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The Marshall Legacy Institute Newsletter

December 2014

In this issue of the Mine Dog Messenger

:: Children Against Mines Program

:: Mine Detection Dog Program

:: Adopt a Retiring Mine Detection Dog



Dear MLI Supporters,

We extend our deepest thanks for your ongoing support as we continue our work to create a safer and better world for all people and animals. We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Mine Dog Messenger with updates on some of our programs around the world.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Warm regards,  
The MLI Team

[DONATE](#)

**Give the Gift of Hope this year and  
Join the Share-a-Dog program!**

Did you know that for just \$21 a month (or \$250/year) you can join the Share-a-Dog program and receive quarterly reports on a life-saving Mine Detection Dog? Make a donation in honor of a loved one this holiday season and both of you will receive regular updates and photos of one of MLI's wonderful dogs for the next year. Donate today and we will mail you a special holiday Share-a-Dog card that you can give to your family and friends to let them know you have made a donation in their honor.

[Click here for more information!](#)

## [PROGRAM UPDATES](#)

### Children Against Mines Program (CHAMPS)



Children in Iraq receive mine risk education through CHAMPS and share their knowledge with other students living in mine-affected communities

MLI's Children Against Mines Program (CHAMPS) continues to connect children in mine-affected countries with youth in the United States, enabling them to communicate via video conference on a regular basis and engage in service learning projects. This past year, Iraqi schoolchildren in Baghdad, Basra, and Wasit connected with five sister schools in the United States and communicated monthly. They shared some wonderful conversations and the children worked together to help landmine survivors. The American youth held fundraisers to provide medical assistance to mine survivors, and the Iraqi youth received in-depth mine risk education that they then shared with fellow students in their communities. A total of twenty-one survivors received prosthetic limbs and other medical care, thanks to the great teamwork of the CHAMPS children and the generosity of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

American CHAMPS students learned from their Iraqi friends how conflict and landmines have impacted their lives and the lives of their family and friends. Young survivors often participated in the calls and received support from their peers in both America and Iraq as they journeyed through the rehabilitation process. U.S. students cheered for the survivors during video-conference calls when they showed them their new prosthetic limbs, which boosted the self-esteem of the survivors.

Students in Basra shared their direct experiences with landmines as they chatted with the American students. One girl, whose grandfather's farm was in the midst of being cleared of mines, explained to students in Ellicott City, MD that earlier that day she had watched as MLI's mine detection dogs searched his farm and located landmines hidden in the soil. The American students were so proud to learn that seven of the twelve MDDs that MLI has donated to the Iraqi Mine and UXO Clearance Organization (IMCO) were sponsored by CHAMPS youth!

The Iraqi youth also shared pictures and stories of their adventures in delivering Mine Risk Education (MRE) to neighboring schools around Basra and Wasit. The applause and praise from their U.S. CHAMPS friends encouraged them to continue reaching out to more and more schools whose children were living in heavily mine-affected areas. By the end of this year, they had provided Mine Risk Education classes to more than 5,300 Iraqi children!

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American and Iraqi youth chat via teleconference monthly to learn about each other and help others.



MDD Parkie searches for mines in Iraq.



Through CHAMPS, children in schools across the United States meet MLI's "canine ambassador" Senna, and learn about the global landmine problem and work together to help those living in mine-affected countries.



MLI's CHAMPS team performs mine detection dog demonstrations for children in the United States to encourage their involvement in CHAMPS.

## Mine Detection Dog Partnership Program Update

MLI's Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) continue to do amazing work around the world. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors, over the past 17 years, MLI has donated 199 life-saving dogs to 11 mine-affected countries. During 2013-2014, our active dogs searched more than 1,500 acres of mine-affected land! They located hundreds of explosives and ensured that the land is now safe for people to use. Their work has helped tens of thousands of people, saving countless lives and returning land to productive use.

Last month, two new dogs completed their training and received the prestigious distinction of becoming Mine Detection Dogs, after having been sponsored in the spring by CHAMPS youth in Greenwich, CT and Ellicott City, MD. MDDs Rachel and Jason completed their training with the Mine Detection Dog Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and were accredited to International Mine Action Standards with their new handlers at the Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By the first of December, they were already in the field searching for landmines and have been doing wonderful work.

The pair joins two other MLI-donated dogs with the FACP, MDDs Betsy and Lago, who were sponsored in 2008 and 2010, respectively, by caring global citizens. In October, at our 17th annual Clearing the Path Gala, MLI honored MDD Betsy and her handler, Alden Česko, with MLI's Mine Detection Dog Team of the Year Award for their life-saving work in BiH. The pair has searched more than a quarter of a million square meters of mine-affected land through Bosnia and Herzegovina!

MLI is so grateful to have the wonderful support of generous and caring citizens around the world that has enabled our dogs to save and improve so many lives. Thank you for your support!



MDD Jason



MDD Rachel



MDD Lago



MDD Betsy and Alden Česko,  
2014 MDD Team of the Year

## Adopt a Retired Mine Detection Dog!

MLI is partnering with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement to bring 18 retiring Mine Detection Dogs from Afghanistan to the U.S. to find them loving homes. These amazing dogs have saved countless lives in Afghanistan and MLI is committed to ensuring that they live out the remainder of their lives in homes befitting of their heroic service. If you are interested in adopting one of these retiring dogs, please contact MLI at [info@marshall-legacy.org](mailto:info@marshall-legacy.org) for more information.



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FOR MORE UPDATES ON MLI'S WORK, PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, PINTEREST AND INSTAGRAM!



MLI was given the Guidestar Seal for our Commitment to Transparency

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