spirit. Vincent has great empathy and is an expert at reading people's emotions. He senses things in people even before they do. He always knows just what to do to make someone feel better - whether to give a heavy lean, be there for a hug or do some antic to make the Veteran laugh. He is a great 'best friend' kind of dog."* VMF is thrilled about Vincent's service at Birmingham Green, where he will enrich the lives of numerous veterans every day.

Neil, also a golden retriever, joined Donna M. at Marine Corps Base Camp

Lejeune in March 2014. He proudly served at the 2d Combat Engineer Battalion and the 2d Medical Battalion during his two years of working on base. Currently, Neil is working as an animal-assisted therapy dog in Donna's private practice in Jacksonville, North Carolina and attends the USO's Warrior and Spouse Reset events in the local area. Donna recently started teaching for University of North Carolina at Wilmington's School of Social Work - and, who knows, maybe Neil will attend some college classes as well! Wherever he goes, Neil is sure to find someone to lovingly lean on or give him a belly rub, and people just can't help but give him a smile in return.



Neil at USO Warrior Reset Event

Veteran support dogs are highly skilled dogs that due to temperament or medical reasons, are not suitable for service dog work. Veteran support dogs provide in-home support to a veteran. Two recently placed veteran support dogs are Mac and Kirby. The VMF September 2017 eNewsletter will feature them!

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VMF relies on the generosity of our sponsors and supporters and offers a very special thank you to our loyal friends!

- **VCA Animal Hospital** raised \$24,000 for VMF through its Pennies for Pets Program
- **Fort Myer Thrift Shop** recently provided VMF a grant of \$12,150
- **Stone's Cove KitBar** raised \$1,450 for VMF through its Do Good Things Sunday Program
- **The Harry Cobey Foundation** recently provided VMF a \$1,000 grant



Donate

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Would you like to meet the VMF team and learn more about our amazing dogs?

Please join us at these upcoming events:

September 23, 2017: [Lovettsville Oktoberfest](#)

Lovettsville's annual Oktoberfest will be held Saturday, September 23, 2017, from 10 AM - 5 PM, in downtown Lovettsville, Virginia. VMF volunteers and dog teams will be at our information table, along with VMF supporter and donor, Susan Trask of Earth Wind and Fleece. Susan is generously donating a percentage of Earth Wind and Fleece's yarn and scarf sales during 2017 to VMF.



[Visit the website](#) for more the full schedule, event map and additional information!

September 28, 2017: Yappy Hour at Vinson Hall, McLean, Virginia (6251 Old Dominion Drive) from 5 - 7 PM. [Please see article above for event information.](#)

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Sign up for our monthly emails.

Veterans Moving Forward (VMF) is a veteran-centric non-profit 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.

VETERANS[®]
MOVING FORWARD

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The logo for Veterans Moving Forward is circular with a gold border. It features a silhouette of a dog sitting on a red and white striped background, with a blue field containing white stars above it. The words 'VETERANS MOVING FORWARD' are written in a gold, serif font around the perimeter of the circle.

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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