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The Marshall Legacy Institute Newsletter

May 2012

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### [TellYourFriends!](#)

**TODAY, May 8th, the [Philanthroperwebsite](#) is featuring MLI!**

**[A\\$1donationwillhelpaMineDetectionDogteamsearch400squarefeetof mine-contaminated land](#)**

Please help spread the word about MLI's humanitarian programs around the world by telling your friends and family about MLI's feature on the [Philanthroper.com](#) website today, May 8th!

This is a great way to spread the word about MLI to your friends and family without asking for a big commitment from them! **A \$1 donation will help MLI's Mine Detection Dog teams search 400 square feet of mine-contaminated land, so even a small donation can make a big difference!**

If you have a [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) account, please consider sharing this great opportunity for MLI with your friends!

*\*\*The Philanthroper features organizations like MLI each day and is set up a lot like Groupon or Living Social, but instead of selling something, they tell the story of a nonprofit and offer users the opportunity to donate \$1 or more with a single click of a button. They keep none of the donations, nor do they have a fee to be featured!*

## Dynamite Duos: MDD Granite and MDD Charlie



MDD Charlie with his handler, Dragoslav Arapovic

In April, MLI staff visited with Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) *Charlie* and *Granite*, who are thriving in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). *MDD Charlie*, who was sponsored by Pfizer in 2005, and *MDD Granite*, who was sponsored by the children of Kingston, NH and John Laughner in 2007, both work for EKO DEM, a small non-profit demining organization headquartered in Banja Luka, BiH. During 2011, these two life-saving dogs and their handlers cleared 54,410 square meters of Bosnian land, including land surrounding villages and agricultural land in the mountainous Lopare area.

When they are not working and traveling to new demining sites, both dogs live with their handlers, who are brothers, on a ranch in BiH, where they have ample opportunity to run around and play on the vast property. Their handlers,

Dragoslav and Ostoja Arapovic, developed their love of dogs as children and say they are nearly inseparable from *MDDs Granite* and *Charlie*.

Ostoja, the elder brother, has been a dog handler and dog trainer for 13 years and has been *MDD Granite's* handler since 2009, when *Granite* was transferred from STOP Mines. Dragoslav became interested in dog handling and became a MDD handler in 2005, the same year that *MDD Charlie* was donated to EKO Dem. This dynamic duo have been together ever since and spend nearly all of their time together. Dragoslav and Ostoja regularly exercise the dogs, keeping them in peak condition.



MDD Charlie

Dragoslav and Ostoja described both dogs as "excellent" and said they enjoy working, are focused, and are exceedingly good mine detectors. Dragoslav added that *MDD Charlie*, who is a very large German Shepherd, has an extremely gentle personality, which is in contrast to his rather intimidating stature!



MDD Granite

The brothers are excited to be starting the 2012 demining season and look forward to continuing their work with *MDD Charlie* and *MDD Granite* to help save and improve lives in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

\*\*\*\*\*

Interested in supporting a life-saving dog like *MDD Charlie* or *MDD Granite*? In addition to [fullysponsoringanMDD](#), for just \$21/month you can join MLI's [Share-A-Dog](#) program and get regular updates about a life-saving MDD! [Learnmorehere!](#)

## Hope for the Future: A Story of Recovery in Afghanistan



In May, MLI received a quarterly report from DAFA, one of our beneficiary organizations in Afghanistan. The report noted, among other things, that more than 85,000 square meters of land had been cleared between January 1st and March 31st in the Nangarhar Province by seven MLI-donated MDDs: **MDDs General, Jet, and Axel** (three of the ten MDDs sponsored by General Dynamics), **MDD Samsung** (sponsored by Samsung), **MDD Country** (sponsored by Glenelg Country School and the 2011 K9-9K Walkathon), **MDD Emba** (sponsored by Boston U. EMBA students); and **MDD Cowboy** (sponsored by the Wyoming Broadcasters Association).

DAFA reports that the dogs found both anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines, and therefore saved countless lives by detecting them before they were found by an innocent passerby. By clearing this land, the people living in the area will now be able to graze their animals, farm the land, and build homes without fear of stepping on a mine.

Included in the report were two interviews with individuals living in the area that is being cleared by the MDDs:

### Interview with a local:

"The presence of mines/UXOs has caused numerous problems for this region. The area cleared around our village through the de-mining activities has enabled us to build many homes and living facilities...the cleared area will [also] be used for many purposes, especially grazing our animals. We are happy that the de-mining activities are still going on nearby because it makes us feel safe and happy."



### Interview with a landmine survivor:



"My name is Abdul Ahad [and I live] in Sar Dewal Village of the Bihsud District. [No one] will know the threat of mines better than me because I have encountered one. I lost my foot because of a mine blast and I try my best to [raise awareness] about this hidden monster that turned my happy life into a hard one. The mine [exploded] on me and my nephew while walking to my land; [I lost] my left foot and my nephew died. In that moment there was no one to help me and save my nephew's life. There were just a few houses in our village and after a long time some villagers came to the mine explosion site, including my brothers and uncle. At that time there were no vehicles in the whole area, so I was taken to the village by donkey.

[Despite this hardship], I am now happy in my life and I have a happy family. We have one shop in the village, and we all are busy with that. Life is going better day by day and now that the de-mining project has started in our area, we notice deminers, dogs, and machineries deployed in our village for removal of hazards.

Every day we hear the explosions of mines and UXOs [that were] collected by the de-mining operations. We are very happy and have the satisfaction that the entire mine/UXO contaminated areas will be cleared soon and we will be able to start using the area again, which will have a very positive impact on everyday life in our community."

## Making a Difference: A Mine Awareness Night to Make a Difference (MANMADE) Dinner



On International Day for Mine Awareness, April 4, 2012, the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) and the Mine Dog Detection Centre (MDDC) hosted the first annual Mine Awareness Night to Make a Difference (MANMADE) Dinner at the Holiday Inn, Sarajevo, to help solve the man-made problem of landmines in Bosnia Herzegovina. Nearly 200 guests helped MLI and the MDDC celebrate the progress being made in freeing BiH of the humanitarian dangers & destabilizing effects of landmines, while highlighting the challenges that remain.

With strong support from the American Chamber of Commerce and the United States Embassy in Bosnia Herzegovina, generous contributions from local businesses, governments and caring individuals, and with the generous matching funding from the U.S. State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), the event raised nearly \$200,000. The proceeds will be used to support three landmine-related projects in Bosnia Herzegovina: (1) Mine Risk Education, (2) Survivors' Assistance (a group of young landmine survivors will receive medical assistance and prosthetic limbs); and (3) Landmine Clearance (mine-contaminated land near Olovo will

be cleared). The US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement and the Embassy of the State of Kuwait served as PLATINUM Sponsors, and the many BRONZE Sponsors included two US-based businesses, Brother & Sister Food Services, and EJA Trucking. The combined funds raised at the MANMADE Dinner will be used by the ITF Enhancing Human Security to implement the lifesaving and life-enhancing projects.

The MANMADE Dinner successfully generated funding that will help prevent injuries to people who live in mine contaminated communities in BiH and help those who have been injured by mines. Unfortunately, BiH is still considered to be one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world, and deaths & injuries to innocent civilians in recent months are tragic reminders that landmines continue to threaten our population 17 years after the war.

Drawing the attention of the local community, the international community, and donors to the issue of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the MANMADE Dinner was a great success and featured inspirational speeches, delicious food, and excellent entertainment. Esteemed guests included the Charge d' Affairs from the US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Jonathan Moore; the Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs, Mrs. Denisa Sarajlić Maglić; General (retired) Gordon Sullivan; Mr. John Stevens from



the U.S. State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PMWRA); Mrs. Durda Adlesic, Director of Croatia without Mines-Humanitarian Demining Trust Fund of Croatia; Mr. Muhamed Ibrahimovic, Minister of Defense in BiH, and many others.

General (Ret.) Gordon Sullivan remarked during the Dinner, "Tonight we celebrate the progress that has been made. We applaud the work of demining and other mine-action organizations (BHMAC, Office of Civil Protection, the Army, Pro Vita, STOP Mines, UNDP, Eco-Sport Group, Landmine Survivors Network, ITF and many others). We honor the bravery and accomplishments of those courageous men and women who have risked their lives and limbs to make Bosnia Herzegovina a better and safer place for others. We are very proud of the dog teams that daily risk limbs and paws to help accelerate the rate of landmine clearance. MLI has been pleased to provide 24 highly trained, lifesaving dogs (most trained by the MDDC in Konjic) to "sniff out" landmines and return land to safe & productive use. We are very proud of the dogs and their local handlers that daily risk limbs and paws to help accelerate the rate of landmine clearance."

MLI and the MDDC are so grateful to everyone who so generously contributed to the success of the MANMADE Dinner including the US Embassy in BiH, the American Chamber of Commerce in BiH, and the many sponsors and donors. For more information or to take part in the 2013 MANMADE Dinner, please contact [info@marshall-legacy.org](mailto:info@marshall-legacy.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**

## MLI Upcoming Events

### **May 14, 2012 - Cocktails for a Cause! - The Passenger, Washington DC**

Join MLI and MAG America on Monday, May 14th at [ThePassenger](#) in DC for a Happy Hour benefitting both organizations! From 5-8pm, 10% of the sales made that evening will help both organizations clear landmines and promote hope, growth, and stability in countries affected by mines.

### **June 16, 2012 - 2nd Annual K9-9K Walkathon - Glenelg Country School, Ellicott City, Maryland**

MLI will hold the 2nd annual K9-9K Walkathon & Community Festival on June 16, 2012 at Glenelg Country School in Ellicott City, MD. The K9-9K will be raising money to sponsor a life-saving Mine Detection Dog. Everyone is encouraged to invite their family and friends and to, of course, bring their dogs! Check out the event website to register or learn how you can help: [www.MLI-K9-9K.org](http://www.MLI-K9-9K.org)

Please consider making a [donation](#) to support the event or donating a raffle item! We are particularly looking for new children's book sets, drawing supplies, sporting goods, and electronics. Please contact Tycie Horsley for more information at 703-243-9200 or [Tycie@marshall-legacy.org](mailto:Tycie@marshall-legacy.org).

### **October 10, 2012 - 15th Annual *Clearing the Path* Gala - Fairmont Hotel, Washington, DC**

Mark your calendars! MLI will host its 15th Annual Clearing the Path Gala at the Fairmont Hotel on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. The Gala will highlight MLI's life-saving successes in its Mine Detection Dog Partnership Program, Children Against Mines Program (CHAMPS), and Survivors' Assistance Program, while also honoring leaders whose extraordinary efforts have improved lives in war-torn countries. Stay tuned for more details!

Many thanks for your ongoing support as we work towards creating a safer and better world for all people and animals. Wishing you a great month ahead!

Warm regards,

The MLI Team

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