



**Supporting Our Military, Veterans and their Beloved Pets since 2005.**

## Founder's Corner

We've been busy in 2013.

We've added new volunteers, transferred roles within the organization, expanded our foster home network, launched new programs, created an affiliate organization - MVP Sanctuary - TX and have fostered hundred of pets for our deployed service members. We want to thank you, our faithful supporter for the continued support of our cause. We greatly appreciate it!

Angel HUGS,

*Linda Spurlin-Dominik*



**December 2013**

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## #GivingTuesday

You've heard of **Black Friday** and **Cyber Monday**? Well, get ready for **#GivingTuesday**! The second annual GivingTuesday is on December 3, 2013. In the same way that retail stores take part in Black Friday, we want the giving community to come together for #GivingTuesday. This is a National Movement and we challenge **YOU**, our Tails from the Front Lines readers to get involved. Spend #GivingTuesday giving back to your favorite 501(c)3 non-profit... donate your time, donate your money, make a difference in your community and for a mission you are passionate about.

If you are interested in participating in #GivingTuesday and want to give back to Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet. Here's how you can help:

- **Make a Donation**
- **Become a Foster Home**
- **Become a Volunteer**
- **Spread the Word about Us**

Learn more at [www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org](http://www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org)

# MVP Sanctuary Project Becomes Its Own Organization

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet Board of Directors announce on July 14, 2013 that they have approved MVP Sanctuary - TX to become an affiliated entity under the organization's IRS "Group Exemption Letter" (GEL) effective retroactively back to July 1, 2013.

In addition besides the MVP Sanctuary – TX developing, raising funds, implementing, and maintaining various projects, it will be involved with the following:

1. Assisting with promoting the Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet mission and programs.
2. Establishing the Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet National office and MVP Sanctuary - TX administrative office.
3. Assist Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet "Foster Home" program via the private pet care facility when a short-term home-like environment needed where a foster home (Guardian Angel) is available when needed.
4. Provide a caring and safe home-like environment via the

private pet care facility for TX military and/or veterans' pets on an emergency basis where care is needed for a period not to exceed 30 days.

"We look at this as an opportunity to further the organization's mission in the state of Texas by giving additional support to the military and veteran community." said Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet Board President, Jessica Semon.

Linda Spurlin-Dominik, MVP Sanctuary - TX Board President/CEO added, "Once we have our committees in place to develop, raise the necessary funds, and implement the various projects to enhance the property, we look forward to better serving the community by having events and providing a safe and welcoming place for military, veterans, their families, and pets to spend time together."

To learn more, visit [www.mvpsanctuary.org](http://www.mvpsanctuary.org)



## Shop Online and Support Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet

Like to shop online? Did you know that if you shop through the organizations below, you can support Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet at the same time!

- Amazon Smile
- iGive.com
- eBay Giving Works
- Give Back America

Check out the individual organization's websites to learn more.



Like all other 501(c)3 organizations, we depend on the generous financial support of our donors to help keep the doors open. We can not be more thankful for the individuals and organizations who have helped Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet this year. As you make your end of the year contributions, please consider making a donation to this organization. You can learn more on our website (<http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-get-involved/contribute/>).

Donations made 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 and specific tax deductible related questions should be discussed with your personal tax advisor.

You will receive a numbered receipt recognizing your donation to our organization. If you wish to receive ongoing updates about us, please include your email address. Your monetary donation is tax deductible to the full extent as allowed by law. Please contact your tax advisor.

If you want to financial help Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet by doing a Third Party Fundraiser, please visit <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-get-involved/third-party-fundraising/> to learn more and to complete the Third Party Fundraising Agreement.

## Organization Has Reached the GuideStar Exchange Gold Participation Level as a Demonstration of Its Commitment to Transparency

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet received the GuideStar Exchange Gold participation level, a leading symbol of transparency and accountability provided by GuideStar USA, Inc., the premier source of nonprofit information. This level demonstrates Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet's deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability.

"We have worked hard to showcase our progress toward our mission, and our long-held belief in being transparent about our work, to our constituents," said Linda Spurlin-Dominik, CEO. "As a GuideStar Exchange participant, we use their platform to share a wealth of up-to-date information about our work to our supporters and GuideStar's immense online audience of nonprofits, grantmakers, individual donors, and the media."

In order to be awarded the GuideStar Exchange logo, Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet had to fill out every required field of our nonprofit report page on <http://www.guidestar.org> for the Gold level of participation.

"I encourage you to check out our [profile](#) on GuideStar to see what we're all about," added Ms. Spurlin-Dominik. "We are engaged in

exciting initiatives, and we are thrilled to have another platform for communicating our advancement and progress."

### About the GuideStar Exchange

The GuideStar Exchange is an initiative designed to connect nonprofits with current and potential supporters. With millions of people coming to GuideStar to learn more about nonprofit organizations, the GuideStar Exchange allows nonprofits to share a wealth of up-to-date information with GuideStar's many audiences. Becoming a GuideStar Exchange participant is free of charge. To join, organizations need to update their report pages, completing all required fields for participation. The GuideStar Exchange level logos, acknowledged as symbols of transparency in the nonprofit sector, are displayed on all Exchange participants' nonprofit reports.



Learn more about the new Warrior Angels Program by visiting:

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



## Organization Launches Program Aimed at Helping Servicemen and Veterans with PTSD in Southwest MO

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet implemented on April 1, 2013 a new assistance program known as "Warrior Angels" (WA) with the purpose helping our military members and veterans diagnosed with PTSD in identifying potential PTSD assistance canines, overseeing the appropriate training and certification of these assistance canines, and providing on-going follow-up with the Handlers and their assistance canines following graduation. The program started as of April 1, 2013 and at this time is designated as a "pilot" (test) program in Rolla and Waynesville, MO. The pilot program is interacting with the "Warrior Transition Unit" (WTU) at Fort Leonard Wood, evaluation/training/certifying service providers (Patriot Kennels, Inc. and Canine Connections Dog Training), and the Rolla Animal Shelter.

The pilot program was implemented based on the premise that all parties involved (the organization, pilot program's Coordination Liaison volunteer, the accepted applicant, and authorized service providers) agree to coordinate, evaluate, train, certify, and follow-up with the Handler and assistance canine according to the "American Disabilities Act" (ADA) and "Assistance Dogs International" (ADI) published minimum standards for assistance dogs.

Susan Hinkle of Rolla, MO was appointed as the organization's WA Coordination Liaison overseeing the MO "pilot" program working with each Handler candidate and the chosen training/certifying service providers Patriot Kennels, Inc. (Jess Storie, owner/trainer) in Waynesville, MO and Canine Connections Dog Training (Jessi Queen, owner) participating in the MO pilot program.

In addition, where possible a pet owned currently by the Handler candidate is first choice to be evaluated to determine if the pet may

be a good candidate to become an Warrior Angels' certified "Assistance Canine" for his/her owner. In the event the family pet does not meet the standards defined by the ADA and ADI, then the Rolla Animal Shelter in Rolla, MO has stepped forward as a "Supporter" to the pilot program by allowing the Handler candidate, Susan, and Jess to visit dogs in the shelter for identifying a potential "Assistance Canine" candidate. Once an "assistance canine" candidate has been determined, the Handler and such candidate will go through an up to 6-month training program in preparation for the "Canine Good Citizen" (CGC) and required "public access" tests in order for the team to be classified as an "Assistance Canine".

Though there is no actual fee charged to the Handler, the handler will be responsible for such "canine related expenses" regarding proper animal care, keeping the pet current on all required vaccinations, necessary veterinarian care, maintaining local licenses, and appropriate liability insurance.

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet through their MPA fund (donations earmarked as WA) will cover costs (estimated not to exceed \$2,500 per assistance canine) related to up front veterinarian services, evaluation, training, the official Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet official service dog vest with Handler and Canine picture laminated Identification card, and other costs related to the pilot program overall.

The funds for the WA pilot program are being obtained through Direct and Indirect Public Support donations.

According to Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet National CEO, Linda Spurlin-Dominik, "though the DoD and VA at this time have issued specific directives regarding PTSD service

dogs (basically known as emotional support dogs), there is nothing preventing us from developing and testing a program that will further help these warriors to assist with such areas as proper training and testing using the ADA and ADI published minimal standards for assistance dogs in regards to providing these assistance canines to our veterans who have officially been diagnosed with PTSD and per the appropriate military/VA physician feels having a properly trained and certified "Assistance Canine" will be a benefit to the service member/veteran especially in public venues."

In addition to the pilot program in MO at this time, the organization is planning to establish the program initially as a "pilot" program in other states as warranted and the appropriate volunteers and service providers have been identified and commit to being part of the WA program within their respective state. Questions related to the "Warriors Angels" pilot program in MO may be directed by email - [waap@guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org](mailto:waap@guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org).



*Brandon, Buddy and Susan*



## Organization Makes Plans to Expand Warrior's Angels Program to Texas

**October 29** - Plans are underway by the Organization's national office to implement the Warriors' Angels (WA) program around January 1, 2014 in the state of Texas covering south Texas in the San Antonio area and Central TX covering areas of Fort Hood, Austin, Killeen, Temple, Belton, and Waco via the Army's Warrior Transition program and the VA medical centers.

The pilot program for TX is being developed, promoted, and will be implemented via volunteers, Linda Spurlin-Dominik, President/CEO MVP Sanctuary – TX, Cherie Boudreaux, TX Director acting as the program's TX Liaison covering San Antonio and surrounding area involved with recruiting qualified Trainers/Certification Exam Testers, fulfilling volunteer roles of Assistant Liaison, Outreach Liaison, and Admin Assistant. Temporarily Linda will cover the Central TX area in recruiting volunteers (Assistant Liaison, Outreach Liaison roles) and overseeing the develop of the Warriors' Angels "Training Facility" to be located at the Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet national office located in Coryell County south of Gatesville and west of Fort Hood.

In addition, Cherie and Linda will be involved with fundraising efforts. The determined cost per Team averages \$2500 and program related expenditures (promotional materials, outreach efforts, program volunteer ID cards, etc.) determined to be \$1,000 per quarter. Cherie and Linda goal is to raise up \$25,000 by January 1, 2014 so we have sufficient funds on hand to take at least 10 applicants initially between San Antonio and Central Texas.

Questions related to the Warriors' Angels program and how to make donations to the program (covering the states of MO and TX) may be directed to Linda via the program's main email address:

[waap@guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org](mailto:waap@guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org)

The Warriors' Angels program was developed in support of service members and veterans who have been medically diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and official recommendation has been received by Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet that an Assistance Service Canine (ASC) will help improve the service member/veteran's quality of life.



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[www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org](http://www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org)

*William, Harley and Susan*



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*Kerry and Noble*



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provided by D. Stokes

# Foster Homes Needed

We are in need of potential foster homes in all 50 states, but especially the following states:

- Colorado
- Texas
- Tennessee

## Qualifications:

- A pure love of animals and clear understanding of what is required to care for them.
- An intrinsic need to help in some way, support our military, and fulfill your own passion for animals.
- An understanding that the pet you love and care for will be reunited with its owner following a deployment or emergency hardship.
- The ability to honor the owner's wishes regarding the routine of the pet.
- All family members residing in your home are united in providing this truly unselfish and voluntary act of supporting our heroes.

## Monetary Compensation:

- There is no monetary compensation for our Guardian Angels.
- Costs related to pet care such as food and medical is normally covered by the owner and in some cases by Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet when funds are available.

## Foster Term Lengths:

- Foster terms average 3 months to 13 months.

## Foster Home / Military Service Member Written Agreement:

- Prior to or at the time of a pet being placed within your home, you and the pet owner are responsible to review and fill out completely the organization's written agreement.
- Once complete, each party (Foster Home and Military Service Member) must sign, retain a copy for their own records and provide a signed copy to the National Office.
- This document has been prepared for the protection of all parties involved, including but not limited to: the foster home, military service member and Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet.

To learn more or to complete an initial application, please visit: <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/fostering/>



# Thank You!

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet like many "All Volunteer" 501c3 nonprofit organizations are only able to operate and accomplish its mission due to the generosity, time, and energy provided by those who wish to make a difference in our society. All of our volunteers are deeply appreciated and are critical in the daily operations of our organization.

We can not thank the volunteers who spend their time working with our Military, Veterans, Wounded Warriors and Pets on behalf of the organization. It is because of them that our organization is able to provide the programs that we do.

- Heather O.
- Victoria S.
- Shawna M.
- Cherie B.
- Kim C.
- Janna L.
- Jacquie P.
- Danielle M.
- Donna B.
- Vicki S.
- Megan P.
- Liz D.
- Lindsay H.
- Carol H.
- Katt P.
- Sally W.

## THANK YOU!!!



# Volunteer Opportunities

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet like many "All Volunteer" 501c3 nonprofit organizations are only able to operate and accomplish its mission due to the generosity, time, and energy provided by those who wish to make a difference in our society. All of our volunteers are deeply appreciated and are critical in the daily operations of our organization.

## Basic Qualifications:

- Have a passion to help our military service members, veterans, and their beloved pets plus work with others who share this passion. (personal opinion about the war should not affect your ability to support our Military)
- Be a self-starter, have excellent organizational, interpersonal, and leadership skills, plus able to work independently and as a "team" player.
- Follow and adhere to the organization's mission, purpose, operating procedures, and organizational policies/guidelines.
- Comfortable using and access to MS office (especially Word and Excel)
- Good and professional communication skills via the Internet, phone calls, and email.
- Previous experience in a specific volunteer role preferred
- Understanding of the military community and ability to interact with our clients.
- Able to commit at least 1 year to the volunteer role

To learn about the different positions needed within the organization, what the process entails, and the to complete an application, visit the Volunteer Section under "Way to Get Involved" on our website.

URL: <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-get-involved/volunteer/>

## Foster Coordination Liaison

**Immeditate Need in:** CA, CO, FL, GA, WA

This position is 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), Wounded Warrior, or Veteran 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.

This position is NOT responsible for fundraising, organizing/attending local events as a representative of the organization, or doing presentations in their assigned state unless discussed and approval given in writing by the National CEO.

More information can be found at: <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-get-involved/volunteer/state-support-teams/foster-coordination-liaison/>

**Estimated Time per Month:** 15-30 hours

## Community Outreach Liaison

The primary role of a state Community Outreach Liaison (COL) is to act as the liaison between the organization and the community. The target objectives are: 1) to interact with the military and community news outlets and 2) to representative the organization at information tables at various civilian and military held events within their respective state. Note: If the size of a state warrants multiple volunteers, this role could be divided into two. The National Office will advise if this is necessary.

**More information can be found at:** <http://guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org/ways-to-get-involved/volunteer/state-support-teams/community-outreach-liaison/>

**Estimated Time Per Month:** averaging 20--25 hours



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Want to read our stories, see our pictures and watch our videos more than once a quarter? Make sure you bookmark our blog or subscribe to get instant updates at our blog, Tails from the Front Line.

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

### **Ways to Get More Involved with our Mission**

Register as a Potential Foster Home

Become a part of our State Support volunteer teams

Contribute

Spread the word

**Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet®**

National Headquarters

9725 FM 1783 | Gatesville, TX 76528-4739

[www.GuardianAngelsforSoldiersPet.org](http://www.GuardianAngelsforSoldiersPet.org)

**ALL Volunteer 501c3 Military & Veterans Support Organization - EIN 20-2229425**

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