

Before I got Clara, I was struggling with life after three deployments as a combat medic. Crushing guilt about soldiers I had lost in combat slowly turned into a vicious cycle of anger, alcohol and depression. I lost all sense of purpose and was truly without hope. Initially, I was not happy about my family connecting me to K9sOTFL. I did not want to be a walking billboard telling the world that I was broken. Then I noticed how Clara just seemed to know what I needed to ground me and keep me in the moment. Soon I was going out to stores again and I even smiled. We both worked hard and graduated. Clara has saved my life in many ways and she is like a fellow soldier that now has my six and gives me the confidence to move forward and be successful. K9sOTFL has given me so much of my life back and asked for nothing in return. They are always right behind me, so I can stop running and avoiding, and instead become healthier and happier every day.



Timothy Jacobson, US Army



I am proud to report as of right now I have made Dean's list twice consecutively now with a GPA of 3.6. I have never done this well in school and I do believe much of that focus and ability is in major part from all your help and support, as well as the day to day support I get from my service dog. Theo has helped me through some very difficult times in the past couple of years and has been a constant light in my day. He and you have really proven that it just takes one step and one friend to help make a brother's or sister's life easier to manage. I am now entering my third year in the civilian world and I don't think I would have made it this far without you.

Benjamin Chamberlain, US Marine Corps

I was mentally sliding downhill and not willing to lose everything. All I knew about service dogs was what I'd seen on TV and in the movies, and the reality is nowhere near that fiction. I'm glad that I learned all of this while he learned how to behave in public and conquer his fear of stuffed animals and statues. Glad that I learned that the point of a service dog for PTSD isn't only for the dog to convince you that the world is safe, but also for you to convince the dog. I had to get back out into the world and in public to teach him these things. I have to learn to be okay in And when I'm not, he does his best to give me handles things until I find quieter grounds to alone with the things in my head or feeling like everyone at all times. Building a bond and buddy has taught me how to reconnect socially isolated. With every success I feel a sense of taught him and he taught me how to get there. intimidating at times, like it's broadcasting my and maybe judge. The world doesn't matter, though. Max is the one with me day in and day out, and he's the one that has my back no matter what kind of day or mood I'm in, ready to climb in my lap and give hugs despite his bulk. He's with me when I'm at my worst, and he's there when I'm at my best. And I think he's the best risk I've ever taken. Thank you K9s on The Front Line, you changed my life.



Sara Nicholson, US Army



K9sOTFL found Bella for me, and I met her for the first time in a Home Depot. When they released Bella from her leash, and she ran to me, when she got to me she put the side of her head on my leg. It was an instant connection. K9sOTFL helped teach me how to train her and stood by me all the way. Bella has made an immensely positive impact on my life, an impact that towers everything I tried prior to getting Bella. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Eli Ranquist, US Army

For years I just blended into the background, always alone. I stayed by myself, it was my comfort zone, I guess. It led to isolation and serious depression. Angel has given me the reason for getting out of bed. Her unconditional love has given me hope. When I first met K9sOTFL, I really didn't know if I could be around that many new people and I remember looking for the exits. From the beginning everyone involved in this program has been warm, loving and caring. This kindness was hard for me to process. Each week of the course gave me more confidence, each week I felt more connected to the K9sOTFL family and it was great to be with other veterans. Angel becoming a service dog has given me a sense of pride. I look forward to getting out of bed now. Angel gives me the ability to go to places and into spaces that I would have avoided in the past. Angel gives me confidence and a much better quality of life. I may never completely heal inside, but my life has become a lot brighter and K9sOTFL's program has given me the ability to significantly decrease the medications I had been taken for many years.



Walter Richard, US Navy



Having Magnum in my life has given me my freedom back and lets me be in control of my life instead of my PTSD. I am now able to travel, enjoying time with my family, and I am emotionally available to my children again. Even after the program ended for me, K9sOTFL has stood by me and my family on a moment's notice. Unexpected veterinary problems got solved, great advice has been given, and personal tragedy was overcome thanks in part to my K9sOTFL family. I can always count on them, thank you.

Bernard MacFarland, US Army

It took me a long time to decide to go forward with entering the program. I was stuck thinking service dogs were only for the blind and what could a service dog do for me? Even though it was a big leap for me, I decided to give it a try. Once I did apply, Hagen and Gina treated me and my family like their own and their warmth took away any apprehension I had before entering. I had a glimmer of hope that there are good people out there and there would be help for me. There was slow and steady positive change. The training has been hard but rewarding. Being with Gunner at all times has helped to even my emotions. I can feel my self-confidence slowly grow a little more each day. On bad days Gunner is there beside me, not judging me and helping me steadily climb up out of that hole. A bad day now is many times better than a good day in the past. Some days I feel like the sky is the limit, which I haven't felt for a long time. Reflecting on my experience with K9s on the Front Line, today is one of those sky is the limit days!



Simone Emmons, US Army



Thank you Team K9sOTFL for giving me this lifesaving opportunity. Leo and I have become a heck of a team; my Battle Buddy keeps standing watch. He has become a part of me and an extension of me. Leo has helped me better myself and my life. I have seen such a change in he and myself, I feel like a part of me is missing when he is not by my side. This is a precious gift and has helped me in so many ways, more than most people realize and that many will never understand. Just being able to feel him press against me, that lean against my leg or the side of his head nudging my arm and face in the middle of the night giving that silent word of reassurance saying, 'Don't worry IGY6'. To my Brothers and Sisters who know exactly know what I am talking about, don't be afraid to reach out.

Bob Higgins, US Army

For me, being in the Army was like jumping on a moving train. When I transitioned out of the Army I didn't feel like I had a purpose or direction, coupled with pretty heavy anxiety and depression that went on for years despite traditional therapy and a plethora of medications. Everything fell into place after I met K9s on the Front Line. A second chance, it really is a rebirth almost. Thank you to the entire team of K9s on The Front Line for giving me my life back, thank you for giving me my future, thank you for giving me my family back.



Jeremiah Church, US Army



Gracie taught me so much about myself and how to be better. She's taught me to be more patient, helping me be a better father. She's taught me to communicate better, helping me be a better husband. She knows when I'm tensed up or feeling low and to be silly and loving to get me to smile. Living with PTSD is very hard for me to admit. Actually living is what my Gracie helps me do.

Sam Raymond, US Air Force

When I reached out to K9s on The Front Line I had lost all hope, not realizing that only one week later I would be introduced to my new best friend Goose. After receiving Goose, I noticed instantaneous change, and for the first time in ages I had something to think about other than my PTSD related anxieties. I had someone watching my back from all the worries that would overcome my daily life tasks. This dog has not just improved my life but my family's well-being, too. Goose will take a head count of my family for whenever we're gone for any amount of time. I have little to no crowd issues when he's by my side and he can sense when I'm having a bad day. Living is something I can now enjoy with my family, instead of being overwhelmed by guilt and regret. Now that I can breathe I stop looking down, and I am able to see the world with my K9 partner Goose. I'm so glad I went through this program. Thank you K9sOTFL!



Jonathan Biddle, US Army



It may sound over the top, but in some ways, it is a matter of life and death. I've been to the edge with my thoughts. Dawson helps to center me, or find a place where I am not as numb. He is trained to sense my trigger situations and settle me down. In stores, he will sit behind me to provide the additional personal space I need in lines. Dawson is just a fun partner and he keeps it light.

Raymond MacGregor, US Air Force

I've been through the VA for therapy and they tried all kinds of medications. Since I've gotten Boss it is the first time that my blood pressure has been normal in ten years. My heart rate is down and the only difference is him, no medication needed. I'm enjoying exploring things with him, I am enjoying living.

Kim Powers-Candelmo, US Navy





This organization is amazing. I graduated and it really does make a difference. No more panic attacks that sent me to the ER. I can leave the house without fear or hesitation. Rebel made my life become a lot better, I don't know what I would have done without K9sOTFL.

Kevin Angell, US Army

I am a Vietnam Vet and spent two tours in Nam. I have struggled for many years with PTSD, and was planning on being one of the 22 Veterans per day who choose to end it rather than keep living it. I was taking pills to go to bed and taking pills to get through the day. I found K9sOTFL and after only 12 weeks with my dog I don't take pills anymore. I look forward to getting up each day and I don't have nightmare anymore. Thank you K9sOTFL for giving me a new life. God bless you all.



Herman Wright, US Army



They gave me a new best friend and gave me my life back. If I am down and my mind is in a bad spot, she knows. She lifts me up and makes it feel okay... like I'm allowed to have a bad day and she'll still be right there with me.

Jared Reichel, US Army

I graduated from the K9sOTFL program just before Christmas, and I take less anxiety medicine every day. I don't even bring an emergency stash with me when I leave the house. I get into my truck and feel calmer knowing Paddy is with me. We completed this program together and I would be in a much darker place without him.



Joey, US Army



Andy has been the greatest gift of my life. Thank you Hagen, and everyone at K9s on The Front Line, for supporting and realizing my desire to be as independent as possible. Slowly but surely Andy is helping me open those doors to a new life, literally and figuratively.

Shawna Mayo-Barnes, US Army

I want to thank K9sOTFL for all that they have done for JB and I. Prior to having JB, my life was pretty lonely. Since my medical retirement from the Army I didn't leave the house except to get groceries and go to my VA appointments. My relationships with family and friends had suffered greatly and I have not felt much connection to the world around me for the last 10 years. I have been living with a deep sense of sadness and loss compared to who I was as a soldier, my mental state and my physical abilities during my service. Since my retirement, my health had been in a constant downward spiral. Getting my health, focus and motivation back had only been a dream, until I contemplated the idea of a service dog. Friends connected me to a fellow Veteran and graduate of K9sOTFL's program who offered to donate a pup to a Veteran with PTSD, .....I was blown away! I felt like the universe was saying 'Paul you asked for this, you need this, so here you go, the rest is up to you'. I didn't hesitate and was ready for things to change, to get my life back and so much more. I am eternally grateful for finding K9sOTFL and completing their amazing program, and making new friends for life.



This program is making a huge difference in the lives of not only Veterans but also amazing dogs that would otherwise not have had a life or purpose.

Paul Bernard, US Army

I wanted to take a moment and thank you again, you all have no idea how truly grateful we are for K9sOTFL! I still cannot believe Adam got up and spoke in front of everyone, he just wanted everyone to know how truly amazing you all are and that what you are doing really does matter and is lifesaving, and that he himself is proof. It wasn't until just a year ago that he finally admitted to me how bad things really were. He always felt like he needed to be strong, and admitting that he needed help was a sign of weakness, so for him to admit it in front of everyone was the strongest thing I have ever seen him do. I don't think even he realized how bad he needed Ruger until much later, but that dog has truly changed him. Without you all, I and my family would all be in a much different situation right now, and we will all be forever grateful for your kindness, generosity, and selflessness! From the bottom of my heart, thank you for giving me my husband back!

Tara Farrington, wife of Adam Farrington, U.S. Army



My TBI and PTSD will be with me for a lifetime. Remarkably, through K9s on The Front Line, I have gained three new brothers, an amazing family of support, and a service dog of goofball proportions! We all can count on one another and for this alone, I am forever grateful. I look forward to giving back. "Where this is no path, we will make one."

Erik Minnis, US Air Force

Remi has impacted my life in many ways. Isolation used to be the way I dealt with things from two deployments as a combat medic. On a cold December day Remi and I met for the first time. I felt scared, nervous, anxious and uncomfortable. So did Remi, but along came K9sOTFL to rescue us. With patience and expert guidance we set forth on the journey we are currently on. Over the course of our training we grew and a bond formed between Remi and me. We came to a mutual understanding that I will help him with his challenges if he helps me with my own. It used to go like this: I needed to run to the store for bread and diapers. I would get so anxious and scared of the situation that I would rush and forget the bread. Now I take Remi. He makes me feel safe and has my six. There's a small victory in buying the bread, along with the diapers. All of this because of K9sOTFL. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



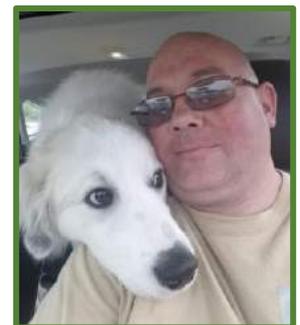
Matthew Libby, US Army



Thank you for giving me and my brothers from class hope, and the opportunity to receive some amazing pups and learn how to use them to help us in our lives. Thank you also for bringing these other three brothers into my life. I had lost faith in true brotherhood as it was just starting to become a word. No matter how hard I fought myself to believe otherwise, my day to day experiences were proof that this word gets thrown around a lot. Then came along this group and I am proud to say my K9s on The Front Line family has restored my faith in the sanctity of brotherhood.

Oscar Gerry, US Army

We all have walked into the depths of hell, and returned. I am an Army Combat Veteran with four years of combat rotations in both Afghanistan and Iraq as EOD. I am medically retired, suffering from debilitating PTSD and TBI. The love from all you guys taught me there is some good nuts left in the bowl, even if we are all missing some screws. Doug is now my life, and before him I hated dogs! Linda Murray, tirelessly working behind the scenes, and if it wasn't for her hard work, none of it could even begin to happen. Gina is a jack of all trades and does so much for nothing. Hagen is one of the most unique, but also the most loving person in the whole group. When I met him, intuition told me he was a person who is worth trusting. These guys know exactly what they are doing, and they relate to us Veterans so easily. They are great people and would give you the shirt off their backs if you needed it. This organization is hands down the best service dog venue for any Veteran.



Joey Hall, US Army