

50
Canine
Companions®

2025 Annual Report



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2025 IMPACT

603

working dogs placed

2,832

active clients across all 50 states

8,543

service and facility dogs placed since 1975

1,560

unique clients seen

Growth for Independent Futures

As we look to our next 50 years, our North Star points to a singular goal: reduce the wait time for a Canine Companions dog.

- We’re investing in the growth of our breeding and training programs to raise more exceptional puppies and improve the success rates of the dogs we place.

- Our network of puppy raisers is expanding — including partnerships with prison and college programs — to help prepare more dogs for successful service careers.
- We’re scaling up our training, client services and puppy raising programs.
- We’re implementing planning to increase our reach through new field office locations.

These actions are being done thoughtfully and carefully to reduce our waitlist so that every qualified person who could benefit from a service dog can receive one.

Fifty Years of Growth... AND COUNTING

2025 marked the 50th anniversary of Canine Companions – an extraordinary milestone that gave us the opportunity to celebrate how far we've come, together. Fifty years ago, our founder and a determined young woman with a disability created the modern service dog concept. From that bold idea and the placement of her service dog, a life-changing industry was born.

Today, Canine Companions stands as the leader in the service dog field. However, this milestone doesn't belong to the organization alone – it belongs to all of you, too.

Our volunteers, donors, graduates, staff and partners have built something remarkable together. Over the past year, we've had the privilege of hearing stories from many of the people who have shaped Canine Companions over the decades. Their stories are powerful reminders that this mission has always been driven by community and an unwavering belief in what our dogs can do.

In 2025, we celebrated many meaningful accomplishments. We placed more than 600 working dogs and continued expanding programs to reach more people in need. Additionally, we exceeded donation goals, implemented our strategic growth fund and increased awareness through major media and outreach events. The integration of Early Alert Canines into Canine Companions expands our ability to support individuals with insulin-dependent diabetes,

bringing the independence and security of a service dog partnership to even more people.

And yet, the most important lesson of our 50th year may be this: our work is far from finished.

The demand for service dogs continues to grow, and we know that too many individuals are still waiting for the life-changing partnership a Canine Companions dog can provide. As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, we see tremendous opportunity

to build on the momentum of this anniversary year. We hope you'll join us on this journey.

We're investing in the growth of our breeding and training programs to raise more future service dogs and improve the success rates of the dogs we place. Our network of puppy raisers, including partnerships with prison and college programs, is growing to help better prepare more service dogs sooner.



Thank you for being part of the Canine Companions family and for helping us carry this mission forward. The next 50 years begin now, and with your support, the future is full of possibilities.

Kind regards,

Paige Mazzoni
Chief Executive Officer

John Sabo
National Board Chair

Together

WE'RE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ABC World News Tonight
with David Muir
Associated Press
CBS News
CNN

Fox News Channel
Good Morning America
MSN
Newsweek
NBC News

People
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
Yahoo!

11,500

media articles

144%

increase in media over 2024

13.6B

people reached

\$6M

total raised in 2025 events

\$4.2M

raised during our 50th anniversary galas

The gala held in Orlando, Florida, is the first event in our history to raise over \$1M!

\$1.7M

raised by nine DogFest events



Scan the QR code to view our 50th anniversary videos.

6,181

volunteers in 61 volunteer chapters

215

therapy dogs certified in 2025

2.4M

volunteer hours in 2025

24,238

hours volunteer therapy dog teams worked in 2025

Snoopy and Goodyear

In honor of Canine Companions' 50th anniversary, Peanuts® 75th anniversary and the Goodyear Blimp's 100th anniversary, Canine Companions puppies joined world-famous Snoopy high in the sky on the Goodyear blimp — the first time puppies have ever been flown on the blimp in its history. The puppies were on an extra special journey to their eagerly waiting puppy raisers, touching down at Goodyear's airbase in Los Angeles.



Saturday Night Live

With all of the buzz around our 50th year, Canine Companions shined as the leader in the service dog industry when our Canine Companions dogs were parodied by NBC's Saturday Night Live. The sketch generated significant media impressions and a well-received counter-sketch of our own, featuring our dogs in professional training watching SNL's skit.

Andy Children's Book

Our animated short film, "Andy: A Dog's Tale," hit shelves this year as a new children's book written by John Kelly and designed by Amy Wheless. Special book-signing events were held across the country featuring the film's Executive Producer Jean Schulz and Director Jamy Wheless.



Katie Couric Media

Katie Couric Unleashed, sponsored by Eukanuba, shared the touching story of U.S. Army ret. Col. Dave Rozelle and Service Dog Kylynn. Kylynn was reunited with her formerly incarcerated puppy raiser Patti, as Katie, Patti and Dave spent time with students from the University of Delaware Collar Scholars puppy raising club.

The Best Medicine Has Four Paws



Jett was born with a rare, terminal genetic illness. But with Clark supporting him, he is persevering.

Jett was just six months old when he was diagnosed with Hurler Syndrome. Day-to-day life for him looks different than your typical child. Daily medication, frequent doctor appointments and therapies, all while enduring vision and severe hearing loss and endless pain. But Jett does it all with an infectious smile, a zest for life, and joy for each and every day.

Jett received a bone marrow transplant at 8 months old in hopes of slowing the progression of his illness. Many complications and surgeries have followed. His life is filled with daily challenges most people never have to think about.

“ I have dreamed of Clark my entire life.

Jett struggles with his mobility, daily living and physical tasks, anxiety and so much more. Tasks as simple as pulling off his own socks were nearly impossible. He felt isolated and disconnected from the world around him. But that would change.

Enter Canine Companions Service Dog Clark — the best medicine Jett ever received.

Clark helps Jett with practical, everyday tasks, like removing those socks, picking up dropped sports equipment and getting Jett's shoes. He also provides support and companionship in a way that no human ever could. Clark is Jett's non-judgmental best friend. The joy and relief he brings to Jett is immeasurable.

When Jett was matched with Clark at Team Training, with the sincerity that only a child can have, he told his mom, "I have dreamed of Clark my entire life."

Clark didn't just give Jett companionship. He gave Jett a sense of pride and independence, and the whole family hope.





Exceptional Dogs for EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE®

THE FIRST 25 YEARS: BUILDING A MOVEMENT



1975

A bold idea becomes reality. The modern service dog concept is born with the placement of the first dog, Abdul.

“With Abdul, I realized I needed to find new ways to accomplish things. He made that possible.”

– Kerry Knaus

1980

A single act of generosity sparks a lifetime of giving and a culture of philanthropy that fuels the mission.

“I donated \$10 after seeing a story. And I’ve kept giving ever since.”

– Anne Gittinger, Board Chair Emeritus, Hero Society Member

1981

The volunteer model takes root as the first breeder caretakers and puppy raisers step forward. This foundation still powers the organization today.

1985



The impact becomes undeniable as service dog partnerships transform lives across the country.

“I’m proud to have the Schulz name associated with an organization that does so much good.”

– Jean Schulz, Board Chair Emeritus, Hero Society Member

1982

“I’m so proud to have been part of the Canine Companions family for so long. All beginnings are difficult, but they’re also kind of fun because nobody knows where they’re going to go. Look at where they are now!”

– Dr. Ruth Daniels, veterinarian from 1982–2019

1985

Life-changing partnerships begin to multiply.

“Hearing Dog Chelsea gave me so much more than sound awareness —she gave me confidence.”

– Paul Ogden, longest client since 1985



1987

Lifelong partnerships define the mission.

“I haven’t been without a Canine Companions service dog for more than a few days since 1987. And those few days without one were eye-opening. I felt like I was thrown back 30 years to life before I got my first service dog, Carol.”

– Bari Schlesinger, six-time graduate since 1987

1988



From humble beginnings to growing national infrastructure, the organization begins to scale.

“ From barns to campuses — it’s been incredible to witness.”
– **Clark Pappas, retired director of client services, on staff since 1988**

1993

The Heritage Society is established, creating a lasting legacy of planned giving to sustain the mission for generations.

1994

“ In the next 50 years, I hope Canine Companions opens a campus on Mars.”



– **Ken Reid, retired senior instructor, on staff since 1994**

1995

The first prison puppy raising program launches, introducing an innovative model that transforms lives on both sides of the leash.

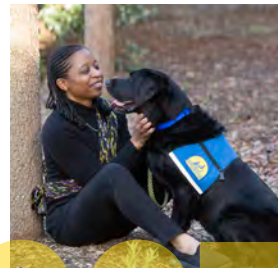
2000

The Southeast Region campus opens, marking a major milestone in national expansion and setting the stage for future growth.

2004

The first facility dog is placed in a criminal justice setting, expanding impact beyond individuals to entire systems and communities.

“ We ask people to talk about the hardest moments of their lives. These dogs help make that possible.”
– **Victim advocate**



The Veterans Initiative™ launches, extending the mission to those who served and opening a new chapter of impact.

2007

Service dogs are placed with veterans with PTSD for the first time, transforming lives through support for invisible wounds.

2015

The South Central Region Baylor Scott & White Health Kinkeade Training Center opens, increasing national training capacity.

“ Canine Companions has allowed me to look forward to each day eagerly... He gives me confidence I haven’t had in years.”
– **Bryan, veteran and service dog recipient**

2020

2025

A transformational milestone year:

- Merger with Early Alert Canines expands support to individuals with diabetes
- More than 600 working dogs placed in a single year, reflecting unprecedented scale and demand

“ Together, we can create more life-changing partnerships.”
– **Paige Mazzoni, Chief Executive Officer**



The North Central Region relocates to the New Albany, Ohio campus, strengthening infrastructure for future growth.

THE NEXT 25 YEARS: SCALING IMPACT NATIONWIDE



The “Win-Win” of Prison Programs

It’s not a frequent occurrence for incarcerated individuals to have the opportunity to change strangers’ lives for the better. At Southeastern Correctional Institution in Ohio, the possibilities are just beginning.

The SCI prison puppy raising program welcomed the first two Canine Companions puppies, Mojo and Lancaster, in 2024. Thanks to the dedication of two incarcerated puppy raisers, a major milestone was achieved in November 2025 – the matriculation of those first puppies raised in the prison program.

Volunteer Christi Bartman has played a major role in getting the SCI prison program off the ground. Not only does she co-raise puppies with the prison, but she also teaches training classes.

“Sometimes I’m an instructor and sometimes I’m a cheerleader,” Christi says. “I get to see the sheer joy that dog has created in their life.”

Canine Companions has 25 active prison puppy raising programs nationwide, and the program’s success is leading to further expansion. Puppies raised in correctional facilities are more likely to graduate as service dogs. The benefit isn’t just for Canine Companions, either – recidivism rates are between 0-5% for incarcerated handlers.

“They’ve told me, ‘Some of us have children, but we can’t see them, and we can’t hold them. This gives us something to care about and care for,’” Christi remarks. “It’s just such a win-win. Truly, everybody benefits.”

Prison Program Impact

25

prison programs
5 new in 2025

330+

incarcerated puppy
raisers

176

puppies placed in
prisons in 2025

Life Lessons From Pauley



College Program Impact

29

college clubs
8 new in 2025

82

puppies placed in
college clubs in 2025

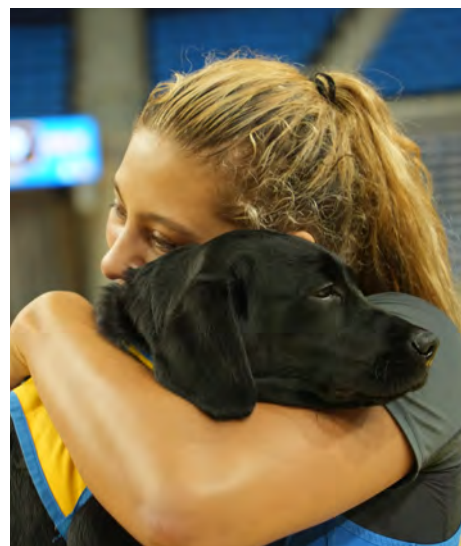
College life for Kyubin and Audrey is busier than most. Both are fourth year UCLA students pursuing multiple majors and preparing for their futures. While they didn't know each other from classes, they found themselves spending plenty of time together as volunteer puppy raisers for Pauley, a Canine Companions future service dog in the UCLA Collar Scholars puppy raising club.

Kyubin wanted her final year of college to be meaningful. "It felt like a really profound way to give back and change a life," she says. Her friend was already involved with the club, and Kyubin was eager to join.

Audrey found the Collar Scholars at an activity fair and was instantly drawn to the dogs. "It's been a growth opportunity to raise Pauley," she says. "Looking through

his eyes makes me appreciate all the good things that are out there."

Despite their hectic schedules, both students say Pauley reminds them to slow down and be present. "People move so quickly here," Kyubin says. "But when they see Pauley, their whole expression changes. Students rushing between classes often stop to greet him, their stress evaporating for a moment."



Pauley is also being raised with the support of the 2026 NCAA Champion Women's Basketball team, who play in Pauley Pavilion. He's a familiar face at practices and has joined the team courtside. "Everyone on the team is so happy around Pauley," Kyubin and Audrey share. "He's been a great help to the team's mental health. It's really rewarding."

Raising Pauley isn't just about preparing a service dog. It's about community, purpose, and the joy of one puppy brightening an entire campus. Through him, Audrey and Kyubin have learned to stay present and find meaning in the smallest moments — lessons they'll carry long after Pauley moves on to change a life.

Veterinary Volunteerism for **47** Years

Dr. Russ Gurevitch never considered himself a traditional volunteer. Instead of raising puppies or planning events, he offered something uniquely his own: his veterinary expertise. Since 1978, he has donated his time and services to Canine Companions, making him the organization's longest serving continuous volunteer.

His involvement began when a dog needed surgery for a ligament tear. After that, he continued taking on more veterinary cases as his interest in the mission deepened. In the late 1980s, he joined the breeding committee, dedicated to producing service dogs from the healthiest, strongest lines. With Dr. Gurevitch's medical knowledge, the program became more science driven and increasingly effective.

"I made a promise when I graduated from veterinary school that I would never turn away anyone who couldn't afford care," he says. "I'm proud to say I've kept that promise. Canine Companions' mission aligned with that. I couldn't say no."

His commitment extended far beyond veterinary work. For over 35 years, Russ has also served on the Canine Companions national board of directors, taking on yet another volunteer role. Some memories stand out vividly, especially the opening of new facilities in the Northeast and North Central Regions.



“ I would never turn away anyone who couldn't afford care.

"The original buildings were inadequate — more like barns and chicken coops," Russ recalls. "Staff members even worked from offices in the kennels. What struck me wasn't the lack of resources, but how passionately everyone did so much with so

little. Helping bring proper facilities to those regions meant the world to me."

Each year, board members are asked whether they still feel connected to the mission, and for Dr. Gurevitch, the answer is still

overwhelmingly "yes." Looking ahead, he is excited by the growth of volunteerism in prison and college puppy raising programs. Ultimately, he hopes to see more people matched with healthy, happy service and facility dogs — the goal that has motivated his decades of volunteerism.

A Year in Puppies!

148

active breeder dogs

960

puppies born

176

volunteer breeder caretakers

1,256

volunteer puppy raisers



FROM SERVICE TO THERAPY DOG

Andrew Perry and his beloved service dog, Frankie, shared two wonderful, joyful years together before Andrew sadly passed away.

“Frankie was only four and a half years old,” Andrew’s mother, Renee, says. “I knew he had a gift that needed to be shared with the community, so I got him certified as a Canine Companions therapy dog.”

Since then, Renee and Frankie have spent years bringing calm and comfort to students with and without disabilities at local schools, creating a peaceful, welcoming environment wherever they go.

During one visit, a behavioral specialist asked if Frankie might help a student in crisis. The boy was lying in the middle of the athletic field in 104° heat, unresponsive to attempts to coax him up.

“Frankie and I walked onto the field,” Renee recalls. “As soon as the boy saw us, he sat up and started engaging with Frankie. Within minutes, you could see an incredible shift in his demeanor. I asked if he would walk Frankie back to the classroom, and he immediately got up and held the leash with me. It was magical.”



Therapy dogs offer comfort, connection and calm when it’s needed most, showing the powerful impact every dog in our program can make.



Here In Their Hardest Hours

Facility Dog Nash is the best distraction for both patients and staff going through a hard time. Even in the darkest moments — patients' final hours — Nash radiates love and peace to the children and families he works with.

Tyler Domingo, an oncology social worker, considered getting a facility dog while at a previous hospital. She made the leap after moving to Seattle, shortly before the Puget Sound Field Office of Canine Companions opened. She felt like it was a sign.

She was matched with Nash, who has become a local celebrity at Seattle Children's Hospital, where he and Tyler work. His name echoes through the halls as staff and patients eagerly await his comforting presence and his long, golden fur.

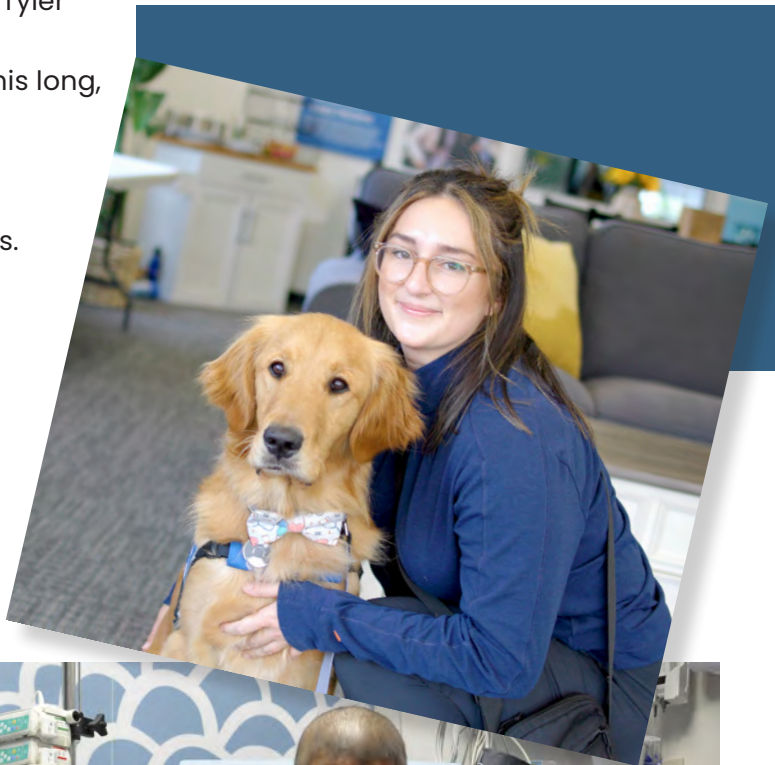
"Every day, Nash brings healing, laughter and independence to children who need it most," Tyler says. "There are some tough days. But Nash is the perfect remedy for hard days and big feelings."

Together, Tyler and Nash help kids navigate life-changing diagnoses — and trained in up to 45 tasks, Nash knows how to assist patients with skills that build confidence and strength.

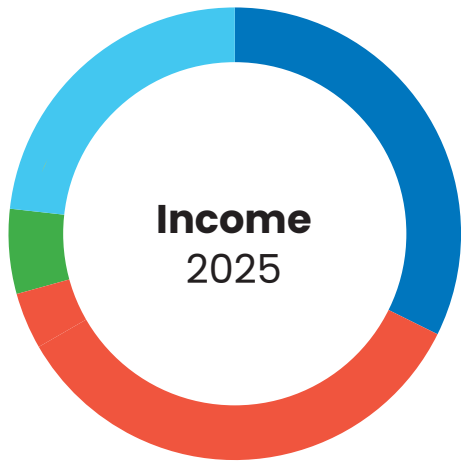
"He happily allows kids to brush his teeth, groom his fur and clean his paws — all activities that support their therapy goals," Tyler remarks. "Even when a child is overwhelmed or scared, Nash can gently apply deep pressure to help them feel calm and ready to try again."

Recently, Nash helped a young cancer patient find joy again by making each morning something to look forward to. Tyler explains, "Together, they changed her bed sheets. I love reminding patients, 'If Nash can do it, so can you.'"

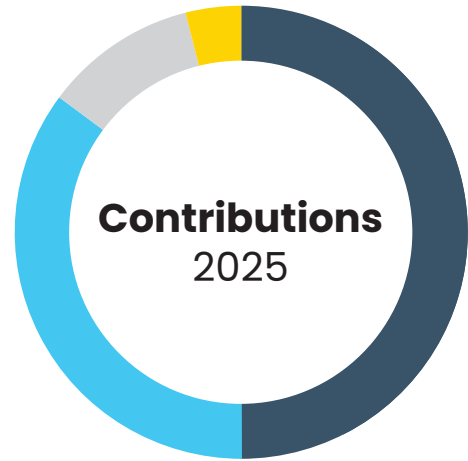
“Every day, Nash brings healing, laughter and independence to children who need it most.”



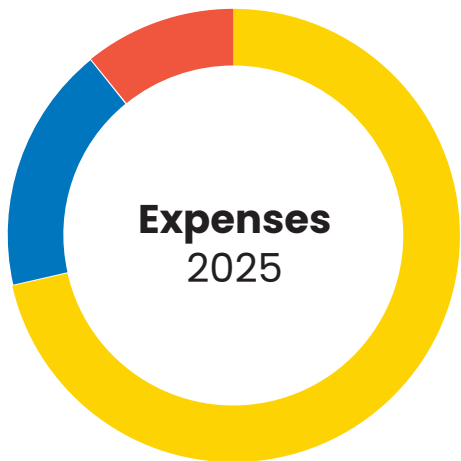
Financials 2025



- Contributions **43%**
- Bequests **19%**
- Special Events **8%**
- Investment Income & Other Revenue **30%**



- Individual **50%**
- Foundations **38%**
- Corporations **11%**
- Other Organizations **1%**



- Program Services **79%**
- Fund Development **15%**
- Administrative **6%**



- Training & Follow Up **49%**
- Public Information **21%**
- Breeding & Puppy Raising **18%**
- Veterinary **12%**

Statement of Activities

SUPPORT & REVENUE:

Contributions	\$25,556,864
Bequests	13,115,823
Corporate Contributions	3,494,906
Special Events	5,711,298

Total Support	\$47,878,891
Investment Income & Other Revenue	20,939,297

Total Support & Revenue	\$68,818,188
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EXPENSES:

Program Services	\$38,169,237
Fund Development	7,403,686
Administrative	2,822,962

Total Expenses	\$48,395,885
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Capital Campaign Contributions	\$612,977
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS:

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$205,917,856
Net Assets End of Year	\$226,953,136

Change in Net Assets	\$21,035,280
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All figures are based on our year 2025 audited financial statements. To view a copy of our financial statements and our IRS Form 990, visit our website at canine.org/financials.

Canine Companions is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, established in 1975. Federal tax ID number: 94-2494324.

“As we reflect on our 50th anniversary year, we celebrate not only a significant milestone in our organization’s history, but also another year of meaningful impact and disciplined financial stewardship. This year, 79 cents of every dollar entrusted to our mission directly supported our programs, reflecting our continued commitment to ensuring resources are deployed efficiently in support of measurable outcomes. Reaching 50 years is both a celebration of what has been accomplished and the responsibility we carry to build a sustainable future. The confidence our supporters place in our mission continues to strengthen our ability to thoughtfully expand capacity, reduce our waitlist, and serve more individuals in need.”

-Jesse Mackey, Chief Financial Officer



A LASTING COMMITMENT

inviting her network to join her in supporting the mission. Eventually, she

confidence, friendship and empowerment that a service dog provides. “Those are things you can’t quantify,” she says. “But they change everything.”

Fourteen years ago, while pursuing her MBA at Columbia University, Nattavadee Hillegass was familiar with the power of the human-canine bond as a therapy dog handler. But when a member of the national board of Canine Companions introduced her to the organization, something clicked. These dogs weren’t just comforting; they were providing life-changing independence as service dogs.

When Nattavadee went to a graduation event, she expected it to be heartwarming, but it became something more profound. She was witnessing a full-circle moment; puppies heading to professional training and service and facility dog teams transforming lives.

“I realized this mission was so much bigger than puppies,” she says. “Once I saw it, how could I not be involved?”

It was the beginning of a deep and lasting commitment. Nattavadee began donating, volunteering and chairing events,

was invited to join the Northeast Regional Board.

One of her proudest accomplishments came in 2019, when she chaired the Hearts & Heroes Gala, raising \$400,000. “I was so proud knowing how many lives that could go on to change,” Nattavadee recalls. “And it was an amazing way to introduce more people in my world to Canine Companions.”

“ I realized this mission was so much bigger than puppies.

The ripple effect that she’s created means the most. “Friends I’ve introduced to the mission have since become puppy raisers, board members and even joined me as major donors themselves.”

For Nattavadee, the heart of the mission will always be the intangible impact; the

Today, her commitment extends far beyond her own involvement. Now living in Florida as a full-time parent, Nattavadee and her husband, William, are raising their three children to grow up with Canine Companions as part of their values. Each Christmas, she gives her children’s friends special Canine Companions plush puppies with service dog capes — small tokens that plant seeds of awareness.

“I want my children and their generation to know this mission,” she remarks. “The best way to keep Canine Companions strong is to start young and grow the next wave of supporters.”

For those considering supporting Canine Companions, Nattavadee offers simple advice:

“There’s a place for everyone here. No matter your time or resources, you can make a difference. Once you see the mission in action, you’ll want to be part of it too.”

A LEGACY OF Independence

Growing up, Javier Robles dreamed of joining the U.S. Air Force. But at just 16 years old, Javier fell from a tree; an accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury and quadriplegia. Overnight, his plans and the life he knew were transformed.

When he returned to high school, Javier was forced to rethink everything. With guidance from a compassionate counselor, he focused intensely on his academics and opened the door to a future he had never imagined.

Javier went on to earn a degree from Rutgers University and later received his Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall Law School. Today, he is an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health at Rutgers. Beyond his professional achievements, he is a husband, a father of two and a dedicated advocate for disability rights.

As a student at Rutgers University, Javier learned about Canine Companions service dogs. And since 1990, he's had a service dog by his side.

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

Over the decades, Javier has been partnered with four exceptional

service dogs: Tess, Janus, Delbert, and, most recently in 2025, Gonzalo. With Javier's demanding schedule of teaching, traveling, and working more than 40 hours a week, Gonzalo continues this remarkable legacy. He helps by retrieving dropped items, pressing elevator buttons, bringing snacks from the refrigerator, and placing items on Javier's desk.

"He has a wonderfully spunky personality,"

Javier says. "Watching Gonzalo in action reinforces my own sense of independence. He gives me confidence and reassurance that, together, we can handle whatever comes our way."



One Team. Two Heroes.®

When Keith Youse left for Army basic training in 1967, he was barely more than a kid. He excelled quickly, joining the legendary 101st Airborne Division. After just a year, he was chosen for an advanced party. Within 36 hours, he found himself in the sweltering 98 degree heat of Vietnam.

He remembers feeling unprepared for the environment, the groups of children running toward him, asking for anything he could spare. Keith led gun jeeps to protect medics providing care to soldiers. He was transferred to a recon unit and right into the Tet Offensive. He still remembers the roar of the flyers providing air support, the attempts to protect overrun camps, and the moments that have stayed with him for 60 years.

“We saw a lot of damage, went through a lot,” Keith says. “Back then, there wasn’t much time to process anything. It was ‘complete the mission and move on.’”

Improvised explosive devices blew out his eardrums and threw his jeep, injuring his spine. Keith remembers the smell of Agent Orange covering his camp, unaware that it would wreak havoc on his body for the rest of his life.

Keith returned to civilian life as a highly decorated soldier with two Bronze Stars and two Army Commendation Medals. But Vietnam followed him home, too.

“I was belligerent, angry and depressed. The world was a different place after the war,” he recalls. “I never heard the term ‘PTSD’ until the 1980s.”

Finally, Service Dog Lila entered Keith’s life — a better treatment than anything doctors could give him.

Keith learned that the bond between a service dog and its handler was unparalleled. It was the way Lila watched him, how she seemed to understand what he needed before he even said a word.

Crowds used to terrify Keith, and being in a line made his skin crawl. He felt exposed, unable to shake the sensation of someone breathing down his neck. But with Lila, he can navigate the world again. Lila creates space to give Keith a buffer from the people around him. She presses into his legs before his anxiety spirals. Lila retrieves items he can no longer reach, makes him laugh and takes care of him.

“The bond I have with Lila is unlike anything I’ve ever known,” he says. “It’s a life-changing experience. We’re a team, and Canine Companions made that possible.”





Veteran Impact

628

veteran placements
since 1975

304

active placements

46

veteran placements
in 2025. 41 placements
with veterans with PTSD

© Catelynn Bortz- Cate Co. Photography

“ It’s a life-changing experience.
We’re a team, and Canine
Companions made that possible.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF IMPACT with Our National Corporate Partners

Canine Companions marked 50 years of transforming lives with expertly trained service and facility dogs, and our national corporate partners played a vital role in making this milestone truly memorable. Through generous philanthropy, creative campaigns and community engagement, these partnerships expanded opportunity and independence for people with disabilities, helping us celebrate the past while strengthening the foundation for the future.

THROUGHOUT OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR, PARTNERS ELEVATED OUR MISSION.

Eukanuba helped bring national attention to our work through a Katie Couric Unleashed episode, a National Service Dog Month campaign that raised \$100,000, and a \$30,000 Giving Tuesday match that generated more than \$109,000.

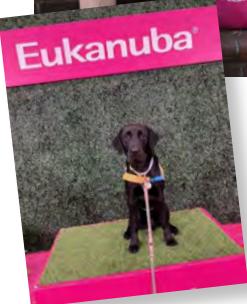


CareCredit, a Synchrony Solution, and the Synchrony Foundation provided critical support for service dog training and placement, including funding veterinary care and resources for college students raising future service dogs through the Collar Scholars puppy raising clubs nationwide. Their meaningful gifts helped ensure the next generation of service and facility dogs are well-prepared to change lives and supported young puppy raisers as they developed skills to help people with disabilities increase independence and confidence.



Bread Financial engaged employees and communities directly, sponsored Team Training classes at all six Canine Companions regional training centers, hosted a special

NHL Columbus Blue Jackets event where players walked in alongside service dogs and celebrated the partnership with birthday parties and a generous \$500,000 gift.



CareCredit
a Synchrony solution



Together, these contributions not only honored our 50th anniversary but also strengthened a foundation for decades of future impact. Thanks to the creativity, generosity and engagement of our partners, more people with disabilities will gain independence, confidence and opportunity through expertly trained service dogs.





Media & Team Puppy Partners



Airline and Aviation Partners



268

puppies flown by the volunteer aviation program in 2025

Empower Independence and Hero Society

The Canine Companions Empower Independence Society celebrates the incredible generosity of our annual individual donors and family foundations, whose support fuels our mission. Similarly, the Hero Society honors those whose lifetime giving has exceeded \$1 million, recognizing their profound impact over time. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these dedicated supporters for making enhanced independence possible year after year. Learn more at canine.org/empowersociety.

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Always Pay It Forward

“You can rarely pay it back, so always pay it forward.”

This is the powerful motto that Rex and Nancy Riggs aim to live by every day.

More than 25 years ago, Rex, a veterinarian, was introduced to Canine Companions through a golf tournament. He was smitten with the service dogs watching at each tee. For both him and his wife, Nancy, who worked in health care, Canine Companions resonated with their values.

“We went to one graduation,” Nancy recalls. “It’s impossible not to want to get involved after seeing the mission in action — we jumped right in.”

Rex offers veterinary services for puppy raisers, often watching the mission go full circle when those same dogs return with their graduates. Nancy volunteers and chairs events. Both share their time and talent as members of the North Central regional board.

Nancy and Rex are also drawn to support the mission financially. “Giving is really important to us,” Rex says. “With a gold-standard organization

like Canine Companions, you don’t have to wonder if your gift is making a difference; you see it in action.”

Having a legacy was something Rex’s parents taught him to value. The Riggs’ brick-and-mortar legacies, like funding the North Central campus veterinary clinic, have significant, lasting impacts — but that legacy isn’t what they’re most proud of.

“It was a natural next step in our journey to recently become members of the Heritage Society,” Rex states. “It’s our way of making a difference beyond our lifetimes. We give to other charities, but this is the one in our estate plan.”

With their legacy gift, they hope the organization will elevate the entire service dog industry. And the trust they have in our mission is immense.

“We see how our funds are being used today, and we know how important those funds are,” they say. “That instills confidence that our legacy gift will be used the way we’d want it used if we were still around.”

As for their motto of paying it forward, they’ve done a remarkable job of meeting that inspirational goal.



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Heritage Society members help support the future of Canine Companions through legacy giving. These generous, integral donors have included us in their estate plans. We're grateful for our Heritage Society members for their support of our mission for decades to come.

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