



TEAM FOSTER

EST. 2014

ANNUAL REPORT

2023





MISSION STATEMENT



Team Foster has raised
\$1,820,000
to serve Veterans in
need and their service
dogs.

TEAM FOSTER RAISES MONEY TO PROVIDE ACCREDITED, LIFE- SAVING SERVICE DOGS TO INJURED AND DISABLED VETERANS.

Team Foster:

Funds highly trained and accredited service dogs for injured and disabled Veterans at no cost to the Veteran and provides lifetime support to its Veteran-service dog teams. Team Foster brings civilians, Veterans and service dogs together to provide the resources that our government does not.

Advocates for Veterans and their service dogs in the community, workplace, and the legislature. Team Foster works to achieve the best possible training for service dogs and fair treatment of Veterans.

Educates and raises awareness across the nation about the challenges our Veterans face, the power of service dogs, and the life-saving resource that these properly trained and accredited animals can provide.



A WORD FROM THE ED



To the Team Foster community and supporters,

In 2023, Team Foster had more impact Veterans and in more diverse and meaningful ways than ever before. Going into our tenth year helping Veterans, I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead such a zealously dedicated team of riders, Board Directors, volunteers, and staff. It is because of this incredibly talented group of people that we continue to grow, professionalize, and lay the groundwork to accomplish even more together. Honoring Captain Erick Foster's legacy in this way could not be more meaningful.

Raising more money than ever has created an opportunity for Team Foster to continue to connect more accredited, life-saving service dogs with Veterans than ever. Dozens more Veterans were partnered in 2023 and hundreds were allowed to access the unique benefits of animal assisted therapy through our partners at Warrior Canine Connection (WCC).

We also continue to build infrastructure through our partners and internally. The Team Foster funded puppy raising program through Susquehanna Service Dogs is in its fourth year. The WCC campus at UPenn is entering year two, and we are funding a Pittsburgh-based WCC campus that will start this year. These are the only accredited service dog training programs servicing Veterans for hundreds of miles. To help manage this growth and facilitate future success, Team Foster has now invested in a total of four employees, all of whom are military Veterans. We've also added an office space in Conshohocken, and refreshed our website.

Recently, our Board of Directors voted to refine Team Foster's mission. This effort helped to crystalize and articulate our organization's role in the service dog/Veteran space. Team Foster continues to raise money to provide accredited, life-saving service dogs to injured and disabled Veterans. We fund the training of these animals and we provide lifetime support to Veteran-service dog teams. Team Foster advocates for our Veterans in the community, workplace and the legislature. Finally, we educate and raise awareness about Veterans challenges and the power of service dogs.

As part of our advocacy and education mission, Team Foster has been working with legislators and business leaders across the state to effect policy change in Pennsylvania that will protect Veterans, their service dogs, and business owners that are too often abused by individuals misrepresenting their pets as service dogs. Stay tuned as we share more about these efforts and how you can help in the coming weeks and months.

We will never lose sight of what matters most: our Veterans. Thank you for supporting the men and women who have sacrificed so bravely on our behalf. I can't wait to see you in 2024.

Sincerely,

Nick Liermann
Founder | Executive Director



BOARD MEMBERS EMPLOYEES KEY VOLUNTEERS



Dedicated board members and key volunteers play a pivotal role in the success and sustainability of Team Foster. These individuals contribute their time, expertise, and passion to advance the Team Foster mission. Their commitment and contributions are indispensable to our success and their leadership, strategic insights, and active involvement are essential for achieving and sustaining the organization's mission and impact.





EVENT RECAP



\$228K RAISED
484 PARTICIPANTS
1,801 DONORS



Ruff Ride PHL at Citizens Bank Park was a huge success in 2023 thanks to our partners, committee members, volunteers, and Ruff Ride PHL participants!

\$10K RAISED
12 PARTICIPANTS
56 DONORS



Oil Region Ride is one of the most personal rides at Team Foster. Held in Erick Foster's hometown of Oil City.

\$101K RAISED
520 PARTICIPANTS
1,038 DONORS



Ruff Ride PGH proves to be an event that leaves participants coming back for more. Ruff Ride PGH at Petersen Events Center was a great success in 2023!

\$162K RAISED
185 PARTICIPANTS
1,124 DONORS



The Foster 100 Classic and Foster 100 Week celebrated its 10th year stronger than the last!



MISSION IMPACT

1,655

Veterans aided through partner animal assisted therapy programming.

500+

Veterans paired with service dogs through our training partners.

Meet Team Foster service dog recipients by visiting: TeamFoster.org/Stories



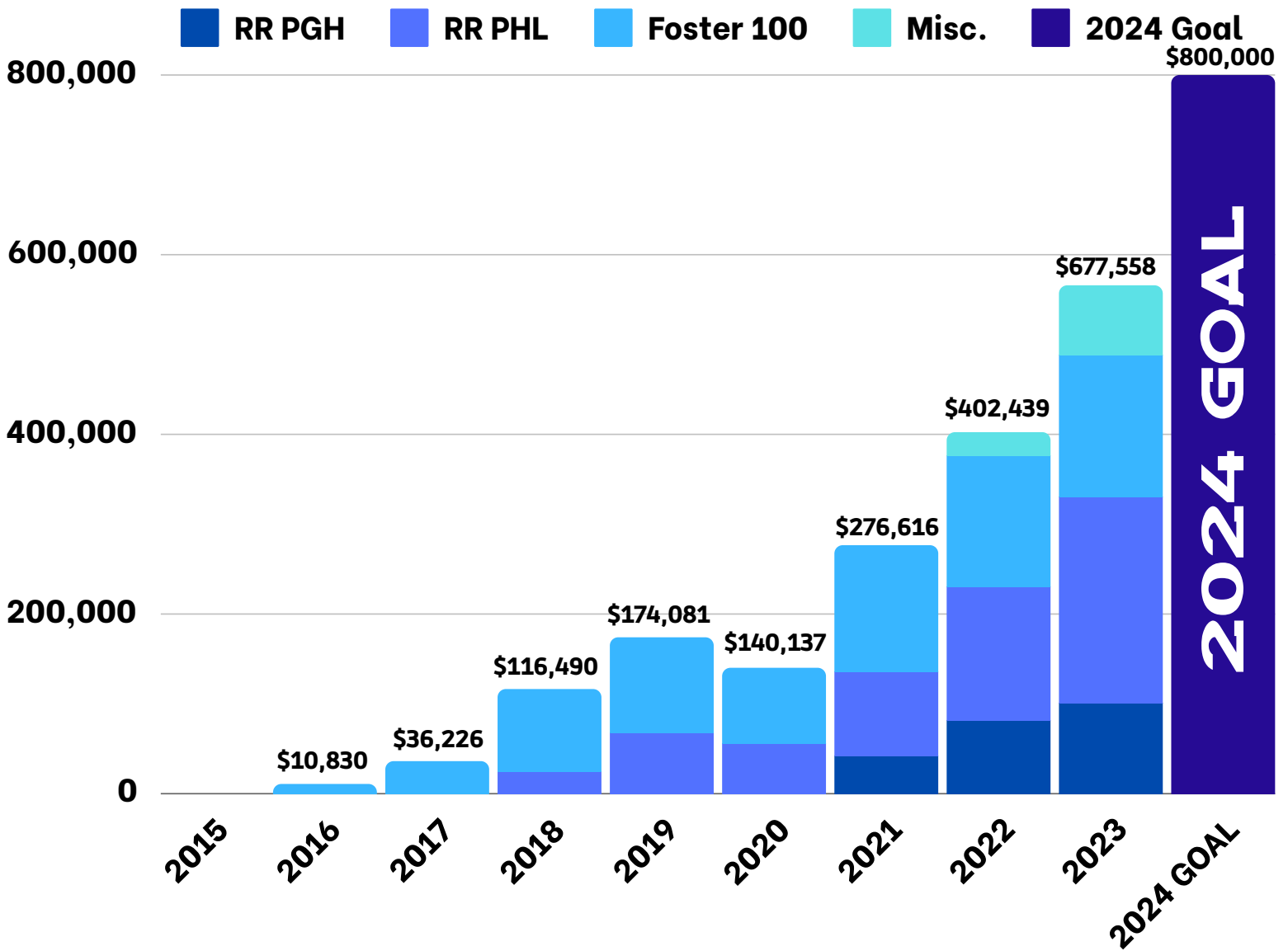
"WCC's James II"
Named in honor of
US Army
Cpl James McCabe



**Warrior
Canine
Connection**



**SUSQUEHANNA
SERVICE DOGS**
KEYSTONE HUMAN SERVICES



In 2023, Team Foster set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$600,000. This target reflected our commitment to expanding our impact, reaching more individuals, and making a tangible difference in the Veteran community.

Throughout the year, we witnessed the incredible generosity and support from our sponsors, donors, participants, and community members. Their contributions, both large and small, have propelled us to well over our \$600,000 goal. The funds raised will play a pivotal role in funding our programs, initiatives, and outreach efforts, allowing us to extend our reach and create lasting positive change for those who have served their country.

As we reflect on the milestones achieved in 2023, the pursuit of our fundraising goal stands out as a testament to the collective belief in our mission. Team Foster has set our 2024 fundraising goal at \$800,000. The journey toward this goal is not just a numerical target; it represents the tangible impact we can make when we come together as a community.



CLOSING MESSAGE

To the Team Foster Community,

Throughout the past year, our operations have been guided by a steadfast commitment to spreading the Team Foster mission and enhancing the lives of Veterans. Whether it was through our partner's programs, advocacy initiatives, or community outreach, each action taken has been a testament to our team's dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Our annual report is a tangible result of our collective efforts. It outlines the goals obtained, partnerships forged, and a lot of meaningful work! I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each volunteer, participant, donor, and supporter for the efforts and dedication to Team Foster. A special thank you to our event sponsors, your

commitment and partnership have been instrumental in the success of our events. Together, we've made a lasting impact, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Sincerely,

Jess Wisniewski-Hagen
Chief, Operations and Communications



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS

