



STAND WITH ME

Assistance Dog Team Training

NEWSLETTER



Issue 7
July 2024

Stand With Me was awarded
501(c) 3 status on 28 Sept. 2016.

New Program Launch:

2024-2025 Service Dog Education Program

In partnership with the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and Broome County, Stand With Me has launched an education initiative to teach Broome County residents about service dog laws and etiquette. The goal of this program is two-fold:

1. We want to empower businesses and organizations to protect their establishment from fraudulent service dogs.
2. To protect the rights of disabled persons who choose to use a service dog to assist them with their disability.

Conrad and Virginia **KLEE**
FOUNDATION

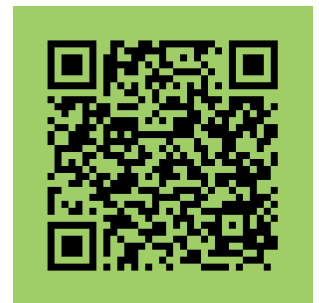


BROOME COUNTY
NEW YORK

We've established this program as a result of the frequent inquiries from local businesses and organizations for information about how to recognize a service dog and what to do if a dog is disrupting their business. Also, the disabled veterans in our program have been experiencing public access denials and we hope this program has an indirect positive effect on their outings to public places with their service dogs. This free program includes formal presentations/demonstrations about service dogs as well access to online educational materials. Our program is meant to be adaptable and accessible for a variety of audiences throughout the community and so far, we've presented to law enforcement groups, health care providers, first responders, elementary school students, university classes, service clubs, and local businesses.

Program offerings:

- A formal presentation given by a representative(s) of the Stand With Me organization for your leadership team, staff members, or group. Topics include the Americans with Disabilities Act and New York State law; public access rights; the difference between service dogs, emotional support dogs, and therapy dogs; how to recognize a service dog; general etiquette for staff and community members; and what questions can be asked when it is unclear if the dog is a service dog. Printed materials will be provided. Presentation length can be adjusted to your organization's needs (~30-90 mins).
- Educational resources: including handouts and posters for display showing the differences between service dogs, therapy dogs, and emotional support dogs; materials for training new staff and re-training existing staff about the laws and proper protocols when a dog enters your establishment.



Scan for more information

For more information or to request a presentation and/or access to our educational resources, please email the Stand With Me Director of Operations, Meghan at meghan@standwithmeorg.com.

Community Events & News

- The 2nd annual Ripics Carousel Lanes Bowling Fundraiser was a big success!
- Executive director Myrph attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new veterans resource center.
- Several Stand With Me students, graduates, and board members walked in the Binghamton Memorial Day parade.
- The Vestal Veterinary Hospital sponsored a free rabies vaccine clinic fundraiser in support of Stand With Me.



Memorial Day Parade, Binghamton, NY 2024



Free rabies vaccine clinic fundraiser, Vestal, NY 2024



STAND WITH ME
Assistance Dog Team Training



PAWS & PINTS
@ BEER TREE BREW FARM

TO SUPPORT STAND WITH ME
ASSISTANCE DOG TEAM TRAINING, INC.

SPONSORED BY:

VISIONS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 14th –Paws and Pints event at Beer Tree Farm in Port Crane, NY
 - Local pet supply and craft vendors
 - Free caricature artist (draws humans and dogs)
 - Dog-centric contests and demonstrations
 - Live music and more
- VFW Pool Tournament and Ziti Bake fundraiser (date TBD)

Stand With Me Updates

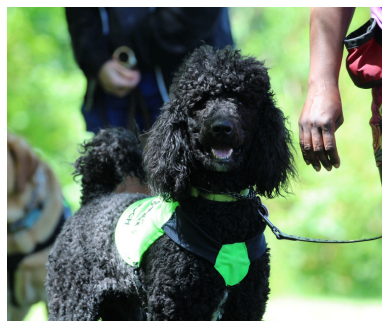
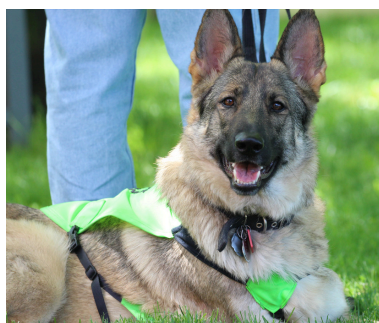
27 GRADUATES

STUDENTS **10**

10 VETERANS
in our Honor Guard

VETERANS **11**
participating in our group activities

Summertime Group Classes



Requirements for Veterans to participate in our Training School:

- Must have a service-connected mental health disability (e.g. PTSD or MST)
- Must remain engaged with a mental health treatment professional throughout the duration of the program
- A licensed mental health treatment professional must support their participation in our service dog training program
- Graduation consists of a public access certification test and re-certification is necessary every 1-2 years

Thank you & Education

In our last issue, we shared examples of common tasks that service dogs might perform for a person with a disability as outlined in the Americans With Disabilities Act. Here are some more specific examples of tasks that service dogs might perform for veterans with a service-connected mental health disability (this will be at least a two-part series):

- **Nightmare waking:** Many veterans who suffer from a service-connected mental health disability experience terrible nightmares. A service dog can learn the early signs of a nightmare and be trained to wake the veteran up before the nightmare becomes re-traumatizing.
- **Personal-space assistance:** Hyper-vigilance, a common symptom of PTSD, can cause anxiety and panic attacks in veterans. This often occurs when people in public spaces invade personal boundaries, such as crowding closely in checkout lines. Service dogs can be trained to stand at a specific spot behind or in front of the veteran, ensuring others maintain a respectful distance. This task empowers veterans to engage in everyday shopping.

To all of our individual donors: You all are the bedrock of the Stand With Me organization and without your generous support, the Stand With Me program would not be able to help so many local veterans and their families. Please know that your kindness has an incredible impact on the lives of veterans who are struggling with the unseen wounds of war. **THANK YOU!**

Our sincere thanks to:

- United Way of Broome County
- The Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation
- Broome County & Broome County Veterans Services
- The employees of the Binghamton F.W. Webb and Brian Keenan
- Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Bernice Gould Memorial Fund
- The Community Foundation for South Central New York Small Grants Fund
- Evan Williams Bourbon American-made Heroes Foundation
- The Home Depot and the employees of the Johnson City Home Depot
- Visions FCU/Visions Cares
- Brian and Maria Small
- Ben Margolius
- BAE Systems and the employees of BAE
- Blue Wave Solar Energy
- Magacs Electric, LLC
- Mark & Maria McMahon
- M&T Bank Foundation
- Tioga State Bank Foundation
- Southern Tier Veteran's Support Group
- The Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains Women Helping Women Fund
- Dave and Elizabeth Glynn
- Rebecca Davis
- William Ketcham
- Auchinachie Services
- Southern Tier Chapter MOAA
- Vestal Elks Club & the Vestal Elks Veterans
- Walmart Stores – Johnson City, Vestal, Norwich, Horseheads, Painted Post
- African Road Elementary School staff, students, and families
- Maryann Guinta
- Broome County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Officers Association
- Tioga County Kennel Club
- Sharon Fish
- Ovid Willard Lions Club
- Elaine and Chuck Stocking
- Jim and Carol Fish, The Kerby Fund
- Spencer Lions Club
- Wegmans
- Donna and Kyle Hartman of Brookeridge Labradors
- Beth McCumber of Gemstar Golden Retrievers
- Chris and Dave Hodge of Davris Labradors
- All of Stand With Me volunteers and graduates who advocate and fundraise on behalf of Stand With Me
- All of our community partners and collaborators
- All of our private donors! You are the backbone of our organization!

Grateful



United Way
of Broome County

BAE SYSTEMS

Evan Williams
★
AMERICAN-MADE
HEROES
—FOUNDATION—



**BROOME COUNTY
NEW YORK**

Conrad and Virginia **KLEE**
FOUNDATION

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteer: We are always looking for volunteers to help us with fundraising events. Please contact Meghan at fundraising@standwithmeorg.com if you are interested in donating raffle items or your time.

Donate: Visit our website or Facebook page to make a donation today, every dollar helps!