

## ***K9 Heroes 4 Heroes***

**Mission Statement:** Provide Service Dogs to Veterans and First Responders. Train dogs and handlers, by providing the necessary equipment, initial veterinary costs, and associated follow-up training.

Over 18.2 million Veterans live in the United States. One in three Veterans struggle with a post-combat mental health issue and 20 percent suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Approximately 35 percent of First Responders experience some form of PTSD. Using Service Dogs as a tool to aid in the recovery of a variety of mental and physical health issues is becoming more accepted as a treatment method. To properly train a Service Dog to perform these tasks requires money and substantial time. Depending on the needs of the recipient it can take up 4 months or longer to provide skilled, daily training to a Service Dog and each Veteran or First Responder. Once initial training is complete, we recommend on-going training for the recipient and their dog.

The expense associated with providing a dog, skilled training, equipment, veterinary services, food, and daily care can exceed \$25,000. These costs are a major reason more Service Dogs are not in the field. Other factors include time, awareness, stigmas around mental health, and ongoing care expenses.

***K9 Heroes 4 Heroes*** goal is to put only expertly trained Service Dogs into the hands of Veterans and First Responders. We accomplish this through our partnership with American K9 Dynamics and their team of Certified Trainers. Their proven success and continued learning continues to be invaluable to our success.

***K9 Heroes 4 Heroes*** is 100 percent funded through charitable donations. If you or your organization has an interest in supporting, collaborating, or partnering with K9H4H we would be honored to speak with you about the opportunities in which you can help.

Respectfully,

Joe Gionti

501(c)(3)

86-1631742

Founder/Executive Director

400 Appletree Court

Painesville, OH 44077

440-821-6010

Instagram: @k9h4h

Facebook: @k9heroes4heroes

LinkedIn: @k9heroes4heroes

