

About Us

- We are an IRS 501(c)3, non-profit corporation registered in Florida.
- We are currently the 5th largest school and only serve disabled Florida residents.
- We have 34 trainers and puppy-raisers across the state and can service almost any area in Central Florida.
- We train a number of dogs in Hearing, Mobility, and Medical Alert, and one of the few schools that assist owners-trainers in furthering their dog's abilities.
- We do not train guide dogs for the blind.
- We will refer potential clients to other schools if one is closer to them.

Of the 55 million people with disabilities in the US, 5% have a hearing, sight or an invisible condition that could be helped by using a service dog. To date, it is estimated only 20,000 service dog teams are in daily use, moreover; there is a huge demand for well-trained service dogs, as shown by the long multi-year wait lists. This school was created to help fill some of that demand and reduce the travel associated with Service Dog training for our local disabled.



Mission Statement

Service Dogs of Florida is a not-for-profit organization that offers dignity, hope, and independence by providing highly trained & skilled service dogs and technology to individuals with disabilities while serving the community by advancing public education of disabilities, the ADA and service dogs through advocacy, education, research and service.

Our Services

The process for obtaining a service dog is lengthy and never fast. With two years of training and nearly \$20k invested, it is the equivalent of us giving away a free car, several times a year. Waiting lists are typically 1-3 years, all paid for by generous donations from the public and fund-raisers. Nearly 20,000 applications are received by all the training schools in the country, with only 2,500 trained dogs to give out at little to no cost.

Volunteers & Trainers

With half a dozen service dog schools in Florida, supply is still below 10% for our disabled, resulting in 3-5 year waiting lists. The industry simply can't keep up. Our clients are legally disabled, usually on SSDI or SSI, and depend entirely on corporate and public donations to underwrite the entire cost of these services. SDFL relies on our volunteer base, as well as, volunteer dog trainers to cut costs even further. The very people that need our services most, could never afford to pay for them.

← Hearing Dog 2009-Tory pictured on left

Puppy Raisers

The Puppy Raiser program provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to assist in our important mission. Volunteer puppy raisers provide these special dogs a safe warm home, lots of love and provide socialization opportunities. They also start the training process by teaching them their first commands: Sit, Stay, Down, Come, and a dozen others.

Finances

There are no Federal or State assistance programs for obtaining or paying for a service dog and most insurance plans do not cover them. The VA does have an assistance program to help cover some annual maintenance costs of the service dog for disabled Vets. Service Dogs of Florida, Inc. is a [501\(c\)3](#) non-profit organization with no paid employees that relies only on donations from individuals, corporations and foundation grants to do our work. We provide all our dogs free of charge for qualified disabled. Monetary donations are always appreciated and tax deductible! We do not receive any Federal, State or Government funding.

We operate entirely off donations from the public, businesses and corporations. Applicants are selected on a case-by-case basis and by need. Our clients are not required to assist in fund-raising but are welcome to if they wish.

We're Growing!

SDFL is currently growing beyond the initial community project's beginning. We have secured a large 6 acre training complex to enable our trainers to have a consistent meeting point and to perform testing. This new facility expands our operations and enable us to help the community even further by providing public fields, pet training classes, AKC agility, and an event venue.

To assist in completing this project, we are seeking more volunteers and offering community service hours to those that need it. The complex is designed to be multi-purposeful, to help other organizations, such as the Scouts (i.e. camping or service projects).

We are also seeking donations for the complex and for our regular operations. The dogs need: Towels, collars, leashes, dog crates, old house and cell phones, remote controls, various house-hold objects (to retrieve and carry). The complex needs building material donations: doors, windows, bathroom fixtures, lumber, drywall, lighting, chain-link fencing, gravel, pavement, etc.

Sponsor a puppy

Our dogs take years of training and have extreme vet expenses between x-rays and quarterly checkups. Help reduce these costs by sponsoring a dog, either monthly or all at once. \$3,500 covers a puppy through Stage One and enables you to name the puppy.

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Mailing Address:
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145 East Story Road
Winter Garden, FL 34787

100% Volunteer based organization
with No Paid Staff or Employees

Expenses:
95% Program
-- Dogs, Vet, Vests, Training

5% Fund Raising
-- Shirts, Advertising, Events

0% Administrative

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FL Non-Profit N1000000184
FL Charity CH32036
IRS 501c3

Service Dogs of Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that trains services dogs for the disabled. N1000000184
Solicitation Permit: CH32036
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All public records are available through the website or contacting the organization.

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SDFL The Organization



Service Dogs of Florida, Inc.



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"Support our paws!"

A non-profit service agency that trains service dogs for disabled Florida residents.