



# The Heart of Fidos Changes Lives!

Fidos enhances the quality of life for veterans with PTSD, persons with mobility or hearing impairments, by providing certified Assistance Dogs and providing Therapy Dog support/comfort to first responders/healthcare workers/educational settings. We also provide Community/Public Service for youth between the ages 12-17 in our Junior Program.



# *What Fidos does...*

- ♥ Provides trained Assistance Dogs or Hearing Dogs to people who are physically challenged, deaf or hard-of-hearing, including on-going support services and training.
- ♥ Provides trained PTSD Dogs to Veterans with combat-related PTSD including on-going support services and training.
- ♥ Provides emotional and physical benefits through the use of well-trained therapy dogs and volunteers for individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, schools and special events.
- ♥ Educates, enlightens, and enriches the lives of individuals in the use of quality trained dogs through disability awareness presentations and demonstrations in schools, churches, organizations, and businesses within the community.
- ♥ Provides a Junior Volunteer Program enabling hands on experience with the training of therapy dogs and working with physically challenged individuals while earning community service hours.
- ♥ Provides a reading literacy program (Dogs Educating and Assisting Readers - DEAR) that improves the reading skills of elementary school students by encouraging them to read one-on-one with a Fidos Therapy Dog in a relaxed learning environment.

# Assistance Dog Program



Fidos enhances the quality of life and independence for persons with mobility impairments, hearing loss, and veterans with combat related PTSD by providing a certified Assistance Dog.

A mobility dog will perform numerous tasks for their partner, such as:

- ✓ Picking up dropped items;
- ✓ Opening doors;
- ✓ Help with dressing / undressing;
- ✓ Counter-balancing a person who is walking;
- ✓ Assisting in chair-to-chair or floor-to-chair transfer.

A hearing dog is trained to alert hard of hearing or deaf people to the significant sounds in their environment, such as:

- ✓ Telephone;
- ✓ Smoke detector / fire alarm;
- ✓ Alarm clock;



- ✓ Someone calling their name;
- ✓ Items that have been dropped (keys, pens, etc.);
- ✓ Baby's cry;
- ✓ Door knock/ doorbell.

A PTSD dog will perform tasks such as:

- ✓ Turning on lights;
- ✓ Blocking and providing personal space;
- ✓ Deep pressure therapy;
- ✓ Awaken a veteran from a nightmare.



Fidos provides lifetime follow up support to our certified teams.

If you are interested please see:

<https://FidosForFreedom.org/prospective-clients/>



*Fidos For Freedom, Inc. - 1200 Sandy Spring Rd - Laurel, MD*

*Phone - (301) 490-4005*

*E-mail: [Fidos@FidosForFreedom.org](mailto:Fidos@FidosForFreedom.org)*

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# Therapy Dog Program



Therapy dogs are owned by our volunteers and are specifically trained to perform quality pet therapy visits to local health care facilities, schools, and anywhere that reduction in stress is needed. This includes:

- ✓ Visiting over 45 different facilities a year;
- ✓ Allowing dogs to give unconditional love to others which is one of the most rewarding experiences in life. It is an activity that your dog will grow to eagerly anticipate;
- ✓ The opportunity to see people smile who seldom find a reason to smile.

## *Dogs Educating & Assisting Readers (aka DEAR Program)*

- ✓ This is a Fidos venture that takes place in local schools and libraries;
- ✓ The DEAR Program improves reading skills by encouraging children to read one-on-one with a Fidos Therapy Dog and Trained Volunteer.



## *Dogless Handler*

This program is for volunteers who don't own a Therapy Dog but handles another volunteer's "extra" dog.

- ✓ Fidos regulations require that we have a 1:1 human-canine ratio for any visit we attend, which means one dog per person;
- ✓ Some of our volunteers have more than one Therapy Dog in the program. As such they're often left with the dilemma of leaving one of their Therapy Dogs at home;
- ✓ A dogless handler would accompany the Therapy Dog team on their visit and handle the "extra" dog;
- ✓ Dogless handlers are required to attend training.



If you are interested please see:

<https://FidosForFreedom.org/therapy-dog-program/>



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# *Puppy Raisers and Trainers*



A Puppy Raiser is a volunteer who provides a home and basic training for a new puppy in the Assistance Dog Program. No experience is required. As a puppy raiser you will:

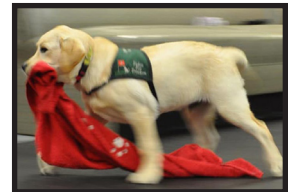
- ✓ Attend weekly classes at the Fidos Training Center to learn how to socialize the puppy and teach good household manners, proper public behavior, crate training, housebreaking, and how to eliminate on command;
- ✓ Take the puppy to veterinary appointments;
- ✓ Expose the puppy to various sights, sounds, and different populations of people, teach the puppy how to walk on various surfaces;
- ✓ Keep the puppy in your home for 9-12 months at which point she/he enters the next phase of training.

All puppy expenses are paid by Fidos.



A Trainer is a volunteer who provides a home for a dog in training that is at least one year old and has completed training at our Prison Program. As a trainer you will:

- ✓ Teach the dog the specialized skills that she/he will need to use after being partnered with a Fidos client;
- ✓ Be intricately involved in the training of the client;
- ✓ Bring the dog to the Fidos Training Center at least twice a month for training classes and attend special training exercises during evening and weekend hours;
- ✓ Conduct training exercises in public places. This helps the dog learn to focus on his/her handler so as not to be distracted when working.



If you are interested please see:

<https://FidosForFreedom.org/assistance-dog-programs/>



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The Junior Volunteer Program is designed for students between the ages of 12-17 who would like to receive community service hours in an organization whose mission is to increase the quality of life for the residents of our local community through the use of specially trained service, hearing, and therapy dogs.

Our Fidos Junior Volunteers are involved in many different activities which includes:

- ✓ Gaining practical hands-on experience on Wednesday nights by working with the Therapy Dog teams;
- ✓ Working off-site with the Therapy Dog teams through the "Hands and Paws" Program;
- ✓ Participating in classroom instruction about Fidos For Freedom, dogs, building disability awareness, etc;
- ✓ Listening to guest speakers discuss various dog skill programs, behaviors, training, health issues / options, and more;



- ✓ Practicing dog-handling skills in class through immersive role-playing scenarios;
- ✓ Helping with therapy dog testing, social functions, and fundraising;
- ✓ Writing a by-line for the Fidos newsletter, “Happy Tails”;
- ✓ Helping Fidos with other required tasks.



For more information, see:

<https://FidosForFreedom.org/junior-volunteer-program/>



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# Community Education Program



Fidos Community Education Program is presented at schools, churches, civic organizations, businesses, and government agencies. This program focuses on disability awareness and the impact that Assistance Dogs have on the lives of mobility challenged, hard of hearing individuals, and veterans with combat-related PTSD. Heightening public knowledge about these kinds of disabilities increases the acceptance of Assistance Dogs and their partners throughout our community.



If you are interested, see:

<https://FidosForFreedom.org/education-outreach/>

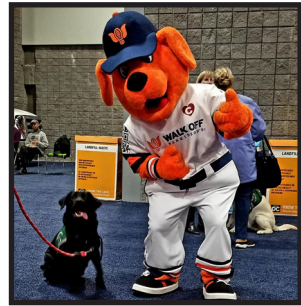


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Fidos believes that working and partnering with other organizations is mutually beneficial. These collaborations have the potential to increase:

- ✓ Community visibility / involvement
- ✓ Donor base
- ✓ Products or services
- ✓ Revenue
- ✓ Volunteerism
- ✓ Media attention and coverage
- ✓ Brand recognition and loyalty



As of January 2022, we are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the following organizations that actively support our mission:

**AIG**  
**AMERICAN GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE**  
**BLACKWATER DISTILLARY**  
**CHESAPEAKE PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION**  
**CITY OF LAUREL**  
**DEFINE HAIR**  
**DOGS RIDE CERTIFIED**  
**GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE**  
**GRIFFIN**  
**HAMMERHEAD CONTRACTING**  
**LAUREL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**LOWES HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
**MARYLAND BLACK BEARS**  
**NAM KNIGHTS**  
**OLD GLORY HARLEY DAVIDSON**  
**PIKESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**RIDE FOR THE FALLEN**  
**TAKOMA PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**THE VACATION STOP**  
**UNITED PARCEL SERVICE**  
**WHIRLED OF COLOR**

If you are interested, see: <https://FidosForFreedom.org/partners/>



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## *We need your Help*



Fidos can use your support to continue training our dogs and providing stress relief through our Therapy Dog Program. Donate now on-line at [www.FidosForFreedom.org](http://www.FidosForFreedom.org) or complete the bottom of this card and mail to:

**FIDOS FOR FREEDOM, INC.  
1200 SANDY SPRING ROAD  
LAUREL, MD 20707**

If you are interested in setting up a bequest, estate gift, stock transfer, or would like more information, please contact us at 301-490-4005 or [Fidos@FidosForFreedom.org](mailto:Fidos@FidosForFreedom.org).

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my enclosed donation for:

- ☐ General Operations
- ☐ Sponsoring a dog
- ☐ Memorial gift:  
Dog / Person's name \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Gift in honor of  
Dog / Person's name \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I am interested in including Fidos For Freedom in my Estate Planning. Please have someone contact me.
- ☐ Please include me in your mailing list.



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# SOCIAL MEDIA



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Choose FidosForFreedom on [smile.amazon.com/](https://smile.amazon.com/)

## **FIDOS FOR FREEDOM, Inc.** An Assistance and Therapy Dog Training Organization

**1200 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, MD 20707  
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[www.FidosForFreedom.org](http://www.FidosForFreedom.org)**

A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting Fidos For Freedom, Inc. at 1200 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, 16 Francis St., Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.