



Annual Report *2025*

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 has been a very good year at Healing Paws for Warriors and we have much to be thankful for... our dedicated volunteers, fosters, graduate mentors, donors/sponsors, board members, and most of all, our graduates! It is, and always has been, a total team effort to fulfill our mission of "Saving Lives at Both Ends of the Leash." Our applicants and graduates continued to increase in 2025. To date, we have graduated over 71 veteran teams... that is 142 lives saved!

Our volunteers, fosters, and graduate mentors selflessly donate their precious time to ensure our program continues to thrive. Our board members continue to engage the community and provide outreach to identify eligible applicants while ensuring we follow strict nonprofit federal and state guidelines. Additionally, our donors and sponsors are the lifeblood of our program, which ensures we can consistently maintain a program that is provided at NO COST to our veteran teams. This is so important because Healing Paws for Warriors does not receive any federal or state funding.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the community partners who support us. Beast Code in Fort Walton Beach allows us to use their training area for academic training, which enables us to begin the critical task of teaching the veterans everything they will need to know about training/maintaining a service dog. Northwest Florida State College not only loans us a storage office and parking area for our vehicles, but also integrates our curriculum into their student nursing program. Additionally, the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport Transportation Security Administration makes special accommodations for us to train on boarding procedures at the airport. These are just a few of the community resources that continually support us.

Some of our noteworthy accomplishments this year:

- A rather large accomplishment this year was obtaining a Better Business Bureau (BBB) accreditation of meeting all 20 standards for Charity Accountability and a Charity Navigator four-star rating with a 100% score! This solidifies our reputation NATIONALLY as being who we say we are while giving confidence to our donors that donations will be spent directly on our mission of saving lives.
- We initiated a quarterly newsletter, “Paws Tales”, to keep our community informed of events, training, volunteer opportunities, graduate info, and more!

Our future goals also include growing both our volunteer and mentor networks, forming stronger partnerships with shelters, VA service centers, and military bases.

We will continue to outreach on various forms of social media and through in-person briefings/testimony to the community, and donors/sponsors for program funding by promoting our training successes and the integral part they play in saving lives.

Healing Paws for Warriors, Inc. continues to thrive in our mission of serving veterans while also saving dogs' lives. Thanks to everyone for everything you've done this year to help us meet our mission. We look forward to your continued support!

Dennis Krebs
Executive Director
Healing Paws for Warriors, Inc.



Our Team



SAM HAY
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
EVENT COORDINATOR



LISA RUSSELL
TRAINING DIRECTOR



RAYCHELL POLLARD
ASSISTANT TRAINER



BUD FLAHERTY
CHAIRMAN



LENORA COOK
VICE CHAIRMAN



TAMI MANARD
SECRETARY



DAVID MCMILLIAN
TREASURER



TERRY COWAN
PAST CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS



SHAUN FOSTER



JOANNA SORENSEN



MEGAN GEHLBACH



**MONIKA BALTAZAR &
BUDDY**
BOARD MEMBER



**CASEY CONTRÍ
& FALCON**



**SCOTT & KENDRA BATES
& ZEKE**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AMBASSADORS

Organizational OVERVIEW

BRINGING AWARENESS TO VETERAN
SUICIDE; REDUCING THE NUMBERS
ONE SERVICE DOG AT A TIME.



Program FOCUS

SAVE A VETERAN.
RESCUE A DOG.



Planning for the Future

Healing Paws for Warriors

Five-Year Horizon Chart

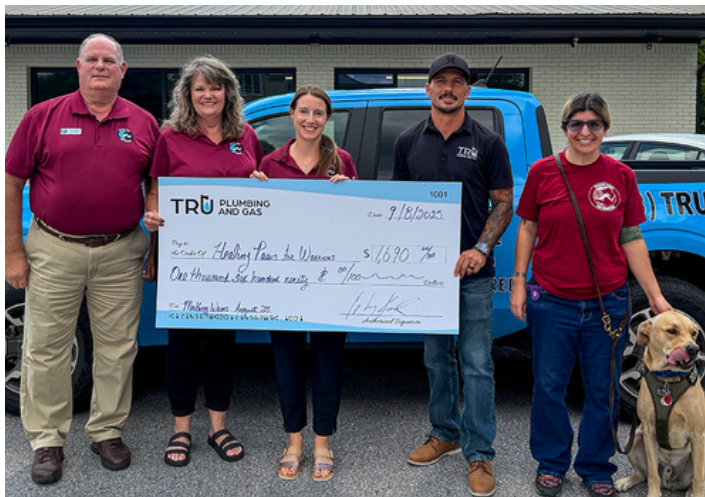
2023-2027 Business Strategy



Financials

	Approved	YTD
	(Jan-Dec)	(Jan-Dec)
	Annual Budget	Actual
Revenue		
Government/Direct Public Grants	\$55,000	\$17,336
Fundraising/Special Event/Donations/Merchandise Sales	\$85,500	\$69,238
General Donations	\$80,000	\$95,539
Investment Income	\$3,500	\$5,125
Misc. Income	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$224,000	\$187,238
Expenses		
Total Management and General Expenses	-\$14,000	-\$17,237
Total Fundraising Expenses	-\$10,000	-\$9,022
Program Expenses	-\$180,000	-\$174,666
Total Expenses	-\$204,000	-\$200,925
Surplus/Deficit	\$20,000	\$-13,687

*Zero-based annual budgeting method utilized.



Assets

Total Beginning of Year Assets	\$422,307
Checking End of Year	\$178,593
Savings End of Year	\$153,416
Vehicles End of Year	\$76,611
Total End of Year Assets	\$408,620



A Year ...

16th Annual
Juanas Pagodas Penguin Plunge



January

Graduation Ceremony



April

June - Gryms Men
Barbers for Battle Buddies



June

September - Destin Sunset Rotary
Sandy Bags on the Bay
Cornhole Tournament



September

March

April



Impact 100
Membership Meeting



Knights of Columbus
Charity Golf Tournament



...in Review

October - FWB Chamber
Dog Daze



November - FWB Chamber
Military Appreciation Day



November - Pensacola Jeeps
Heroes & Horsepower
5th Annual Show & Shine



October - United Fidelity Banks
Community Day



November - Eggs on the Beach



December - FWB
Christmas Parade



Success Stories

"I am a United States Air Force veteran who, unfortunately, struggles with PTSD. My disability has significantly impacted my daily life and prevented me from engaging in many routine activities, such as working, grocery shopping, social events, etc. However, everything changed when I received my service dog, Molle, from Healing Paws for Warriors. Molle has restored my sense of purpose, independence, and confidence. With her support, I've been able to resume essential activities such as returning to work again - Molle and I are a proud team working together in my daughter's school district where they've been more than accommodating. I am now able to provide for my family; something I thought was no longer possible. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without Molle. My gratitude and appreciation goes to Healing Paws for Warriors for blessing me with Molle in saving my life."

-Guadalupe & Molle



Being the wife of a veteran with a service dog has been an unexpected gift—one that's brought healing not just for my husband, but for me as well. Life after service hasn't been easy. The invisible wounds my husband carries—PTSD, anxiety, and the emotional weight of his experiences—often made our home feel like a battlefield of its own. When his service dog, Zeke, came into our lives, I expected the dog to help him.

What I didn't expect was how much Zeke would also help me. Before Zeke, I felt like I always had to be "on"—hyper-aware of triggers, anticipating Scott's reactions to these triggers, and constantly trying to hold everything together. The arrival of Zeke created a shift. This incredible animal, trained to sense my husband's distress before it even surfaces, has become an emotional buffer, bringing a calm we haven't felt in years. The pressure has eased. I can breathe again. I am not the only one watching over him anymore.

The dog has done more than provide support—he has helped restore a sense of normalcy and even joy in our lives. I have my husband back, our children have their father back! I've watched my husband smile more, sleep better, and take steps outside the house he never would have taken alone. But for me, the most powerful impact has been the companionship. On days when the weight of caregiving feels overwhelming, Zeke is there—offering comfort, loyalty, and a quiet reminder that we are not alone in this. In many ways, Zeke has become a partner in my healing too.

Kendra (Zeke's Mom)



Receiving a HP4Ws Service Dog

1. A veteran must fill out an application, attach a current picture, and include a recommendation by a mental health professional stating the veteran is suffering from a primary diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), or Military Sexual Trauma (MST). It is important to note that the veteran did not have to serve in combat or have been on active duty when they received their trauma to enter into our program.
2. Led by veterans, the program uses peer mentorship and professional training to create certified service dog teams, reducing veteran suicide and improving quality of life while giving shelter dogs a second chance.
3. Following an interview with the veteran, both the trainer and the executive director complete a home inspection to verify that the environment is safe for the canine and also assess any special requirements for the dog, such as stair or mobility equipment training if the veteran also has a physical disability.
4. After completion of the home visit, we conduct an individual background investigation to ensure there has not been a history of violent crimes recorded.
5. Once a veteran is accepted into our program, our professional trainer searches for a dog at our local shelters/rescues that meets the criteria of the trauma(s) for the veteran. Once found, our trainer then accomplishes 6-8 weeks of training with the service dog applicant. Once the service dog meets HP4Ws criteria, the veteran will be paired with the dog to undergo another 2-3 months of training with our trainer and designated graduate mentors to learn how to use the service dog.



Receiving a HP4Ws Service Dog (cont'd)

Our program believes it takes not only a trained service dog, but also veterans who have faced some of the same challenges, teaching the veterans how to effectively utilize the service dog.

Depending on the veteran's individual needs, dogs will be trained specifically for them as a Certified Service Dog. A Certified Service Dog is allowed by law to enter public places such as the veteran's workplace, restaurants, buses, stores, etc. These are rights outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Once the dog is fully trained in the individual tasks, it will be certified as a service dog. They will graduate with both the Healing Paws for Warriors K9 Good Citizen and Healing Paws for Warriors Good Citizen-Public certifications.

Once the veteran / K9 teams have graduated, they will be invited to mentor incoming trainees to help them transition into our program. We feel this is very beneficial to both the new trainee and the experienced veteran.

It costs between \$13,000 - \$15,000 to train a veteran team, which includes all supplies and equipment, veterinarian charges, training fees, prevention medications, etc.



Get in Touch!

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officialhp4ws



Healing Paws For Warriors, Inc.



HEALING PAWS FOR WARRIORS IS A LOCAL VETERAN-FOUNDED/VETERAN-LED 501(C)(3) THAT PROVIDES RESCUE TO TRAINED SERVICE DOGS TO VETERANS FACED WITH POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD), TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) AND/OR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST) AT NO COST TO THE VETERAN WITH CONTINUED SUPPORT, HELPING TO REDUCE THE STATISTIC OF VETERAN SUICIDE AND INCREASE SELF AND FAMILY HEALTH AND WELLNESS. WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BEING A RESILIENT PROGRAM WHICH REPRESENTS VETERANS HELPING VETERANS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINED SERVICE DOGS.

