

THE COMPANION



2025 – 2075

The Next 50 Years



As the year draws to a close, many of us reflect on past accomplishments and we certainly have much to celebrate. But in this milestone 50th year, we're focused on what lies ahead. The future of Canine Companions is full of promise – built on the solid foundation we've laid since 1975.

We're setting bold goals for the years to come; goals that are only possible thanks to the dedication of our supporters, clients, volunteers and staff. In the coming years, we aim to expand our breeding program, increase community outreach and develop additional field offices. We're working to reduce wait times and serve more people in need of service and facility dogs.

Recently, Canine Companions welcomed Early Alert Canines, a leading organization that trains service dogs for people with diabetes, to become part of our program. This exciting opportunity is in line with our focus to innovate to help more people with disabilities live with greater independence – including clients with insulin-dependent diabetes.

The next 50 years will be guided by the same commitment that has carried us this far – our mission of changing the lives of people with disabilities by providing them with a highly trained service dog at no cost. To support this future, we have launched a Strategic Growth Fund to ensure financial stability and operational flexibility as we grow and strive to become the most recognized and impactful service dog organization in the world. With greater recognition comes greater reach. We're working diligently to draw in new volunteers, donors, clients and partners who will power our mission forward. Most importantly, we hope to reduce the wait for one of our dogs.

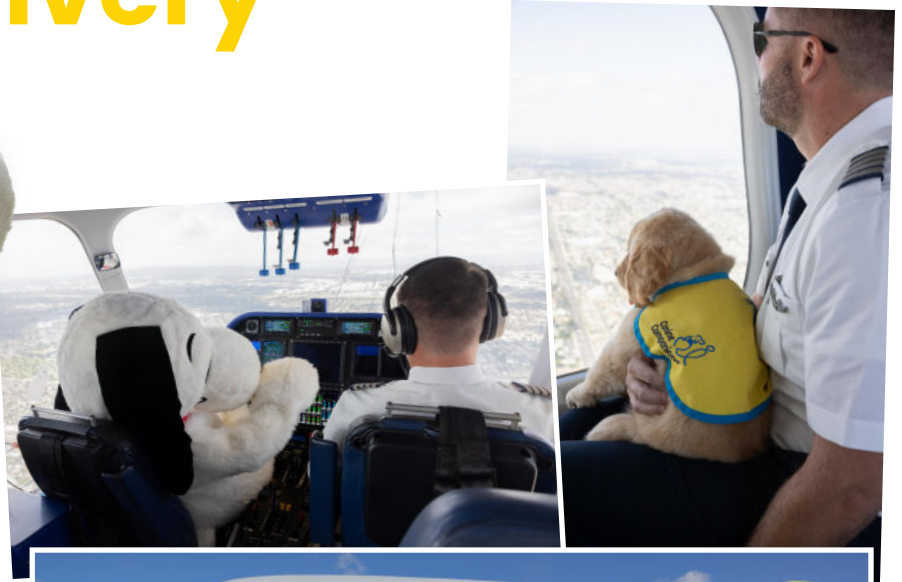
Thank you for being part of the Canine Companions community. Your continued support makes everything we do possible and helps light the way to an even brighter future.

Kind regards,

Paige Mazzoni
Chief Executive Officer

John Sabo
National Board Chair

A Doggone Special Delivery



Three young Canine Companions future service dogs were delivered to their puppy raisers on the Goodyear Blimp for the first time in its iconic 100-year history. The puppies were joined by arguably the most famous dog of all, Snoopy. This inaugural flight marks an exciting new mode of transportation for these future service dogs, who typically travel by plane to their volunteer puppy raisers across the country. The heartwarming journey with this special cast of characters takes place in a year when all three brands are celebrating historic milestones: **100 years of the Goodyear Blimp, 75 years of Peanuts® and 50 years of Canine Companions.**



**Make more life-changing service
dog matches possible.
Donate now!**



35 YEARS OF Exceptional Service Dogs

Javier Robles knows about life-changing situations, both good and bad. At the young age of 16, Javier fell out of a tree, upending life as he knew it. The fall caused a spinal cord injury, leaving him with quadriplegia.

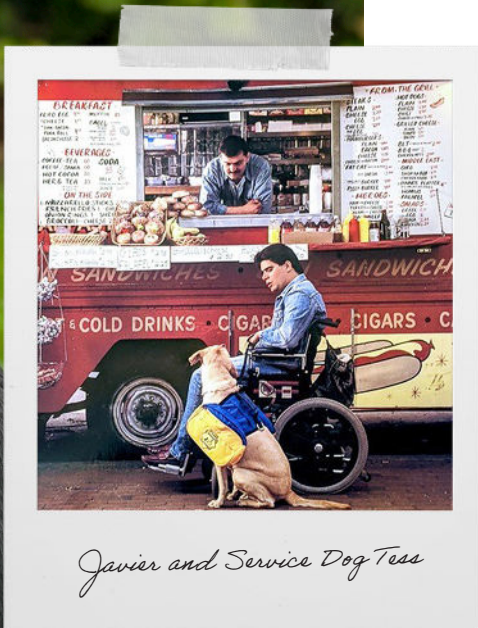
With a goal to join the Air Force prior to his injury, Javier had to pivot when he returned to high school. With the support of a kind guidance counselor, Javier focused on his grades and embarked on a future he hadn't dreamed of prior to his accident. He earned a degree from Rutgers University and a Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall Law School. Javier is now faculty and assistant teaching professor at Rutgers in the Department of Kinesiology and Health. He's also a husband, father of two and a passionate advocate for disability rights.

He didn't do it alone. Javier has had life-changing Canine Companions service dogs since 1990 to help him live with greater independence.

"It was difficult to go from doing everything for yourself to often having to depend on others," Javier recalls. **"Tess gave me the independence that I continue to have to this day. She attended law school with me, picked up my books and opened doors."**

Over the decades, Javier was partnered with four exceptional service dogs: Tess, Janus, Delbert and just recently, Gonzalo.

"My fourth dog, Gonzalo, is continuing the legacy of Tess, Janus and Delbert. They've all helped me raise my kids alongside my wife, become a university professor, enjoy my hobbies and live an amazing life."



Javier and Service Dog Tess

A Smooth Recovery **WITH VELOUR**

When Nico was admitted to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in August 2024 to await a heart transplant, he didn't just meet doctors and nurses – he met Kaylor and "rookie" Facility Dog Velour.

Nico helped Velour adjust to the hospital in her earliest working days and, in return, Velour supported Nico through his toughest days. Kaylor worked with child life and physical therapy teams to include Velour in Nico's rehabilitation. When Nico felt weak or homesick, Velour lifted his spirits.

After his heart transplant, Velour played a key role in his recovery – helping Nico take his very first steps post-surgery, encouraging him to reach and stretch through trained interactive games, and more.

"It made all the difference in his recovery," says Cara, Nico's mother. "It honestly would have been an entirely different experience without Velour. Nico was using his voice and speaking to us with her there."



Shop our holiday gift guide and make spirits bright!

Discover "Andy: A Dog's Tale," a heartwarming children's book about courage and kindness.

Get the 2026 puppy calendar, free with a \$25 donation, featuring adorable pups and \$60 in Eukanuba savings.

Sponsor a Puppy as a gift and delight loved ones with a kit and uplifting updates as their pup trains to change lives.

Plus, browse cozy gear, cute accessories and 50th anniversary retro merchandise that gives back to dogs and people alike.

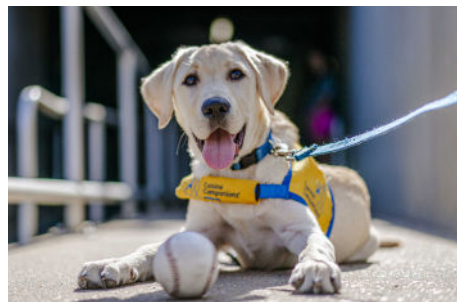
Shop now at canine.org/giftguide

FROM PUPPY TO SERVICE DOG: Future Service Dogs in the Spotlight

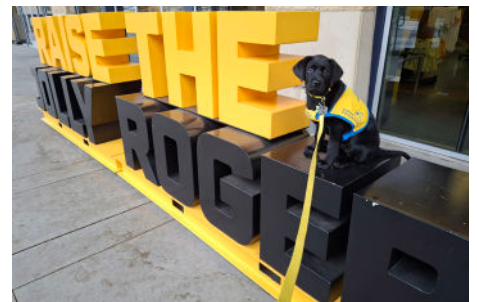
For decades, Canine Companions has had the support of media stations, sports teams and corporations through the promotion of a special future service dog in the spotlight. We're grateful to all of our supporters who advance our mission through these partnerships.



Future Service Dog Champion (U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum)



Future Service Dog Diamond (Pensacola Blue Wahoos)



Future Service Dog Maz (CBS News Pittsburgh KDKA)



Future Service Dog Docket (University of San Diego School of Law)



Future Service Dog Scoop (CBS News 24/7 & CBS News Bay Area)



Service Dog in Professional Training Paris (NBC4 Columbus)



Service Dog Lonestar (CBS News Texas)

Read more about our corporate, sports and media puppies on their journeys to become service dogs.





For 50 years, Canine Companions has been a leader in the service dog industry, changing thousands of lives. In our next 50 years and beyond, we have four major goals. These guiding principles will allow us to train and place service dogs with even more people with disabilities and ensure Canine Companions continues to be the preeminent service dog provider.

RECOGNIZED

leader in service dog industry

Foster 100% public understanding of the importance of service dogs for people with disabilities.

Act as the go-to industry expert for all service dog inquiries and opportunities.



Looking to in our 50



ASPIRE

to ensure all who qualify can receive a service dog

Expand our breeding capabilities to increase our capacity.

Remove financial barriers for volunteers and clients to make service dogs more accessible.

Increase field offices to support communities locally.

Support Future Independence -
Scan to Give Now



STRONG PRESENCE



and engagement in all 50 states

Increase accessibility in all communities.

Equip volunteers with resources to reach new communities.



the Future

50th Year



EXPAND

total lives impacted

Leverage canine research.

Increase the number of total working, active dogs.

Increase working dog success rate.



A Legacy for a **Strong Future**

In 2022, Washington State University freshman Alyssa Fortson wandered through a campus activity fair and stopped when she saw a group of students with a Canine Companions puppy. Instantly, she knew she had found her community. Alyssa signed up that day, later becoming club president and mentor. Along the way, she learned fellow member Shannon Prendergast's tragic story.

In 2017, 20-year-old Shannon was driving from Seattle back to Washington State University with her Canine Companions puppy, Lottie, in a kennel behind her. She was planning to make the WSU puppy raising club official that day. She was killed by a distracted driver on his phone. Lottie survived and later returned to Shannon's family, where she became a Canine Companions therapy dog.

The other students involved with puppy raising at WSU knew they wanted to uphold Shannon's legacy and renamed the club in her memory: Prendergast Pups.

"We've become ingrained in the school culture," says Alyssa. "Everyone knows Canine Companions, why we're raising and what Shannon's legacy is. Even the campus tour guides mention Prendergast Pups as a club to join at WSU!"

The club is gaining members, and more students on campus are raising puppies. Alyssa hopes that it will continue to grow and support Canine Companions for years to come.

"As puppy raisers, we know we can change a person's life," she says. "But I never really knew how many people were being touched by these puppies – the ripple effect is huge."

College puppy raising clubs like Prendergast Pups are the future of Canine Companions. Students are our future trainers, veterinarians and supporters, shaping the next generation of life-changing service dog teams.



Medical Alert Dog Ricki and Service Dog TJ



Fostering Independence

Innovation is an important part of any successful pilot program, and the Puget Sound Field Office is no different. The Seattle office relies on a canine foster program to serve the community through local placements with our expertly trained service dogs.

Volunteer fosters play a pivotal role in each service dog's journey, opening their hearts and their homes to dogs in professional training in Seattle.

By providing transportation to and from the field office during the week, volunteer fosters ensure dogs are on campus for training while offering them a safe, caring home during evenings and weekends until they find their perfect match.

Learn more at canine.org/seattle

EXPANDING OUR PROGRAM WITH Early Alert Canines

Canine Companions is expanding our ability to help people with disabilities by merging with Early Alert Canines, a nonprofit that trains and places service dogs specializing in diabetic alert.

Over the past 15 years, Early Alert Canines has selected 63 Canine Companions dogs that are better suited for scent-based medical work to become medical alert dogs – providing life-saving early warning to changing blood glucose levels among insulin-dependent individuals.

Combining Canine Companions and Early Alert Canines will result in a stronger ability to deliver on the organizations' combined missions to provide life-changing service dogs to people with disabilities.

We are delighted to welcome the clients, volunteers and staff from Early Alert Canines into the Canine Companions family. Our future is brighter together.



Investing in Independence

Nearly 40 years ago, Vince and Pat Foglia's son, Vince Jr., had a baseball accident that left him blind in one eye. While in the eye hospital, they saw the value of what a trained service dog could do.

In 1990, after seeing an ad for Canine Companions, Vince and Pat were immediately drawn into our mission. "We were already supporting charities for people with disabilities, and it doesn't take you long to love a dog," Vince says.

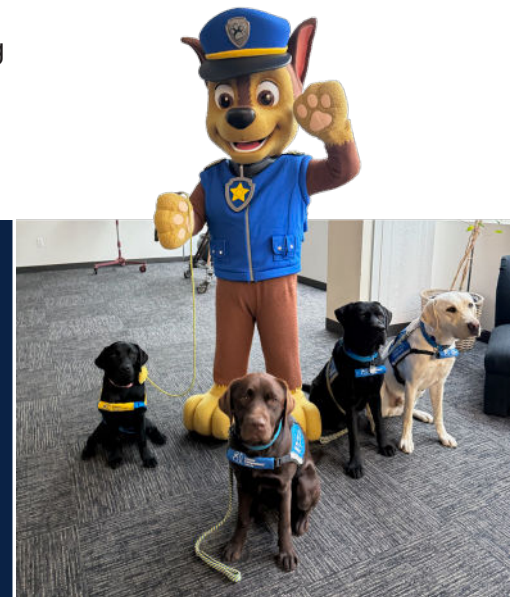
For 35 years, Vince and Pat, through the Foglia Family Foundation, have continued giving because of the life-changing impact they see in human-canine partnerships. "Canine Companions genuinely helps people – veterans, people with disabilities. We get a lot of satisfaction knowing people are getting the dogs they need. Pat and I feel the mission is made for us."

This year, the Foggias have made a significant investment in our Strategic Growth Fund to ensure the future success of Canine Companions. The fund supports financial assistance for clients and volunteers, creating sustainable, scalable dog transportation, and expanding our breeding and puppy raising programs.

"We're particularly drawn to support the future of the prison puppy raising program. The puppies do a lot for those incarcerated men and women, and the handlers do so much for the dogs. We want to see it grow. They're making independence possible—and it's priceless to us."

Breaking News: What's the Scoop?

Future service dog Scoop was joined by her friends in professional training and Chase from Nickelodeon's PAW Patrol who awarded Scoop an honorary membership to the PAW Patrol gang of working dogs.





A NEW KIND OF MEDICINE

Nora was getting ready for school one morning when her life changed. She accidentally burned her arm with a curling iron, but didn't feel it. An MRI revealed fluid buildup in her spinal cord, and immediate brain surgery was required to prevent paralysis. Forty-eight hours later, Nora was told movement was going to be key to her recovery, but motivation was hard to find.

That's when she met Eddie, a Canine Companions therapy dog, and his handler Jim Caprio, a 15 year Canine Companions volunteer and fundraiser.

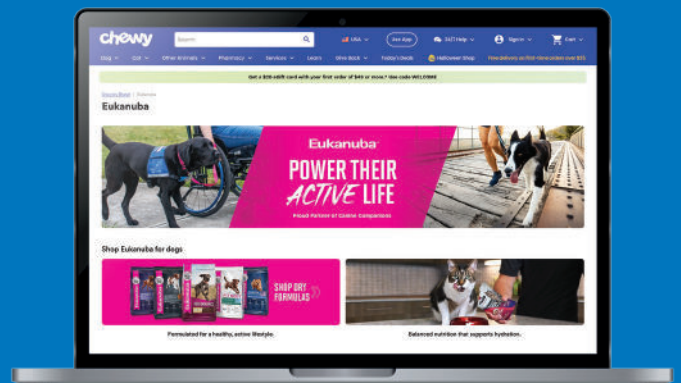
"Nora's demeanor changed as soon as she saw Eddie," Jim says. "He had her reaching and moving just to pet him."

Through laughter, visits and gentle encouragement, Nora began to regain her independence. Her mom shared, "Eddie helped my daughter in a way that medicine doesn't."

Jim has big dreams for our therapy dog program: "Through the therapy dog program, you can increase the footprint of Canine Companions," Jim says. "With over 500 teams and counting, we're reaching so many more people and doing so much good."

From **chewy** Cart to Canine Companions

When you shop for your pet's favorites online at Chewy, you can make a difference for Canine Companions—thanks to our friends at Eukanuba. Place your order through our special link, canine.org/chewy, and Chewy will contribute 10% of your purchase to help us provide expertly trained service dogs (excludes autoship). Whether you're stocking up on Eukanuba nutrition or picking out toys, treats and essentials, your shopping helps change lives.





Celebrating 50 Years of **Service Dogs**

Canine Companions hosted its 2025 National Conference in Sonoma County, California this past July — celebrating 50 years of service dogs and life-changing independence. Volunteers, clients, partners and staff gathered for a weekend of connection and inspiration.

Highlights included breakout sessions, campus tours and a reception at the Jean and Charles Schulz Campus in Santa Rosa. Guests also explored the new Nelson Schulz Canine Health and Wellness Center.

Attendees heard from CEO Paige Mazzoni, organization leaders, and Racquel White, vice president of corporate affairs at Royal Canin. Sessions focused on disability inclusion, volunteerism and the prison puppy raising program.

Thank you to our sponsors for making this incredible event possible.

Read more by scanning the QR code.



EVENTS

Independence is Golden – Seattle

November 1 – Seattle, WA

Salute Independence

November 5 – Bay Shore, NY

Kinkeade Campus 10th Anniversary Celebration

November 6 – Irving, TX

National Graduation Day

November 7

Valley of the Sun Golf Classic

November 17 – Chandler, AZ

National Graduation Day

February 13



WEST IS THE BEST

For Caleb, who has connective tissue and nervous system disorders, Service Dog West makes managing his health possible. West can retrieve his medicine bag, get him a water bottle and assist him when he doesn't have energy.

Beyond the physical assistance, West has given Caleb a sense of independence and confidence, including the ability to travel across Oklahoma as a Future Farmers of America (FFA) State Officer to visit chapters and hold speaking engagements.

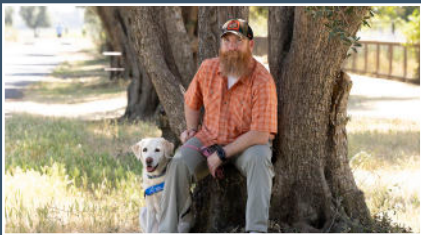
Caleb shares, "One of the biggest reasons I ran for state office was because I wanted to serve and make a real difference in the lives of FFA members. Thanks to West, I see that difference happen every day."

For Caleb, West is more than just a service dog. He's a partner in everything he does.

"This incredible dog hasn't just walked alongside me; he's reintroduced me to a life without boundaries. With West by my side, anything is possible. West is the best!"

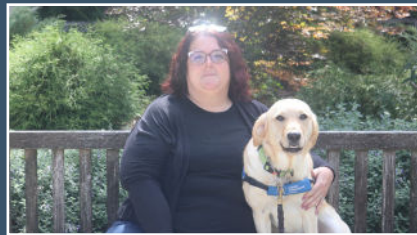


STAFF UPDATES



Daryl Sager
Veteran Programs Manager

We're pleased to welcome Daryl Sager to the Canine Companions team as national veteran programs manager. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force Reserves. Additionally, Daryl served as a firefighter in Santa Rosa, California. He is a Canine Companions graduate partnered with his service dog, Adria, in 2020. We look forward to seeing how his unique lived experience will help him as he works with other veterans within our programs.



Jessica Reiss-Cardinali
Program Director Northeast Region

Jessica joined Canine Companions in 2006. For the past 19 years, she served as the client services manager for the Northeast Region. Jessica has been instrumental in the rollout of our veterans program both nationally and regionally. Jessica earned a postgraduate certificate in working with veterans living with PTSD from Stony Brook University in 2019 and became a certified expressive arts creator through One Peace Love in 2025. We welcome her into her new role!



Carol Edwards
*Executive Director,
Medical Alert Dog Program*

Carol is executive director of the Medical Alert Dog Program at Canine Companions. She co-founded The Armstrong Project in 1999, pioneering research showing dogs can detect hypoglycemia, which led to Dogs4Diabetics, where she directed training for 85 teams. In 2010, she founded Early Alert Canines, providing service dogs to people with insulin-dependent diabetes. Today, Carol continues this life-saving work at Canine Companions, empowering individuals and families through transformational medical alert dog partnerships.



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 View it online at canine.org/yearbook

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