



# **K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.**

*Dolores, Colorado*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **K9 SEARCH AND RESCUE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FINDING THE LOST AND MISSING**

For twenty five years, the K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc, has braved extremes of weather and terrain to look for the lost and missing. Based in Dolores, the all-volunteer team has dedicated itself to serving others from all over the United States. Since their founding in 1984, the Team has participated in 379 missions that have resulted in countless lives being saved, and remains of loved ones being returned to families.

K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc. is a 100% all-volunteer non-profit agency that relies entirely on grants, donations, and their Annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to run its operations. At no time has it ever charged a missing person or their family for their services, and they like it that way. "We never want the decision to call search and rescue agencies to be based on whether someone can afford to be rescued or not. After all, what value could we put on a life?" says Randy Bouet, K9's Operations Section Chief.

The Annual Pancake Breakfast is the Team's largest fundraiser and is held during Escalante Day in August, and features a hot cooked breakfast for a small donation. This fundraiser has become a critical link in the Team's funding chain, as it is their only major fundraising event of the year. The funds from the Pancake Breakfast help purchase and update vital equipment, and maintain basic operational readiness for when the Team is needed. More importantly, it helps the Team to maintain the ability to offer their services free to the lost or missing.

In this, their twenty-fifth anniversary, the Team is also looking for new members. So what does it take to be a member of K9 Search and Rescue Team? "Time, dedication, the desire to do one's best, and the unending quest to see loved ones reunited", says Chuck Melvin, one of the original members, who still serves on the Team and has been Team Commander since 1990. There are many roles that a member can assume including K9 Handler, Navigator, Base Support, and even non-field deployed personnel. The team holds regular monthly events such as a business meeting, equipment checks, classroom trainings, and other community events. In addition, they hold trainings in the field, and of course, search missions.

The Team recently returned from the ESCAPE search and rescue conference hosted by the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council at Ruidoso, New Mexico,



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where two K9 Team members taught classes. Over 200 search and rescue personnel from all over the region attended.

On May 12, the Team was awarded grant funds totaling \$2,100 from the Dolores Student Leaders in Community Service. The funds will be used to produce 1,000 identification kits for children and also adults with Alzheimer's to help law enforcement and search agencies locate and identify them if they become lost or missing.

For more information about the K9 Search and Rescue Team, visit their website at [www.k9team.org](http://www.k9team.org).



Handler Vicki Ayers and K9 Bahama visit during an avalanche training day at Hesperus Ski Area in January.