

Tellico Community Foundation & Smoky Mountain Service Dogs



*Facilitating a Better Life Through
Canine Companionship and Service*

December 2017

Committed to enhancing the physical and psychological well-being of wounded veterans, Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD) provides custom trained mobility assistance service dogs to former military members at no cost to them.

SMSD relies on a host of volunteer trainers, many located in Tellico Village, to work with candidate service dogs within their homes to get the animals ready to perform a wide-range of daily duties in support of the wounded veteran.

The training program has been accredited by Assistance Dogs International. The accreditation validates that the facilities and operation of the SMSD program meets or exceeds ADI standards.

Training the dogs is a costly venture. In one of its first grants, the Tellico Community Foundation (TCF) provided funding to underwrite the purchase of an array of training supplies. The \$500 plus grant was utilized by SMSD to purchase leashes, folding metal dog crates, pet beds and other canine care supplies.

The mission of the SMSD continues and is expanding with the opening of a Veteran/Canine Training Center in Lenoir City, TN. To learn more about SMSD follow this link: www.smokymountain servicedogs.org

This initial support for SMSD was a great example of how TCF follows its guiding principle of meeting an unmet need in the local community where funding can make a difference. The foundation has made numerous other grants to various Tellico Village organizations helping with supplementary funding to assist these groups in achieving their primary purpose.

These Village organizations include: Friends of the Tellico Village Library, Tellico Village Players, Tellico Village Singers, Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department and Tennessee Bluebird Society.

Through the Tellico Community Foundation there is an opportunity to enrich area communities with a tax-deductible donation. To give a one-time or recurring gift online to the Tellico Community Foundation, visit: www.etf.org/Tellico

