FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Mason Wasz Foundation: Canine Therapy Corps’ “Little Helper”

[CHICAGO, IL, June 12, 2019] The Mason Wasz Foundation has committed a $15,000 presenting sponsorship gift to Canine Therapy Corps to complete the organization’s new dog training space. In August 2018, Canine Therapy Corps purchased a building in Logan Square to increase its public profile, grow its volunteer corps, and expand its service offerings.

The Crystal Lake-based Mason Wasz Foundation honors the legacy of 3-year-old Mason Wasz who died unexpectedly in 2017 after a short battle with a rare infection. Mason was known as his family’s little helper, and in that spirit, the foundation has done amazing things such as organizing a massively successful blanket donation drive and donating a CuddleCot, a cooling bassinet that permits grieving parents to spend more time with their stillborn babies.

Canine Therapy Corps’ building at 3918 W. Fullerton Ave. in Chicago includes 3,000 square feet of dog training space. The Mason Wasz Foundation’s capstone gift allows Canine Therapy Corps to purchase the balance of equipment it needs to launch a full complement of dog training classes, from puppy to advanced obedience as well as sports classes, such as dog agility. These classes, which will be open to the public, will not only support the path to volunteer work as a therapy dog, but also provide any dog and its owner with skills for urban living. Classes are expected to be rolled out in the fall.

“The Mason Wasz Foundation has made a name for itself funding important and poignant needs like CuddleCots,” said Executive Director Callie Cozzolino. “Canine Therapy Corps is humbled and grateful to accept this gift in Mason’s memory. It will enable us to grow our volunteer corps, and increase our ability to serve more people who benefit from the healing power of dogs.”

Mason’s mother and foundation board member Melissa Wasz said the foundation’s focus on funding pet therapy this year “is very meaningful to us because Mason absolutely loved dogs. If things were different and he had survived, we know he would have needed lots of therapy in his recovery and because of his love for dogs, we would have most likely looked into this for him. He would have loved it! This would make him so happy and proud to know this is happening in his honor and memory.”

“It means so much that a profoundly meaningful organization such as The Mason Wasz Foundation recognizes how we connect and heal humans through the use of dog-assisted therapy. Their transformative gift of $15,000 will help us develop more dog-human teams through our training, and ultimately reach more clients,” said Julie Muccillo, chair of Canine Therapy Corps’ Board of Directors.

The Mason Wasz Foundation will present Canine Therapy Corps with a check at its annual golf outing, which will be held Fri., June 14, 2019, at Red Tail Golf Club in Lakewood, IL. Additional information about the golf outing can be found on the Mason Wasz Foundation website: www.masonwasz.org.

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About the Mason Wasz Foundation
The Mason Wasz Foundation is dedicated to continuing the legacy of Mason Drake Wasz and his desire to always be a “little helper” through various philanthropic efforts within his community. Mason was a giver, a sharer and a comforter to all.

The Mason Wasz Foundation wishes to continue these tenants of Mason’s life by giving, sharing and comforting those persons, charities and facilities who also adhere to these ideas.

For more information about the Mason Wasz Foundation, visit www.masonwasz.org.

About Canine Therapy Corps
With around 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 2018, Canine Therapy Corps’ teams provided nearly 1,200 hours of animal-assisted therapy services to over 10,000 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.

For more information about Canine Therapy Corps, visit www.caninetherapycorps.org or call the office at (773) 404-6467.

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