



# MOSS CREEK MARINES OPERATION HELPING HEROES



Helping With K9's For Warriors Service Dog

**ADOPTED HERO NO. 40  
SGT. ERIK WITH MIKE**



## **WARRIOR-CANINE STORIES: ERICK & MIKE**

*Erick is a US Marine veteran from Gainesville, FL. He graduated from the K9s For Warriors program in June 2018. Here is his story in his own words:*

“Due to a lot of issues I encountered while deployed, I kept a lot to myself. There were a lot of things I needed to speak about but couldn’t because of the level of confidentiality. It made me very aggressive and my house was starting to fall apart. A baby was in the house and I became worse and was told I needed help. I refused to take all the meds. My mental therapist suggested a service dog. My wife started to do online research and contact the facility [K9s For Warriors]. I received the documents that same day... it was then I made the commitment to join the program and take on the challenge.

As soon as I arrived, the program already started helping me. Since I arrived, I felt at peace. Mike has helped me a lot. I’ve had no desire to take my medications. I feel very motivated about my day. My goal is to continue to better myself. The suicide thoughts have slowly faded away. I want my life to be normal at some point. I’m happy to say it already has taken a start.”

*As of September 2018, K9s For Warriors has graduated 478 warrior-canine teams.*