

OPERATIONFREEDOMPAWS



OPERATION FREEDOM PAWS IN 2019

SAVING TWO LIVES AT ONCE AND MAYBE MORE

Dear Readers,

The hardest thing for me to do is ask for money. Working with the dogs, clients and their families seems to be the easy part. Running and managing any company is hard enough but running a non-profit where you do not have widgets or products to sell can be overwhelming.

When we ask for money it is to save lives, 2 at a time and sometimes more. We don't just provide rescued dogs and train them with our clients to become service dogs. We work with their families and have therapists available at all times. We are here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

With all the craziness in the world and at home, it has become harder and harder to keep doing what we do every day. Donations are down by 50% across the board for us. I can find answers to our clients' problems, yet for the last year I have not been able to find an answer to raising more dollars. Or, why the big shift? I am a positive person, but for the first time I am afraid, and worry each day how we will be able to continue saving lives, changing lives, and giving hope for a better tomorrow.

The last year has seen 6 clients return for a second dog because of end of life or end of service. We have always been there, but will we be able to be there tomorrow? I have never asked myself That question until now.

This week myself and several other staff members were there every moment of a heartbreaking tragedy for one of our clients who from 2012 has stayed connected, volunteered and worked for OFP. Due to an unforeseen health issue, their service dog collapsed at the Center. We rushed the handler and dog to an



emergency vet clinic, only to find out the handler had to make that hard choice to let their life line, their best buddy, their heart – cross the rainbow bridge. We have all been affected by this event. Yet we open our arms and embraced the client, surrounded them with love and put a plan in place to keep that client alive and place another dog with them as quickly as possible.

We can do that this time, but will we be able to next time one of our clients needs us?

Now more than ever I realize we cannot do it without you. We need donations, we need money. We need you to ask friends, family, co-workers, companies, corporations to support Operation Freedom Paws. Because without you there may be no tomorrow for future clients or the 50 current clients and their families.

Please give hope for those who need it the most. Bring them out of isolation, reconnect them to family, friends and the world.

Please help us to save two lives, one 4 legged and one 2 legged.

-Mary Cortani
Founder and Executive Director

FUNDRAISING UNDER THE POLE BARN

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, DONORS, AND GUESTS

On August 10, 2019 our annual Paws for Patriots Wine Gala was held at the OFP property. A fun time was had by all. We were blessed with our Master of Ceremonies, KBay's Jona Denz-Hamilton and our favorite auctioneer, Mark Turner to keep the crowd busy. The live auction was filled with fantastic donations such as a Bay Area Flight, a Helicopter ride over the coast, a custom-made OFP Wine Barrel to name just a few.

Thank you to our Sponsors



The event was a huge success thanks to our generous Sponsors, and the incredible support with thoughtful donations for the live auction, silent auction, and drawings. Our guests enjoyed music for the evening that was performed by the OFP All-Stars Band, who graciously donated their time. And a huge thank you to volunteers from Dell, Ebay, and others who helped with all aspects of the event. It would not be possible without them.

EVENTS COMING UP

COME OUT AND WALK WITH US

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Faith's 5k/10k Run ~ Walk ~ Roll



To register:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/CA/Vallejo/Faiths5kFunRun>

Proceeds to benefit Operation Freedom Paws

Sunday, November 10, 2019 M

Morgan Hill Veteran's Day Run



Support the local Veterans and join OFP for the 5K walk. Operation Freedom Paws will benefit from a portion of the proceeds.

To register:

<http://morganhillveteransdayrun.com/>

MEET THOMAS

A FAMILY REUNITED

My name is Thomas. I am a disabled, retired U.S. Marine. I was in a wheelchair after surgery and coming out of a comma. All I wanted to do was sleep all day and stay in my room. I am married and have a nine-year boy. I felt like my wife and son would be so better off without me. I would try to think of ways to kill myself that would not be too much pain for my family. My son would come in at night and sleep on the floor next to me in my room. I had my own room because I needed a medical bed for other medical problems like 24 hrs IV. That is all the sad stuff.



Now comes Operation Freedom Paws (OFP). OFP matches the rescued dog with the disabled person in need of a service dog. My partner's name is Sasha; she has a beautiful personality - so caring, she knows when I am in pain and I need to sit down. YES, sit down.

Sasha helped me to get out of the wheelchair.

Sasha loves to walk, and I have to go with her. From a wheelchair to a walker to a walking cane. We had fallen, but my partner would move in front of me to brace my fall and stay in front to help me get up. SASHA NEVER LET ME GIVE UP HOPE. Sasha sleeps next to my bed and stands up to help me so that I do not fall out of bed. I now can do things with my son outside. Now Sasha plays with my Son and me. Even the relationship with my wife is so much better. After I learned how to communicate with Sasha, I learned how to better communicate with my wife.



The feeling I get when Sasha is with me is like taking a deep breath and knowing it's okay. And when she jumps on the bed and puts her nose under my neck, I know she loves me as much as I love her. When I have a dream from the war, I would jump out of bed and fall down, breaking ribs once. I even kicked a hole in the wall and yelled, but now I can sleep with my wife or son. Sasha is next to me on the floor and will jump on my chest and look me in my eye as she wakes me up. Sasha is 70 lbs, so when she has jumps on me, there is no problem waking up. My biggest wish is for anyone who needs a Service Dog, that they may get one. I have received a lifetime of wishes from Sasha.



On Sunday, November 10, 2019 I will be walking in the Morgan Hill Veteran's 5K with 15 friends for OFP . This event is for Veterans, to honor the men and women who have served or are currently serving. Come out and walk with us to support local Veterans. You may register at <http://morganhillveteransdayrun.com>.

MAY ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE AS MINE HAVE.
Thomas and Sasha



Operation Freedom Paws
777 First St. PMB 515 | Gilroy, CA 95020
"Four Paws, Two Feet, One Team"

WAYS YOU MAY HELP

Thank You!

- Traveling? Working? Your dog would love to stay here at OFP in our Daycare and Boarding facility. We have staff on-site 24/7 to make sure the dogs in our care have a great experience. All the proceeds support our Mission.
- Do you have a dog? Who walks who? OFP offers public training classes for dogs at all different levels. All the proceeds support our Mission.
- Ask about our OFP Merchandise.....T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Long Sleeve T-Shirts, Hoodies, bumper stickers, and other goodies.
- OFP is in constant need of supplies. Find our Amazon Wishlist on our home page at www.operationfreedompaws.org and order supplies that are needed for the dogs and the Mission. THANK YOU!!
- Do you have spare time? OFP would love for you to volunteer. Go to www.operationfreedompaws.org/how-to-help and complete the Volunteer application.
- Donate to OFP by using the "DONATE" button at www.operationfreedompaws.org and make a secure credit card donation. Or you may send a check to Operation Freedom Paws - mail to 777 First St, PMB 515, Gilroy CA 95020. THANK YOU!!
- **amazon smile** Shop and OFP will receive a small contribution.....it all adds up! Use Amazon Smile and a percentage is given to a charity of your choice, which we hope is OFP!
- Shop at iGive.com. You Shop. Your Charity Gets Money. For Free. There are over 2,100 stores to choose from. Choose Operation Freedom Paws as the beneficiary and we receive a donation.
- Call 1-877-977-9577 or e-mail [Able Auto Charity Donation Corporation](mailto:Ableautocharitydonation@gmail.com) at Ableautocharitydonation@gmail.com to donate a vehicle. Mention that you would like a percentage to go to OFP. These friendly folks have contracts nationwide.
- Put your name on the list for the children's book about to be released, written by a veteran, Connor Quinn.
A story of a Service Dog, Dakota – Four Paws, Two Feet, One Team.
- Host a Fundraiser on your Facebook page.....for your Birthday, for the holidays, any day!!
- Consider a Legacy Gift.....ask OFP for details.
- Like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and share our posts with your friends!!!

