



Press Kit



Overview

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet® is an ALL volunteer **501(c)3 Military and Veterans Support Organization** supporting our active duty military, wounded warriors, veterans, and their beloved pets with **programs** to ensure these beloved pets are reunited with their owners following a deployment (combat or peacekeeping or humanitarian mission) and/or an unforeseen medical and/or homeless hardship. Also supporting our service members and veterans diagnosed with PTSD needing a specially trained assistance canine enhancing the service member/veteran's quality of life. Unless stated otherwise **programs are available in all 50 states and all Branches of Service including National Guard and Reserves** (individual and/or unit is or has been activated).

Mission Statement

National all-volunteer 501(c)3 Military and Veteran Support Organization assisting active duty service members, wounded warriors, veterans, and their beloved companion animals or assistance service canines through various assistance programs.

Clients

- **Active Duty:** single and dual military couples whose units have received deployment orders related to a combat or peacekeeping or humanitarian mission. **(Foster term up to 1 year)**
- **Wounded Warrior:** assistance related to a medical and/or homeless situation by working with the various VA medical assigned representative (mentor, counselor, social work, etc.) or the military Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) program. **(Foster Term up to 1 year)**
- **Honorable/General Discharged Veteran:** assistance related to a medical and/or homeless situation by working with the various VA Medical and Homeless Veteran Transition program representatives (mentor, counselor, case manager, etc.) **(Foster Term between 3 – 9 months dependent on situation)**
- **Family of Deployed Hero:** assistance related to a medical situation within the family that would have an impact for the family to care for their beloved pet during the spouse's deployment. **(Foster Term – same as deployment term)**
- **Military Family PCS:** out of the country or to a different military installation within the continental US and taking their pet(s) with them, but due to airline restrictions (weather related) or regulations related to shots and quarantine requirements pet(s) are unable to travel at the same time as military service members. **(Foster Term between 3-6 months)**

- **Ultimate Sacrifice:** families impacted by the loss of a loved one (KIA or Suicide related) through the SOS or CAO representative. Family feels with everything unexpected happening at the moment they are unable to properly care for the MSM/family pet or pets- At the end of the foster term and they have decided not to keep the pet, then the family will be responsible for rehoming the pet or pets in the foster home program. (Foster Term up to 3 months)

Military and Veteran Pet Foster Home Program

The Military and Veteran Pet Foster Home (MVPFH) Program was developed and implemented in January 2005 for active duty military service members whose units have received orders related to a combat or peace-keeping, or humanitarian mission, wounded warriors, and veterans with unforeseen medical and/or homeless hardship situations. The purpose of this program is intended to assist those defined above in locating and placing a pet foster home within our Foster Home network (individuals/families who have registered as a potential foster home that has shown an interest in opening their heart and homes to these beloved pets).

With this program our active duty service members and veterans without family and/or friends who are unable or willing to care for these beloved pets during such deployment or unforeseen medical and/or homeless situations, so the military/veteran legal pet owner has another alternative resource to assist and not have to surrender their pets and legal pet ownership rights to a legitimate animal shelter or animal rescue organization. When these beloved pets are surrendered to a shelter or rescue organization, the military/veteran never knows what happened to their pets as to whether they were placed into a new loving permanent home or ended up on a euthanized list.

Our Clients are those that have been determined that need our assistance the most and though we would like to help every active duty military service member and veteran.

To learn more about enrolling your pet into our MVPFH program, visit the “Submit a Pet” (<http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/submit-a-pet/>) section of this website. To learn how you can foster a military or veteran pet, visit the “Fostering” (<http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/fostering/>) section of this website.

Military Pet Assistance Program

The Military Pet Assistance (MPA) fund was developed and implemented in February 2008 to assist with emergency pet care related costs for pets fostered in our MVPFH program when we are unable to reach the legal pet owner and emergency pet care is needed due to an unforeseen emergency medical situation occurs.

In addition expenditures from this fund are used to ensure our homeless veterans' pets that are fostered through the MVPFH program (legal veteran pet owner is receiving a "hand up" via a VA medical center and/or Homeless Veteran Transition program) are altered, healthy, and current on shots prior to placement into one of our specific foster homes. These expenses can include but are not limited to:

- temporary boarding (usually not exceeding 14 days);
- required veterinary care related to the need for the pet or pets to be spayed/neutered, heartworm tested, current on all required shots as deemed necessary by the veterinarian;
- have the pets Microchipped;
- cover costs for up to 6 months of heartworm/flea/tick meds, and
- food and treats where the veteran does not have the funds to cover this expense.
- In addition, funds may be expended for these pets during the specific foster term who may need unforeseen veterinarian care. To date the cost per pet averages \$500 – \$700.

Actual assistance via this fund is totally dependent on funds available at the time the expense is occurred and totally based on donations received via the general public during the year.

Learn more at: <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/programs/military-pet-assistance/>

Warrior Angels Program

The Warrior Angels (WA) Program was developed to support service members and veterans who have been medically diagnosed with "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" (PTSD) and official recommendation from their Primary Care Manager (PCM) to us has been received that an "Assistance Service Canine" (ACS) will help improve the service member/veteran's quality of life.

The program includes but not limited to animal evaluation, training, certification, and on-going follow up until such time as the Assistance Service Canine can no longer perform the functions it was trained to

do or the Team has officially been dropped from the program.

As of January 1, 2014 the Warriors' Angels program is up and running in the following states:

- **Warriors' Angels – Missouri (WA – MO)** implemented in SW Missouri as of 4/1/2013. As of November 2013, 3 Teams have graduated and passed the program's "Certification Exams".
- **Warriors' Angels – Texas (WA-TX)** plans to implement in Texas as of 1/1/2014, initially in the San Antonio and surrounding areas plus Central Texas including Austin, Fort Hood, Killeen, Belton, Temple, Gatesville, etc. and other surrounding areas, involving both military medical centers, Warrior Transition Units/Battalions and VA medical centers. Also plans are underway to establish a "Training Facility" at the MVP Sanctuary – TX outside of Gatesville, TX.

The program has been set up following the standards and recommended certification exams as defined by the IAADP, AKC, and ADI organizations involved with defining and developing standards and recommended certification criteria for these Teams (service member or veteran and a specific Assistance Service Canine) from a privately trained perspective.

Learn more at: <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/programs/warrior-angels-program/>

MVP Sanctuary – TX

During January 2007 the Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet Board of Directors approved the following plan to be known as the MVP Sanctuary Project.

- Development of a special place for the pets of military service members deploying where the organization did not have an approved foster home available when one was needed
- Expand the organization's ability to help our veterans with their pets in an emergency or hardship situation
- Establish a physical location to accomplish the "day-to-day" operations of Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet (central organization) and the first MVP Sanctuary

In June 2010, the organization purchased 13 acres (approximately 14 miles west of Fort Hood) in Coryell County TX (outside of Gatesville TX) to establish the first MVP Sanctuary. At the end of August 2010, the organization moved its National office and day-to-day operations from Hot Springs, AR establishing temporary offices at the MVP Sanctuary project property.

On July 1, 2013 the “Military, Veterans, & Pet ” (MVP) Sanctuary project in Texas was changed to become its own entity as a nonprofit public charity corporation in the state of Texas as MVP Sanctuary – TX, which became effective on July 1, 2013.

On July 14, 2013, the Board of Directors approved MVP Sanctuary – TX to become an affiliate to Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pet under the organization’s “IRS Group Exemption Letter” (GEL) effective retroactively back to July 1, 2013.

Full details related to MVP Sanctuary – TX and ways to become involved are available at the organization’s website, www.mvpsanctuary.org.

How We Do It

Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pet being an ALL volunteer 501c3 “Military & Veterans Support Organization” (MVSO) public charity corporation is totally dependent on the general public for donations so we may provide the services and projects as defined under “Programs”.

Contributions to Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pet (Fed Tax ID: 20-2229425) are tax deductible as defined under section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please note specific tax deductible related questions should be discussed with the donor’s personal tax advisor. Funding overall is obtained via the following means:

1. Direct and In-Direct Monetary Public Support
2. In-Kind Donations
3. Events eventually to be held at the organization’s property in Gatesville, TX
4. Events hosted by individuals, businesses, and other organizations where net proceeds may be designated by the Host for a specific program/project or such designation is determined by Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pet© as defined via our “Third Party Fundraising” page (<http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-give/third-party-fundraising/>)
5. Grant research and proposal submissions
6. Capital Campaign

To learn how funds are allocated through direct and indirect public support, visit <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-give/contribute/allocation-of-donations/>

To learn how to make a donation, visit <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-give/contribute/>

Our Volunteers

The organization is administered by a Board of Directors (<http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>) who are responsible for overseeing the mission and purpose of the organization. Its duties include:

1. Participation in strategic planning
2. Making policy decisions, then securing the financing of them and the monitoring of their execution
3. Willing to attend the requisite meeting
4. Follow through on commitments
5. Participate fully in the decision-making process
6. Presents the organization's image to the community
7. Solicits its support in achieving the organization's goals

The day-to-day operations is run by the following individuals who are all volunteers:

- **Chief Executive Officer**, Linda Spurlin-Dominik
- **National Volunteer Director**, Carol Highhouse
- **National Marketing/Communications Director**, Jessica Semon
- **National IT Director**, Janna Loeffler

Within each state, we are establishing "State Support Teams" which are the official liaisons in a state on behalf of Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet. The teams have been established to enhance the organization's presence in each state to better support our military service members, veterans, and their beloved pets.

- **Foster Coordination Liaison (FCL)**: a virtual volunteer role for Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet at the state level acting on behalf of the organization and responsible for assisting a Military Service Member (MSM) in recommending a potential foster home which closely emulates the pet(s) living environment and acting as the liaison between the MSM and the agreed to foster home (Guardian Angel) to care for the pet(s) during the foster term.

- **Community Outreach Liaison (COL):** Acts as the primary contact with local media and military public affairs offices with their state by developing and maintaining a working relationship with them. Also educates the civilian and military communities about who we are, what we do, and how we do it. Acts the event coordinator for the organization at various events within the state.
- **Foster Home Services Liaison (FHSL):** a virtual volunteer role acting as the liaison between foster homes (Guardian Angels) that are currently caring for a Military Service Member's (MSM) pet(s) and the state level Foster Coordination Liaison (FCL).
- **Foster Home Interviewer (FHI):** Provides initial screenings of potential foster homes for the organization.

Get Connected With Us

Blog: <http://tailsfromthefrontline.wordpress.com>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Guardian-Angels-Soldiers-Pet-4735716>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GuardAnglSolPet>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/guardianangels>

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/+GuardianangelsforsoldierspetOrg/posts>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GuardianAngelsforSoldiersPet>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MVPSanctuaryTX>

Learn more about our organization, how you can get involved, and how you can help at our website, www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org