

National Institute of
Canine Service and Training
Our Dogs Save Lives.

2021
ANNUAL REPORT
.....
EMPOWERED PARTNERSHIPS



STRONG IN COMMUNITY



As we embark on our 18th year of service, I can safely say these last two years have been our hardest years of operation. It has been fraught with epic health challenges, economic hardships, and painful events – we have been called on as never before to face ourselves and work in solidarity.

Since the beginning of our inception in 2004, we have fulfilled our mission by engaging our local communities to serve through volunteerism and acts of generosity. As great as the obstacles were, its been a year filled with great blessings. We went through a remarkable evolution as we pursued our vision to become the leading organization that maintains ethical and industry-leading standards of innovative scent-trained dogs, and **our promise to provide our programs of support at no cost.**

We felt it is our civic and human duty to use our knowledge and skills to benefit a larger demographic. We adapted our strategies, our operations, and our culture to drive these positive initiatives forward. Our evolution in becoming The National Institute of Canine Service and Training (NICST) became a reality. We answered the call to take our industry leading service and science into the future – we are more committed than ever to courageously create life-saving partnerships that inspire, transform, and empower communities through our core programs.

These past years made something even more clear to me - our supporters are the most important part of our family at NICST. We gratefully acknowledge each of you who have stood by us and continued to positively impact the future of all those that turn to NICST for support. Thank you for supporting our growth and transformation, and **thank you for your presence in our community!**

The National Institute of Canine Service & Training
Founder & President

Science + Heart =

Empowering Everyone to Thrive

We may have changed names and expanded our demographics, but our mission remains the same. We take immense pride in creating life-saving partnerships that empower individuals to survive, strive, and thrive in partnership with their service dog.



"THE LOVE AND BOND THAT BOMBAY AND I SHARE HAS NOT ONLY BEEN LIFE-CHANGING BUT **ALSO LIFE-SAVING.**" - Wellness Client, Joe

FILLED WITH **PASSION**

WHAT'S AT THE CORE



INNOVATION

We started as a scientific research project and remain dedicated to the innovation and integration of service dogs in the lives of those that seek our support; despite our clients medical condition we are in relentless pursuit of their optimal health and well-being with our science based methods and proven outcomes.

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LIFE

We have the highest regard for all life and treat our clients and dogs with the greatest care and respect. We encourage, honor, and welcome all those who turn to NICST with our heartfelt warmth, our deepest compassion, and sincere mindset for equality. Our community is an extension of our family.

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FUTURE FORWARD

With science and standards at our core, we are focused on the future of canine training. We know what these amazing animals can do in partnership with people and science, and NICST is paving a future of hope and wellness designed to welcome each individual's unique needs.

In order to help more people, create radical change, and to have a greater impact, we **expanded our programs** under the NICST umbrella.

Dogs4Diabetics for our diabetic community, we continue to create life-saving partnerships with service dogs and buddy dogs.

First Response K9 for those who have dedicated their lives to serving us in crisis and emergency, we offer life-empowering partnerships with our service dogs, buddy dogs, and team dogs for agencies/departments.

Detection Dogs NICST continues to innovate with highly trained and qualified detection dogs for scent discrimination work for urgent needs like, cancer detection, and other special projects.

Prison Program a principle-based approach to training inmates and dogs. Combining highly effective dog-training methods with proven rehabilitative models, our dogs are truly saving lives on a new level.

Support Groups education and support in open and safe community meetings; TypeYOU, TypeTEEN, and Pumps & Sensors. A place to share and unite.





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DOGS4DIABETICS™

Our Dogs Save Lives.

*I don't know where I would be without NICST. Fitzgerald is one of the most loyal and hardworking beings I have ever met. He has done nothing but improve mine and my family's lives. **He is truly my best friend** and words can never describe how much I love him. I know he'll never read this, but thanks for always being there for me buddy. I love you.*

~ D4D Client, Anthony

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Since we've been paired, there's little to nowhere I go without Ryan. He helps keep negative thoughts and feelings at bay. I enjoy saying that he has my "6" when I need to go off duty and relax. He has restored a lot of enjoyment back into my life. I forget at times, if its him who needs to play and walk, or if it's me. **I am thankful for him every day.**

I hope to be an example for other First Responders – you can overcome and live with the effects of PTSD. Thank you to all who helped our paths cross.



~ FRK9 Client, James

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BEST FRIEND DOG





THE NICEST IMPACT

146

active life-saving partnerships in service.

WITH YOUR HELP

10

client/dog teams placed in 2021.



2021

OUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS

FIRST RESPONSE K9 PROGRAM

OUR SCIENCE AND HEART. A long-time passion of NICST Founder, Mark Ruefenacht, and Volunteer, Mary Hooker, takes shape and has a tremendous impact in the lives of those who have served our communities during times of crisis. We are honored and proud to serve the First Responder community; facilitating life-empowering partnerships to those working on the front lines.

PRISON PROGRAM

LABOR OF LOVE. NICST has entered into an innovative partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to train service dogs inside Solano State Prison thanks to Volunteer, Stephanie Shadwick. This partnership not only helps NICST train more service dogs and expand our mission, but creates a unique path for inmate rehabilitation.

DETECTION WORK

THE "NOSE" KNOWS. In partnership with UC Davis and The Center for Voice and Swallowing (Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Cancer) we've proudly completed and published a clinical research study to detect head and neck cancer. We used our knowledge of scent based training to learn more about disease detection and explore ways in which animals can lead to early disease detection. NICST successfully trained rats to detect head and neck cancer from urine samples; the rats' accuracy of over 70% is better than any existing diagnostic tool and has the potential to save many lives.

Our next steps are to explore other ways animals can detect disease, as well as figure out ways that we can scale and apply the use of our animals (rats and dogs) to regularly screen for disease. We are honored in our partnership and are excited to be of service in this crucial way.



Our Partnership with Solano State Prison

CONNECTION. EMPATHY. TRUST. RESPECT. TRANSFORM.

"The program creates a training environment that dedicates significant time toward training rescue dogs to become service dogs, ensuring the best possible outcomes. This special partnership will aid in the transformation of both humans and canines.

We are providing hope and opportunity for incarcerated individuals and rescue dogs. What makes our program unique is that "Paws on a Mission" embeds a Victim Impact curriculum within our dog training program - parallels are made between the rescue dog and that of a victim of a crime. Through this process, inmates develop empathy and transform from harming people to helping people.

By combining highly effective dog-training methods with proven restorative justice principles, our dogs are truly saving lives on a new level."

Director of Canine Prison Programs, **Stephanie Shadwick**



I believe this program will help me successfully integrate back into society. It brings out a more humane side of me and stirs up many good emotions. I believe it will help me become more responsible and that is a goal of mine - these dogs are amazing, and can sympathize on a deep level.

- California State Prison - Solano, "Paws on a Mission" Program Participant



GOLD STANDARD OF TRAINING

All NICST service dogs are trained to perform tasks reliably and accurately; all life-savers that come through our doors receive at least 4,300 hours of hands-on-training. Every service dog passes eight training phases with at least 90% performance accuracy with a statistical confidence interval of 99.73%. At this standard of achievement, we ensure our service dogs save lives and strengthen the mental health and overall well-being of our clients.





VOLUNTEERISM

THE GIFT OF TIME

We have our amazing family of volunteers to thank for contributing more than \$2.6 million worth of their time to ensure our mission is fulfilled; providing our services **free of charge** to those in need of our life-saving service dogs.

2021 VOLUNTEER HOURS = 100,000+

I volunteer because I get to watch these amazing dogs progress and learn until being placed with their partner. These dogs go off and save lives each and every day - being a part of these dog's journeys, even if it's just a small part, is amazing. The NICST community (of both dogs and people) is incredible and I'm ecstatic that I'm able to help in any way I can.

- NICST Volunteer, **Emily**



YOUR GOODWILL

Your Efforts Matter and Create Radical Change

NICST clients inspire us to live beyond limitations and challenges - and your contributions inspire the lives of many.

You have an impact beyond the lives of our clients, your generosity is felt by their families, their friends, and in their communities. It's a gift that keeps giving, keeps inspiring, and forever changes the lives of many.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS

86% Repeat Donors

Amazon Smile = \$5,251.53

America's Best Local Charities = \$5,922.59

Social Media (Individual Fundraisers) = \$39,346.45

Over the last five years.



PRIDE IN EFFICIENCY

OUR PROMISE

We value every dollar gifted to our mission and continuously evaluate the efficiency of our operations. Our team is small and mighty by design, we strategically maximize our future impact and utilize every donation dollar for our core programs, which save lives.

STRETCHING EVERY DOLLAR

Every Donated \$1 = \$0.85
towards core NICST programs.

\$0.85

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MONEY

85% of every dollar goes directly to
our programs.

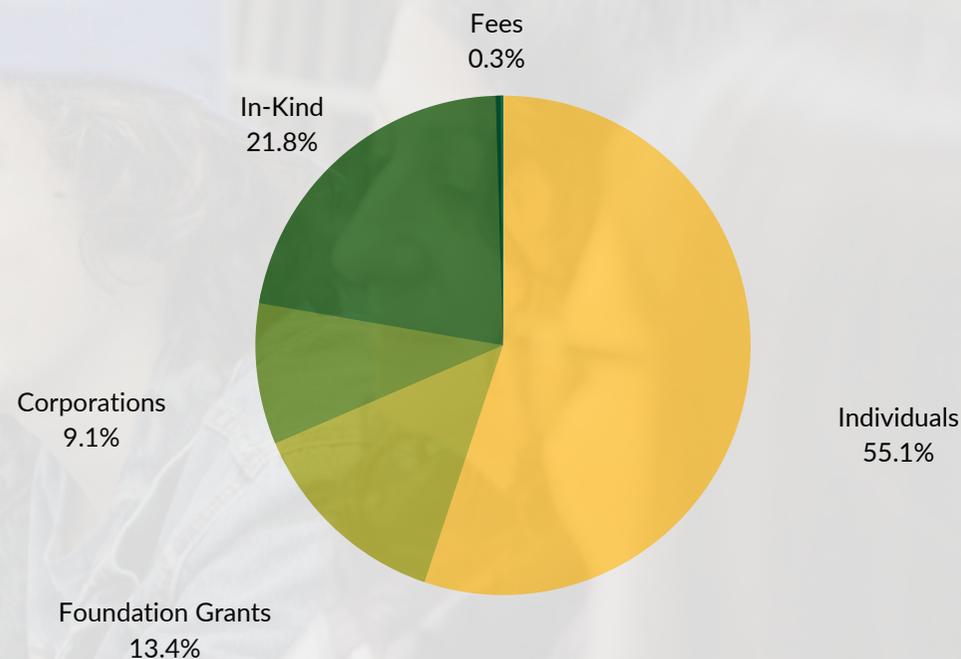
85%

2020 - 2021

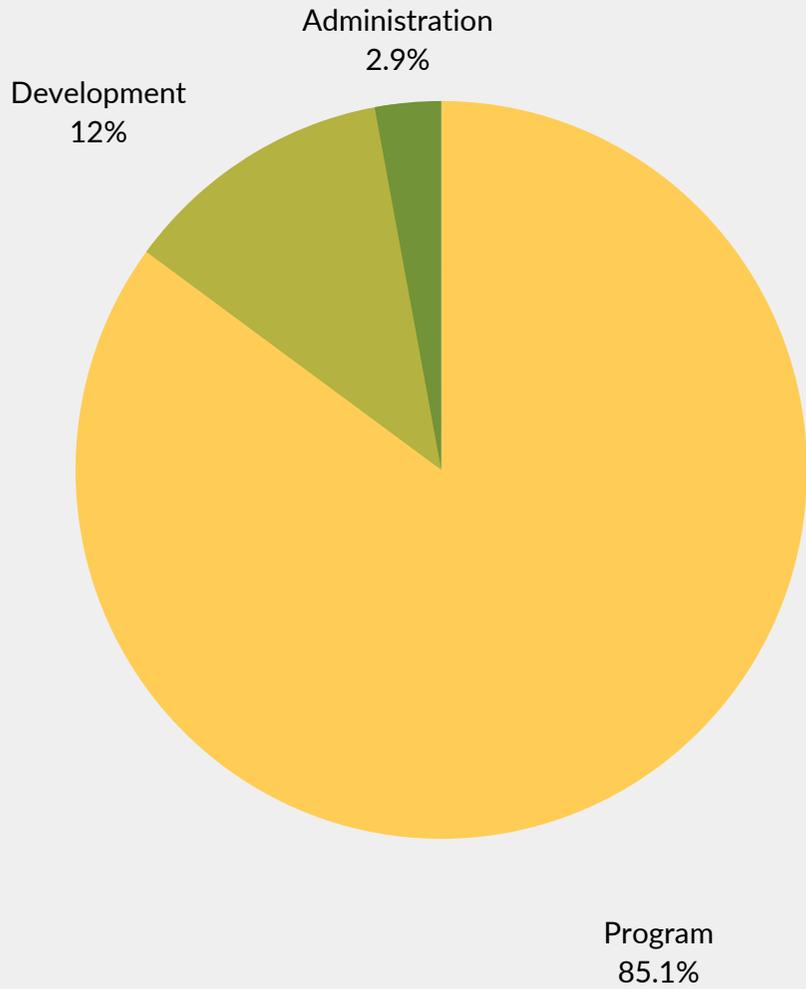
Fiscal Year Revenue

STRONG BECAUSE OF YOU

REVENUE SOURCE	REVENUE \$	REVENUE %
Individuals & Businesses	\$258,112	55.14%
Foundation Grants	\$62,918	13.44%
Corporations	\$42,734	9.13%
In-Kind	\$102,148	21.82%
Fees	\$1,495	0.32%
Other	\$713	0.15%
Total Revenue	\$468,120	
Net Assest	\$208,229	



The financial information presented is before amortization and depreciation, it will be subject to change upon finalized 2021 tax return.



Fiscal Year Expenses

THRIVING BECAUSE OF YOU

EXPENSE	EXPENSE \$	EXPENSE %
Program	\$350,073	85.07%
Development	\$49,418	12.01%
Administration	\$12,000	2.92%
Total Expenses	\$411,491	

Net Income: \$56,629

BOARD PRIDE

2020-2021 was filled with unprecedented challenges for our organization. At NICST the impact of the global pandemic was deeply felt by everyone involved. **Yet despite the hardship, we continued to persevere and evolve.** As a Board Member and Canine Training Partner I witnessed firsthand how hard the organization worked to adapt and grow. Our founder, Mark Ruefenacht, led the way to expand our outreach and developed the First Response K9 and Detection Dog programs with our amazing staff. The Board looked beyond our core D4D program to incorporate a broader range of sponsors and donors. Our increasing number of Volunteers and CTPs continued in their generous donation of time and care for the dogs. I'm proud and excited to support NICST as we move towards a strong future.

- NICST Board Member, **Richard Tong**





HEARTFELT THANKS

WE WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT YOU

You fuel us with your generosity and support - thank you for taking initiative, advocating for us, and empowering the lives of many with every impactful donation made to NICST.

To our incredible community as a whole we are filled with immense gratitude for your compassion and dedication to a cause greater than you. A cause that is our team's driving force behind all we do at NICST. We understand you have many choices when giving and we are grateful for your choice to give to our collective mission.



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF 17 YEARS OF LIFE-SAVING STORIES



HOW YOU CAN HELP **SAVE LIVES**

DONATE

Big or small, all of your tax-deductible donations help us create life-saving partnerships.

VOLUNTEER

Give of your time to impact a client's life and get involved in a wonderful community.

SHARE

Tell your friends, family, and coworkers about the NICST mission and encourage them to join our family.

LEARN MORE: www.OurDogsSaveLives.org