



COME. SIT. STAY. HEAL.
*Our dogs don't just help people **feel** better;
they help them **get** better.*

Canine Therapy Corps empowers and motivates individuals to improve their physical and psychological health and well-being by harnessing the human-animal bond; provides goal-directed, interactive animal-assisted therapy services free of charge using volunteers and certified therapy dogs; and advances animal-assisted interventions through research and collaboration.

WHAT IS CANINE THERAPY CORPS?

Since 1991, Canine Therapy Corps' volunteers and certified therapy dogs have been serving the Chicago metropolitan area and helping people recover from physical and emotional trauma. We tailor our programs to meet the therapeutic objectives of the specific population served. Programs are goal-directed and interactive, so working with a Canine Therapy Corps dog is an integral part of each participant'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 continuous and immediate positive feedback provided in AAT sessions catalyzes the motivation necessary to persevere during difficult or painful therapy.

In 2019, Canine Therapy Corps volunteer teams donated around 1,000 hours of services to nearly 8,000 individuals. Our ability to serve was significantly reduced in 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, but our goal is to double the number of people we serve by 2026.

WHO ARE OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS?

Canine Therapy Corps serves individuals of all ages, inpatient and outpatient, via collaborations with highly respected Chicago area hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation facilities. Our participants include individuals recovering from a number of challenges such as catastrophic accidents, illnesses, strokes, surgeries, substance use disorders, or abuse, as well as 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?

Canine Therapy Corps currently provides therapy dogs to the following institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area:

- **ADVOCATE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - PARK RIDGE**, with children who have chronic medical and developmental challenges.
- **CHICAGO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**, visitation with children, who have suffered sexual abuse and assault.
- **EASTERSEALS ACADEMY**, with children and adolescents on the autism spectrum.
- **HAYMARKET CENTER**, with adults in a residential substance use disorder recovery program.
- **HEARTLAND ALLIANCE**, visitation with unaccompanied minors and other youth awaiting family reunification or repatriation.
- **JESSE BROWN VA MEDICAL CENTER**, with veterans recovering from a myriad of mental health issues.
- **LAWRENCE HALL**, with children and adolescents who have severe emotional and behavioral challenges.
- **NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**, inpatient visitation in a variety of departments.
- **RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**, a physical rehabilitation program for adult inpatients.
- **SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB**, with patients recovering from spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries and other physical trauma.
- **SWEDISH COVENANT HOSPITAL**, with adult inpatients recovering from strokes, joint replacements, and other physical trauma.

WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?

- Approximately 60 dogs of diverse breeds, mixes, and sizes that promote healing, health, and hope.
- CTC has over 100 people working in our programs; staffing outreach events; educating the community about animal-assisted interventions and other related topics; and planning fundraising events.

Canine Therapy Corps relies on the generosity of individual, corporate, and foundation gifts to sustain our work.