

# 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

RESCUING DOGS TO FREE PEOPLE

## Public Support & Revenue Calendar Year 2009

Source	2009 Amount	Percent
Individual Contributions	\$280,600	
Grants & Organization Contributions	\$396,454	
Bequest Transfer		
Campaigns & Conferences	\$75,306	
Program Services	\$38,118	
Special Events Income	\$68,290	
Other Income/Miscellaneous	\$2,798	
<b>Total Public Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$861,567</b>	

## Expenses Calendar Year 2009

Purpose	2009 Amount	Percent
<b>Program Services</b>		
Dog Training		
Program Expenses	\$81,982	
<b>Support Services</b>		
Management & General Expenses		
Fundraising Expenses		
<b>Total Expenses</b>		

### Anti-Discrimination Policy

Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. (FSD) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, HIV/AIDS status, physical or mental disability for the purpose of service, employment, membership, volunteering, or leadership.

*Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

# 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

RESCUING DOGS TO FREE PEOPLE



## MISSION

Our mission is to acquire and train dogs that have the potential to successfully undergo and complete the rigorous seven to ten month training that allows them to assist people with disabilities, thus increasing their independence and peace of mind.

Virtually all Freedom Service Dogs are rescued themselves from shelters. Those that do not fulfill all the comprehensive training requirements are found adoptive homes.

## 2009 GRADUATES

In 2009, we graduated 19 client/dog teams—the most in our 22-year history. During the graduations, we celebrate the culmination of all of our efforts, changing the lives of both people and their canine companions. A person in need receives emotional and physical support for a higher quality of life while unwanted and possibly abused/unhealthy dogs benefit from a life of comfort and purpose.

During our graduation ceremonies at Englewood Civic Center, supporters and family members have the chance to meet clients, dogs, volunteers, trainers and staff, and to hear the inspiring stories about what brought each client and each dog to us. On June 27, we graduated ten teams and on Dec. 13, we graduated another nine teams. This year, our clients included:

- 6 veterans or active-duty servicemembers.
- 4 children under the age of 21.
- 9 members of our community with disabilities.

“Every year we strive to increase the number of teams we graduate,” says Sharan Wilson, executive director. “The sooner we get people off the waiting list, the sooner we can start enhancing the quality of their lives.”

## GOALS

The 2009 primary goals of Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. were to:

- Graduate a record number of 19 client/dog teams.
- Continue changing the lives of veterans, children and community members with disabilities.
- Provide service dogs to active-duty servicemembers and veterans.
- Cut expenses and maximize fundraising efforts to survive and thrive in the economic realities of 2009.

*Susanne Quinn and Cabo graduated in December 2009. Cabo helps Susanne with...*



## Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Kathleen Fieselman**, Chairman  
Service Dog Partner

**Paul Scott**, Vice-Chairman  
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP

**J.J. Ament**, Treasurer  
Investment Banker

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Pamela Alford**, Aurora Animal Shelter

**Lela Cocoros**, October Strategies, Inc.

**Kimberly Field**, Author

**John Hughes**, Merrill Lynch

**Jerry Maglio**, Maglio Associates, Inc.

**Rebecca Magnotta**, DISH Network, LLC

**Rita Martin**, The Basket Lady

**James O'Brien**, Community Volunteer/Retired Business Executive

**A Ralph Reed**, Retired, Tall Grass Energy

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Sharan Wilson

### CONTACT

2000 West Union Avenue  
Englewood, CO 80110-5567  
Phone: 303.922.6231  
Fax: 303.922.6234  
info@freedom servicedogs.org  
www.freedom servicedogs.org

## Board Chair Message

**2009 was a year of immense challenge, enriched with success.** In 2009, Freedom Service Dogs faced the same challenge as most nonprofits—trying to survive in an economic environment that saw donations decline as much as 30 percent. We saw donors disappear before our very eyes—some of whom had been helping us for years. Other donors had their giving budgets cut drastically, and some foundations simply froze their giving activities. Individual donors faced job losses and record home foreclosures. FSD survived—and thrived—thanks to an intense, yearlong effort of both board members and staff. Everyone considered the survival and growth of FSD to be their mission. And their dedication proved successful.

Despite economic challenges, FSD implemented its biggest program to date—Operation Freedom, which helps disabled servicemembers and veterans. The Wounded Warriors unit at Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs houses hundreds of soldiers who need help in adjusting their old lives to accommodate significant life-altering wounds. Many veterans are simply in limbo, not knowing where or how to go forward from here. Their “old” lives no longer fit, yet they are unable to create a “new” life without help. To address this need, FSD worked with the VA to develop and implement this program. We are now training rescue dogs to help with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury in addition to mobility issues resulting from spinal cord injuries and amputations. The results have simply been amazing. We have seen a veteran so severely

affected by PTSD that he was unable to go shopping, who now gives speeches. Another with mobility issues due to shrapnel injuries can now take care of his disabled wife. Another, thanks to his service dog, has been able to take a civilian job to support his family. These veterans are once again able to do the simple things most of us take for granted—activities of daily living such as getting up on time, dressing, eating, shopping, running errands, working and taking care of family. With hard work on the part of our clients and their dogs, they have created their new lives. A major victory for all concerned!

In addition, FSD saw growth in existing programs for those challenged by autism or mobility issues resulting from MS, MD, SCIs, cerebral palsy, strokes and more. Our Pawsitive Connections Program—where our dogs teach at-risk youth patience, empathy, self-confidence, discipline and more—continues to grow and be popular with local youth agencies.

FSD saw a graduating class of 19 client-dog teams in 2009—setting a new record! As recent as three years ago, our graduating class was less than half that number. This is why I can say, without a doubt, despite economic challenges, 2009 was a very successful year for FSD clients, staff and board. Thank you all for your hard work, and thanks to our donors for making it all possible.

*Rathleen Fieselman*  
2009 Board Chairman, FSD

## FREEDOM SERVICE DOGS PROGRAMS

Freedom Service Dogs rescues abandoned dogs and trains them to provide assistance to people with disabilities, returning military personnel and veterans, and children with mental health conditions such as autism. FSD does not charge clients for dogs. The cost to train a dog is approximately \$20,000 and the process takes seven to ten months.

### Operation Freedom

Operation Freedom is a partnership developed with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to benefit U.S. military personnel and veterans. The goal of the program is to train dogs and place them with veterans and returning soldiers in need. It provides soldiers in transition the opportunity to help fellow comrades by training a dog that is destined to become a service dog for a severely wounded soldier.

### Pawsitive Connection

Freedom Service Dogs joined forces with CBR YouthConnect to create Pawsitive Connection, a unique animal-assisted training program. Pawsitive Connection combines at-risk girls and boys, abandoned dogs, and people with disabilities to create a program that is a win-win situation for all. The program encourages gains in character development through effective use of the human/animal connection.

### Professional Therapy Dogs

Freedom Service Dogs has partnered with the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Social Work to pioneer a program utilizing Animal-Assisted Therapy. Graduates of the program benefit people with mental health disorders or other special needs by providing animal-to-human therapy.

## Our Supporters

### Service Contributions

**Alameda East Neurology Department:** Provided emergency consultations.

**Dr. Nicole Bartley, DVM:** Provided radiographs, spays, neuters, vaccines, and general examinations at a reduced fee.

**The Eye Clinic Veterinary:** Provided eye exams at a reduced fee.

**Firehouse Animal Health Centers:** Veterinarians provided as needed care during business hours at a reduced fee.

**Goldenview Veterinary Hospital:** Provided veterinary care at a reduced fee.

**Harrison Memorial Animal Hospital:** Provided spays and neuters as well as other vet services at a reduced fee.

**Rocky Mountain Mobile Veterinary Clinic:** Dr. Linda Dugger, DVM.

**VRCC Dermatology Department:** Provided consultation and services at a reduced fee. **VRCC Internal Medicine Department:** Provided care and consultations at a reduced fee. **VRCC**

**Ophthalmology Department:** Matthew J. Chavkin, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVO and Tanja Nuhsbaum, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVO provided eye examinations at a greatly reduced fee. **VRCC Surgery Department:** Marlon Neely, DVM, Brian Van Vechten, DVM, Chad M. Devitt, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, and Tara Britt, VMD Diplomate ACVS provided radiograph interpretations at no fee as well as surgery at a reduced fee.

**Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital:** Provided emergency care at a reduced fee.

**Special thanks to the following shelters:** Adams County Animal Shelter, Aurora Animal Shelter, DDFL Buddy Center, Denver Dumb Friends League, Denver Municipal Animal Shelter, Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies, Humane Society of the South Platte, Humane Society of Weld County, Lab Rescue, North Platte Animal Shelter, Prison Trained K-9 Program, Table Mountain Animal Shelter, Weston County Humane Society.

### In-Kind Donations

Alligator, An Average Pooch Pet Spa, Bold Lean Designs, Boomerang, Business Controls, CCD Vet Tech Program, Circle E Saddle Leather, Clean Designs, CSU Epsilon Sigma Alpha, Comcast, Cool K9's, Dog for the Deaf, Eichhorn Kennels, Englewood Unleashed, EVMARS, Future Solutions, Girl Scouts, Girl Scout Troop 2078, Goldenview Veterinary Hospital, Great Big Color, Hamilton Middle School, Happy Hounds & Horses, Herz1 Kindergarten, Laund-ur-mutt, Lewis & Bark, Metro State Social Work Students, Mountain Resource Center, Murdocks, Patty's Pet Photography, S&G Signs, Vain Salon, Whole Foods Market, Wolf Foundation.

## Dogs Best Friends

These businesses support FSD by helping raise awareness and providing financial support: C.B. Paws , Cowboy Moving & Storage, Decorative Materials, International Limited, and Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply.

### Foundation Donors

Animal Assistance Foundation, Anschutz Family Foundation, Banfield Charitable Trust, Bernice Barbour Foundation, Inc, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, COBIZ CARES Foundation, Denver Foundation, Disabled American Veteran, CA Foundation, EnCana Cares Foundation, Eugene C and Florence Armstrong Fa??, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Halcyon Hill Foundation, Helen Brach Foundation, Helen K & Arthur E Johnson Foundation, ISEC Foundation, J K Mullen Foundation, Jackson National Community Foundation, Jewish Community Endowment Fund Philanthro, JJJ Foundation, Inc. GL, Lauretta Boyd Charitable Trust, M House Family Fund, Marjorie and John Buyers Foundation, May and Stanley Smith Trust, Morsman Family Foundation Agency, Nathan B and Florence R Burt Found, Ray Rowe Trusts for Animals, Robbie Jones Animal Welfare Fund, Special People in Need, Sprint Foundation, The Doreen L. Brown Family Char. Fou, The E.D. Foundation, The Freda Hambrick Foundation, The Gibney Family Foundation, The Graham Foundation, The Henry W Bull Foundation, The, Laurence and Michele Chang Foundat, The Lucille Drinkwater Allen Trust, The William H & Matti Wattis Harris F, Two Sisters and a Wife Foundation, Valero Energy Foundation, Venoco, Inc, Virginia W. Hill Foundation, Zonta Club of Denver II.

### Individual Donors 2009 \$500 or More

A Ralph Reed, Abdoulah Family Fund, Alan S. McDonald, Allan and Diana Heinle, Animal Assistance Foundation, Ann and John Cyphers, Anonymous Fund, Anschutz Family Foundation, Arapahoe Sertoma Club, Aviation Medicine, Advisory Service, B Diane Milholin, Banfield Charitable Trust, Barbara Rodgers, Bennett Watson Hooks, Jr, Bernice Barbour Foundation, Bethany Newcomb, Bonnie Marie Christensen, Canine Rehab & Conditioning Group, LLC, Carly A Greer, Cars for Charity, CFC of Pikes Peak Region, Charles Schwab, Cheryl and David Dunn, Christopher and, Dana Reeve Foundation, CoBiz Cares Foundation, Colorado Boys Ranch, Colorado Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliary, Combined Federal Campaign, Connie Koprowicz, Cowboy Moving & Storage, Daniel Cohen, Dardano Company LLP, Dardano's Flowerland, Deborah Spring, Decorative Materials Int'l'm KTD, Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust, Donna L Karras, Douglas Barr, Douglas Koltavy, E. Maxine Nichols, ECA Foundation, Edward S Lowry, Eichhorn Kennels, EnCana Cares, Erin Leeper, Eugene C and Florence Armstrong Family Foundation, Inc, First Plymouth Congregational Church, Forest Oil Corporation, Future Solution's Inc.

## Highlights & Accomplishments

- Freedom Service Dogs placed its 163rd client-dog team.
- 19 new teams graduated, 4 of which were children under 21 years of age.
- 6 service dogs were placed with veterans or servicemembers through Operation Freedom.
- 2 client-dog teams were placed through the Professional Therapy Dog Program.
- 144 dogs were tested as service dog candidates, 90 dogs adopted to homes and 35 remain in evaluation.
- 7 Pawsitive Connection sessions were held involving 130 participants.
- 38 clients remain on the waiting list.
- FSD participated in the Metro Denver Shelter Alliance and the Coalition for Living Safely with Dogs.