

**MISSION:**

The mission of TADSAW is to provide for the training of a Medical Alert Service Dog, as designated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, for ANY Wounded Warrior, Active Duty / Veteran, surviving with Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST-Rape), and or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), in order to restore and improve the Warrior's Quality of Life with a canine 'Battle Buddy', at no charge to the Warrior.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Defense noted in 2011 that at least **20%** of Warriors returning from deployment will be affected by the symptoms of PTSD and/or TBI during the first year home. At least, **3 out of 5** Female Warriors will be survivors of MST. In October 2012 the VA reported that the associated suicide rate rose to **18 to 20 deaths daily**. The suicide deaths have surpassed the total combat deaths in Iraq AND Afghanistan! **Now, as of April 2013, the reported suicide rate has increased to at least 22 daily.**

**WHAT TADSAW DOES:**

The 'Train a Dog – Save a Warrior' (TADSAW) program serves the Warrior, the family and the community, by providing the Warrior and the canine 'Battle Buddy' with the training and tools necessary to become an accredited Warrior / Medical Alert Service Dog Team. TADSAW also serves the needs of the Warrior's immediate family by providing for the training of a Medical Alert Service Dog through the 'Train a Dog – Save a Family' (TADSAF) program.

Whenever possible, TADSAW will evaluate a Warrior's personal Dog, because of the bond that has been established, to determine the Dog's suitability to be a Service Dog candidate. If the Warrior needs a Dog, TADSAW's Trainers will go to a Rescue Shelter and evaluate and select a candidate for the Warrior. And then the process begins.

The program lasts from 15 to 20 weeks to train the Team. The first phase is focused on the skills necessary to pass the AKC Canine Good Citizenship course, which is the benchmark standard in obedience for Therapy Dog work. During the second phase, time is spent socializing the Team in dog friendly public places. When the Trainer is confident the Team is progressing sufficiently, the Public Access work in areas where only Service Dogs are allowed begins. The Team graduates and is accredited when the TADSAW Public Access Temperament Test is given and the TEAM passes.

TADSAW's rewarding experiences are now in a monthly newsletter, appropriately called "**WOW** " **Moments** (Watching Our Warriors).

Some past WOW moments include a story like that at the beginning of this pamphlet. Others include reference letters from children, hearing laughter for the first time in years, and a Warrior saying "For the first time since \_\_\_\_\_, I just did \_\_\_\_\_!!! And there is at least one occurrence each and every day.

**THE CHALLENGE:**

This program is about the power of the American Warrior and the American people and what they can do.

Are we **AMERICANS** or **AmeriCANTS**? Each one of us can make a difference and in effect do. It is called the **POWER OF ONE**. And all it takes is just one to start things moving. One raindrop becomes a flood. One snowflake becomes a blizzard. One person saying, "I Need Help" and One person saying "I wish my dog could do that!!" **And finally** One person saying "It's as simple as chocolate and peanut butter in a candy bar!!" Train a Dog – Save a Warrior. That's how it all began in 2010 and TADSAW was born in 2010.



### **TADSAW NEEDS YOUR HELP:**

Today, applications come from all over the country, including Puerto Rico. They are Active Duty personnel and Veterans. They are from the Vietnam Era on - through all of the current war zones. They are all needing help and *TADSAW* is there for them. It is *TADSAW*'s duty to do the Right Thing and that is to 'Train the Dog and Save the Warrior!!' Application requests have increased from about 15 per month in 2011 to more than 40 per month today.

The applications are being completed and returned faster than ever, and, unfortunately, are now exceeding the available resources, causing applicants to be placed on 'waiting to start' list. AND Time is a very precious commodity when possible suicides and ongoing suffering are the alternatives.

### **THE TADSAW PROMISE:**

*TADSAW* is committed to serving the United States Military men and women, their families and the First Responders, responsible with protecting our Nation. Each of these Warriors is somebody's Daughter or Son, Sister or Brother, Aunt or Uncle, Mother or Father, or Spouse or Partner.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY:**

*TADSAW, Inc.* is funded through private donations and grants. The cost to sponsor one *TADSAW* Warrior/service dog Team is \$2,500. This covers training, veterinary care, food, equipment such as leashes, collars, bedding, bowls, Service Dog Vest and ID card.

### **Any size donation is greatly appreciated.**

To make a donation online, please go to the website and use PayPal, Visa, Mastercard or Discover. Recurring monthly gifts can also be made online. Checks can be mailed to the office.

Please visit [www.tadsaw.org](http://www.tadsaw.org) to learn more about the Soldiers' journeys and the lives that have been changed or **for more information on the application process.**

### **Contact Information:**

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# ***TADSAW, Inc.*** **TRAIN A DOG - SAVE A WARRIOR PROGRAM**



*"Life was locked in my house all day. Afraid to leave, afraid to go to a restaurant or to my kid's Soccer game, or to the grocery. I had to sit with my back to the wall, watch all the doors, never slept without horrible flash-backs, was hyper vigilant and drank too much. Twice I came close to killing myself when my wife stopped me."*

All too often *TADSAW* hears these same words from other Warriors seeking assistance.

The above Warrior's life was changed in the Fall 2011 with a Medical Alert Service Dog, named GUNNY.

You can save a Warrior's life, just like this one. And at the same time help a family and a community.

*TADSAW, Inc., founded in 2012, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.*