

THE Companion

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Canine
Companions®
Summer 2024



CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE

Summer is the perfect time of year to step back, recognize where we started and reflect on how far we've come. Our focus for the second half of 2024 is to continue ensuring we have the foundation to deliver our mission with excellence, including providing our community the best service, quality and impact possible.

We're working hard to grow faster than ever and decrease our wait time for clients – without sacrificing quality. We've already placed over 175 service and facility dogs this year.

Recently, our prison puppy raising program added four new facilities that will support our growing need for puppy raisers, while providing a transformative rehabilitation opportunity for the adults in incarceration caring for our puppies.

Our college puppy raisers are making a huge impact on campuses nationwide, with 28 active programs and more institutions hoping to establish their own programs. Our collegiate clubs rely solely on donations to keep their clubs running. Please let us know if you would like to help with start-up costs or work with your alma mater to start a club.

The Canine Companions community, including you, should be proud of all we've accomplished together to further our mission. The new Nelson Schulz Canine Health and Wellness Center's doors are now open, and operations are running smoothly – another foundational part of ensuring our future. In an organization first, we released the patented CanineAlert™ Device, a wearable technology system to further enhance the life-changing work of our service dogs. The device pairs service dog tasks with biometric data, an innovation with great potential.

We continue to excel towards a bright future with these groundbreaking projects. This Fourth of July is the 49th anniversary of our founding, and we continue to prioritize the mission in all we do. We hope you'll join us in celebrating independence now and as we prepare for our 50th year in 2025. It's going to be a wonderful year, thanks to every one of you.

Kind regards,

Paige Mazzoni
Chief Executive Officer

Bill White
Board Chair



A GRAND OPENING TO REMEMBER

The ribbon is cut and the doors are officially open at our state-of-the-art **Nelson Schulz Canine Health and Wellness Center** in Santa Rosa, California. Critical to supporting our veterinary, breeding and research programs, the 32,000 sq. ft. complex is already proving to have been worth the wait. Improved capacity and technology are helping produce more healthy, happy service dogs to enhance independence for people with disabilities.

Integrated Tech for Enhanced Independence

In continuation of Canine Companions' commitment to innovation and service, we're proud to introduce the CanineAlert™ Device, designed to revolutionize the way service dogs support individuals with disabilities.

Developed in-house in collaboration with experts in the field, the patented CanineAlert System uses biometric data, monitoring the handler's heart rate through wearable technology that wirelessly communicates with the service dog's collar device with the help of an app. When irregularities in the wearer's heart rate are detected, the device triggers a gentle vibration, prompting the service dog to intervene. Through specialized training, the service dog performs specific tasks tailored to the

handler's needs, such as interrupting a nightmare or aiding in their recovery process.

This innovative approach not only provides essential assistance, but also facilitates faster and more effective responses from the service dog, preventing escalation.

CanineAlert will start as a technology to assist with PTSD, with the possibility of expanding to include anxiety and more, ensuring assistance throughout the day. With the implementation of the CanineAlert Device, we aim to use cutting-edge technology in tandem with our expertly trained service dogs to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.



A service dog wears the CanineAlert Device on its collar.

Make greater independence and unconditional
love possible – [scan to give now!](#)



SEEKING INDEPENDENCE

At just 18 months old, Zoey's doctors told her parents that she likely wouldn't survive more than 24 hours – their daughter had crawled through a dog door and fallen into a swimming pool, nearly drowning. However, today, Zoey is a bright 14-year-old girl who enjoys drawing and reading, and avidly seeks independence.

This frightening accident as a toddler resulted in brain damage that affected Zoey's muscles, and in turn, her mobility, speech and ability to perform daily tasks. Zoey became accustomed to relying on others for help. But now, she has a new partner to turn to – Canine Companions Service Dog Henrietta, whose loving eyes and wagging tail emphasize her eagerness to retrieve an item or turn on a light switch at any moment.

"Zoey is more confident now in her ability to be independent," shares Zoey's mom, Rebekah. "She does a great job working with Henrietta. I think her speech has even improved because Zoey must be loud and clear with her."

Before Henrietta was by her side, if Zoey would drop something or needed something out of reach, she had to strain, causing her pain and difficulty. At times, it was even unsafe. Now, with one simple word, "get," Henrietta happily retrieves Zoey's phone, clothing and anything else she may need.

"Now, I am less worried about independence," Zoey shares. "I am happier since I have a furry friend."



Henrietta has also created more social opportunities for Zoey. "When we're in public, kids feel comfortable coming up to Zoey to talk about Henrietta, whereas before, kids didn't know how to approach her," shares Rebekah.

The independence, love and happiness that Henrietta offers to Zoey are priceless, but Rebekah acknowledges how vital it was that Henrietta was provided entirely free of charge.

"These dogs are giving people with disabilities a new life," Rebekah says. "There is no way we would have been able to get a service dog for Zoey if we had to pay, and we wouldn't have the love of sweet Henny in our house."



A HEART FULL OF GLEE

In the 1990s, Steve Weiss and Mary Caldwell were drawn to support the Canine Companions mission because of their love of dogs and desire to give back to their community.

Two decades later, Steve and Mary adopted Glee, a Canine Companions dog who was released from our training program. Glee's temperament made her a perfect fit for therapy dog work. However, Canine Companions didn't have a therapy dog program at the time.

Mary and Steve saw an opportunity for Canine Companions and our dogs, like Glee, to make a huge impact. They approached Canine Companions with a big dream – to create a therapy dog program for approved released dogs.

An advisory council was assembled to share their experiences and aid the process. "Although the start-up was slow due to the pandemic, it has blossomed

into the program it is today much to the credit of the dedicated staff who made it happen," Mary says. "It's heartwarming to see."

Glee passed away shortly before the therapy dog program was finalized at Canine Companions, but her life of helping children, visiting hospitals and going to schools didn't go unnoticed, and her legacy lives on in Mary and Steve's commitment.

"We were in the process of getting Glee certified as an official Canine Companions therapy dog when she passed," Mary says. "As a tribute, Canine Companions issued Glee a therapy dog vest posthumously – it meant the world to us."

We're indebted to Steve, Mary and Glee for supporting our therapy dog program, making it possible for hundreds of Canine Companions released dogs to do meaningful work in their communities.



COURAGE AND RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF DANGER

U.S. Army Cpl. David Medina was wounded on a mission in Iraq when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED). Coming home was a different kind of mission.

Service Dog Kellen allows David to regain some of his independence by assisting with physical tasks and providing peace of mind. Tasks for post-traumatic stress disorder, like

anxiety interruption, have been life-altering for David's ability to connect with the world around him.

"I saw things no one wants to see," David says. "When I'm in public now, I can manage better. I am more comfortable in the world because of Kellen."

You can make more life-changing matches like David and Kellen today.

Make Every Day Independence Day – Give Now.

A PERSONAL MISSION



Elaine May didn't know that when she heard about Canine Companions in passing from her veterinarian, one of our volunteer puppy raisers, it would one day change her life.

Years later, she witnessed a close friend's injury in a boating accident, leaving him with paralysis. Elaine watched him rehabilitate and eventually receive a service dog from Canine Companions who helped him regain his independence.

"I saw how his life changed," says Elaine. "It became very personal then, and that's when I applied to raise my first puppy."

Since 2015, Elaine has raised nine puppies. She's currently raising puppy Paris as part of our partnership with NBC4 News in Columbus, Ohio. The pair visit the station weekly to educate viewers about our service dogs and our mission.

It's been nearly ten years since the incident that changed the life of Elaine's friend. She's as devoted to giving back now as she was from day one.

Elaine shares, "If anything, volunteering has made me more empathetic and aware of how these dogs change lives."

PILOT LANDS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

A puppy named Pilot now has a standing invitation at the White House, even if he skips the formal wear in favor of a yellow Canine Companions puppy vest!

Future service dog Pilot is being raised by Andrea McCarren, who is the president of PenFed Foundation – a partner of Canine Companions.

"We were invited to attend a White House performance for a program both Canine Companions and PenFed Foundation

support," Andrea says. "Pilot tends to steal the show!"

Staffers were so impressed that they welcomed Andrea and Pilot back to the White House two more times.

In January, the PenFed Foundation announced its partnership with Canine Companions to help provide more service dogs to veterans and others with disabilities, while also recruiting puppy raisers with a focus on engaging corporate partners to welcome puppy raising in the workplace.

Scan the QR code to read more.





A REUNION OF A LIFETIME

Chase hadn't seen his grandparents in nearly a decade – he's serving a sentence at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center in Northern California. But Chase and his family's paths would cross again, thanks to the love of dogs.

In 2023, San Quentin became one of the newest correctional facilities to join our prison puppy raising program. Incarcerated individuals are carefully selected to raise a future service dog within the facility walls before the puppies return to Canine Companions after a year and a half. Ultimately, these puppies go on to change lives, providing enhanced independence for people with disabilities.

Chase was invited to participate as a handler for one of the first two puppies in the program, Wendel and Artemis. He experienced a transformation as much as Wendel did during their 18 months together.

"Working with Wendel has been one of the greatest experiences of my life," Chase says. "The pride I feel when he learns a new cue and the joy I feel when he greets me is like nothing else."

In a moving matriculation ceremony, we celebrated the success of Wendel and Artemis, along with Chase and three other incarcerated handlers who cared for them. There were two special guests in attendance for Chase – his grandparents Marv and Connie.

Marv is no stranger to the selfless work his grandson and the other incarcerated handlers have poured into these puppies. He's been partnered with two Canine Companions service dogs to increase his independence after an injury. The reunion with Chase was especially touching, seeing the journey come full circle.

"I feel honored to be a part of the change in somebody's life," Chase remarks.

Giving Made Easy

Tonni Caughey became involved with Canine Companions nearly 30 years ago, never imagining that one day she might need a service dog of her own.

After seeing the impact of our service dogs on a friend's life, Tonni wanted to support our mission. She started volunteering in any way she could – helping in our veterinary clinic, assisting with administrative work, baking graduation refreshments and supporting events.

In 2013, Tonni's health deteriorated due to multiple autoimmune diseases. She was volunteering regularly, when a staff member suggested she might benefit from a service dog.

Tonni's life changed beyond her expectations when in 2021, she matched with Service Dog Yale. Yale helps with daily tasks allowing Tonni to stay independent, including retrieving her leash, helping pay with a credit card in stores and alerting people if Tonni needs help.

"Because of Yale and Canine Companions, I'm able to move forward in life in the best possible way that I didn't think I'd be able to again."

Tonni's life is deeply connected to Canine Companions. **She wanted an easy way to continue to support our organization. She found two ways in addition to her volunteerism – leaving Canine Companions in her trust by joining the Heritage Society and becoming a monthly donor.**

It's Tonni's mission to say thank you in any way she's able. "By including Canine Companions in my trust, I will know that my last act will still be saying thank you for my superhero service dog, Yale," Tonni remarks.

And as a monthly donor, Tonni feels that she's giving back every single day. "Not only is it easy, but I can give whatever I can afford knowing I'm helping throughout the year. How could you not want to give to this organization?"



DONATE WITH 12X THE IMPACT

Become a monthly donor and provide life-changing service dogs all year round! It's no-hassle giving that makes 12x the difference. Get a custom logo keychain as a new monthly donor of \$25 or more.



Scan to give!





Petya Manning, vice president of marketing for NextHome, poses with Canine Companions dogs

Feeling Good in the Neighborhood

Canine Companions proudly celebrates its fifth year of partnership with NextHome, the fastest-growing real estate franchise in the U.S. with more than 6,000 members. Our core values of compassionate service and community shine through in NextHome's dedication, laying at the heart of our shared passion for good. Since 2019, our collaboration has been instrumental in enhancing the lives of children, adults and veterans with disabilities through the placement of expertly trained service dogs.

NextHome's partnership extends beyond philanthropy; it's a reflection of their genuine love for creating positive change in their communities. We express our deepest gratitude to NextHome and all their "NextHomies" for their support and look forward to continuing our journey together for years to come.

Learn more at canine.org/partners.

A Jolly Good Thank You!

Canine Companions is thrilled to announce our new national partnership with Jolly Pets, a company as passionate about our furry friends as we are. This collaboration provides tail-wagging donations of toys that are sure to keep our dogs happy, healthy and eager to learn!

Jolly Pets' generous contribution is invaluable, as it not only enriches the lives of our dogs, but also allows us to allocate resources to other critical areas of our mission. We thank Jolly Pets for supporting our mission and for bringing smiles to our training centers, puppy raisers and clients across the nation.



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For every bottle of St. Francis wine purchased online and in stores through 2024, the winery will donate \$1.00 up to \$100,000.





Hip, Hip, Hooray

The Southeast Region Training Center has a redeveloped, state-of-the-art radiology suite, thanks to the generosity of The Martin Andersen-Gracia Andersen Foundation, Janet Pennock, The Bob Allen Family Foundation and Sandra Lee Ourth. An upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony will mark the reopening of the suite and the celebration of a major reduction in x-ray costs for the region. Before the significant gifts made to purchase updated equipment, Canine Companions dogs entering professional training had to be evaluated for healthy hips and other orthopedic needs by off-site veterinarians, a costly and time-consuming effort. We're grateful to the donors and foundations who provided a gift that will keep giving for years to come.

Keeping Things Cool in Ohio

When Wayne Kemick crossed the graduation stage at our North Central Training Center in November, he was celebrating his fifth service dog with Canine Companions. It was an accomplishment that emphasized years of dedication to a mission that Wayne has watched evolve into the well-oiled machine it is today.

Wayne received his first Canine Companions service dog in 1988. In the years since, he has made continuous contributions to our organization. Most recently, Wayne and his wife, Tammy, donated 16 miniature refrigerators; one for each guest suite at the North Central Training Center, allowing guests to store needed medications and feel more at home while staying in the campus dorms.

When asked why he gives back, Wayne says, **"A lot has changed over the years, but the caring has remained."**

Thank you to Wayne and all of our supporters who make independence possible.





Giving Back in Kentucky

The word “dedicated” doesn’t begin to cover Tammy Harrod’s approach to all things Canine Companions. Recently placed with her second Canine Companions service dog, Violet, Tammy has spent years learning and advocating for a mission she cares deeply about.

“I love Canine Companions,” Tammy says. “They gifted me with two exceptional service dogs that have changed my life.”

Tammy has represented Canine Companions on the news, served as a guest speaker for DogFest and successfully hosted her first public event. That event, a fundraiser at Huber’s Orchard & Winery, has become an annual opportunity to engage community members.

But, living in Kentucky where our volunteer community is smaller, Tammy knew that if she wanted to make a real impact, she needed some extra support. That’s why she

decided to establish the Kentucky Volunteer Chapter. Within the first month, Tammy had recruited 20 new members, secured multiple donations, engaged local sports teams and more.

“I donate my time because these dogs are life-changing to people with disabilities,” remarks Tammy. “I enjoy telling my story to anyone who will listen.”

Tammy serves on the North Central Region’s Outreach Committee and always comes prepared with great ideas and engagement opportunities. We’re truly fortunate for the success she brings to the organization, as well as for her genuine enthusiasm.

“Violet isn’t just a service dog, she is a lifeline, a partner, a source of unconditional love,” says Tammy. “I know more people are out there who could benefit from a service dog – that’s why I share the mission with everyone I can.”

Get involved today at canine.org/volunteer.

National Service Dog Month Is Coming!

September is the biggest service dog awareness month of the year and Canine Companions needs your help! National Service Dog Month is a great time to celebrate our PRO service dogs, educate your community and advocate for service dog users. There are tons of ways to get involved, from wearing Service Dog Month swag or sharing your story, to meeting with your local legislators.

Learn how you can participate at canine.org/servicedogmonth.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DogFest LA/OC

Garden Grove, CA – August 24

Colorado Barn Event

Lakewood, CO – September 7

DogFest Washington

Seattle, WA – September 12

DogFest DFW

Dallas, TX – September 14

DogFest North Central

New Albany, OH – September 15

North Texas Giving Day

Virtual – September 19

DogFest Long Island

Massapequa, NY – September 21

DogFest San Diego

San Marcos, CA – September 21

DogFest Houston

Cypress, TX – October 5

DogFest Washington, D.C.

Reston, VA – October 5

Sit. Stay. Sparkle. Orlando

Orlando, FL – October 26

Sit. Stay. Sparkle. Northeast

Uniondale, NY – October 9

Sit. Stay. Sparkle. Seattle

Seattle, WA – November 1

Salute Independence

Bay Shore, NY – November 6

Stay tuned for more events in 2024!

canine.org/events

DOGFEST 2024

It's DogFest season and you won't want to miss this great opportunity to change lives and celebrate independence with your community!

DogFest is a dog-friendly, family-friendly festival with games, vendors, inspirational stories and more – all supporting Canine Companions.

Graduate and volunteer Michael, aided by Service Dog Noodle, have chaired their local DogFest LA/OC from planning to execution, exceeding their event goal year after year.



"I enjoy meeting and socializing with people who share the same goal as me – to help better the lives of people living with disabilities," says Michael.

Their hard work at DogFest helps support our mission, ultimately helping place more great service dogs like Noodle.

Michael says getting involved with an event like DogFest is a great way to meet other people in the community and encourages others to do the same! So, grab a leash and join the fun today!

Scan to learn more.



NORTH CENTRAL

1. MARCH Marlissa with Lyle.

2. MAY Back Row – Susan with Brooklyn; Mitch & Ron with Missy; Tess, Julianne & Tony with Vincenzo; Maggie with Ghibli; Emma with Midas; Keon, Ryan & Katie with Biscotti; Stefanie with Garbanzo; Alex with Veronica; Kaden, Hawra & Nancy with Jetty; Lucas, Ricky & Michele with Graton; Jennifer with Ritz; Kelli with Weston.

Front Row – Justin with Ryan; Ryan with Nigel; Beth with Lox; Erin with Fennel.



NORTHWEST

1. MARCH Bruce with Kokomo; Ronda with Louisa; Christina with Philly; Coreen with Kona.

Adam with Hilda.

Ethan, Emil & Kathy with Hamish; Kim with Lilikoi.*

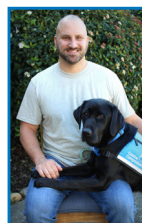
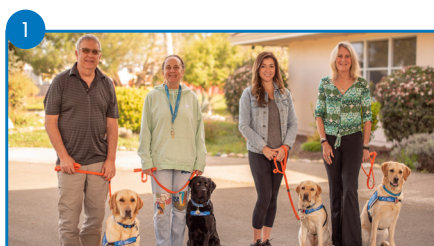
2. APRIL Mason & Dorothy with Junebug; Michelle with Gnocchi; Maria, Andrei & Elena with Gus; Nadine & Kara with Callie; Owen & Vanessa with Morty; Bernadette & Trista with Volt; Diego & Uriel with Lamont; Elizabeth with Ruth.

3. MAY Jenny with Franz; Sarah with Alfie; Perry with Vector.

Bettye with Karin; Maureen with Papaya; Holly with Vienne; Barbara with Finnegan.

Courtney, Jan, Ken, & Kyrian with Whitaker.*

**Puget Sound Field Office*

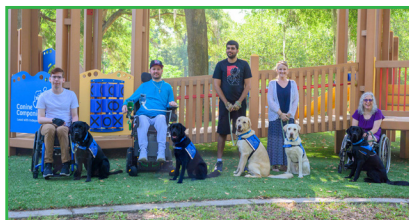
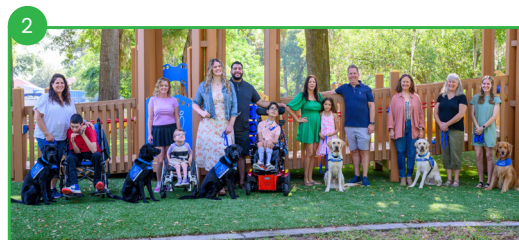


SOUTHEAST

1. MARCH Thomas with Gideon; Sandy with Dege; Ruby with Hawaii; Gina with Eager.

2. MAY Christopher & Christine with Baxter; Cohen & Malorie with Dash; Levi, Alyssa & Joey with Vada; Savannah, Laura & Don with Tyrus; Susan & Dana with Foley; Emily with Topgun.

Cole with BeeKay; Daniel with Norwood; Max with Lodi; Debra with Neely; Elizabeth with Hemmi.

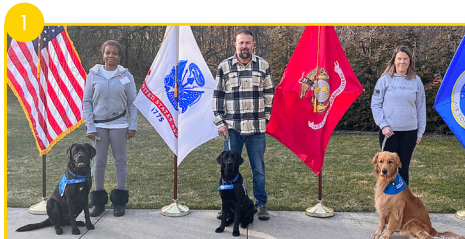


NORTHEAST

1. FEBRUARY Valerie with Kennedy; Andrew with Valerie; Karen with Trapper.

2. APRIL Michael with Neon; Caroline & Carina with Gabe; Adam with Tally; Alex & Melissa with Chummy; Jessica with Linzer; Keegan & Christine with Patience; Samantha with Aster.

3. MAY Janie with Neville; Andreas with Kim; Katrina with Montana; Heather with Wonka; Chris with Buffy.



SOUTH CENTRAL

1. APRIL Ibrahim & Nina with Gatsby; Caroline & Claudia with Zara; Jeanna & Cindy with Orion.

2. MAY Rahul with Alto; April with Newton; Alex, Cory & Jennifer with Joelle; Evan & Shawn with Kinsley; Jack & Brenna with Char; Teonie with Porsche; Wendy & Melissa with Jetta; Jodi with Nola.

Catherine & Adair with Melman; Teaghan & Julie Anne with Lawton.



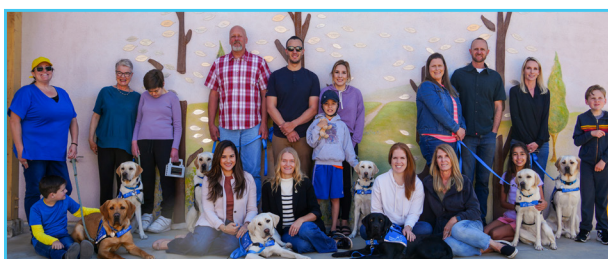
SOUTHWEST

1. APRIL Jeffrey with Kanga; Tammy with Pandora; Tracy with Perla; Colleen with Pip; Jon with Gully; Carolyn with Valentine.

2. MAY Jennifer with Raina; Pamela with Rihanna; Buddy with Kiva.

Jared & Sarah with Spike; Siobhan & Linda with Dabney; Chris with Marlow; Kristin & Nichole with Armani; Noah, Kathleen & Joshua with Nana; Allison & Gabriele with Karat; Selah, Amber & Brian with Oakleigh; Hayes & Maeve with Putman.

Kathy with Joanie.





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We're supporting our clients through the new, patented CanineAlert™ Device, shown here on the service dog's collar. Read more on page 3.

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