The Impact of 2019

First and foremost, we hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Even in these difficult times, Canine Companions’ remains focused on delivering our mission. The impact of our mission in 2019 was powerful, and we are extremely proud of all we have achieved as an organization: 396 working dogs were placed; 1,309 in-person follow-up visits with our graduates were completed; 766 puppies were born; and 1,585 puppies were raised! We engaged with 4,724 volunteers and received over $40 million in revenue. This important work was accomplished thanks to the passion and efforts of you, our incredible donors and volunteers.

We continue to support even more people with disabilities while continuing our innovative work. With your support, we launched the Canine Companions Advocacy Initiative, broke ground on our state-of-the-art campus in the North Central Region, and opened the doors of the new training building for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and clients with sensory sensitivities in our Northwest Region. Working with our National Board of Directors, we developed and introduced an ambitious five-year strategic plan. It’s truly been an incredible privilege to be a part of the growth and excitement of the past year!

Yet there is much to do to continue to better serve people with disabilities. As we embark on a new year, we have plans to expand our capabilities and reach — all with the goal of bringing greater independence to more people. We will begin the work to build a new and improved Canine Health Center, a place that will ensure the health and wellness of our puppies and future assistance dogs. We will implement a pilot therapy dog certification program, support our active graduate teams and place even more expertly trained assistance dogs with people with disabilities.

We value your incredible dedication to our mission, and we are eager to move into the next stage to better serve our current and future teams. As the difficult start to 2020 has underscored, our community is strong, resilient and dedicated — and we are so grateful for each and every one of you.

Heading into our 45th year, we will continue to implement our strategic plan to foster further growth and success. While much was accomplished in 2019, we have our hearts and minds set on even more for 2020. We will not waver in these challenging times. We will adapt, innovate and collaborate to keep our mission moving. We look forward to working with you!

Warm regards,

Paige Mazzoni, Chief Executive Officer
John McKinney, National Board Chair

“Service Dog Nico has totally changed my life. His professional training allows me to do things that were previously unsafe because of my disability. Nico’s support allows me to grocery shop, to clean the house and to be successful at work. I was surprised to discover that having Nico also helped me connect with people, get more exercise, and improve my health and quality of life. He is my best friend and constant companion, and I am forever indebted to Canine Companions for providing such an extraordinary gift, a second chance for independence.”

—India Harville, shown above with Nico
Greater Independence, One Assistance Dog at a Time

While our graduates’ disabilities are diverse, they all share a common goal — greater independence. Canine Companions assistance dogs perform tasks ranging from alerting to important sounds to picking up dropped items. For the past 44 years, these, along with many other specialized tasks, have changed the lives of thousands of people with disabilities.

Most common client disabilities served since 1975

- Cerebral Palsy: 17%
- Neuromuscular/Muscular Disability: 17%
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 13%
- Paralysis: 12%
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: 9%
- Developmental or Cognitive Disability: 7%
- Neurological Disorder: 6%
- PTSD: 4%
- Other: 15%

Working teams in 2019

In 2019, 396 working dogs were placed thanks to the support of donors. Children, adults and veterans with a range of disabilities are entering 2020 with newfound independence thanks to their Canine Companions assistance dogs.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Team</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service dog teams</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skilled companion teams</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility dog teams</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing dog teams</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working agency placements*</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD service dog teams</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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*Dogs from Canine Companions that are transferred to another organization or agency that utilizes them in a working capacity.

Exceptional Instructors, Exceptional Dogs

Every year, Canine Companions instructors train hundreds of dogs in over 40 commands to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Our team goes above and beyond so graduates feel confident working with their dogs while receiving the follow-up services they need to succeed. Every year, we meet with graduates to provide support and ensure their independence is sustained.

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"Nicola has given me a sense of security and independence that I’ve never felt before. I no longer need to be afraid of being left alone because she’ll be there. I no longer need to be worried when I’m walking on campus and need help to carry my books because she’ll be there."
—Sylvia Colt-Lacoya and Service Dog Nicola
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"Being able to give a command to pick up something I’ve dropped has been extremely beneficial. Valor is amazing. He’s the best thing that’s ever happened to me."
—Paul Monfre and Service Dog Valor
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Instructors by Region

We have 53 professional instructors and apprentices across the country training our exceptional dogs and supporting our teams.

- Northwest: 14
- North Central: 8
- Northeast: 7
- South Central: 6
- Southeast: 10
- Southwest: 8

Canine Companions teams in 2019

- New adult teams: 310
- New placements with children: 86
- Total active teams working together: 2,553
Finding Purpose in Puppy Raising

“I was assaulted when I was younger which led me to isolate and turn to drugs. I no longer believed I was worth anything. Canine Companions helped spark a fire within me to realize that I am worth more,” shares volunteer puppy raiser Erin Boetzer.

Erin was an inmate at the Folsom Women’s Facility on and off for nine years. In the final years of her incarceration, Erin found puppy raising and it completely turned her life around.

In 2015, Erin was one of six inmates accepted into the Canine Companions prison puppy raising program. The day she met the prison program facilitators Carly and Cris, it was the first time in nearly a decade Erin noticed she was being treated like a human being, and not “just an inmate.” Most importantly, she didn’t feel judged.

After exhibiting her leadership skills, Erin was invited to teach new inmate handlers about puppy raising in the prison. Erin realized she was doing something that was making a positive impact in the lives of others. After the first puppy Erin raised graduated, she was absolutely certain of her purpose.

In her last year at the facility, Erin began co-raising puppy Ticha with Sacramento area puppy raiser Laura Allen. Erin explains, “Once I began co-raising with someone on the outside, I really began to feel like I was a part of the Canine Companions family.”

When she was released from Folsom Women’s Facility, Erin had the opportunity to continue raising Ticha. Erin credits her freedom to Canine Companions’ puppy raising program. “If I hadn’t been a part of that program, I wouldn’t have gotten out of prison,” she explains. “To get unconditional love from a dog, and to have kind, nonjudgmental people respect my opinions and listen to my input, it made me feel worthy, and it made me feel like a person.”

Erin just finished raising her seventh Canine Companions puppy Max and is now raising puppy Ender. Max, and soon Ender, attended college with Erin who is studying business and marketing at California State University, Monterey Bay and graduating this fall.

Our community of volunteers changing lives in 2019

- 4,724 Volunteers
- 1,585 Puppy raisers
- 776 Puppies matriculated
- 44 Volunteer chapters
- $20M Estimated value of puppy raiser hours
Advocating for Independence

CORE VALUE: Integrity

Advocating for our graduates’ rights to public access and independence is an important part of supporting our clients and community. In 2019, we launched the Canine Companions Advocacy Initiative, providing input and expertise on legislation that affects our clients, and educating corporations, hospitals, conference attendees and more.

7,632 Pledges to stand against service dog fraud

22 Meetings and communications with legislators

19 Sessions on advocacy education

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19 Sessions on advocacy education

Serving Our Veterans

CORE VALUE: Innovation

As Canine Companions continues to grow, we have prioritized creating facilities to meet the needs of our participants. Following significant growth at our Northwest Region, a special building on the Jean and Charles Schulz Campus was designed to accommodate the sensory needs of veterans with PTSD and clients with other sensory sensitivities. The innovative design provides a more comfortable Team Training experience for our clients and additional training space. We look forward to proudly serving more veterans of all generations in the years to come.

30 Veteran placements in 2019

207 Active veteran teams

317 Total veteran placements

Committed to the Success of Our Teams

CORE VALUES: Teamwork and Compassionate Service

We believe in the joyful, transformative power of the human-canine bond. At Canine Companions we recognize that in order to maintain successful placements, we must provide exceptional follow-up support to our graduate teams after they leave campus with their assistance dog. Through interactive workshops and in-person meetings, graduates can connect with others and receive follow-up support from instructors.

What our graduates said in 2019

97% Value being a part of the Canine Companions community

94% Agree Canine Companions provides compassionate service

92% Value the opportunity to interact with other teams at workshops

Breeding “the Best of the Best”

CORE VALUES: Excellence and Community

Breeder dogs and their puppies are the foundation of our organization. We carefully select and breed Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and crosses of the two. Each dog is thoroughly evaluated for temperament, trainability, health, physical attributes, as well as other criteria. Only then are the “best of the best” chosen as Canine Companions breeders. It is our community of breeder caretakers that allows us to maintain the health and longevity of our program.

131 Breeder caretakers

98 Litters

786 Puppies born
A Better Place with Benicia

Carly, an upbeat 6-year-old who loves the color pink, playing with her dolls and drawing, is a little different from her classmates. She was born with spina bifida, a congenital defect of the spinal cord and sacroiliac. Her childhood has been filled with numerous surgeries, bone grafts, and scoliosis. Due to extremely low muscle tone and a lack of sensation in her left leg, walking can be difficult for Carly. At one of her hippotherapy appointments, Carly met a Canine Companions puppy named Clementine being raised by her therapist at the Shea Center. Carly's mother Ashley quickly recognized the profound impact a Canine Companions assistance dog would make on Carly's life and made the decision to apply.

In 2019, Carly was matched with Skilled Companion Benicia. Carly and Benicia quickly became inseparable, making all the difference in Carly's life. Benicia helps Carly by picking up her crutches when she drops them and by pushing door push plates when she's using her manual wheelchair. Carly is no longer alone when she practices walking every day, because Benicia is right by her side every step of the way.

“Carly looks different. She uses crutches and wears braces. After Benicia came home, we noticed she was so endearing that kids rarely noticed Carly's differences. Instead they focused on Benicia and then they'd go off to play with Carly. Ashley said Benicia has become more than an assistance dog, she has become a part of the family,” shares Ashley. Benicia has become more than an assistance dog, she has become a part of the family, improving Carly's quality of life whether she is assisting with helpful tasks or providing comfort.

Last year, Carly had major hip surgery, and Benicia was there for all the pre-op visits and assisted with the recovery afterward. The confidence she gave Carly was amazing. "Carly was so proud to show everyone Benicia. Carly wanted to get home and start rehabilitation so that she could spend time with Benicia," shares Ashley. "We're so grateful for the entire experience with Canine Companions and for this amazing dog that's changed Carly's life in 100 different ways."
Giving Back to Canine Companions

The Cunninghams have always had a love for dogs, but their support of Canine Companions for Independence runs deeper. It is rooted in their passion for enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.

Over 15 years ago, Dr. Bill Cunningham and his executive assistant, Connie Saathoff, were introduced to Canine Companions through a longtime puppy raiser, Maeve Cooney, on the University of Texas campus in Austin. Dr. Cunningham, former president of the university, was immediately grabbed by the dogs and how they enhance people’s lives. Soon after, the Saluting Independence BBQ fundraiser was born, held at the Cunningham’s home.

“A few months after we were introduced to Canine Companions, I called the California office and told them Isabella and I would be pleased to host a fundraiser,” shares Dr. Cunningham. “We raised almost $20,000 the first year.”

The event soon moved to the Cunningham Family Ranch near Austin. Shifting from an intimate dinner party to a large outdoor barbeque with live music in the hill country, the guest list grew from 25 people to nearly 200, and in 2019 the event raised over $150,000.

The Cunningham’s barbeque has raised over $1.2 million in total, and they are proud to play a role in giving independence to children, adults and veterans with disabilities.

“The organization is completely dedicated to helping people with disabilities lead more productive lives,” says Dr. Cunningham. “While many are excited about the dogs, I always say it is not about the dogs, it is about the people. Canine Companions gives me a way to give back, and I am proud to be able to participate in this venture.”

The Cunninghams have been supporters of Canine Companions since long before there was a South Central Region and are proud to see how the organization has grown over the years.

“Canine Companions has always been a first-class organization. From my initial interactions, it was clear to me that Canine Companions understood its mission and knew how to execute on that mission,” Dr. Cunningham explains. “I have been very pleased to see the organization grow and expand. The operation in Irving, Texas has permitted Canine Companions to offer many more dogs to individuals with disabilities.”

“While many are excited about the dogs, I always say it is not about the dogs, it is about the people. Canine Companions gives me a way to give back and I am proud to be able to participate in this venture.”

Left: Canine Companions assistance dog Zabi, named in honor of Isabella Cunningham. Above right: Drs. Bill and Isabella Cunningham (right) with their daughter-in-law Jessica (middle) and Canine Companions chief development officer, Barbara Barrow (left).
The Science Behind the Human-Canine Bond

For years, Canine Companions has been increasing independence through expertly trained assistance dogs for children with autism. While we have many success stories with our skilled companion teams, there is currently a lack of data-driven research on the impact of assistance dogs working with children who have autism — until now. Researchers at the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University are collaborating with Canine Companions, the Purdue Autism Research Center and the University of Arizona on an in-depth study to analyze the benefits of an assistance dog for children with autism as well as the impact on the child’s caregiver.

Brenda Kennedy, Canine Companions national director of canine health and research, shares, “The size and scope of this study will allow us to quantify this impact using clinically relevant outcomes and validated assessments. Having the science to back up what we’ve seen firsthand for many years about how our dogs provide benefit to not only the child, but also the entire family, will lead to greater acceptance and support among health professionals to use service dogs in this capacity.”

Purdue Canines for Autism Research Study, or Purdue CARES, is focused on children between 4-17 years old. Research is being conducted on the severity of symptoms for children that currently have an assistance dog in the home and those who have not been placed with an assistance dog. Researchers are tracking participants’ cortisol levels, a biomarker involved in the stress response system, as well as reports of their sleep habits provided by their caregivers. The study is being funded by the Human-Animal Bond Research Institute through an $85,000 grant.

To learn more about the studies we are involved in and our research partners, visit cci.org/research.

“Having the science to back up what we’ve seen firsthand for many years about how our dogs provide benefit to not only the child, but also the entire family, will lead to greater acceptance.”
Financials

2019 Income

Contributions 40%
Bequests 36%
Special Events 8%
Investment Income & Other Revenue 16%

2019 Contributions

Individuals 78%
Foundations 12%
Corporations 8%
Other 2%

2019 Expenses

Program Services 71%
Fund Development 15%
Administrative 14%

2019 Program Services

Training & Follow-up 53%
Breeding & Puppy Raising 19%
Public Information 15%
Veterinary 13%

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support & Revenue:
Contributions $17,729,235
Bequests 15,742,629
Special Events 3,753,543
Investment Income & Other Revenue 7,176,012
Total Support & Revenue $44,401,419

Expenses:
Program Services $21,060,101
Fund Development 4,476,754
Administrative 3,951,639
Total Expenses $29,488,494

Capital Contributions:
Capital Campaign Contributions $3,001,046

Change in Net Assets:
Net Assets Beginning of Year $80,496,572
Net Assets End of Year 98,410,543
Change in Net Assets $17,913,971

All figures are based on our 2019 financial statement and auditor’s report by Hood and Strong LLP, San Francisco, California. To view a copy of this report and our IRS Form 990, visit our website at cci.org/financials. Canine Companions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, established in 1975. Federal tax ID number: 94-2494324.

“I am truly impressed with Canine Companions for its life-changing mission and the strength of its financial leadership. The organization has an amazing impact on the lives of their graduates, and I can say with great confidence that the lives of those who support those efforts are positively impacted as well. In 2019, Canine Companions received a four-star rating by Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest charity evaluator. This is the highest rating possible, and it demonstrates Canine Companions’ responsibility in stewarding funds that support their program and benefit the most people.”

—Todd Bailey, Senior Vice President, Director of Government Relations, Huntington Bancshares Inc. and Board Vice President, Canine Companions North Central Region
Adding a Little More Heart to Life

Build-A-Bear, a global retailer of customizable plush furry friends, partnered with Canine Companions in 2019 to promote our mission by naming and following Canine Companions puppy Heartley. Our unique relationship not only reached new supporters, it also allowed Build-A-Bear to educate children about the journey of an assistance dog.

In August, Build-A-Bear launched a campaign in 400 stores and online which allowed guests to add a donation to Canine Companions when completing their purchase. In total, Build-A-Bear’s guests raised over $125,000 in support of our mission.

Our corporate partners make a meaningful difference — they are champions of our mission. We are grateful to the top corporations and businesses that offer support throughout the year.

Learn more about our partnerships at cci.org/corporatepartners.
We honor the community of dedicated supporters who have included Canine Companions for Independence in their estate plans. Learn more at ccl.org/plannedgiving.

Volunteer Puppy Raisers & Breeder Caretakers

We are grateful to the 1,716 puppy raisers and breeder caretakers who make our mission possible. Their incredible work ensures our puppies are ready for professional training and our breeder dogs are healthy and strong. Because of their dedication, passion and support, we are able to place these exceptional assistance dogs completely free of charge.

Puppies born in 2019

By Breed

Lab-Golden Cross 66.6%
Labrador Retriever 27.4%
Golden Retriever 2.8%

By Sex

Male 53.3%
Female 47.7%

By Color

Yellow 72.3%
Black 24.2%
Golden 3.7%
Across the country, Canine Companions puppies are being raised in puppy programs. These programs are only open to our puppies but with the inmates as well. Learn more at https://puppyraising.org/
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*Corporate Officer

Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing expertly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.