



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Albertsons and Safeway Foundation Grant Supports Combat-Veterans in Arizona**

Peoria, Arizona, May 25, 2021 - Soldier's Best Friend (SBF) is the proud recipient of a recent grant award from the Albertsons and Safeway Foundation. Funding will support SBF's Service/Therapeutic Companion Dog Training Program.

"Support from the Albertsons and Safeway Foundation is critical in allowing us to continue providing services to our veteran/dog teams that would not otherwise be possible, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. The generous funding allows us to honor our commitment to offer our programming at no cost to combat-veterans living in Arizona with Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). This support also allows us to continue providing meaningful missions to rescued dogs." said Katie Ares, Executive Director.

To date, 302 veteran/dog teams have graduated from Soldier's Best Friend's Service/Therapeutic Companion Dog Training Program and over 183 dogs have been rescued from shelters across the state of Arizona.

**About Soldier's Best Friend:** Soldier's Best Friend provides U.S. military veterans living with combat-related Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with Service or Therapeutic Companion Dogs, most of which are rescued from local shelters. The veteran and dog train together to build a trusting relationship that saves two lives at once and inspires countless others. For more information about our organization, visit [www.soldiersbestfriend.org](http://www.soldiersbestfriend.org) or contact our office by phone at 623-218-6486 or email [contact@soldiersbestfriend.org](mailto:contact@soldiersbestfriend.org)

**About Albertsons and Safeway:** Locally great and nationally strong, Albertsons Companies is a leading food and drug retailer in the United States. As of February 29, 2020, the Company operated 2,252 retail stores with 1,726 pharmacies, 402 associated fuel centers, 23 dedicated distribution centers and 20 manufacturing facilities. The company's stores predominantly operate under the banners Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Randalls, Tom Thumb, Carrs, Jewel-Osco, Acme, Shaw's, Star Market, United Supermarkets, Market Street and Haggen. Albertsons Companies is committed to helping people across the country live better lives by making a meaningful difference, neighborhood by neighborhood. In fiscal 2019 alone, along with the Albertsons Companies Foundation, the Company gave \$225 million in food and financial support. These efforts helped millions of people in the areas of hunger relief, education, cancer research and treatment, programs for people with disabilities and veterans' outreach.