

Veterans Moving Forward Assisting Veterans with Service Dogs

Veterans Moving Forward, Inc., is a 501c3 nonprofit whose HQ and Training Center is located in Dulles, VA. Our not-for-profit provides trained and certified service dogs to veterans dealing with physical and/or mental health challenges.

VMF's "Vision" is to be *The Premier*, national, not-for-profit organization for veterans seeking and receiving assistance/service or skilled companion dogs at no cost to the veterans or their families, and to optimize veterans' employment in distributing service dogs to veterans to meet growing demands.

VMF's "Goals" are to offer employment opportunities for veterans and partnerships with Service-Disabled and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB/VOSB) to leverage the talents, skills, dedication, and commitment of veterans to support fellow veterans in all aspects of our operations and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our veterans and increase their safety and independence within their environment.

VMF differs from similar service organizations that only focus on veterans with PTSD or those of certain wars. We serve all veterans from all branches of service, combat, and noncombat injuries, regardless of periods of service. If a veteran is wounded, lost a leg due to diabetes, dealing with PTSD, or any other mental or physical challenge, we will engage with them and their medical providers to see if one of our dogs can help the veteran to be able to "Move Forward" with their lives. The veteran only needs to be Honorably separated or retired from the military and have support from their primary care provider(s) who support their effort to obtain a service dog.

VMF makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our veterans by increasing their safety and independence within their environment. As all Americans struggle to navigate through the COVID-19 crisis, our military veterans and their families have been hit particularly hard. We know that there are millions of veterans who are more likely to experience job loss, financial concerns, and feelings of isolation and depression during this pandemic.

Because of this, our Service and Emotional Support Dog Programs are even more important today than ever before as we continue to house, feed, train and place our wonderful Service Dogs in Training (SDiT) with veterans dealing with physical and/or mental challenges.

Here is just an example of one of our veterans, Maureen: *"It was my Primary Care doctor at the VA Hospital who suggested that I could really benefit from a service dog. Then my rehab team, cognitive rehabilitation specialist, physical therapist, physiatrist, and occupational therapist were on board. They all thought that a dog could help enhance my mobility and ground my brain in the present moment with the opportunity for increased focus and concentration. Little did they know that Prince would do much more. With Prince, I am more physically active because I have help with my balance. I'm not afraid to go out and about because I'm not alone. Prince is always right by my side. He's my helper, my companion, my co-worker, my closest friend, and my hero. I'm so grateful to Veterans Moving Forward for raising and training this incredible boy, Prince, the King of Dogs!!!"*

Many other veterans like Maureen need our help. Now, more than ever, we are so thankful for our fellow veterans and veterans' supporters to recognize the importance of our mission and provide financial support. Your donation and hopefully, continued support, will ensure that we are able to continue housing, feeding, training, and placing our service, emotional support and facility dogs with veterans and veteran medical clinics across the country.

Again, "Thank You" so very much for your support. It will ensure that we may stand together and support deserving veterans like Maureen so that they too are able to "Move Forward" with their lives. For more information, to become a Volunteer, to apply for one of our great service dogs, or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit the Veterans Moving Forward website: www.vetsfwd.org.







Future Service Dogs – “Baldy” and “Jacob”

