

# Up

ISSUE 3

dogsinc®

uplifted by hope

Jillian Hinton and Service Dog Kylo

# Up

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*Romping on repeat—pups in training, Cheddar & Oatmeal*



Sometimes the hardest step is the next one. And when that moment comes, you're there—walking next to our graduates, offering strength, courage, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

The freedom to take the next step. To keep going. To walk toward what waits ahead.

You.

You give hope. You light the way. I'm grateful beyond words. Thank you.

*Keep the light afloat,*

Titus Herman  
President and CEO

# Up

ISSUE 3

## A Publication of Dogs Inc

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we provide our dogs, expert instruction, and alumni support—at no cost to our clients.

Top-tier pedigrees, decades of research, and thousands of hours of training and love prepare our dogs for life-changing destinies.

Guide dogs lead. Service dogs heal. Skilled companion dogs comfort. And therapy dogs uplift.



4210 77th St E. | Palmetto, FL 34221 | 941.729.5665

"One moment can stay with you forever. Like when you watch a person meet their dog for the first time. That moment says everything.

We've always admired the human-canine bond, and seeing it come to life at Dogs Inc moved us beyond anything we imagined.

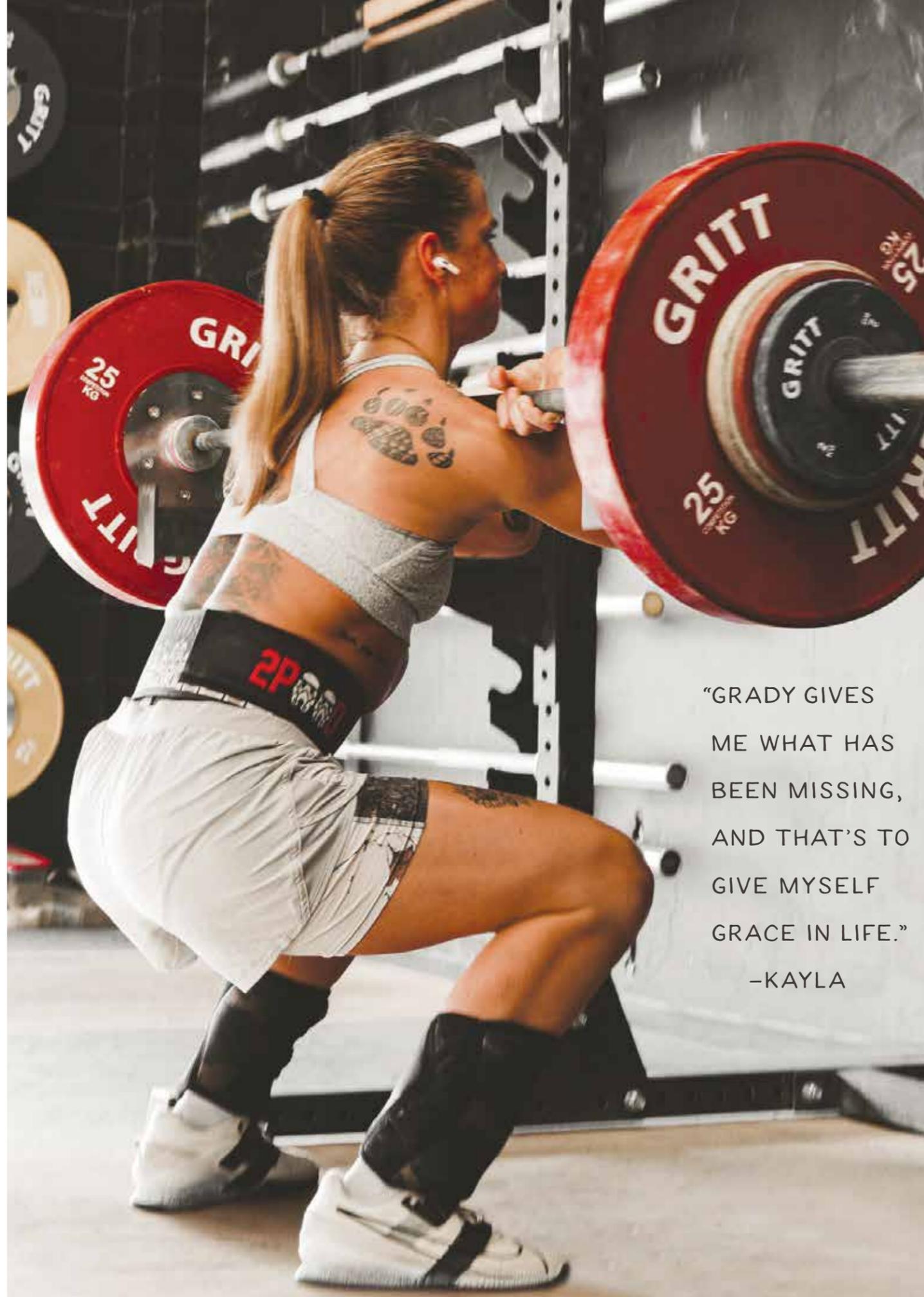
It echoes the courage of Carol's father, a WWII veteran who faced vision loss with quiet strength, and reminds us how profoundly these partnerships restore dignity, confidence, and possibility.

Supporting this mission allows us to honor him and be part of stories where resilience finds its way forward and moments turn to miracles."

Carol &  
Ed Sanders  
Cornerstone  
Society  
Members



# grit & grace



“GRADY GIVES  
ME WHAT HAS  
BEEN MISSING,  
AND THAT’S TO  
GIVE MYSELF  
GRACE IN LIFE.”  
—KAYLA

## Kayla Bear and Service Dog Grady

She never stopped moving. On the outside, this Marine pushed through, throwing her trauma into training. On the inside, she felt stuck, as if chains gripped her to the floor while the rest of the world moved forward.

When Kayla’s grit propelled her to the sharp edge of her physical limits, she knew it was time to stop racing her grief.

That’s when Grady stepped in with a heart full of grace.

Now Kayla spurs forward with a new momentum—her number one fan who reminds her that it takes strength to exhale and courage to know she is enough.



Watch Kayla & Grady’s  
AKC Good Dog TV  
episode here.

One man.

One dog.

# the NEXT ACT

SEAN GAUDET AND GUIDE DOG TALON

"Talon loves with her whole heart, and that makes me want to be more like her." —Sean

A new beginning.

**Director's Note:** After 25 years, the lights dimmed on Sean's career as a theater teacher. Vision loss made it impossible to direct his students the way he knew they needed: not just on stage, but in life. Today, the stage is set again. It's match day at Dogs Inc—and the next scene of Sean's story is about to begin.

## ORIGINAL SCRIPT

### The Next Act

*(SEAN sits on the edge of a chair and bounces his leg with anticipation.)*

**Sean:** I remember every dress rehearsal and opening night. Every applause. Every kid who came to my class a student and left an actor.

*(He leans back, looking up at the ceiling. He smiles.)*

**Sean:** I never cared about forgotten lines or missed marks. It was the quiet kid who transformed on stage. The class clown that practiced in private. The student who felt that life was scarier than a play and believed I was someone they could trust. That's what mattered.

*A knock on the door snaps him back to the present. He takes a deep breath—it's time to call his dog for the first time.*

**Sean:** Talon!

*(The door swings open and TALON bursts through, running to SEAN. They embrace, TALON's body wiggling with excitement.)*

*The lights go out. A single spotlight shines on SEAN.*

**Sean:** Imagination takes me to an empty auditorium, Talon at my side. The curtains lift, and a spotlight lands on a blank stage. Suddenly, there I am, standing in its glow. Now I am the one that needs direction, and Talon doesn't care if I forget a line or miss a mark.

**Sean:** My confidence grows with every scene. I never meant to be a star but life in darkness is scarier than a play, and I trust Talon to guide me through it.

**Sean:** As she guides me without a script, the auditorium starts to fill. Seat by seat, then row by row. First, my family. Then, my students. Cheering me on. Reminding me I can do this.

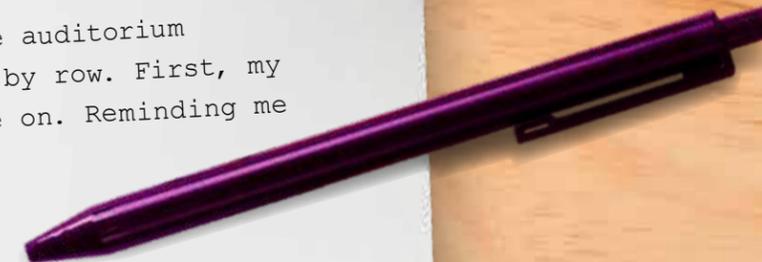
**Sean:** Then I blink.

*(The spotlight goes dark and the stage lights come on. TALON's tail wags as he pets her behind the ears. He smiles.)*

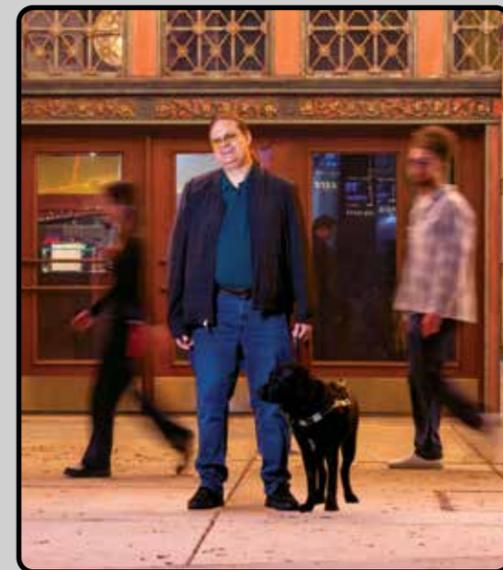
**Sean:** And I am back in the room.

**Sean:** The show must go on.

*(He stands, and TALON guides him through the door, ready for their next act. The curtains close, but the show is just beginning.)*



## STORYBOARD



# TRAVELS WITH TYRUS

The dream team is on the road again. But I think one thing is missing from this photo—Tyrus' face on Mount Rushmore.



Mount Rushmore, SD

Jackie Schiemann and Guide Dog Tyrus

Feeling on top of the world with Tyrus on the 102nd floor of the Empire State Building.

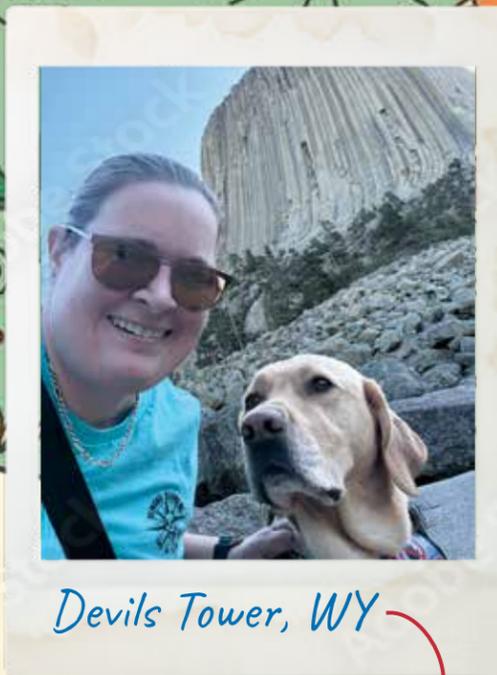


New York, NY



Grand Tetons, WY

Taking on Snake River with Captain Tyrus! Ten miles winding through the mountains of the Grand Tetons. What a day soaking in the wonder of the great outdoors.



Devils Tower, WY

Hello from Devils Tower! Together, there's no height we can't reach.



Fort Myers Beach, FL

The sunset on beautiful Fort Myers Beach. With Tyrus by my side, the sun may go down, but the light never leaves.

**The world is a BIG PLACE.**

"For years, I searched for a spot where I belonged. Was there a place on the map meant for me? Everywhere I went, I felt a little more lost.

With Tyrus, I finally feel like I belong, as if each destination is mapped along a path meant for the two of us.

He's my best friend, my eyes, and most importantly—he is my family. One paw in front of the other, and so many miles to go."

*Adventure awaits!* ☀️

🌸

"I didn't know what kind of freedom and independence he would give me until we took our first solo trip. He's my best friend, and I trust him with my life."

ME

HANK FORD AND SERVICE DOG TOMMY

**I NEVER ASKED TO BE FAMOUS.**

The applause, news articles, radio shows—having my name in lights wasn't the goal. I had one focus . . . and that was saving my best friend's life. You see, before Hank met me, he carried a weight. A burden. Every sound scraped old wounds, tightening his chest with the kind of anxiety that arrives without warning.

His time serving in the Marines and the Army left him with memories that sat heavy in his chest. He tried to let them out, but there wasn't a way for the spiraling thoughts to escape. Even on the calm golf course where he volunteered, he searched for ways to release his grip on the past.

**THAT'S WHERE I CAME IN.**

AND



YOU

**A**s his faithful service dog, I knew my purpose, and I stepped in with laser focus. Be there for Hank, show him that it's okay to exhale everything he'd been holding inside. We weren't looking for attention or awards. We had each other, and that was all that mattered.

**THEN ONE NIGHT,  
EVERYTHING CHANGED.**

The house was still, but I woke up feeling an invisible commotion. Something was . . . off. Different. I just knew Hank needed me. I jumped up. I pawed him. He needed to wake up, so I barked. Finally. He sprung out of bed.

After that night, everyone started calling me a hero.

"Service dog wakes up veteran during silent heart emergency."

"Service dog Tommy saves life."

"Veteran escaped death thanks to service dog's alert."

But before the magazines and the national headlines, it was just me and Hank. Me and my person. And what the cameras will never see is the way his heart steadies when I look into his eyes, and the calm that rushes over us both when my chin meets his knee.

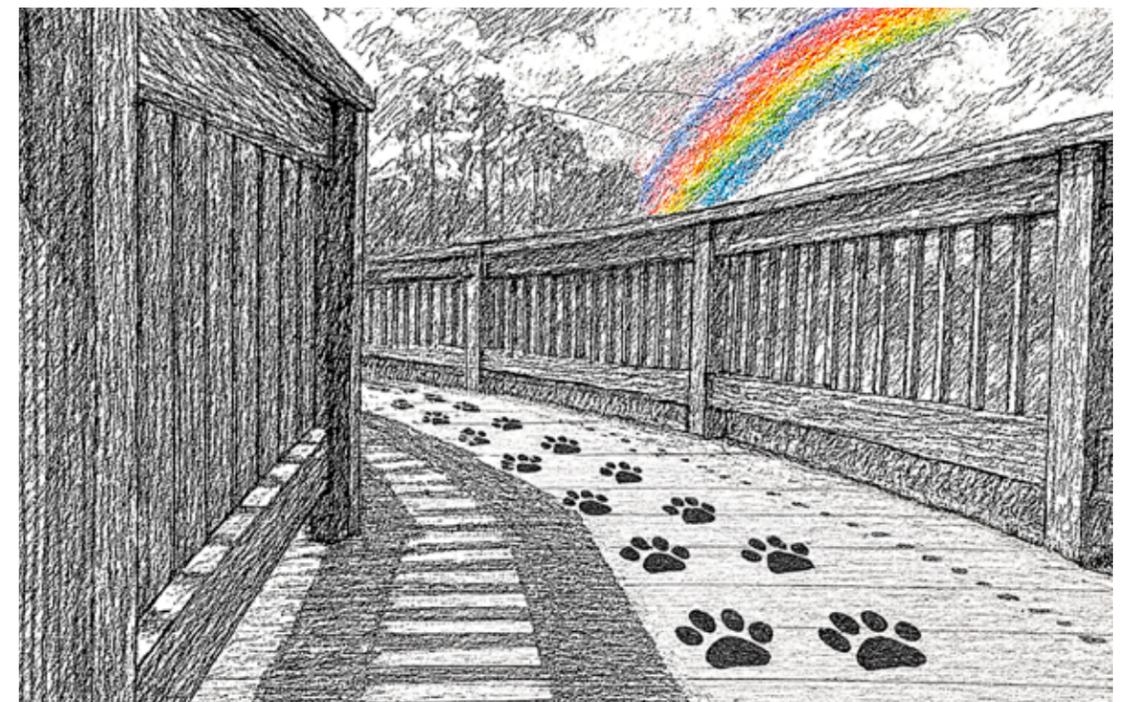
The world knows me as the dog who saved a veteran's life. I know Hank as the person who changed mine.

We may have had millions of eyes witness our bond, but the only person I see is Hank. And being famous in his eyes is all that matters to me.



# RAINBOW BRIDGE

Where Love Lives On



**W**hen the paws that once walked beside us now rest beyond our reach, there is a place where the memory of our special companions still lives on: **Rainbow Bridge.**

Set within the serenity of our memorial garden, this bridge is shaped by the names and stories of the faithful pets we will always cherish.



*Each memorial plate marks a special bond, keeping love close. Remembering forever.*

To honor your pet's memory with a Rainbow Bridge memorial plate, visit [dogsinc.org/rainbowbridge](https://dogsinc.org/rainbowbridge).



# HOPE SURFACES



With each paddle,  
her paws send ripples across the water—  
small movements that carry meaning.

Bubbles drift upward, catching the light.  
In their shimmer, a future  
begins to take shape.

Sunlight dances across the surface.  
She lifts her head and feels its warmth,  
droplets slipping from her coat.

Here, hope surfaces—  
and beyond this water,  
a life is changed forever.



Help us meet the \$2 MILLION Heroes Challenge!

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

# CHANGE A VETERAN'S TOMORROW. TODAY.

Help us meet our \$2 million goal during our Heroes Challenge! Turn waiting into life-changing bonds between veterans and the dogs ready to stand by them.

*I'M READY! I've trained for this moment. Prepared to give my all. Somewhere out there, someone is waiting for me. Someone whose tomorrow is still being written. A veteran carrying more than the world can see. Hoping for comfort, strength, and a partner who understands without words. I don't know their name yet. But I know I'm meant for them. And with your help, we'll find each other.*

## THE HEROES COUNCIL

Thank you to our Heroes Council, a group of friends who put veterans first by coming together to create our Heroes Challenge. Because of their generosity, your gift goes twice as far.

**Chairman:** Vice Admiral Joe Maguire, USN retired

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Anonymous                                | Humana               |
| G.S. Brooks                              | Ohio Cigar Mafia     |
| Susan & Alan Citron                      | John & Susan Rapp    |
| Warren Coopersmith Family Foundation     | Carol & Ed Sanders   |
| Davis Elkins Charitable Foundation Trust | Brian & Sherry Soucy |
| Marcia Gosline                           | Nora Wilcox, MD      |
| George & Mary Graner                     |                      |

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT TODAY [dogsinc.org/heroes](https://dogsinc.org/heroes)



**Home** was the only place where Jillian's heart found peace.

Four walls built high enough to keep out the pain, a door shut against the world. She kept herself tucked inside because she knew that beyond it lived the unimaginable. Far from home, in the mountains, her husband took his last breath in service to his country. It was an accident she never saw coming. A loss she didn't know how to accept.

The grief was suffocating.

The years passed, and Jillian learned to measure safety by proximity—how close she could keep her children, how tightly she could hold onto what remained. She rebuilt her life with her own two hands, brick by brick. But the walls only towered higher, keeping everyone out.

Taylor was the first ray of hope Jillian let in. The skilled companion dog came into her home to help her daughter, Cayleigh, learn to navigate life without her father. Day by day, warmth grew inside those walls, and laughter found its way back in. Taylor's love wrapped the family in a kind of peace they didn't think would ever be possible again.



**FEELS  
LIKE  
HOME**





**V**et groceries still arrived by home delivery, and fear still tangled around Jillian’s heart when she stepped outside. Outside, the risks multiplied. Outside, everything reminded her of what she had already lost, of what she couldn’t stand to lose again.

Then, Kylo arrived, and the shape of home began to change. With her new service dog, Jillian learned she could carry peace beyond the walls that once defined her life.

Now, when anxiety tightens in her chest, she doesn’t turn back toward the house. She turns toward her side where two soulful eyes meet hers and a soft ear touches her leg.

Now she knows. The peace she once found only at home no longer lives in one place.

Life is waiting. And for the first time in a long time, she’s daring to live it.



**THE GOLD STAR LEGACY**

During World War I, families placed blue stars in their windows to honor loved ones serving in the military. When a service member did not return home, the bereaved replaced the blue star with gold—a lasting symbol of honor and sacrifice.

Pictured here is Jillian’s late husband, U.S. Army Sergeant Terrence Hinton, who served for eight years with multiple deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, followed by his duty in Schofield Barracks in Hawaii where he lost his life.



# SPADAY

## *A Gignature Experience*

A time to unwind, restore, and reset—because paws on the go deserve to be pampered.

Our curated on-campus care goes beyond brushing and bathing. Highly skilled pups in training need to look and feel their best before they step into the important work ahead.

**Mind & Body Offerings**

A refined collection of calming treatments created to support relaxation and physical balance—therapeutic massage, aromatherapy, and gentle grooming tailored to each dog.

*Professional services for professional hope givers.*

Thoughtful care made possible by our Pack Members and volunteers.

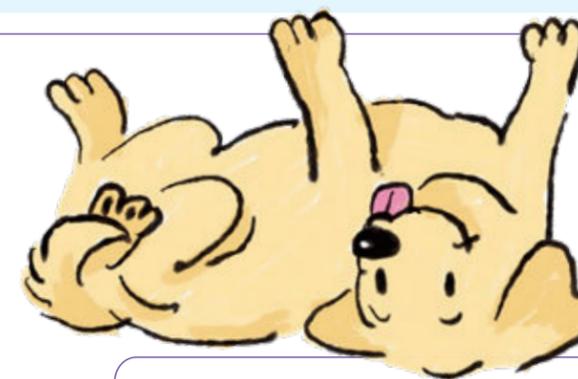
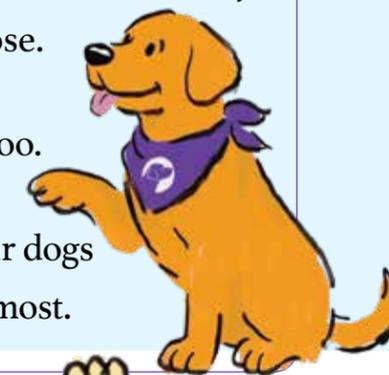
# Every Way You Give, HOPE FOLLOWS



Our dogs make a difference in a hundred different ways —a gentle paw, a soft nudge, a wet nose.

Giving to Dogs Inc can look like that too.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps our dogs bring hope to the people who need it most.



## PupPal!

Get a monthly dose of puppy love delivered right to your inbox.

2

## CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

Put your annual giving to work—deepening your involvement and shaping something that lasts.

## Send a Pup eHUG

Celebrate milestones, say thanks, or show sympathy with a little bit of puppy love.

## IRA Distribution

Make your required distribution count—potentially reducing taxable income and creating immediate results.

## Donor-Advised Fund

Put funds already earmarked for philanthropy to great use by supporting our dogs.

7

## Appreciated Stock

Turn appreciated assets into good—potentially avoiding capital gains tax while creating new possibilities.



4

## HERITAGE SOCIETY

Change the future through your will—sustaining the mission now and beyond.



## Donate Crypto

Convert digital currency into meaning—potentially maximizing tax benefits while changing lives.

Whichever path you choose, you're helping dogs lead the way to hope.

Discover all the ways to give at [dogsinc.org/give](https://dogsinc.org/give)





Me and you.  
A dream shared.  
A journey together.  
And one day, we'll  
change the world.

*Dogs in training,  
Buckles and Wolfe.*