

# THE Companion <sup>Issue</sup> 43



LET'S ROLL!



Canine  
Companions®

Winter 2022



## Thank You, John McKinney for Four Years as Board Chair

As John's very successful tenure as board chair winds down, we celebrate major accomplishments achieved over the last four years. We continue to be inspired by interactions with our clients, volunteers and supporters, and have heartfelt gratitude for your commitment to Canine Companions. With John's guidance over the last four years, we've rolled out new technologies, updated our brand strategy, opened new facilities and set the foundation for the future of Canine Companions.

One of the critical pillars of our strategic plan is volunteerism – engaging new and current volunteers and ensuring our 4,700 volunteers are appreciated for their important work. Many of the ideas that spurred these changes came from you – our volunteers and supporters. We've implemented a new volunteer orientation program, piloted a volunteer mentor program, and rolled out new technology including the new online Canine Community, volunteer tracking, appreciation systems and more.

In pausing to review all that has been accomplished during John's tenure, we are proud of these major accomplishments driven by the strategic plan and welcome your feedback as we launch new innovations in the coming years. As we come to the close of another productive year, we thank you again for your generous donations, ongoing support and enthusiastic volunteerism for Canine Companions.

We, and I personally, thank John McKinney for his leadership and outstanding dedication to always making Canine Companions better.

Dear Friends,

As I near the end of my four years as national board chair, I am struck by all that has happened. We've weathered a pandemic, wildfires, hurricanes and blizzards. But we also developed a new strategic plan, completed the new North Central Training Center and started construction of the new Canine Health and Wellness Center. All the while, we've continued to do what we do so well – placing extraordinary dogs with people with disabilities.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this success, including our outstanding staff. I want to add a special thanks to all of our volunteers and donors. It has been an honor to serve as board chair.

Sincerely,

John McKinney  
Board Chair

Best regards,

Paige Mazzoni  
Chief Executive Officer

### HIGHLIGHTS

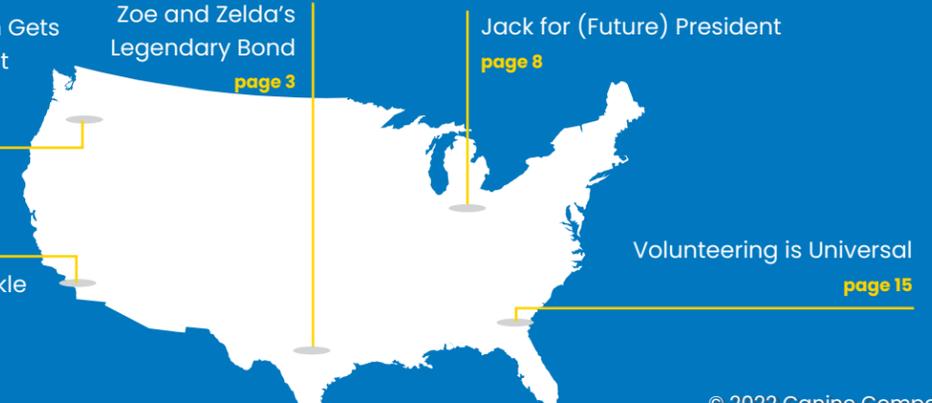
Air Force Veteran Gets A Canine Co-Pilot  
page 12

Zoe and Zelda's Legendary Bond  
page 3

Jack for (Future) President  
page 8

Finding Nika's Sparkle  
page 18

Volunteering is Universal  
page 15



# CELEBRATING THE PROS



## Awareness for National Service Dog Month

September was National Service Dog Month and we celebrated the amazing work service dogs do while educating many on service dog-related issues. Under the My Dog Is A PRO theme, our graduates and volunteers helped educate the public on the importance of task-trained service dogs, their role for

people with disabilities and service dog etiquette.

Through interactive quizzes, events, corporate partnerships and media, our education on service dog access has reached more people than ever. Our supporters made a pledge to protect the

rights and safety of service dog teams – a critical goal of our advocacy program. And we were featured in 436 media stories. Views to our website increased 80% and we reached 3.8 million people on social media, increasing awareness of our mission.

> **436 Media Stories**

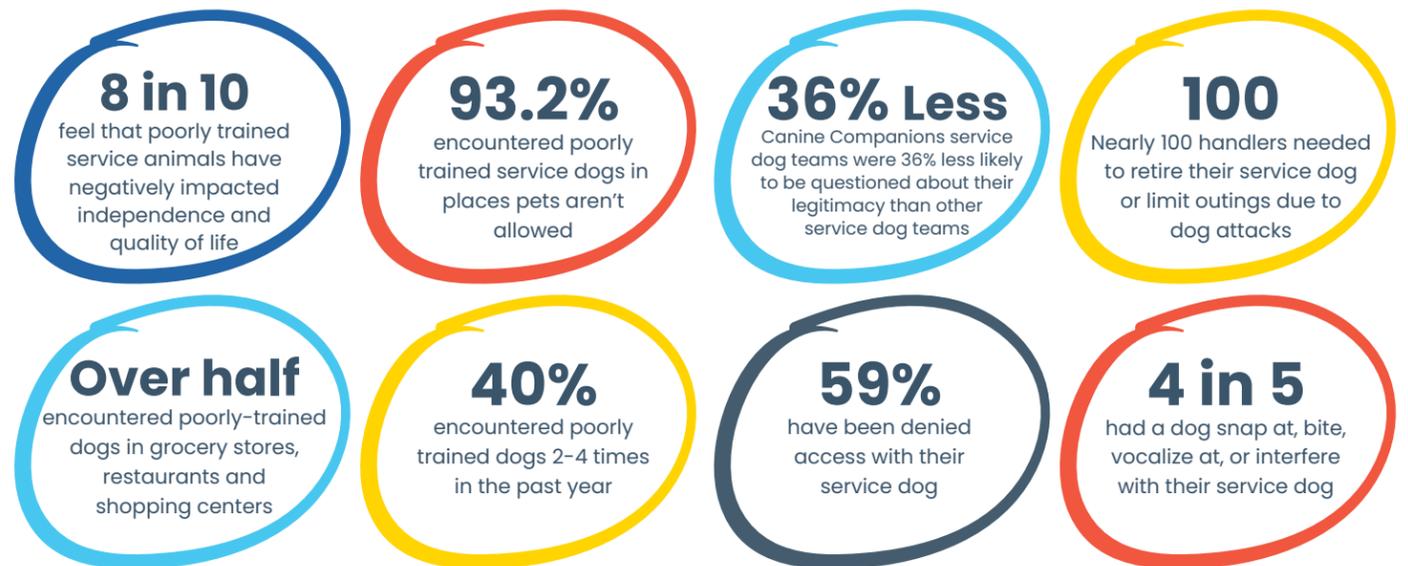
> **38 Service Dog Month Proclamations**

> **3,182 Activity Participants**

See our educational tools and learn more about National Service Dog Month at [canine.org/servicedogmonth](https://canine.org/servicedogmonth).

## SURVEYING SERVICE DOG USERS

Canine Companions spearheaded an effort to better understand the real-life impact that poorly trained dogs have on service dogs around the world. In collaboration with Assistance Dogs International, our survey reached over 1,500 service dog users from 50 ADI-accredited service dog programs across three continents.



# Zoe and Zelda's Legendary Bond

When 12-year-old Zoe and her family started the process to apply for a service dog from Canine Companions, they were hoping for a dog that would help Zoe be more independent. They found that and so much more in Service Dog Zelda.

Zoe was born with spina bifida and has used a wheelchair to get around since she was 18 months old, making some daily tasks a challenge. Last year, she was matched with Service Dog Zelda.

Zelda retrieves items Zoe may drop, such as her phone, and even helps her get ready for the day. Because Zoe gets dressed on her bed, and not in her wheelchair, if she drops a sock or clothing that is out of reach, Zelda is there to help. She also opens doors for Zoe using her nose to push automatic push plates, which is a crowd-favorite task at their church.

These types of tasks allow Zoe to turn to Zelda, rather than her parents or her peers, for help. Having Zelda by her side has been life-changing, and according to Zoe's father, Jay, Zelda is seldom far away. This is especially meaningful when Zoe needs to spend time in the hospital or at medical appointments.

"This past year has been a difficult one with many procedures," shares Jay. "When Zoe had the same surgery five years ago, it took her out. This time, her spirit never broke. I attribute that to having Zelda by her side."

Service Dog Zelda has meant increased independence and confidence for Zoe. But Zoe's father says, Zelda has meant so much more.

"I see a best friend. I see someone who has taught Zoe to be thoughtful and mindful of others, taught her responsibility and to become a member of the family," he shares. "We can't imagine life without Zelda."



**"When Zoe had surgery five years ago, it took her out. This time, her spirit never broke. I attribute that to having Zelda by her side."**

> Help make more life-changing matches possible. Return the enclosed envelope or visit [canine.org/gift](https://canine.org/gift).



## Dynamic Duo Provide Beacon of Hope

At the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), patients can receive care from a special dynamic duo. Facility Dogs Lois and Odessa play an integral part on the child life team and have direct impacts on patients' clinical outcomes.

Lois and her handler, Child Life Specialist Chloe, help hospitalized children and teens meet their clinical goals. "Lois provides endless support, whether it is motivating a young child to walk after surgery, helping educate a patient about a procedure or snuggling with a patient during a difficult conversation," Chloe shares.

Child Life Specialist Janessa and Facility Dog Odessa work in the hospital's mental health inpatient center. Odessa helps decrease patients' stress, anxiety and discomfort through deep pressure therapy and encourages self-expression through pawprint painting. Janessa shares, "Odessa provides a soft place to land when emotions are hard to process, listens intentionally and non-judgmentally and offers unconditional love and acceptance."

Together, they provide a beacon of hope and joy, helping to move patients forward on their important journeys.

Learn more about our facility dogs at [canine.org/dogs](https://www.canine.org/dogs).



## SUPPORT Behind Bars

Nicole Swanson works for the Augusta State Medical Prison in Georgia as an occupational therapist. For 10 years, she has seen the effects of incarceration on the health of prisoners. She works with inmates who

are recovering from surgery or an injury, underlying illnesses and inmates who have feelings of isolation and depression. But, she wanted another tool to help her patients.

Nicole knew about Canine Companions because her daughter, Lily, was a volunteer puppy raiser with the college puppy raising program at the University of Pittsburgh. "I knew that there were so many ways that I could incorporate a facility dog into my work and that Canine Companions was the organization to help me," says Nicole.

Nicole was matched with Facility Dog Westley in February. "Westley doesn't care why the inmates are here. He helps with balance, sensory issues and therapeutic interventions," she says. "He has brought joy to so many people – including our staff. He's has allowed me to connect with my patients in a much more positive way."

## HELP Canine Companions Your Way

Canine Companions supporters are infinitely creative in the way they fundraise to support our mission. Honor a veteran. Dedicate your birthday or holiday gifts. Have a festive bake sale. The list goes on! You can create your own fundraiser that fits your style while benefiting Canine Companions.

Get started at [canine.org/DIY](https://www.canine.org/DIY).



# Jack for (Future) President

Ask anyone who knows Jack Sabo, and they'll tell you, he has their vote for next President of the United States. To most 17-year-olds, leading a country might seem like a lofty goal, but then, most 17-year-olds aren't Jack Sabo.

Aside from preparing for college and participating in extracurriculars, Jack spends what little free time he has helping raise future service dog Donny, alongside his parents, Jill and John. On the occasional Friday, Jack joins one of his parents on CBS' Pittsburgh Today Live to share the mission of Canine Companions and talk about puppy Donny's training. It's a mission about which Jack is very passionate.

"Canine Companions gave me a community which I could call home — a community that transcends geographic boundaries," says Jack. "It's this community that allowed my love for dogs to grow and evolve into a passion for listening and amplifying the voices of people with disabilities."

Next fall, Jack will head off to college to pursue his interests in public policy. And, when he does, he hopes to take the valuable lessons he's learned with him and continue to share the mission of Canine Companions.

Learn more about puppy raising at [canine.org/puppyraiser](https://canine.org/puppyraiser).



## An Indomitable Match

Disability inclusion consultant Rosemary McDonnell-Horita of Berkeley, California, had Canine Companions Service Dog Eureka by her side to help her as a child and teen. A few years after Eureka's retirement, Rosemary applied for another service dog to help her in adulthood. Earlier this year, she was matched with Service Dog Dom, who is expertly trained in more than 45 tasks to enhance her independence.



**"I have an overwhelming sense of safety when we're together."**

With a wagging tail, Dom picks up dropped items, turns on and off lights, opens and closes doors, and more. "Dom is so good at his job. When we're home around the house, he's always waiting to see what I need and there to help with a task. When I'm in public, I feel safe and confident with him by my side. He even intuitively puts his head on my lap when I'm getting anxious," shares Rosemary.

Rosemary continues, "I have an overwhelming sense of safety when we're together. He's such a good boy."



## Thank you, Betty White

Betty White's association with Canine Companions started decades ago, with the Golden Girls star hosting a documentary special, "Heart of a Hero." She was one of the most beloved actors and philanthropists, and never forgot about Canine Companions. Recently, one of her trusts released \$150,000 set aside specifically for Canine Companions. We are forever grateful for Betty's support and love of all things animal related.

You don't have to be Betty White to include Canine Companions in your estate plans. Canine Companions works with FreeWill.com, where creating your own estate plan is free and easy. Scan the QR code with your phone to get started.



## Welcome Executive Director Kristen Dambrowski

We are excited to welcome the new Northwest Region Executive Director Kristen Dambrowski. Kristen has over twenty years of experience in creative program development, staff and volunteer management and nonprofit financial development. She graduated from University of California, San Diego, with a Bachelor of Arts in human development, and she received her master's degree in nonprofit administration from the University of San Francisco. We're thrilled to have her partnership in leading the Northwest region and look forward to her leadership and expertise.



## Red Roof® Gives Back with Room in Your Heart

Red Roof's partnership with Canine Companions is dedicated to raising awareness and financial support of our mission. Red Roof is an award-winning leader in the lodging industry and prides itself on giving back through its Room in Your Heart purpose program. The program offers travelers a discount on their stay, while donating a percentage of its revenue to Canine Companions.

"The Room in Your Heart program was developed to give travelers the opportunity to help foster change as they make every day travel decisions. We are proud to support the impact Canine Companions has on people with disabilities," says Red Roof Chief Marketing Officer Marina MacDonald.

Corporate social responsibility and social giving are embedded in Red Roof's culture through promotional partnerships. Past promotions for Canine Companions



include the February 2022 campaign for the premiere of the movie "DOG," directed by and starring Channing Tatum, which raised \$32,000 for our mission in just 28 days.

Canine Companions' community benefits from Red Roof's discounts year-round. Save 15% at any Red Roof property nationwide, using the discount code VP605422 when booking online at redroof.com, calling 1-800-REDROOF, using Red Roof's mobile app or stopping in at any Red Roof property. And Red Roof loves pets, so Canine Companions puppies are welcome, too!

We're grateful for Red Roof and their associates for supporting our mission.

Learn more about corporate partnerships at [canine.org/corporatepartners](https://canine.org/corporatepartners).



Los Angeles Chargers' player Austin Johnson and Future Service Dog Brisket. Credit: Los Angeles Chargers.

## Victory Brisket!

The Los Angeles Chargers-sponsored puppy, Brisket, joined his teammates at training camp in August as they prepared for the football season. Brisket had an amazing time meeting fans, showing off some of his skills with his puppy raiser and giving kisses to some of his Chargers teammates. Brisket recently turned a year old, and he continues on his journey to becoming a future service dog by experiencing new environments, working on socializing and learning new skills. Follow Brisket's journey on Instagram (@Chargerspup).

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Canine Companions teamed up with several Major League Baseball organizations over this year's baseball season. **The San Francisco Giants, the Oakland Athletics and the San Diego Padres** hosted Canine Companions clients, volunteers and their dogs to join in the fun. MiLB joined in the fun as well, with the **Pensacola Blue Wahoos** hosting a Canine Companions night and bobble head giveaway. We're so grateful to these teams for their support!

Read more about our puppies in the spotlight at [canine.org/puppyspotlight](https://canine.org/puppyspotlight).



FOR THE LOVE OF **DOGS** AND GREAT WINE

ST. FRANCIS WINERY & VINEYARDS

BUY A BOTTLE, GIVE \$1.00.

For every bottle of St. Francis wine purchased online and in stores through 2022, the winery will donate \$1.00 up to \$100,000.

# Air Force Veteran Gets a Canine Co-Pilot

U.S. Air Force Veteran Nicci Ward has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after experiencing military sexual trauma, which is sexual assault or sexual harassment experienced during military service. The VA states 1 in 3 female service members and veterans experience some form of military sexual trauma. In 2020, Nicci was matched with Service Dog Dubs, who is trained in tasks to mitigate symptoms of Nicci's PTSD.

Nicci shares, "I was fortunate to be united with Service Dog Dubs, who supports me every day." She continues, "Dubs reduces my PTSD symptoms. He wakes me up from nightmares, creates space for me in a crowd and interrupts my anxiety attacks before they escalate to an unmanageable level."

Sometimes, Dubs even knows Nicci is anxious before she does. "There have been numerous times when **Dubs has alerted me, and I didn't even realize I was displaying behaviors leading up to a panic attack**, such as heavy breathing and sighing heavily. He just knew what to do, and he calmed me down."

Nicci continues, "It's an incredible gift and privilege to have Dubs by my side."

We are proud to provide service dogs to veterans who served our country, free of charge.



# A Foundation of Support for Veterans

When Kate Johnson, vice president of the Amon G. Carter Foundation, was introduced to Canine Companions, she was immediately drawn to the life-changing mission and our Veterans Initiative.

Her family's foundation, the Amon G. Carter Foundation, made a generous \$250,000 gift to support the Veterans Initiative in our South Central Region. They have sponsored teams, provided matching funds, and supported Team Training classes to make the placement of ten service dogs with veterans with PTSD possible.

"Canine Companions has an outstanding track record of breeding and training service dogs and matching them with veterans. Our grant was intended to help Canine Companions identify, educate and encourage new donors to support the mission by our foundation's match of their contribution," says John Robinson, executive vice president of grant administration for the foundation.

Canine Companions is grateful to The Amon G. Carter Foundation for their significant support in not only making our life-changing mission possible, but also encouraging others to do the same.



# Veterans WORKSHOP

As part of Canine Companions commitment to offering free follow-up services to our graduates, we held our Veterans Initiative Alumni Workshop in September to provide support and camaraderie for our veteran graduates living with PTSD. Teams from around the country gathered at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, to meet with Canine Companions staff and set the groundwork for a new veteran support group for all our clients who have served.

Learn more about our Veterans Initiative at [canine.org/veterans](https://canine.org/veterans).



# Canine Companions on Good Morning America

Good Morning America featured Canine Companions and our important mission on a segment in August. Retired U.S. Air Force SSgt. Jason Morgan shared how his injury during his time in service changed his life, and ultimately led him to his three Canine Companions service dogs, who helped him find the confidence and motivation to navigate a different world and achieve his goals.

See this story and more at [canine.org/news](https://canine.org/news).

## THE Wake-Up Call

Jim's high frequency hearing loss means he misses the day-to-day sounds of a kitchen appliance or the doorbell. But it also means he cannot hear his wife calling him for help, or his grandchildren trying to get his attention.

It was one of these moments that gave Jim the wake-up call he needed to apply for a service dog to help with his hearing loss.

Jim and his wife, Kathleen, have been involved with Canine Companions for several years as puppy raisers in Houston. Jim knew the life-changing impact a service dog can have, but he always believed someone else needed it more. Now matched with Service



Dog Koogle, Jim has discovered just how much he needed one himself.

"What I learned is, I don't know what I don't hear," says Jim. "Koogle has started alerting me when my name is called in crowded places, like restaurants and coffee shops, because I can't distinguish my name from others."

Jim says the biggest change is that he feels much more

comfortable with his hearing loss. "With Koogle present, I don't have to explain that I am hard-of-hearing."

Koogle came into Jim's life at the perfect time, as his condition progresses. Jim says, "Koogle is going to keep getting better as my hearing gets worse."

Is a service dog right for you? Learn more at [canine.org/apply](https://canine.org/apply).



## Everything's Coming Up Roses

## A Perfect Place for Respite

As a master gardener, Cynthia Perlman loved her peonies in the spring, but she also loved dogs. She generously supported Canine Companions with her gifts, and after her death, her husband, Richard, wanted a thoughtful way to remember his wife's passions. The Canine Companions Northeast Region campus had longed for an outdoor space where clients and their families could gather for respite and bond with their new dogs. It was a perfect fit for Richard to honor his late wife. The Cynthia Perlman Reflective Garden was recently completed. The garden has already become a favorite gathering place to socialize, relieve stress and serve as an additional training area where Team Training students can bond with their dogs. We are extremely grateful for the Perlmans' contributions to our mission.



*'Tis the season for spreading cheer!*

Grab a pack – or two – of adorable Canine Companions puppy holiday cards. And don't forget to check off your gift list! From graphic sweatshirts and comfy PJ pants to convenient drinkware and timeless Labrador ornaments, there's something for everyone.

Visit [canine.org/shop](https://canine.org/shop) to start shopping!



### My Holiday To-Do List – Ways To Give

- Make a tribute gift
- Get a puppy calendar (page 24)
- Give Canine Companions merch (page 14)
- Buy through AmazonSmile (page 20)
- Invest in independence
- Drink some St. Francis wine (page 10)



## Volunteering Is Universal

Recently, the Universal Orlando Resort horticulture team helped revamp the Southeast Region campus by donating and planting trees!

Volunteer service is fundamental to the Universal Orlando Resort's core and culture. Their team members immerse themselves throughout the Central Florida community, and Canine Companions is one of the organizations that has benefitted from their generosity.

We are extremely thankful for their committed volunteers who make it possible for us to better serve our clients. They bathe our dogs, sell retail items at graduation, set up fundraising events and provide Team Training lunches.

Their roles as volunteers are as different as their personalities, backgrounds and talents they offer us – but they all share love for the Canine Companions mission. We thank them for their continuous support, including their dedication to improving the campus environment.

Get involved! Visit [canine.org/getinvolved](https://canine.org/getinvolved).

## A Friendlier COVID-19 Screening

For decades, Canine Companions has partnered with service dog organizations that serve those whose needs fall outside of our mission, including Early Alert Canines (EAC). EAC trains service dogs to alert people with diabetes to changing blood sugar levels through their exceptional sense of smell. EAC saw an opportunity to put that sense of smell to use in a new way.

“When the COVID-19 pandemic started, I began working on how dogs could detect the virus through smell as an effective way to ensure safe gatherings,” recalls Carol Edwards, EAC executive director. “Through our partnership with Canine Companions, we were able to successfully train two dogs as COVID-19 Medical Detection Dogs.”

Using dogs from Canine Companions, further trained by EAC’s talented staff for COVID-19 detection or diabetes management just makes “scents”!

We’re proud to partner with organizations, like EAC, to give our dogs alternative career opportunities.



Lee and Canine Companions dog, Deen.

## An Amazing Bond

At a small Quaker school in New Jersey, a student named Lee met Tova, a Canine Companions future service dog, for the first time. “She was a puppy with no interest in anything but chewing on her leash,” says Lee fondly.

Lee’s teacher, Marietta Hanigan, who will soon be raising her eighth Canine Companions puppy, supported Lee’s training of Tova while Lee continued their schooling. “I’d never been so excited!” But the following November, Tova would head to professional training. “I wept every night for weeks, even though I knew Tova was doing something amazing,” says Lee.

Lee’s once bittersweet tears are now happy tears – Tova graduated as a facility dog! Marietta and Lee met her new handler together, and Lee and Marietta recently returned their next puppy, Deen, to start professional training.

## From Volunteer To Dream Career

When Leah became a volunteer puppy raiser for Canine Companions, she turned her lifelong hobby of dog training into a purpose. Her passion for training dogs led her down the path to a career as a service dog trainer.

Leah began raising puppies as a college student pursuing a career in animal science, where she helped launch a successful puppy raising club at Texas Tech University. She quickly knew she wanted to take it a step further.

**“I’m able to connect with and understand what puppy raisers are experiencing throughout this process.”**

After graduation, Leah joined the Canine Companions team as an instructor assistant. She says her own experience as a puppy raiser continues to help her in her job. “I’m able to connect with and understand what puppy raisers are experiencing throughout this process,” she shares.

Becoming a trainer did not end Leah’s puppy raising journey. “I couldn’t imagine not continuing to raise,” says Leah.



## STAFF PUPPY RAISING BY THE NUMBERS

- > **1 in 3 trainers raised puppies prior to joining our team**
- > **1 in 5 staff members have raised Canine Companions puppies**

Join the Canine Companions team at [canine.org/careers](https://canine.org/careers).



## A Dose of Generosity

Gail and Reyn Farley believe that veterinary expenses shouldn’t be a factor that stops people connecting with Canine Companions. That’s why the Michigan couple established the Shannamore Fund for Canine Health.

The fund is designed to help cover non-routine veterinary expenses for Canine Companions dogs in the North Central Region. It’s an effort that’s already paying off.

“The whole point of Canine Companions is to provide help on a basis of need,” says Gail. “My soul is always happy when I hear the Shannamore Fund has helped out.”

We are sincerely grateful for the generosity of the Farleys and their commitment to canine health.



## Finding Nika's Sparkle

Nika lives with hydranencephaly and cerebral palsy. When 9-year-old Nika was matched with Service Dog Waverly in May, there was an instant "sparkle." Nika, who had not been able to go out in a public setting without experiencing extreme anxiety, is now able to not only experience outings, but enjoy them, with a huge smile on her face. Nika can now confidently go to her girl scout troop meetings, to the public library and Target shopping trips, all with Waverly by her side. Now, Nika falls asleep every night with a smile on her

face, as Waverly applies deep pressure across her legs to control Nika's muscle spasms.

"As parents, nothing makes us happier than when Nika expresses true joy, and we have been able to see so many of these moments since having Waverly in our lives," shares Nika's parents, Sarah and Stephen. Sarah and Stephen shared Nika and Waverly's story at the Southwest Region's Sit Stay Sparkle gala.



## Veterans Serving Veterans

American Veterans Post 48, a veterans service organization on Long Island, is deeply committed to serving veterans and their families. When one of its own members received a Canine Companions service dog in 2021, the organization immediately wanted to help.

"When we heard our fellow AmVets member, Kenny, received his service dog, Zeus, we knew we needed to support Canine Companions so even more veterans can receive these life-changing service dogs," says Rosanne Beller, AmVets Post 48 marketing manager. In July, AmVets invited motorcycle enthusiasts to their first annual Polker Run, featuring a tour of the Northeast Region Miller Family Campus, along with live music and a barbecue!



## Honoring Our Veterans

The lines wrapped around the airport, but instead of the crowd holding carry-ons, they waved flags. Washington D.C.'s Capital Chapter volunteers stepped forward with their Canine Companions puppies, patiently seated among the crowd of hundreds. First came the thunderous applause, and then came waving flags, as veterans arrived on their Honor Flight – a special gathering of veterans escorted to visit our national monuments. They came to honor their friends and fellow soldiers, and Canine Companions volunteers and puppies gladly offered their respect with handshakes and wagging tails.

## SIT. STAY. Sparkle.



Sit Stay Sparkle, our signature gala event, was held throughout the country this year, bringing Canine Companions supporters together for an evening to celebrate and benefit our mission.

The events were held on our campuses in Santa Rosa, CA and

New Albany, OH, as well as in Newport Beach, CA, and Seattle, WA. Guests mingled with Canine Companions clients and their service dogs, met adorable puppies, bid on exciting items in our live and silent auctions and listened to heart-warming stories from graduates. Together, the events raised over \$800,000 for Canine Companions to continue to place our expertly trained service dogs with people with disabilities, free of charge.



## It's a Puppy Party!

During October, we celebrated our mission at ABC Fine Wine & Spirits in Florida!

For the fifth year in a row, for every bottle of Tito's Handmade Vodka sold throughout October, Tito's donated \$1 per bottle to Canine Companions in support of our mission. In addition, select ABC stores offered tastings to promote the campaign, with Canine Companions puppies and service dogs in-store for meet-and-greet sessions with customers.

We're grateful for this continued support, which has generated more \$100,000 in donations over the years.

# Charge On, Pegasus!

Pegasus is not only the logo of the University of Central Florida - now it's also the name of a new Canine Companions puppy joining the UCF puppy raising club.

The UCF campus is a wonderful learning ground for our puppies, which may be why the UCF student puppy raising club has been so successful. They have raised 51 dogs and have more than 170 members who help spread awareness of service dogs.

This dedicated group of students raised \$25,000, enough money to name and raise Pegasus. Pegasus goes to class with Meredith Rome. They also attend study sessions and can be seen together around campus. Charge On, Pegasus!



## amazon smile Supports Our Mission

Shopping for the holidays? Give back when you choose Canine Companions as your charity of choice through AmazonSmile.com.

AmazonSmile and the AmazonSmile logo are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates.



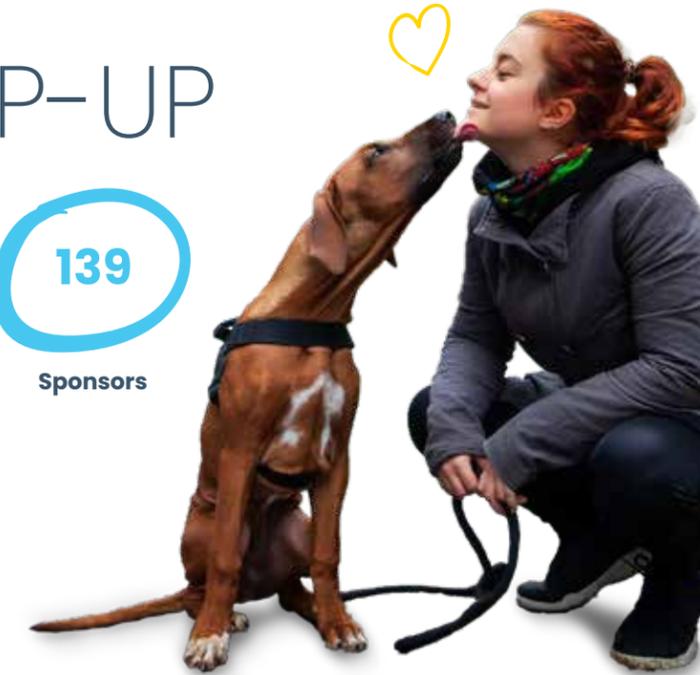
## Puppy Calendar 2023



Celebrate our mission and enjoy 365 days of puppies with the new 2023 Canine Companions Puppy Calendar! Packed with adorable future service dogs, each calendar comes with \$60 in Eukanuba coupons, too. And it's all FREE with a \$25 donation that supports our life-changing mission.

Order now! [canine.org/calendar](http://canine.org/calendar).

# DOG FEST WRAP-UP



## Upcoming Events

### 2022

- National Graduation Day - November 4\*
- Sit Stay Sparkle Seattle - November 5 - Seattle, WA
- Arizona Golf Tournament - November 7 - Chandler, AZ
- Salute Independence - November 9 - New Hyde Park, NY
- Hearts and Heroes - November 29 - New York, NY

### 2023

- National Graduation Day\* - February 10

\*Hybrid in-person/virtual event

## TEAM 2022



More than 130 volunteers and staff gathered in San Diego for TEAM 2022, with more joining us virtually! We announced new programs, shared best practices and attendees forged new relationships. Watch the TEAM 2022 recap now at [canine.org/TEAM22](http://canine.org/TEAM22).



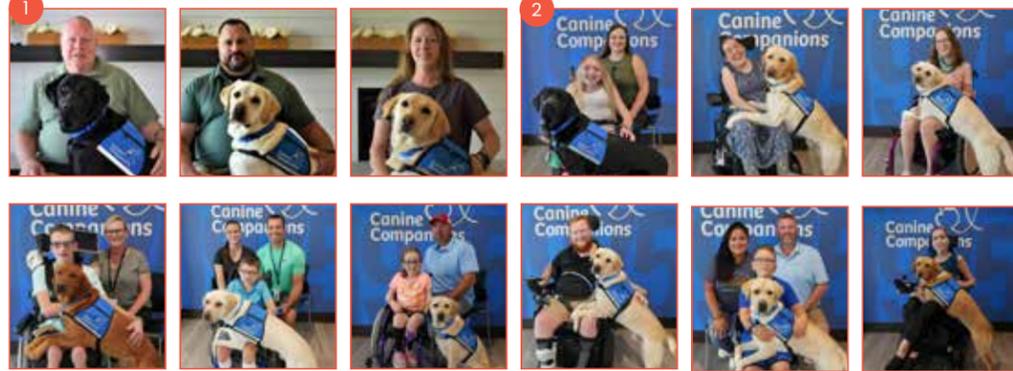
# 2022 Team Training Yearbook

The teams pictured below have been expertly matched during two weeks of Team Training, where handlers learn how to work with their service or facility dog to enhance independence. Congratulations!

## NORTH CENTRAL

**1. JUNE** Bobby with Loyal; Cody with Mathew; Kate with Dellilah.

**2. AUGUST** Brianna & Michelle with Sterling; Emily with Norway; Emma with Zia; Jace & Kathleen with Fairbanks; Jacob, Eric & Michelle with Jax; Maebry & Sean with Ladybug; Spencer with Marco; Vincent, Deven & Elizabeth with Icon; Wen with Haiku.



## NORTHEAST

**1. JULY** Ashley with Ezra; Chris with Cypress; Kara with Benjamin; Maddie & Veronica with Wagner; Michael with Maybie; Michael, Aimee & Stephen with Zachary.

**2. AUGUST** Courtney with LaValle; Heather with Digby; Patricia with Mushu; Terry with Pesto.



## NORTHWEST

**1. MAY** Andrea with Sadie; Erna with Velvet; Jason with Fremont; Joe with Rowdy; Linda with Sam; Marybeth with April; Nate with Adelaide; Rich with Selma.

**2. JUNE** Karson & Denise with Mel.

**3. JULY** Chris with Archie.

**4. AUGUST** Brooks with Whitley; Constance with Della; Josiah, Vanessa & Eric with Tokalon; Kyle, Don & Liz with Breezy; Logan with Vancouver; Mary with Papaya; Mike with Primrose; Molly with Marie; Patrick & Christine with Euro; Toni with Fidget.



## SOUTHEAST

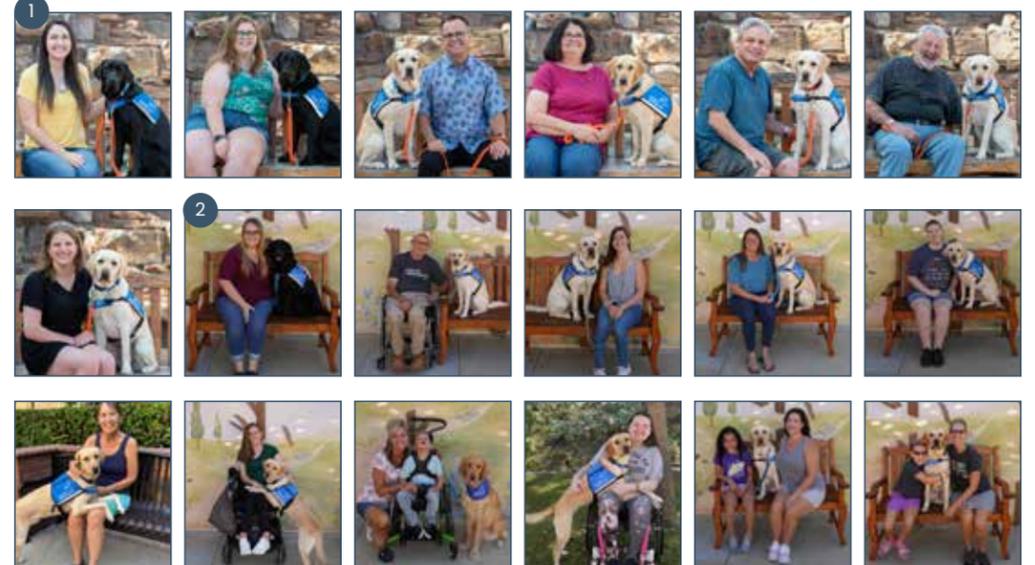
**1. AUGUST** Adrian & Ana with Seamus; Angie with Noe; Betsie with Kristoff; Casey & Janet with Sparky; Grace with Hillary; Jake & Maria with Mercer; Jennifer with Vertex; Jessica with Tomales; Kelsey with Barley; Kim with Lennon; Scarlett and Megan with Maya; Sean, Debra & Robin with Oscar; Trish with Rourke; Yvonne with Erik.



## SOUTHWEST

**1. JUNE** Amber with Cadet; Karen with Lenox; Steve with Zochi; Steven with Flip; Elizabeth with Rock; Sydney with Patty; Jim with Koogle.

**2. AUGUST** Bethany with Sushi; Ed with Jackie; Elizabeth with Edge; Jessica with Wicker; Kamryn with Hope; Katie with Vicar; Kylie with Salvador; Ryden & Heather with Santana; Skylar with Farina; Sloane & Sharon with Briggs; Zoey & Kara with Eros.



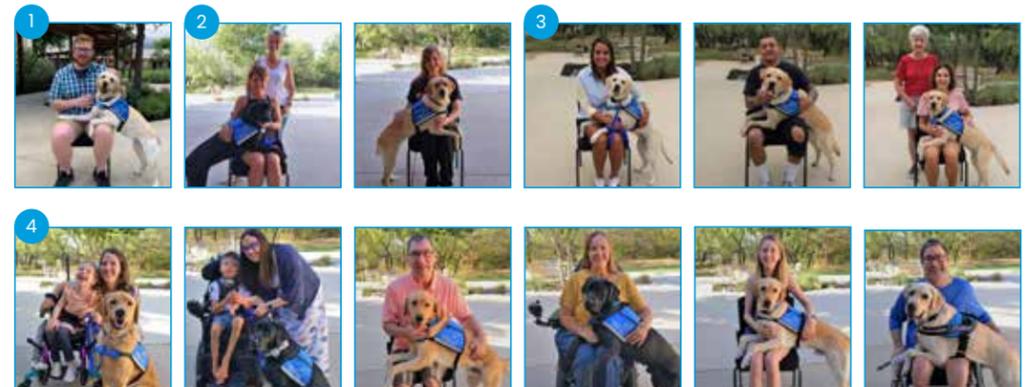
## SOUTH CENTRAL

**1. MAY** Daniel with Oriana.

**2. JUNE** Marcy & Mia with Honesty; Sherry with Frenchie.

**3. JULY** Erica with Patches; Joel with Chinook; Joelle & Lori with Whirl.

**4. AUGUST** Annabelle & Shelley with Weller; Benjamin & Laura with Merlin; James with Austin; Lou Ann with Oslo; Mikayla with Areyu; Sean with Lorenz.



Invest in independence now. Return the envelope on page 12 with your gift, or visit [canine.org/gift](https://canine.org/gift).

## Board Members

### OFFICERS

**John McKinney**

CHAIR

Healdsburg, CA

**Leslie Hennessy, PhD**

TREASURER

Colorado Springs, CO

**Steve Boyd**

SECRETARY

Dallas, TX

### MEMBERS

**John Elliott**

Naperville, IL

**Anne Gittinger**

BOARD CHAIR EMERITUS

Seattle, WA

**Mel Gottlieb**

Rose Bay, Australia

**Barrie Graham**

Novato, CA

**Russ Gurevitch, DVM**

Penn Grove, CA

**John Hopen**

Sebastopol, CA

**Carolyn Hrach**

Sewickley, PA

**Judge Ed Kinkeade**

Irving, TX

**Chris Kittredge**

Santa Rosa, CA

**Robert Lavie**

Dallas, TX

**Michelle Ludwig, MD**

Houston, TX

**John Miller**

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Naples, FL

**Juergen Rottler**

Gaienhofen, Germany

**Robin Sanchez**

Winter Garden, FL

**Jean Schulz**

BOARD CHAIR EMERITUS

Santa Rosa, CA

**Bill White**

Winter Park, FL

**Emily Williams**

Santa Rosa, CA

**Paige Mazzoni**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Santa Rosa, CA



PO Box 446  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446  
Address Service Requested

*If you receive duplicate issues,  
please contact us and pass extras  
along to friends.*

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

By Canine  
Companions  
for Independence

## Honorary & Associate Board

**Judy Allen**

Palm Desert, CA

**Jack Hanna**

Powell, OH

**Dean & Gerda Koontz**

Newport Beach, CA

**John Beere**

LPCC PRESIDENT, EX-OFFICIO

Manassas, VA

**Terry Levin**

San Francisco, CA

**Madeleine Paulson**

Rancho Santa Fe, CA

**Jon Provost**

Santa Rosa, CA

## Training Centers

**Headquarters**

**& Northwest Region**

Santa Rosa, CA

**Southwest Region**

Oceanside, CA

**Southeast Region**

Orlando, FL

**Northeast Region**

Medford, NY

**North Central Region**

New Albany, OH

**South Central Region**

Irving, TX

Email: [info@canine.org](mailto:info@canine.org) Website: [canine.org](http://canine.org)

Phone: 1-800-572-BARK (2275)

©2022 Canine Companions. All rights reserved.



National Corporate Partner

**Eukanuba**

See how facility Dog Odessa is inspiring kids at Children's Hospital of Orange County. See page 6 for more.