



NEWS RELEASE

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Armstrong Healing Heroes Program Honored for Work with Veterans

Organization receives BCAP President's Award at Annual Summit

LANCASTER -- "Armstrong saved my life.... Because Armstrong gave me Russell."

That was the simple message delivered by Butler resident Gary Falconer during the Pennsylvania Broadband Summit on April 11 when he was recognized, along with Armstrong Utilities, for their partnership with the Healing Heroes program. Falconer is the recipient of a medical service dog, named Russell, which was trained by Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs. Armstrong entered a partnership with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs on Veterans Day in 2016 and raised more than \$350,000 to help train medical service dogs to aid veterans with special needs.

In doing so, Armstrong received the President's Community Service Award from the Broadband Communications Association of Pennsylvania (BCAP).

"Our veterans sacrificed so much for us as Americans that it is only fitting that we assist them in their time of need," said BCAP President Todd Eachus, who served in the U.S. Navy. "When I learned about Armstrong's partnership with Healing Heroes, I wanted to recognize their efforts and thank them for helping so many veterans in their service territory. Their work has made a tremendous difference for veterans."

Armstrong President Jeff Ross accepted the award for his company and said his company is proud to be a part of Healing Heroes, a partnership with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs to provide qualifying disabled veterans in the communities they serve with highly trained service dogs. These incredible dogs make a difference in the lives of those struggling with a variety of disorders including PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Seizure Disorders, Mobility Issues and more. They help to give people back their self-confidence and independence.

"I was humbled to accept this award on behalf of the Armstrong team and our communities," said Ross. "Everyone has been so generous with their time and donations. Seeing how these professionally trained service dogs help veterans in need is awe inspiring."

To date, the company has raised more than \$350,000, helping to train 15 dogs.

Falconer, a U.S. Air Force veteran who had been captured overseas, struggled with severe depression after returning home, he told more than 200 conference attendees. Although he wasn't in captivity very long, he became seriously ill during his capture and spent months recovering from his physical injuries. The emotional ones took far longer.

When Falconer learned about the Healing Heroes program, he hoped that a four-legged friend would help him get through his days. Now, with Russell by his side, Falconer is thriving and telling his story about how the canine and Armstrong saved his life. Russell, who is highly trained, can sense when Falconer is struggling. Russell helps him focus and wakes him up when he has nightmares.

The company is currently seeking local veterans who would benefit from the assistance of a medical service dog. A recipient does not have to be an Armstrong customer to qualify but must live in a county serviced by Armstrong. More photos of veterans and their dogs and their stories are available online at www.ArmstrongOneWire.com/HealingHeroes.

CAPTION FOR CONSIDERATION: BCAP President Todd Eachus presents the BCAP President's Community Service Award to Armstrong President Jeff Ross for his company's partnership with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, an organization that trains medical service dogs for veterans. Pictured with them is Gary Falconer of Butler with his service dog, Russell.

The Broadband Communications Association of Pennsylvania, a member-driven organization based in Harrisburg, actively promotes broadband cable and telecommunications industry issues in Pennsylvania. BCAP – the nation's first state cable association – represents cable operators, programmers and equipment suppliers that collectively provide service to nearly 3 million Pennsylvania households and businesses.

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