



STAND WITH ME

Assistance Dog Team Training

NEWSLETTER

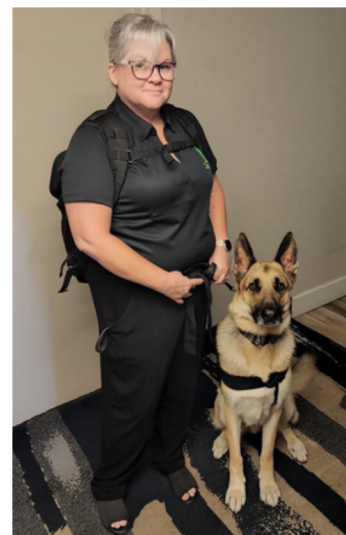
Issue 6

January 2024

Stand With Me was awarded
501(c) 3 status on 28 Sept 2016.

Becky Roden was selected as semi-finalist

...in the American-made Heroes Program by the Evan Williams American-Made Heroes Foundation. Out of thousands of applicants, Becky, a Stand With Me graduate, was one of 10 semi-finalists and was recognized for not only her accomplishments in the military, but also her continued dedication to supporting her community. Becky worked in multiple medical departments at the National Naval Medical Center and treated active-duty and retired military personnel from all branches of service. She cared for patients experiencing a wide range of severe trauma with incredible compassion. She not only treated severe burns and lost limbs, but also provided emotional support and companionship for people going through some of the most difficult times in their life. She continues to put her life on the line as a volunteer firefighter, helps people in dire need as an EMT, and teaches the next generation of first responders. Becky is a current Stand With Me board member and one of our most active volunteers.



Cara Tilton was honored as a Binghamton Hometown Hero

Stand With Me graduate and Marine Corps veteran Cara Tilton was honored as a Binghamton Hometown Hero in the first unveiling of banners this fall. You can see Cara's banner on the Bevier Street bridge in Binghamton near the entrance to Otsiningo Park. Cara also received a Proclamation from Senator Lea Webb at the Broome County Veterans Resource Fair this past November. The Proclamation highlighted Cara's accomplishments in the military, dedication to our country, and continued service to veterans. Cara began her military service just prior to September 11th, 2001. She was stationed in Iraq in 2004, a time of great peril for American soldiers. After being compelled to retire due to injuries, Cara continued to support her fellow comrades as the outreach coordinator at Binghamton Vet Center and she is currently serving as Vice President of the board for the Southern Tier Veterans Support Group. She also continues to be a very active volunteer for Stand With Me.



Welcome to Jeff Kreider as our new volunteer Veteran Liaison

Stand With Me graduate, Jeff, has been an advocate and champion of the Stand With Me program since he joined the program in 2019. Given his extensive experience with our program and his perspective as a veteran we're excited to have him take a more active role in helping veterans who apply or enroll in our program to get any additional support or resources they need.



Community Events & News

- Our new Director of Operations attended the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans Conference this past July in Washington D.C.
- Stand With Me was featured in a segment on WBNG for Service Dog Awareness Month (September).
- A new ambassador dog, Grizzly, has joined our team to help teach the community about service dogs, be a teaching assistant in veteran training lessons, and be an ambassador at community events!
- Stand With Me was invited to give educational presentations to all the classes at African Rd Elementary and Glenwood Elementary in Vestal NY to teach students about service dogs and how they help veterans.



- Several Stand With Me graduates, students, and board members marched in the Endicott Veteran's Day Parade.
- We were busy around Veteran's Day, attending events to connect with veterans who might be in need of our services. Stand With Me reps attended the Visions Veteran's Expo, Broome County Veterans Resource Fair, and the Oneonta Veterans Resource Fair, to name a few.
- We were invited to table at Military appreciation night at Binghamton Black Bears hockey game.



- Stand With Me graduate teams Mel and Goose and Jeff and Abby were featured on the Ryan Leckey Podcast (Episode 33: Service Dog Superheroes, available wherever you listen to podcasts!).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 27th Ripics Lanes Bowling Fundraiser
- September 14th – Stay tuned for our first ever Paws and Pints event at Beer Tree Brew in Port Crane, NY
- VFW Pool Tournament and Ziti Bake fundraiser (date TBD)

Stand With Me Updates

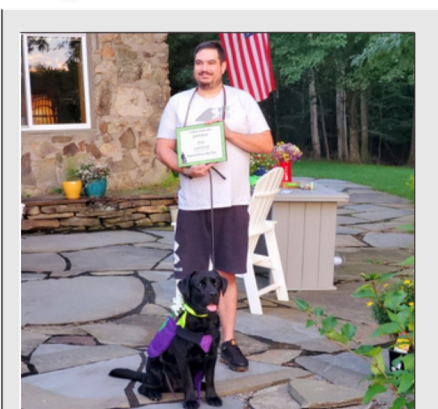
27 GRADUATES

STUDENTS **9**

10 VETERANS
in our Honor Guard

VETERANS **11**
participating in our group activities

Program Graduates from July, September & October 2023



July 2023



September 2023



September 2023



October 2023

Remembering Donna Easton (1952-2023) – Stand With Me volunteer, donor, and family member of two Stand With Me participants



In loving memory of Donna, a cherished soul whose dedication to Stand With Me continues to inspire us all. Her selfless contributions and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on our hearts and the community we serve. Donna's kindness, passion, and tireless efforts will forever be remembered and deeply missed. Though she may be gone, her spirit lives on in the countless lives she touched and the lasting impact she has made in our community. We honor Donna's legacy by carrying forward the mission she so wholeheartedly believed in.

Requirements for Veterans to participate in our Training School:

- Must have a service-connected mental health disability (e.g. PTSD or MST)
- Must remain engaged with a mental health treatment professional throughout the duration the program
- A licensed mental health treatment professional must support their participation in our service dog training program
- Graduation consists of a public access certification test and re-certification is necessary every 1-2 years

Thank you & Education

In our last issue, we reviewed the definition of a service dog as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and explained public access rights under ADA law. This month, we want to share what kinds of tasks service dogs perform to help people with a disability.

Examples of tasks service dogs might perform from ADA law (an abbreviated list; source ada.gov)

- Guiding people who are blind
- Alerting people who are deaf
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Picking up items for someone with a physical disability
- Alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure
- Alerting someone with diabetes of blood sugar that is too high or too low
- Reminding a person with an illness to take prescribed medications
- Calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack

To all of our individual donors: You all are the bedrock of the Stand With Me organization and without your generous support, the Stand With Me program would not be able to help so many local veterans and their families. Please know that your kindness has an incredible impact on the lives of veterans who are struggling with the unseen wounds of war. THANK YOU!

Our sincere thanks to:

- United Way of Broome County
- The employees of the Binghamton F.W. Webb
- Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Bernice Gould Memorial Fund
- The Community Foundation for South Central New York Small Grants Fund
- Evan Williams Bourbon American-made Heroes Foundation
- The Home Depot and the employees of the Johnson City Home Depot
- Visions FCU/Visions Cares
- BAE Systems and the employees of BAE
- Blue Wave Solar Energy
- Magacs Electric, LLC
- M&T Bank Foundation
- Southern Tier Veteran's Support Group
- The Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains Women Helping Women Fund
- Tioga State Bank Foundation
- Auchinachie Services
- Walmart Stores – Horseheads, Ithaca, and Norwich NY; Sayre PA
- African Road Elementary School staff, students, and families
- Tioga County Kennel Club
- Ben Margolius
- Brian and Maria Small
- Dave and Elizabeth Glynn
- Rebecca Davis
- William Ketcham
- Sharon Fish
- Elaine and Chuck Stocking
- Jim and Carol Fish, The Kerby Fund
- Terri Petryszyn/Lil Bargain Barn
- Phil, Stacey, Annie & the helpers of the VFW pool tournament and the Southern Tier APA Pool League
- Vestal Elks Club & the Vestal Elks Veterans
- Spencer Lions Club
- Mark & Maria McMahan
- Ovid/Willard Lions Club
- Wegmans
- Donna and Kyle Hartman of Brookeridge Labradors
- Beth McCumber of Gemstar Golden Retrievers
- Chris and Dave Hodge of Davris Labradors
- Private donors through the payroll deduction program via the United Way
- All of Stand With Me volunteers and graduates who advocate and fundraise on behalf of Stand With Me
- All of our community partners and collaborators
- All of our private donors! You are the backbone of our organization!

Grateful



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteer: We are always looking for volunteers to help us with fundraising events. Please contact Meghan at fundraising@standwithmeorg.com if you are interested in donating raffle items or your time.

Donate: Visit our website or Facebook page to make a donation today, every dollar helps!