



Good Afternoon Great Heartbeat Supporters!

Please check out our updated [Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors brochure](#) !

I want to update everyone on our newest therapy program, [K9 Healing Warriors](#) to serve our Wounded Warriors here in WA state. We are just starting out and already have a lot of interest.

For those Warriors in WA state with traumatic brain injury (TBI), post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and physical injuries, our program is set up to allow Wounded Warriors get their lives back and be able to renegotiate the everyday challenges they face. Now they are not alone. The service dog gives the Warrior the confidence to go out into the community. He/she has his/her own buddy, who has his/her back.

After the success of our pilot study, Heartbeat is implementing this program, for Wounded Warriors in WA state, with the hopes of accommodating ten warriors and their dogs in training during the first year.

This program will work and train Warriors who already have their own young dog. The Warrior and service dog team will train together. Some of the training might include: turning lights off and on, waking Warriors from nightmares, accompanying the Warrior in public places, assisting in balance, assisting with prosthetic devices and performing calming behaviors to facilitate reorientation. Also, the hypervigilance that most Wounded Warriors feel is reduced with the service dog.

Heartbeat will work with Cascade Service Dogs in Olympia. Training is extensive and will last a minimum of one year. As with all our other therapies, Heartbeat pays for all the costs.



As it states on our website and this brochure. Our K9 Healing Warriors program is to serve those Warriors who have a dog they have a relationship with. They will train together with the trainer we have contracted with in Olympia. She is awesome!

Well, we had to make an adjustment for one very special Warrior Hero, Mike who is a Special Forces Soldier. This Warrior did not have a dog but when he was at Walter Reed Army Hospital for his TBI, he was part of a Service Dog Program they were testing. For Mike, having a dog with him for 1 week made a huge improvement for him and his injuries. Mike is over the top amazing. He has been on 25 unclassified deployments and so many more classified. He sustained multiple injuries with PTSD and TBI being among them. A lot was not working for him. Sleep deprivation because of nightmares is unfortunately so common with these Heroes. His dedication to his country cost him.

His quote to me which speaks volumes of the courage and character of these Warriors, "It cost me my health, family and restful night's sleep ... but the future is mine ... it will take no more from me!" Amazing!!!

Heartbeat is fortunate the trainer we work with occasionally has a very well trained obedient dog who can also do some other skills in being a Service Dog. We made an exception for Mike. Within two days of his phone call and sending in the intake packet, Mike went to look at two of her Labs (Mike also happens to like Labs and Golden Retrievers). Mike had an instant connection with Leia, a 2 1/2 yr old black female Lab.

Mike sent this text to me as he took Leia for the day " so..hung out with Leia all day.. We got along very well..such an active and sweet girl. We went to work (He is still in Special Forces), shopping and a little run... we had an amazing day. I am so happy!"

Mike will now start his service dog training we provide and he could not be more engaged and thrilled. Leia is already making such huge inroads to bring healing to Mike in just two short weeks of training. As I mentioned, this was a little outside the box in that we purchased this perfect dog for Mike to begin training with.

Heartbeat is blessed to have such wonderful donors and volunteers like all of you. At this point, with the purchase being extra, Carol and Tony, two of our long time supporters and advisory board members, stepped up and offered, without even being asked, to donate to purchase Leia for Mike. Thank you Carol and Tony!! Your donation has insured a new life for a well deserving Hero!

We are thrilled with K9 Healing Warriors and know it will be a great program with a long productive life.

If you are interested in donating to this specific program, please click the donate button and put "K9 Healing Warriors" on your check or where allowed on the paypal link.



On a personal note, my opinion, when you have these incredible Heroes that you work with every day, asking for so very little and grateful and Patriotic, it is hard to not notice the comparison in the sports world, like the Seahawks who refuse to honor the very Flag and Anthem these Heroes fought and bled for to perpetuate their own self-aggrandizing and theatric agenda by NOT honoring Our Country's Flag and Anthem.



This is why you stand for the National Anthem!

Sincerely,

Janice Buckley
Founder/President Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors

"At Heartbeat, we provide emergency assistance, morale building, and innovative therapeutic services for wounded warriors and their families"

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"Stand Now. Stand Together, Stand for What is Right!"
