

## Banner - University Medical Center Tucson Special Operations K9 Miesha to get donation of body armor

New body armor will protect 5-year-old special operations K9 Miesha.



Miesha

TUCSON, Ariz. (Oct. 24, 2019) - Banner - University Medical Center Tucson K9 Miesha will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Miesha's vest is sponsored by Sharon Johnson of Valley, Arizona and will be embroidered with the sentiment "Born to Love-Trained to Serve-Loyal Always." Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

Miesha is a 5-year-old female Dutch shepherd. She is certified in handler protection, patrol and Explosive Ordinance Detection, also known as bomb dog. She is assigned to Banner - University Medicine K9 supervisor, Monty Graham. Miesha became a member of the Banner Security K9 program in November 2014.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 3,500 U.S. made, custom fitted, NIJ certified protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$5.7 million dollars.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 - \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org) or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

### About Banner - University Medical Center Tucson and South

Banner - University Medical Center Tucson and Banner - University Medical Center South are part of **Banner - University Medicine**, a premier academic medical network. These institutions are academic medical centers for the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson. Included on the two campuses are Banner Children's Diamond Children's Medical Center and many clinics. The two academic medical centers are part of Arizona-based Banner Health, one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country. Banner Health is in six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming. For more information, please visit: [www.bannerhealth.com/universitytucson](http://www.bannerhealth.com/universitytucson) or [www.bannerhealth.com/universitysouth](http://www.bannerhealth.com/universitysouth)

For further information: Christina Geare, 520-694-5347, [Christina.Geare@Bannerhealth.com](mailto:Christina.Geare@Bannerhealth.com)

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