



Welcome to Pawsitive Change

A Marley's Mutts Program



Our Presenters:

Dedontae Farmer: 32 years old, from Compton, California. Served 18 years in prison, locked up initially as a juvenile offender, first offense. 3 of his years were spent training dogs inside our Corcoran State Prison, level 4 program. He is now lead trainer inside our boys juvenile program, educating at risk kids, like he was. He is also a private dog trainer, and podcast host, and mentor to graduates of our program.

Brian James : 46 years old, Pawsitive Change Corcoran graduate (and family adopter!). Served 29 years, also as a juvenile offender. Was partners with Dedontae in the program. Released from prison 1 year ago and credits dogs with saving his life and giving him the life he has today. Currently working as a dog trainer, podcast host and addiction recovery specialist.

Zach Skow

- Founder of Marley's Mutts and co-Founder of Pawsitive Change
- Rescue dogs saved my life!
- Second chance receiver
- @ZachSkow



Dogs are Medicine

- In 2008, I was diagnosed with end stage liver disease and given less than 90 days to live.
- After 6 weeks in the hospital, I was released to await liver transplant.
- My dogs saved me from killing myself and gave me the purpose and drive to create Marley's Mutts!



A man with a grey baseball cap, a grey sweater, and extensive tattoos on his face, neck, and hands is sitting outdoors. He has his arms crossed and is looking towards the camera. Next to him is a small, scruffy dog with grey, black, and tan fur, looking forward. The background is a light-colored wall with vertical window frames.

What, and where, is
Pawsitive Change?

The Inspiration

Robbie Miller spent 13 years in prison. Upon release, his mom worried he'd go back to prison. He came to visit a dog I was fostering named Shadow.



Rescue Dogs, Rescuing People

- Robbies life changed dramatically after adopting shadow.
- It became clear we needed to try and start a prison program, but where to start...?



**If at first you don't succeed...try harder and keep
an open mind!**

- We presented prison dog programs to no less than 3 facilities, making some ground, only to be told no or have our proponent retire or change positions.
- Finally, after 4 years of trying, Lisa Porter, our director, was contacted by California City correctional facility.
- Warden Long took a chance on us and we weren't going to let him down.

Locking Up America



- Millions of shelter pets are housed in shelters all over America, with countless euthanized each year. Sheltering these abandoned pets costs 10's of billions of dollars every year. The shelter system is failing, despite huge infusions of capital and has only gotten worse over the last 3 years. Shelters are not the safe space for animals they should be, but a potential death sentence.
- 2-2.5 million Americans are incarcerated in America every year. Despite having only 4% of the global population, we lock-up 25% of the total world's incarcerated population!! National Recidivism, meaning the percentage of formerly incarcerated who reoffend, is at 70%, which alone is enough to demonstrate the inefficacy of the current prison system. Prisons should be focused on rehabilitation, and can be with the applied ingenuity
- We believe these alarming statistics should work with one another to bring down the numbers.
- America can't seem to agree about much right now, but one thing both sides of the aisle do agree on is criminal justice reform and restructuring our shelter system—our program can help with both!



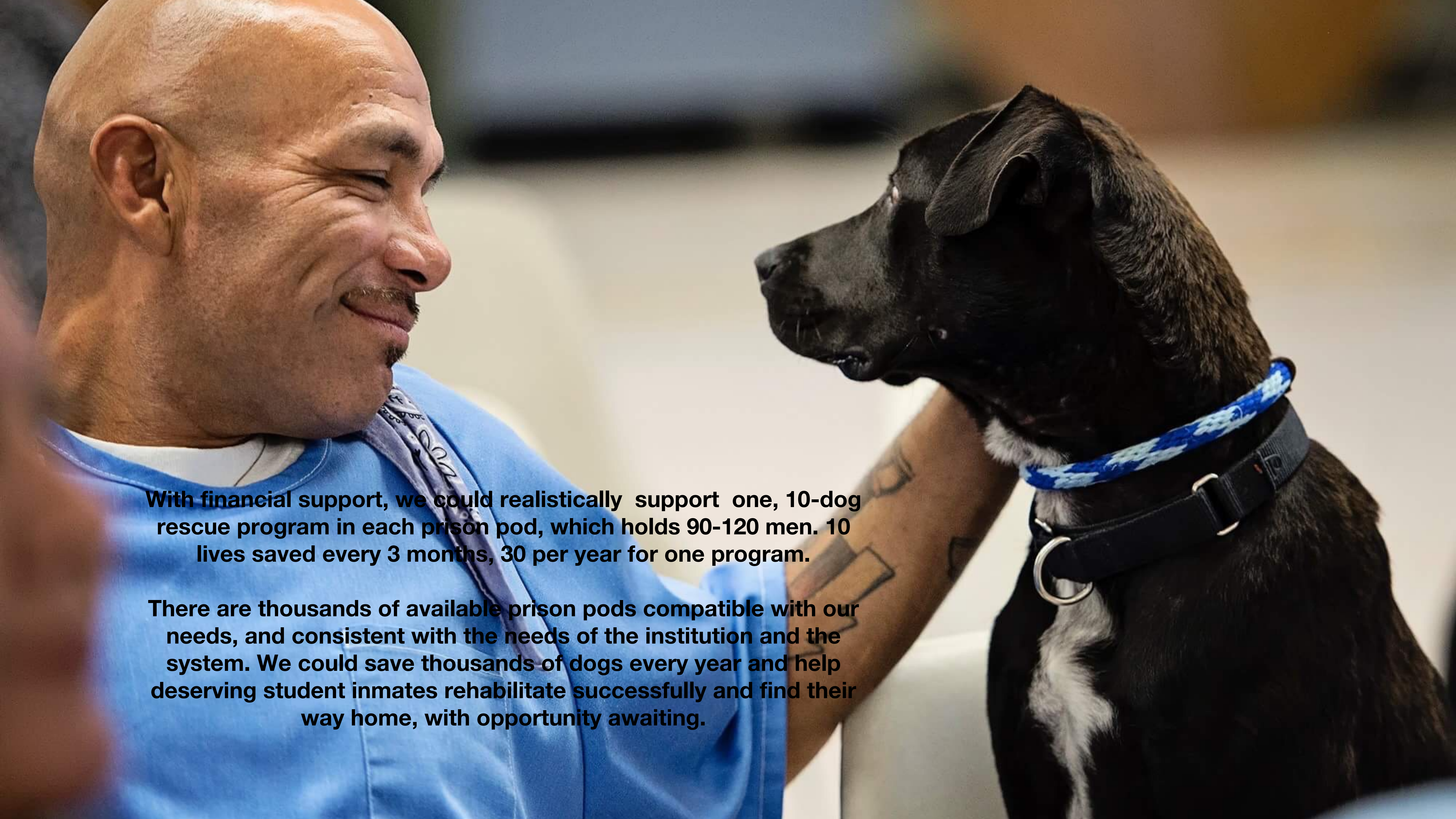


"We have no rescues or adopters for any of the big kiddos and I'm afraid we will have to PTS at least 10 dogs in B-kennel to make room. People just aren't coming for the young, big kids."

Large, juvenile dogs are viewed as a liability and rarely adopted from shelters because of their lack of training, sociability, manners etc..

**With proper enrichment/
having their needs met,
large dogs thrive in prison
and gain the skills needed
for adoption!**





With financial support, we could realistically support one, 10-dog rescue program in each prison pod, which holds 90-120 men. 10 lives saved every 3 months, 30 per year for one program.

There are thousands of available prison pods compatible with our needs, and consistent with the needs of the institution and the system. We could save thousands of dogs every year and help deserving student inmates rehabilitate successfully and find their way home, with opportunity awaiting.










To thrive in rehabilitation from addiction, a person needs structure, discipline, love, skills, boundaries, exercise and a sense of purpose/ belonging.

To thrive in rehabilitation from abandonment, shelter dogs need structure, discipline, love, skills, boundaries, exercise and a sense of purpose/ belonging.

With this simple format, our students and rescue-dogs restart in life!



A close-up photograph of a man with a tattoo on his cheek and a dog lying together. The man is wearing a blue shirt and has his eyes closed, resting his head against the dog. The dog is light-colored with floppy ears and is also resting its head against the man. The background is blurred, showing other people in a similar setting.

If we can connect with more robust funding sources, there is no limit to scaling this program. We can create more opportunities like this one: a euthanasia listed mutt finding his forever home...and that trainer returning to him 3 years later with an entirely new lease on life!

Daniel Robinson

- Pawsitive Change graduate
- Served 12 years in prison
- Currently a professional dog trainer @Doggyjitsu



Jason Mori

- Pawsitive Change graduate and mentor
 - Served 13 years in prison
 - Currently a professional dog trainer @K9breakthru





Races coming together

In prison, everything is segregated. Our program affords the opportunity to come together in the name of hope and rehabilitation.







Families taking notice

Families who may not have seen their loved ones in more than a decade see them on our social media and feel hope.



Sobriety

We work openly with many of our guys looking to get, or stay, sober. Dogs promote sobriety because one must be connected to their true feelings to be effective when training shelter dogs.



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MEDICAL

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CHANGE
DOG CELL

DOG

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10

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9

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10

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**We should not seek to throw away our people or our pets.
There is potential behind those cages!**

Goals and Aspirations

- Our goal is to spread Pawsitive Change change throughout the United States and hopefully, one day, the world over.
- We have the potential to save thousands of the most vulnerable shelter animals every year.
- We have adapted our program to include juveniles, launching our first child offender program in 2016, as the first of its kind, live-in dog program inside the juvenile justice center in Bakersfield! We could have at least one in every community!
- “We have powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power towards good ends”.
- To open a Pawsitive Change transitional house in LA (or Tehachapi) , to serve our students and the incoming and outgoing dogs in the program.







Put your thumbs to work for the movement!

- Digital advocacy can sometimes be just as powerful as working in one of our programs.
- Our program is driven by thousands of small donations from people like you who were touched by our mission.
- Take out your phones and please help us share these numbers.
- 70% of violent offenders end up back in prison within 3 years at a cost of 50-100k per inmate.
- 25% of the world's incarcerated are locked up in America.
- One in 4 black men is in some form of the correctional system while more than 10 million children are directly affected by incarcerated parents.
- The pet industry is a 70 billion dollar a year industry, in need of competent trainers to process the growing demand for training, walking, home care and behavior modification.



WE ARE NOT JUST....

@MarleysMutts

#PawsitiveChange

@PawsitiveChangeProgram



Thank you for connecting with us!

Q&A

