



“Giving Back the Freedom They Fought For”

Applicant Letter

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Midwest Battle Buddies program. Midwest Battle Buddies is a non-profit organization that is completely funded by donations. This allows us to offer the dogs, training, and equipment to the veterans and their families free of charge. The only out of pocket expense the veteran will have is the transportation to and from training sessions, and the normal costs associated with care and feeding of a dog.

Battle Buddies was started to help the thousands of veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI, MST and other conditions get back to being independent and improve their overall quality of life. It has been shown that 82% of those diagnosed with PTSD have symptom reduction after partnership with a service dog and another 40% reported a significant reduction in use of medications. The dog allows the handler the freedom to be able to go out and interact with the public in a positive light knowing that he/she has a constant companion that they can rely on to be there for their needs.

There are several steps in the process of placing a service dog. After the initial application is filled out and returned we will send the more extensive 2nd part of the interview that will include your Dr, Therapist and family. There will also be additional paperwork to determine your readiness for the program. If you're not quite ready that's ok, MBB has resources to get you ready for the journey to have a service dog. We do not turn anyone away, we point them in the right direction to achieve their goals. After your application is accepted Battle Buddies staff will conduct an interview and home inspection to determine whether you will be accepted into the program. In some instances, we may recommend further counseling before you may be considered for a service dog. The interview and home inspection are MANDATORY for all applicants. Following your completion of a recommended course of action, we will start the search for a dog we believe will fit your needs.

Our service dogs come from breeders who specialize in providing pups bred for service dog work and we can follow the genetics back at least 3 generations to be as sure as possible there are no conditions that will disqualify them from service work. In some cases, we can train a dog you already have. However, this requires additional testing, as not all dogs are suited for service work. This is mandatory and at your own risk.

We have strict expectations for the care of ALL dogs in our program and the conduct of

all Battle Buddies handlers. We also have expectations about your attendance at mandatory training sessions and organization events. Please read and complete the attached forms and return to us to start the process.

Thank you again for your interest in our program and please feel free to contact us at kayla@mwbb.org with any questions or concerns. We hope to work with you soon!

Sincerely,

Kayla Ferguson
Executive Director
Midwest Battle Buddies Inc.
midwestbattlebuddies.org

