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Canine Therapy Corps Receives Bitcoin Donation from the Pineapple Fund

(Chicago, Ill.) On Feb. 4, 2018, Canine Therapy Corps, a Chicago-based non-profit, received \$250,000 in Bitcoin from the anonymous donor behind the [Pineapple Fund](#) who is known only as “Pine.” In December 2017, Pine started the Pineapple Fund to make “bold and smart bets that hopefully impact everyone in our world.” The Pineapple Fund is donating approximately \$86 million in Bitcoin to select charities who applied to the Fund in December.

“This is the largest gift in Canine Therapy Corps’ 26-year history,” said Executive Director Callie Cozzolino. “In 2016, we began planning to expand our reach within Chicago, and this donation will not only catapult our ability do that, but also galvanize our long-term operations.”

“Beyond that,” Cozzolino said, “I have been blown away by Pine’s compassion, overwhelming generosity, and hands-on approach to philanthropy. In spite of Pine’s anonymity, this has been a very personal experience. Pine corresponded with me regularly and introduced us to another caring individual who was invaluable to helping Canine Therapy Corps accept this historic donation.”

Julie Muccillo, Chair of the Board of Directors, said, “I am so incredibly grateful that Pine saw the unique good that we are trying to do through Canine Therapy Corps. Because we are not a huge charity, \$250,000 makes a major impact to help us realize our vision of providing canine-assisted therapy to as many people as we possibly can.”

About Canine Therapy Corps

With more than 60 certified therapy dogs and over 100 volunteers, Canine Therapy Corps operates free, rehabilitative programs in the Chicago metropolitan area for men, women, and children facing physical and emotional challenges. In 2017, Canine Therapy Corps’ teams provided nearly 1,500 hours of animal-assisted therapy services to over 9,000 individuals.

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.

Canine Therapy Corps will host its annual Black and White Gala on Sat., Mar. 3 at Revel Fulton Market, located 1215 W. Fulton Market in Chicago. Tickets are available at bit.ly/2018BWGala.

For more information, please see the enclosed fact sheet, visit Canine Therapy Corps' website at www.caninetherapycorps.org, or call the office at (773) 404-6467.

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COME. SIT. STAY. HEAL.

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WHAT IS CANINE THERAPY CORPS?

Since 1991, Canine Therapy Corps' volunteers and certified therapy dogs have been serving the Chicago metropolitan area, working with health care, education, and social services professionals and helping people recover from physical and emotional trauma. Canine Therapy Corps customizes and tailors our programs to meet the therapeutic objectives 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 continuous and immediate positive feedback provided in AAT sessions catalyzes the motivation necessary to persevere during difficult or painful therapy. In addition, working as a team benefits the volunteers. Sharing their love and compassion, working together, and serving the community deepens the bond between the handler and his or her dog.

In 2017, Canine Therapy Corps volunteer teams donated nearly 1,500 hours of animal-assisted interventions to over 9,000 individuals.

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 at the hands of a family member or caregiver, 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.
- **ARIELLA JOY FRANKEL KESHET DAY SCHOOL**, with children and adolescents on the autism spectrum, some of whom also have other complex or chronic medical conditions.
- **CHICAGO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**, visitation with children, who have suffered sexual abuse and assault, awaiting appointments with treating professionals at a multidisciplinary facility.
- **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 immigrant youth, some of whom have emotional and behavior disorders.
- **JESSE BROWN VA MEDICAL CENTER**, with veterans in treatment for a myriad of mental health issues, such as chronic post-traumatic stress disorder, and severe depression at the hospital's outpatient psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center.
- **LAWRENCE HALL**, with children and adolescents who have severe emotional and behavioral challenges due to trauma, abuse and neglect.
- **NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**, inpatient visitation in a variety of departments.
- **RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**, a physical rehabilitation program for adult inpatients.
- **SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB** (formerly the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago), with clients of all ages recovering from spinal cord injuries, head trauma, burns, and other physical trauma.
- **SWEDISH COVENANT HOSPITAL**, with adult inpatients recovering from strokes, joint replacements, and other physical trauma.

Our dogs just help people feel better; they help them get better.

WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?

- Approximately 65 dogs of different breeds, mixes, shapes, and sizes (from Pomeranians to American Pit Bull Terriers to Irish Wolfhounds) have passed our rigorous therapy dog certification test and promote healing, health, and hope.
- CTC has over 100 people working in our programs; developing new and innovative applications for animal-assisted therapy; staffing outreach events and our program evaluation efforts; educating the community about animal-assisted therapy and humane issues; publishing our newsletter; and planning fundraising events.