

OPERATIONFREEDOMPAWS



O P E R A T I O N F R E E D O M P A W S I N 2 0 2 0

UNPREDICTABLE TIMES A TRUE STRUGGLE

Dear Readers,

We are in unpredictable times. Many people are feeling helpless, isolated, and anxious. At the same time, so many of our clients from the early days are reaching out on social media, by phone and asking for help. We currently have 424 clients and their families to support.

Operation Freedom Paws is struggling, as are all non-profits and small business. The federal relief program is a joke and takes forever, what was to be 10k is now 1k. If you're not a large non-profit or business supporting thousands of people, you're on the bottom of the list for funds.

Operation Freedom Paws income is down by 80% because of the shelter in place. But all of the regular expenses of running the program continue.

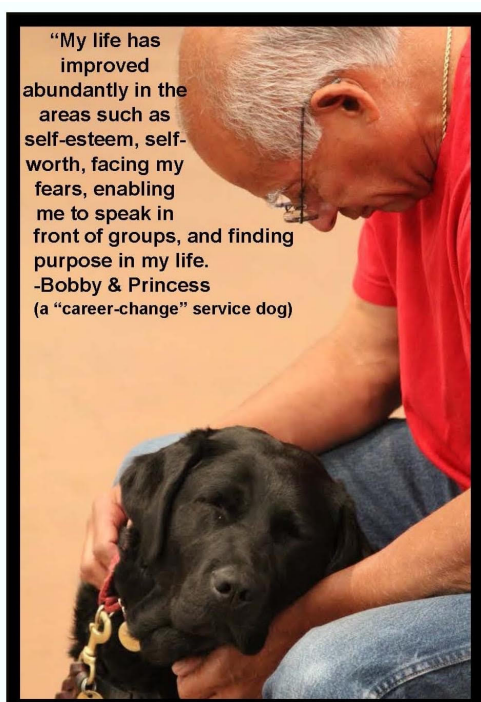
We work so hard to teach our clients to stop isolating, and here we are with shelter in place orders. Right back to square one isolating, they have their dogs but are afraid to take them out because of rumors that dogs can get the virus.

Because we care about the safety and well being of those we serve as well as our volunteers, staff, and our entire community, we are following protocol and cooperating with local authorities every step of the way. Holding small classes, reaching out and connecting with all of our 424 clients via text, phone calls, FB messenger, Face time, Zoom and email. It's the reason why we do what we do. To keep our clients connected and moving forward. Keeping them social in any way we can right now.

As much of our attention is focused, rightly so, on those needing critical services like health care, food, and shelter, we want to continue to inspire, encourage, and empower our community during this precarious time.

We will move to host virtual conversations, Webinars, and Facebook Live events to replace our on-site training, educational and advocacy programs. We don't have the details locked down yet, but we will continue to amplify our concerns around and advocate for disabled veterans, individuals and the use of service dogs.

We look forward to when our doors will re-open and our programs return to normal. Until then, we will prepare to make up for lost time and set a course for the future. We hope that you will join us in making sure that our mission remains sustainable as we navigate this unknown territory.



"My life has improved abundantly in the areas such as self-esteem, self-worth, facing my fears, enabling me to speak in front of groups, and finding purpose in my life.
-Bobby & Princess
(a "career-change" service dog)

We believe in keeping love, joy, and patience flowing – even while engaging in social distancing. When all of this is over, we will be here to help our clients and those yet to come to move forward.

That's why I'm asking you, to consider supporting our efforts during this incredibly difficult period by giving today. If you are able to donate at this time to support the ongoing good work of OFP we can use your help, more than ever.

Donations can be made through Network for the Good, our website www.operationfreedompaw.org, PayPal, or you can create a fundraiser on Facebook. You can also mail a check to Operation Freedom Paws, 777 First Street PMB 515, Gilroy, CA 95020. You can also transfer stock. Any amount helps.

Please check our website and social media for updates. We will get through this -- together while apart. We will adapt. We will learn lessons. On behalf of Operation Freedom Paws and all our clients, I want to thank you personally for your support. We couldn't do this without you.

Mary Cortani
Founder and Executive Director