



WHAT IS CANINE THERAPY CORPS?

CANINE THERAPY CORPS is a Chicago-based network of volunteers and their certified therapy dogs who work with medical professionals to help people recover from physical and emotional trauma. Each **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** program is customized and tailored to meet the therapeutic requirements of the special needs population served. Programs are goal-directed and interactive, so working with a **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** dog is an integral part of each client's recovery.

The foundation of **CANINE THERAPY CORPS'** successful animal-assisted therapy (AAT) programs is the strength of the human-animal bond, which encourages and empowers individuals facing and overcoming personal challenges. The immediate positive feedback provided in AAT sessions catalyzes the motivation necessary to continue through the hard work and pain of therapy, which is a lifetime project for many of our clients. In addition, sharing their love and compassion and working as a team servicing the community deepens the bond between a handler and his or her dog.

SINCE OUR FORMATION IN 1991, WE HAVE NEVER CHARGED A CLIENT OR FACILITY FOR OUR PROGRAMS.

WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?

CANINE THERAPY CORPS collaborates with professionals at highly respected Chicago area hospitals, rehabilitation facilities and schools to develop program curricula for children and adults, both in and outpatient, recovering from a number of challenges such as catastrophic accidents, illnesses, strokes, surgeries, substance abuse or abuse at the hands of a family member or caregiver. We also serve children with chronic illnesses like cerebral palsy and those with chronic conditions like autism, Down syndrome and mood and behavior disorders.

WHERE ARE OUR PROGRAMS?

Currently, we provide therapy dogs to the following institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area:

- **ADVOCATE LUTHERAN GENERAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**, with children who have cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other chronic medical challenges. We also have a pediatric oncology visitation program here.
- **ARIELLA JOY FRANKEL KESHET DAY SCHOOL**, with children on the autism spectrum, some of whom also have other complex or chronic medical conditions.
- **EASTER SEALS THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL AND CENTER FOR AUTISM RESEARCH**, with children and adolescents on the autism spectrum.
- **HAYMARKET CENTER**, with adults in a residential substance abuse recovery program and teens in a court mandated outpatient substance abuse recovery program.
- **HEARTLAND ALLIANCE**, with unaccompanied immigrant adolescents in a group home who have emotional and behavior disorders.
- **LAWRENCE HALL YOUTH SERVICES**, with children and adolescents who have severe emotional and behavioral challenges due to trauma, abuse and neglect.
- **NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**, with adult inpatients at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center and in the Feinberg Medical Pavilion.
- **REHABILITATION INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO**, with clients of all ages recovering from spinal cord injuries, head trauma, burns, and other physical trauma.
- **RICE CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER**, with children who are the victims of family abuse and have resulting emotional and behavioral disorders.
- **SWEDISH COVENANT HOSPITAL**, with adult inpatients in physical, occupational and speech therapy.
- **THE CLARE AT WATER TOWER**, with residents on skilled nursing and memory support floors.

WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?

- Over 100 people working in our programs; developing new and innovative applications for animal-assisted therapy; staffing outreach events and our research efforts; educating the community about animal-assisted therapy and humane issues; publishing our newsletter; and planning fundraising events.
- Approximately 60 dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes (from a Miniature Poodle to an Irish Wolfhound) have passed our rigorous therapy dog certification test and promote healing, health and hope to thousands of clients annually.