



THE MINE DOG MESSENGER

*Removing landmines while promoting stability
and saving lives*

The Marshall Legacy Institute Newsletter

March 2013

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**Join MLI on Saturday, April 27th at Glenelg
Country School for the 3rd annual K9-9K**

Walkathon & Run!

**REGISTER
NOW**

On Saturday, April 27th, the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) is holding the 3rd annual K9-9K Walkathon & Run at Glenelg Country School (GCS) to celebrate the heroic work of mine detection dogs (MDDs) around the world and to raise money to send one more lifesaving dog into the field.

WHAT: K9-9K Walk and Run to Support Mine Detection Dogs

DATE: Saturday, April 27th (Rain or Shine)

WHERE: Glenelg Country School, 12793 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD

TIME: Registration Opens at 9:30am; Walk/Run begins at 10am

Bring your dog and join us for a fun-filled morning that will kick off with a walk/run around the beautiful campus at GCS in Ellicott City, MD. There will be three different courses to pick from - a 1k, 5k, and 9k walk/run. All proceeds raised will support the sponsorship of a Mine Detection Dog.

Following the walk/run, there will be a barbeque, raffle prizes, and loads of family activities! MLI's new canine ambassador, MDD Senna, who just returned from work in Afghanistan, will also be on-site performing mine detection demonstrations, showing how dogs are able to safely and effectively "sniff out" landmines!

Check out this fantastic [short video](#) promoting the K9-9K and please share it with your friends!

There are many sponsorship opportunities for businesses, as well as great prizes for K9-9K participants who collect pledges. Prizes include gift certificates to local restaurants, bike shops, sports equipment, and much more! To begin collecting pledges, [click here to download the pledge form!](#) Simply bring it with you on April 27th for your chance to win amazing prizes. To learn more about the K9-9K and how you can get involved, [click here](#).



Having a blast at last year's K9-9K!



K9-9K participants during the 2012 walk!

SAVE THE DATE

- [OCTOBER 9, 2013 - 16TH ANNUAL "CLEARING THE PATH" GALA](#)
[FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC](#)

Saving & Improving Lives in Azerbaijan



MDD Fowler and his handler search for mines in Azerbaijan

MLI has been assisting Azerbaijan in its mine clearance efforts since 2005, helping the country free its land of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), as a result of the armed conflict with Armenia between 1988-1994. Despite much progress in removing the mines since the ceasefire in 1994, according to the [Landmine Monitor and Cluster Munition Report](#), it is estimated that there are still tens of thousands of mines contaminating hundreds of square kilometers.

During the past eight years, MLI has donated twenty-four highly skilled Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) to the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA). Although some of the MDDs have retired from work or passed on from old age, the active MDDs *Akela, Alma, Beti, Brownie, Canto, Danik, Dexter, Donohue, Duco, Fowler, Gaga, Gavran, Guru, Lipscomb, Marcos, Mojca, and Tessa* were incredible assets during 2012, returning more than 1.8 million square meters - the equivalent of 460 acres - of land to the people of Azerbaijan. This is truly an incredible accomplishment for the MDD component and for demining operations. Their work has allowed thousands of people to return to their homes, grow crops, herd animals, go to school, and live, work and play on the land without fear.

ANAMA has effectively and efficiently used the MDD component to survey suspected hazardous areas and provide quality assurance to areas checked by other demining tools. Most recently, the MDD teams worked in Agcabadi, Fizuli, Goranboy, and Terter districts, where hundreds of square kilometers are extensively contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). In just the past two months, these life-saving dogs and their handlers have searched more than 400,000 square meters of mine-contaminated land.

Since 2005, MLI's MDDs have searched more than 17 million square meters, or 29,084 acres, of mine contaminated land in Azerbaijan! In 2013, five of these life-saving MDDs will retire and, in partnership with the ITF: Enhancing Human Security and the Korean Government, MLI is pleased to honor ANAMA's request for five replacement MDDs. These dogs are currently in training and will leave for Azerbaijan within the next few months to be paired with their new handlers. Each of the retiring MDDs is being adopted by their long-time handlers and will live out the rest of their lives in the comfort that they deserve after such heroic work!



MDD Duco and his handler, Mais, have worked together since 2005 and have cleared 1,071,600 square meters of mine-contaminated land!



MDD Tessa, sponsored by the Laura J. Niles Foundation in 2005, has worked with her handler, Talib, to clear 1,015,200 square meters of land that has now been returned to the Azeri people.

Saving Lives in Iraq: Partnership For Iraq Program

The Marshall Legacy Institute's (MLI) Survivors' Assistance programs around the world continue to improve the lives of thousands of landmine survivors. In Iraq, MLI recently launched a large scale program to assist the more than 50,000 mine survivors who are living in and around the Basra area.

Both young & adult landmine survivors in Basra face long-term medical and psychological challenges after their injuries have occurred. As young survivors grow, costly prostheses require replacement, repair and maintenance. Survivors often suffer psychological distress and require continued medical care & social integration. Unfortunately, these survivors and their families are usually unable to afford this care. Even if a prosthetic facility exists to provide the prostheses, survivors rarely have a mode of transportation to take them to the multiple appointments required for evaluations and fitting of prosthetic limbs. Additionally, because of their disabilities, landmine/war survivors suffer high unemployment rates and specialized vocational rehabilitation is virtually nonexistent for survivors, condemning both the survivors and their families to a lifetime of struggle and isolation.



Young mine survivor enrolled in the first sewing class

Therefore, with support from private Americans like you, the U.S. State Department, the Iraqi and UXO Clearance Organization (IMCO), and the Polus Center, MLI launched the Partnership for Iraq program in 2012. This program is the first of its kind and is creating a unique and centralized system to: 1) provide vocational training and medical assistance for survivors, 2) provide specialized training and equipment for Iraqi doctors so that they will be able to better assist mine survivors, and 3) create a national registration list for mine survivors, so that their needs can be better assessed and met. In the past two months, the first 90 landmine survivors began

receiving vocational training classes. Thirty young women were identified and the first 10 have already begun sewing classes, while an additional 60 young men will soon be trained in office work, carpentry, etc. Upon completion of their training, the survivors will all be given certificates of completion and will receive assistance in finding sustainable employment. Additionally, 70 survivors in need of mobility assistance will soon be given prostheses and wheelchairs, including one electronic wheelchair for an individual who lost both of his legs and an arm in a landmine explosion.

Thank you for your continued support of the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) and for your efforts to help us make the world a better and safer place for all.



Dress sewn by a mine survivor in class



This woman lost her left leg in a mine explosion and is now learning to sew to help support herself and her family



This young man lost his lower arm in a mine explosion and, through the PFI program, will be provided with a prosthetic arm and hand

If you would like to make a general donation to MLI's programs, please click on the button below.



Your support for our programs saves lives every day. Thank you!

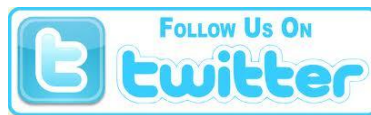


MLI was given the Guidestar Seal for our Commitment to Transparency



MLI was given the top rating by independent Charity rating system, Charity Navigator

Follow MLI on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest for regular updates on our programs!



Many thanks for your ongoing support as we work towards creating a safer and better world for all people and animals.

Warm regards,

The MLI Team

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