SD GUNNER FUND

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

SD GUNNER FUND

SERVICE DOGS FOR EXCEPTIONAL HUMANS



Together, we are changing lives.

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Friends,

I'm honored to present SD Gunner Fund's 2025 Annual Report. This annual report offers a deeper dive into our accomplishments in 2025, including program successes, financial performance, and future aspirations. We remain committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring your contributions continue to create a lasting impact.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated team, tireless volunteers, and the incredible network of donors and partners who form the bedrock of SD Gunner Fund. Your commitment is what fuels our mission and allows us to dream bigger, reach further, and touch the lives of even more individuals and families in need.

Thank you for being a part of our mission. Together, we cultivate hope and independence, one canine companion at a time.

Sincerely,
Britnee Kinard
Executive Director, SD Gunner Fund





OUR MISSION

SD Gunner Fund is a Richmond Hill based nonprofit with a mission to serve military families, first responders, and children with disabilities by training and supporting service dogs and providing advocacy and education for their well-being.

OUR 2025 IMPACT

8 service dogs trained for veterans, first responders, and children with disabilities

5 facility therapy dogs trained and placed in schools and pediatric clinics

an estimated 400,000 people per year

OUR STORY

Britnee and Hamilton Kinard founded SD Gunner Fund (SDGF) in 2014. Hamilton suffered multiple combat injuries while serving in the United States Army. Due to his injuries, Hamilton – a Purple Heart Recipient – was medically and honorably discharged in 2010.

The Kinard family knew Hamilton's physical and mental health would improve with a service dog, but the process of receiving one was a grueling and expensive 18-month ordeal. The stress of the experience – coupled with the tremendous health benefits Hamilton's service dog provided – drove the Kinards to establish SD Gunner Fund to help others receive a service dog.

In 2018, SDGF expanded to include therapy dog training and placement to help improve physical and mental health outcomes for a broader range of children with health issues and disabilities.

To learn more visit www.sdgunner.org

Our Core Programs

1 Service Dogs

Service dog training that provides fully trained service dogs for veterans, first responders, and children with disabilities.

2 Therapy Dogs

Therapy dog training for dogs that are placed in K-12 schools, children's hospitals, and outpatient pediatric therapy clinics. SDGF provides all initial and ongoing training for therapy dogs and their handlers.

3 Exceptional Children Support

Includes medical debt payoff for families with low to moderate incomes, field trip funding for special needs classrooms, and Sunflower Cafe, a school-based employment preparation program for children with disabilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since our founding, SDGF has served over 500 veterans, first responders, and exceptional children and provided over 70,000 hours of service dog training for 127 children and adults. We have also trained 15 facility therapy dogs that provide emotional support to an estimated 400,000 people per year.

OUR FACILITY DOG PROGRAM

SD Gunner Fund has trained facility dogs since 2018. Our dogs reach an estimated 400,000 people per year through therapeutic visits at children's museums, health clinics, and K-12 schools. Unlike service dogs that support one person, facility dogs are trained to help many people at once.



Our facility dogs work full-time during standard work hours. These dogs are specially trained to support students, young patients, teachers, and medical professionals. Here are some of the ways they help:

- Improve reading and language skills
- Reduce anxiety and depression
- Improve social skills
- Encourage a positive attitude towards learning
- Reduce negative classroom behaviors
- Decrease absenteeism

OUR SUCCESS SO FAR

SD Gunner Fund trains facility therapy dogs and helps organizations establish their therapy dog programs. Currently, our trained therapy dogs reach an estimated 400,000 people per year at the following locations:

- Chatterbox Pediatric Therapy
- Effingham County School District
- Memorial Children's Hospital
- The Speech Path
- Rabun County School District
- Now We're Talking Therapy Services
- Independent therapists' offices
- Pediatric Dentistry of Savannah

Our dogs help students relax before big exams. They listen closely to children who are working to overcome communication disorders. They also offer a supportive paw to young patients facing a stressful illness. SD Gunner is excited to train and support more new facility dogs and handlers in 2025!

LEARN MORE HERE!

Please take a few minutes to learn more about our facility therapy dog program at the Effingham County School District!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1Sag5VBTvY&t=156s

HOW WE WORK – SERVICE DOG PROGRAM

Your support for SD Gunner Fund helps us provide lifesaving companions for veterans, exceptional children, and first responders. Here's how:



APPLICATION

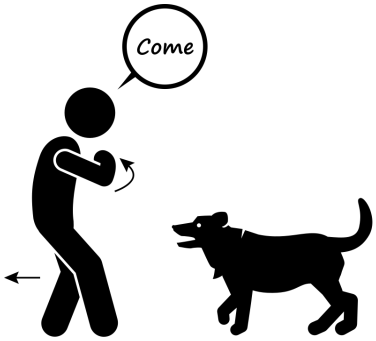
Veterans, first responders, and children with disabilities interested in a service animal are welcome to fill out SD Gunner Fund's service dog application on our website. Applicants are vetted to ensure their needs can be met with an appropriate service animal. Our Board of Directors meets to discuss and decide on applicants. Waitlists depend on funding, trainer capacity, and suitable dog availability.



FUNDRAISING

Each service dog trained costs SD Gunner Fund up to $15,000 depending on breed, tasks, location, etc. SD Gunner Fund covers the financial cost of training and matching service animals with their recipient families. SD Gunner Fund encourages recipients to help with fundraising.

DOG TRAINING



SD Gunner Fund's five contracted dog trainers are exceptionally skilled at providing service dog training. Collectively, our trainers have more than 100 years of service dog training experience and multiple certifications through organizations such as the Animal Behavior College, American Kennel Club, Absolute Dogs, US K-9 Academy, and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Our trainers include: Lauren Fins (Fins Animal Training), Blake Forkner (Meika's Helping Paws), Michael Duncan (Southern Edge K9), Jared Warren (Southern State K-9 Training), and Kirk Brennaman (Down and Dirty Dog Training).

SD Gunner Fund's service dog training program provides the full range of services needed to ensure a dog is prepared to meet the specific needs of veterans living with mobility, hearing, psychiatric, or neurological disabilities. Training includes dog selection and assessment, supplies, training aids, and comprehensive dog training. In most cases, dogs are boarded and trained for approximately 10 months (some recipients choose to have the dog live with them and will bring them to weekly training for 12-18 months). All service dogs undergo training tailored to address the unique needs of their veteran partners and complete at least 600 hours of training and national certifications, making them highly qualified to improve the health and quality of life of the veterans they support. SD Gunner Fund also uses this training time to ensure veterans and their families understand how to care for their dog, and what legal protections they have under the Americans with Disabilities Act.



GRADUATION

Once our service animals complete all of their required training and master tasks specific to their recipient family's disability, the service animal graduates from the program and is equipped to support their new handler. SD Gunner Fund continues to support recipient families and ensures that a successful transition and companionship are built.

2025 SERVICE DOG PROGRAM IMPACT

13 SERVICE & THERAPY DOGS

7,800 HOURS OF TRAINING

13 Service & Therapy dogs have been in training classes since the start of 2024 with SD Gunner Fund's amazing contracted trainers.

SD Gunner Fund's service and therapy dogs must each complete at least 600 hours of training and pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen, Community Canine, and Urban Canine tests. Service dogs must demonstrate proficiency in completing tasks to assist individuals with disabilities. Therapy dogs must pass their final assessment through Pet Partners to achieve official therapy dog status.

YOUR *Investments* MAKE AN IMPACT



IN THEIR OWN *words*

SD Gunner Fund Facility Therapy Dogs at Work!

"We used the therapy dogs as reading buddies to build excitement and fluency when reading aloud. What I didn't expect was the influence these pups would have outside the classroom. Parents were talking to me about how eager their children were to read at home so they could "level up" and meet their goals to read to the pups again." – Teacher, Sand Hill Elementary School



"When I feel overwhelmed, I like to go and pet/play with Noodle. He helps calm me down when I need it the most!" – Student, Effingham County High School

"One of my students had a verbal altercation with a peer. Once he had calmed down, he was taken to see Piper and his whole body relaxed, and he had the biggest smile on his face that none of our staff had ever seen. I hope to see Piper soon, as she brings out the best in our students." – Teacher, EnCompass Academy





IN THEIR OWN *words*

Team Kimberly & SD Gia

"I BATTLE WITH INSOMNIA. I BATTLE WITH ANXIETY. I BATTLE WITH DEPRESSION. IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE JUST GOING OUT FOR DAILY THINGS...THE GROCERY STORE...SHOPPING WITH FRIENDS...I WOULD JUST HAVE THESE MOMENTS OF DEBILITATING ANXIETY. THERE ARE SOME DAYS THAT SHE (MY SERVICE DOG) IS THE REASON I GET OUT OF BED, THE REASON I DO THINGS. I CAN'T IMAGINE MY LIFE NOW WITHOUT HER. NOW I CAN INDEPENDENTLY DO THE THINGS I WANT TO DO. THAT COMPANIONSHIP KEEPS ME GROUNDED. AND IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE DOGS. IT'S THE PEOPLE IN THE ORGANIZATION AND THE FRIENDS I'VE MADE." – AIR FORCE VETERAN, SERVICE DOG RECIPIENT"



Please watch Kimberly's full Testimonial Video below. Thanks to Step One Automotive Group for making these testimonial videos that share the impact of SD Gunner Fund possible.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tWxAp33A8Y&t=1s

WAYS TO *Give*





SPONSORSHIPS

SD Gunner Fund has Annual Sponsorship Packages available to businesses that are interested in partnering with SD Gunner Fund throughout the entirety of the year. Businesses can choose to sponsor a service dog or sponsor our fundraising events. Sponsorships range from $500-$25,000 and include marketing. Reach out to sdgunnerfund@gmail.com for more information.



SEASONAL OR ANNUAL GIFT

If you have the means, donating during the holiday season is a wonderful way to give back. Any amount makes a difference! You can make a one-time or monthly donations securely on our website.



VOLUNTEER

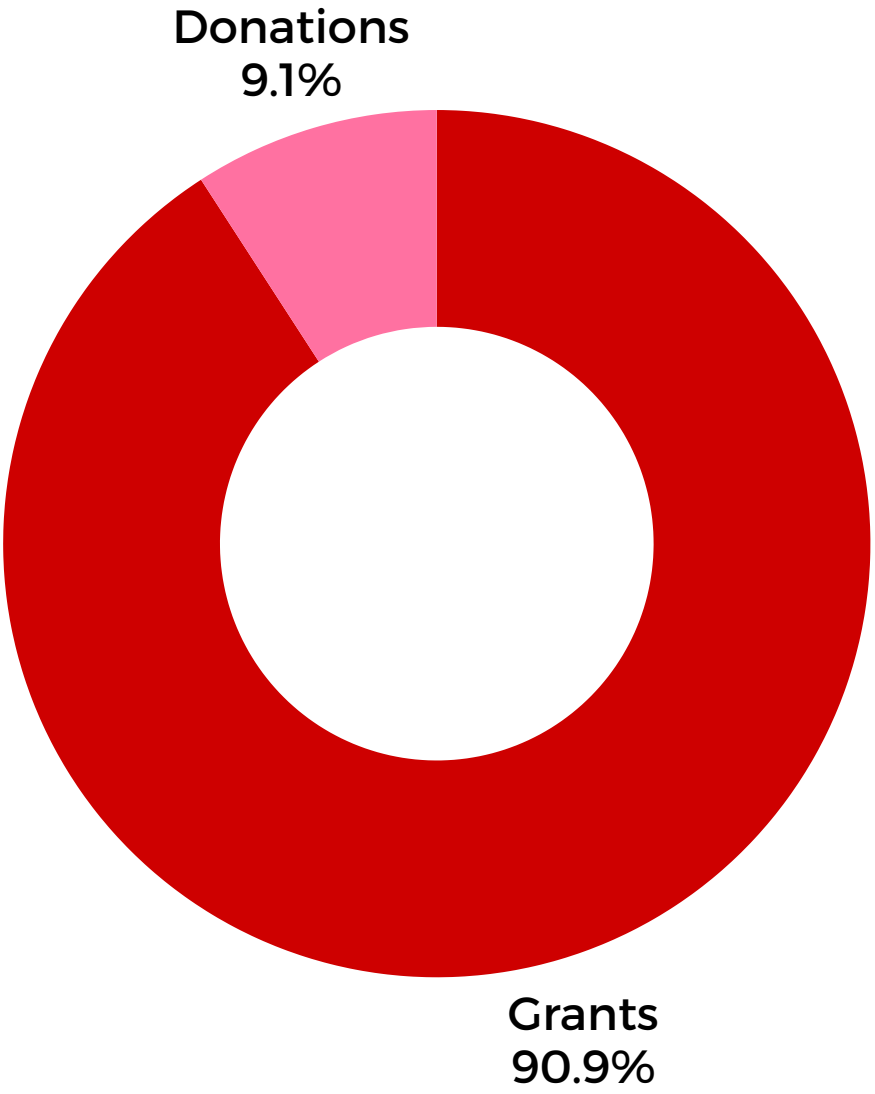
Volunteering is another meaningful way to give back to SD Gunner Fund. Volunteers are needed in a variety of capacities including: helping with dog training, helping set up and organize our fundraisers, sending thank you's to donors, marketing, fostering dogs, and more!



AMAZON WISHLIST

We have an Amazon Wishlist with many items that we need for our service and therapy dogs in training. We appreciate donations that directly support our service and therapy dog programs.

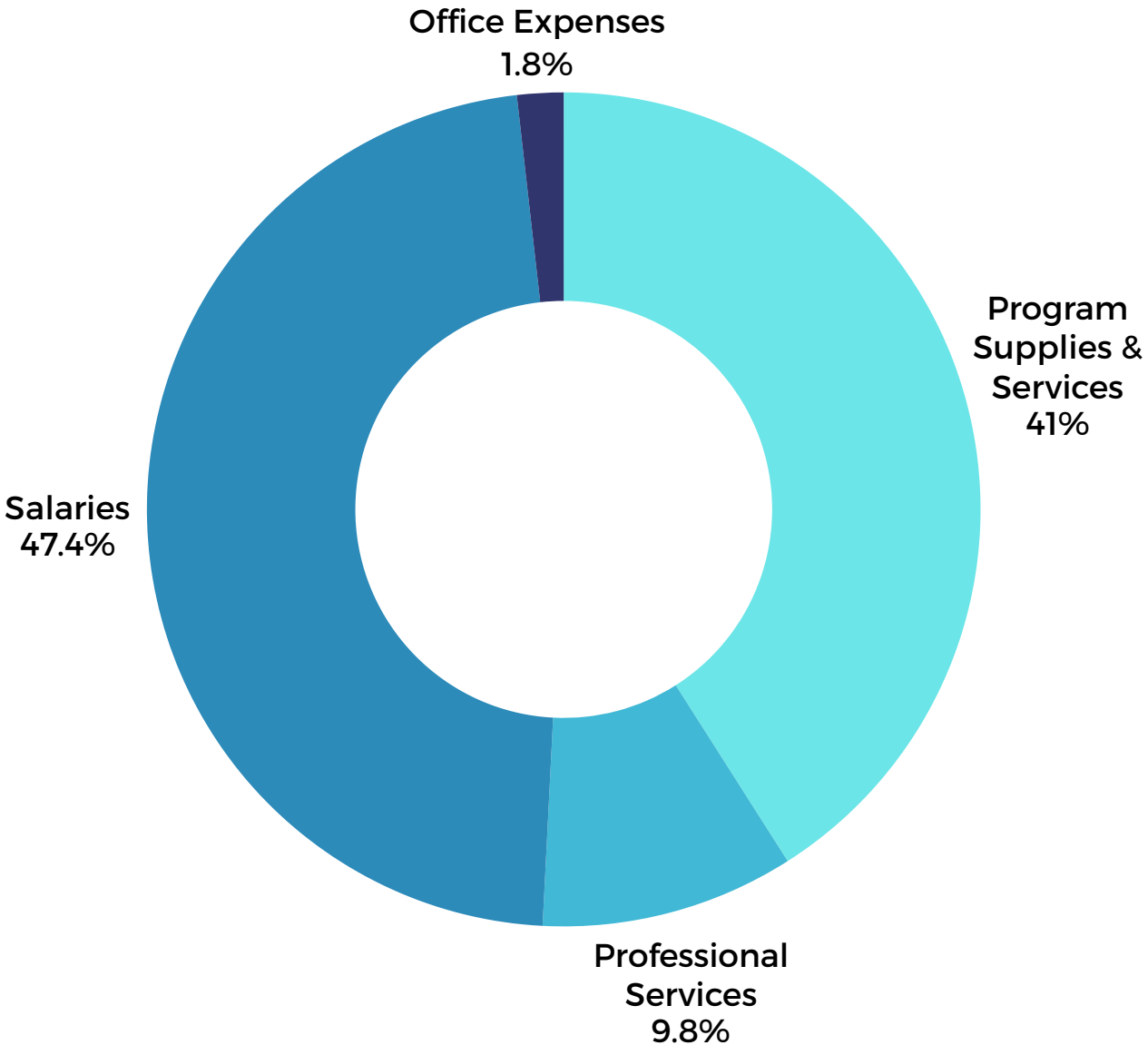
FINANCIAL *reports*



2025 REVENUE: $65,689.00

SD Gunner Fund strives to be transparent with our finances and maximize each dollar raised to best serve our community.

FINANCIAL *reports*



2025 EXPENSES: $89,435

SD Gunner Fund believes that financial transparency is essential, both legally and ethically, for building trust and accountability to our funding sources.

We invite you to review more information about our financials and commitment to transparency on SD Gunner Fund's GuideStar profile at https://www.guidestar.org/profile/47-1346302

THANK YOU

Your support has fueled another year of remarkable growth at SD Gunner Fund. Thanks to your generosity, countless veterans, first responders, and children with disabilities now experience the transformative power of service and therapy dogs. These incredible partnerships foster hope, independence, and a brighter future.

As we move forward, your continued investment remains vital. We are incredibly grateful for our strong SD Gunner Fund community – it truly takes a village to make a difference!

CONTACT US

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www.sdgunner.org

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