



# MOSS CREEK MARINES OPERATION HELPING HEROES



**ADOPTED HERO NO. 3  
GySgt. CORY WILL  
WITH SAMPSON**



## **Gunnery Sergeant Cory Will, USMC Ret., Buffalo, NY**

I am GYSGT. Cory Will and after multiple combat deployments in multiple theaters I returned to the regular world completely different. Things I used to enjoy slowly lost their appeal to me. Because of anxiety in the public venue. I started closing off portions of what used to be my life and plan my life around things that might trigger anxiety or panic attacks. It became nearly impossible to feel or show emotions towards anything or anyone. There's never a reprieve. When I sleep I have horrific nightmares and sleep in general was practically non-existent, I had stopped living and started simply existing.

I was diagnosed with Severe PTSD and had six instances of TBI and although I went through some treatments nothing has really worked. I had an extreme sensitivity to medications so the popular medical treatments have a propensity to cause more problems than they solve. I finally have a psychiatrist that understands this and knows that medication will never be a long term solution for me. After an acute breakdown in June of this year I started looking for other methods to work towards recovery. A friend of mine reached out to me and talked about his experience with an assistance dog over the past several years and through some research I managed to find a service dog program.

The need for me revolves around the fact that I am a single father with two girls and I need to be better for them and for myself in the long run. A service dog can help me get there by helping me get through the anxiety and the panic when I run across those triggers. I can no longer exist in a box and in a routine of avoidance. The possibility of being woken from a nightmare before it gets too bad or being able to work through my anxiety throughout the day is one that could help get me living again. It's hard to explain the feeling you have when you suddenly have to rush out of somewhere because you just can't handle it. The crowds, the noise, that constant feeling like you're in danger. A service dog can help mitigate that.

PTSD and the effects of the TBI's will never go away. It isn't something that can be medicated out or banished through therapy. It's going to take a change in response and SAMPSON will help me do that. This way a few years down the road I can look back and say "That's where I stopped just existing and started living again."

