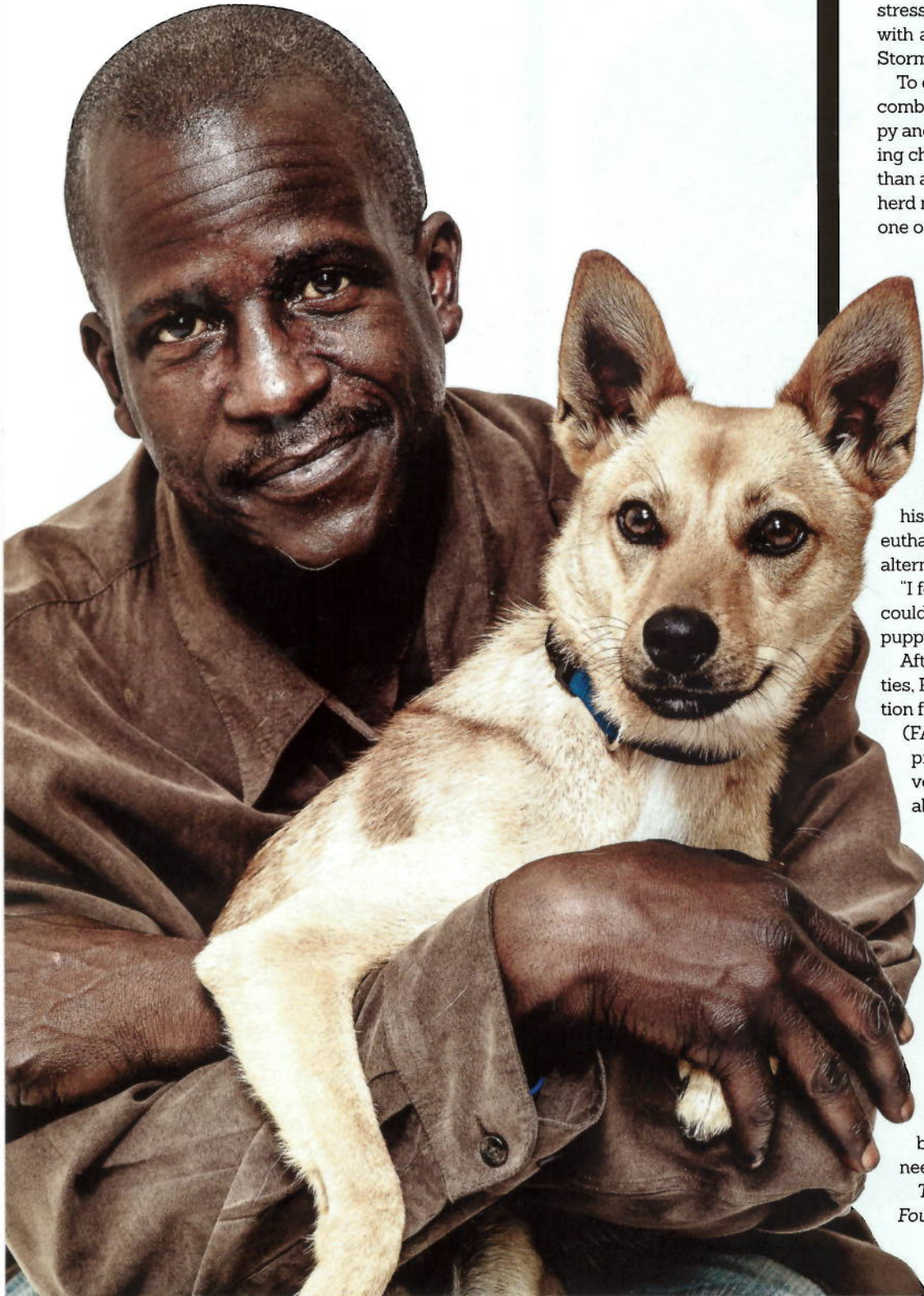# Edwin Rivers

Edwin Rivers woke often during the night to secure the perimeter of his house. He would check that every window and door was locked before being able to fall asleep again, only to awaken every two hours with the same instinct. It was all symptomatic of the post-traumatic stress disorder Rivers was diagnosed with after serving in Operation Desert Storm from 1990-91.

To ease his PTSD, the US Army combat veteran was prescribed therapy and several medications, but nothing changed his life for the better more than a happy nine-month old shepherd mix puppy named Myles. When one of the players on Rivers' softball team could no longer care for Myles, Rivers took him in. The pup quickly took to sleeping right next to him, making restful nights something he could finally count on.

In 2015, Rivers feared he might lose it all again. Myles broke his femur in a fall and needed emergency surgery, but Rivers couldn't afford it on his fixed income. Without surgery, euthanasia was the recommended alternative.

"I felt totally helpless," he says. "I couldn't bear the thought of putting a puppy to sleep."

After exhausting all other possibilities, Rivers reached out to the Foundation for Animal Care and Education (FACE), a San Diego nonprofit that provides grants for emergency veterinary care—and they were able to fund the surgery.

"Words cannot express how appreciative we are for the help," Rivers says. "I do not know what I would have done without the FACE Foundation."

With help from his community, Rivers was able to save Myles, just as Myles had saved him. The pup has since fully recovered from his surgery, and Rivers has begun volunteering for the FACE Foundation, speaking about how his new best friend helped him when he needed it most.

To learn more about the FACE Foundation, visit face4pets.org.