

# FY2025 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Warrior Canine Connection	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Animal Assisted Therapy for Veterans	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024)
	x	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025)

## Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p>As we submit this report, WCC is heartbroken for the loss of so many in Buncombe County. Among those impacted was a WCC Service Dog Training Instructor who lost her home. We will provide updates on reestablishing programming as the VA Medical Center, Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and other delivery locations reopen.</p> <p>During Q1, WCC engaged 70 Veterans in its Animal Assisted Therapy program (known as Mission Based Trauma Recovery or MBTR) with participants reporting significant impact on levels of stress, anxiety and other PTSD-related symptoms. Of Veterans served was a record number at the Charles George VA Medical Center through the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. In fact, in September WCC began its 20th cohort of participants through this important legislative action. Also of note, WCC hosted MBTR workshops at 2 Wounded Warrior Project retreats, drawing Veterans from across the country.</p> <p>WCC's program continues to be popular with those engaged in the Buncombe County VTC who assist in the therapeutic mission of training a future service dog as part of their court-required community service hours. This August, WCC staff and dogs participated in the VTC Graduation of several Veterans. Also in August, WCC partnered with fellow nonprofit Warriors at Ease to host Puppy Yoga. Collaboration with partners like this, the Veterans Healing Farm and others, are allowing WCC to extend its reach to support the recovery and healing of more Buncombe County Veterans.</p>
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<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p>Since the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, WCC has been able to rehome one of its staff who was displaced and resume programming at the Charles George VA Medical Center, Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and other delivery locations. In Q2, 73 new unique Veterans engaged in MBTR sessions with WCC.</p> <p>Due to positive feedback from clinical providers, WCC's presence at the VA Medical Center has expanded exponentially this past quarter. WCC is now conducting weekly groups with Veterans receiving treatment through the Warrior Recovery Unit, the Inpatient Psychiatric Unit, Community Living Center and the VA's Long-Term Care Unit.</p> <p>Several VA psychiatrists have also invited WCC to host individualized sessions with their respective patient groups. In one, WCC focused on emotional regulation—using dogs in training as models of practicing impulse control and patience. Another VA psychiatrist has incorporated MBTR programming into bi-weekly sessions with his patient group. For patients in the VAMC/Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, WCC conducts monthly MBTR sessions as part of their community outing and activities.</p> <p>At the Buncombe County VTC, WCC is now working with 2 cohorts where Veterans assist in training future service dogs as part of their community service hours, while simultaneously developing skills and emotional and social competencies to assist in their personal recovery.</p>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	

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## Progress toward annual goals

Only include new, unduplicated data for each quarter

		Actual Results (Enter Data)				
		Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
Measure	Annual Goal	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Progress toward Annual Goal
Unduplicated number of Veterans attending WCC Animal-Assisted Therapy sessions	200	70	73			143
% of Veterans reporting decreases in stress/anxiety and hypervigilance	80%	82%	89%			86%
% of Veterans reporting improvements in sense of connectedness and purpose	80%	89%	94%			92%
% of Veterans reporting overall satisfaction with WCC program content	90%	96%	93%			95%

**Comments:**

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## Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Any budget changes of more than 10% to any line item must be approved by County staff in writing in advance.

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00			\$ 20,000.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00

**Comments:**

Two FT Service Dog Training Instructors