



Why Fundraising Matters

Many of you have asked why we spend so much time fundraising and why we ask our teams to participate. I wanted to take a moment to explain the reality behind what it takes to provide a professionally trained service dog.

First, I want to share a little about me.

I am a single mom of three. Three and a half years ago, my husband passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Since then, I have continued running my small, locally owned dog training business while also pursuing a dream that has been on my heart for years—to make life-changing service dogs accessible to people who truly need them.

I have been training service dogs since 2019. Over the years, I saw countless individuals and families who desperately needed a service dog but simply couldn't afford one or were facing waiting lists of three years or longer through larger organizations.

That is why I founded Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training. I wanted to create another option for veterans, children, first responders, civilians, and families who needed help now—not years down the road.

Because we are still a young nonprofit, we simply don't have the large donor base, corporate sponsors, or grant funding that many established organizations have. Donations have been limited, and much of the financial responsibility for the dogs currently in training falls on me personally.

Many people see our program cost and wonder why fundraising is necessary. The truth is, our program fee does not cover the actual cost of raising and training a service dog.

To put things into perspective:

A standard 30-day board and train program through Covenant Keepers K9 costs \$2,500 per month.

An average service dog is in training for approximately 18 months.

If you simply multiplied our normal training rate over that time, the value of professional training alone would be approximately:
\$45,000. That doesn't include the many additional expenses required to raise a healthy, successful service dog.

Typical expenses for one service dog include:

- Professional training (18 months): ~\$45,000
- Food: ~\$1,200
- Veterinary care: \$4,000–\$6,000
- Grooming: \$1,500–\$2,000
- Training equipment, gear, harnesses, leashes, and supplies: \$1,500–\$2,000
- Toys, treats, enrichment items, boots, and replacement equipment: \$3,000–\$5,000

These expenses quickly bring the true cost of producing a highly trained service dog to well over \$55,000 in many cases.

Our goal has never been to make a profit.

Our goal has always been to remove barriers and give deserving individuals the opportunity to receive a life-changing service dog at a fraction of its actual cost.

Every fundraiser, every donation, every sponsorship, every event, and every volunteer hour helps bridge that financial gap.

It helps purchase the next puppy.

It helps pay for veterinary care.

It helps provide quality food.

It helps replace worn equipment.

Most importantly, it helps change someone's life.

When you support Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training, you aren't simply helping train a dog.

You're helping provide independence to a veteran.

You're giving confidence to a child.

You're restoring freedom to someone living with a disability.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in our mission and helping us continue changing lives—one team at a time.