



SERVICE DOGS, INC.



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“We help Texas communities in trouble”, says Pam Traylor, retired Victims Services Coordinator for the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office.

Pam drove six hours to Uvalde from Conroe with SDI Courthouse Facility Dog Sumi at the request of the Bluebonnet Children’s Assessment Center (CAC).



“They heard about us from the FBI and the Texas CAC,” says Pam, who is volunteering her time. To save the cost of lodging, she and Sumi lodge at the Southwest Texas Junior College dormitory.

For 8 hours a day, families of victims of the May 24th mass shooting at Robb Elementary School spend time with Pam and Sumi as they work

through the grieving process. “Sumi keys in on people in extreme need,” explains Pam. “When they walk in, they are pretty distant. The children don’t want to let go of their parents’ hands or even play with any of the toys. Then they see Sumi and they light up. They get down on the floor with her and start petting her. One little girl whose mother said she was afraid of dogs spent an hour cuddling with Sumi. Her mother was astounded.”

Five other Facility Dog teams trained by SDI deployed to Uvalde in the days and weeks following the tragedy. Four Emergency Services Facility Dog teams arrived from San Antonio to round at the hospital where the victims were transported.

“Uvalde is part of our community, so we were all eager to lend a hand,” says EMS Relations Manager Frankie Trifilio who handles SDI Emergency Services Facility Dog Lady for Methodist Healthcare System. “Hospital staff and other frontline workers suffer are first to see the unspeakable damage caused by incidents like this. They suffer trauma that hits too deep for most of us to reach. That’s where we can help with the dogs. They smile for the first time in days and eventually start talking and begin to heal.”

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To continue this important work, **Central Metro Realty and Stone Oak Property Management will match \$10,000 in donations raised in response of this letter.**



Would you be willing to help with a gift of \$1,000, \$2,500, or \$5,000 to Service Dogs Inc.?

Lisa Mehrhoff brought Courthouse Facility Dog East from Weatherford where they work for the County Attorney's office helping victims of domestic violence.

"I was originally asked to come starting Memorial weekend. Then three days later, we were asked again because the FBI had submitted a list with East on it," Lisa says. "East was perfect and worked so well! The workers, kids and parents loved her. The art therapist even did a portrait of her."



"I lost count of how many people she saw at 100. She was there 9 hours each day."

Lisa shared that even with her years of experience working with victims, working in Uvalde was tougher on her than anything she had ever encountered.

"This was one of the hardest things I've done with East. The hard part was when the children would love on her and then just start telling me how this impacted them. If anyone ever had questions about the work of the dogs you provide, it only takes one tragic event like this to see their immense value and impact."

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If you're able, we would be grateful if you could make a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 or whatever you can give towards the \$50,000 cost of training a Service Dog.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.

It is easy to donate:

- By credit card online at www.servicedogs.org
- By check mailed to: Service Dogs, Inc.
4925 Bell Springs Road
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

With sincere appreciation,



Sheri Soltes
Founder and CEO
Service Dogs, Inc.

