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Petco Foundation Invests in Canine Therapy Corps’ Life-Changing Work Supporting Therapy Dog Programs

Investment of $2,000 will extend efforts to help pets and people in Chicago live their best lives

Chicago, Illinois (November 19, 2020) – Canine Therapy Corps of Chicago announced it has been awarded a $2,000 grant investment from the Petco Foundation to support its animal-assisted interventions for children and adults recovering from trauma.

The Petco Foundation investment will support Canine Therapy Corps’ efforts to double the number of people its volunteer therapy dog teams serve over the next five years, in addition to supporting ongoing programs at Chicago’s most respected hospitals and social service institutions.

“2020 has been a critical year for Canine Therapy Corps, not only due to the pandemic, but because we had planned to launch a full-scale training program to attract and prepare more people and their dogs for therapy work. This will help us increase the number of people we serve,” said Callie Cozzolino, JD, CPDT-KA, Executive Director at Canine Therapy Corps. “Petco Foundation’s generosity will help sustain our operations as we scale our expansion. We deeply appreciate their longstanding support.”

Investments are made possible through the Petco Foundation’s annual Helping Heroes campaign, which supports shelter pets that dedicate their lives to saving and improving the lives of others. Since 2012, the Petco Foundation has invested more than $15 million to support the life-changing work of helping heroes.

Canine Therapy Corps’ volunteer therapy dog teams help people feel better and get better. This nonprofit organization’s therapy dog programs catalyze positive change and inspire individuals to work on the arduous task of regaining strength, confidence, and independence as they persevere over severe injuries and devastating illnesses or live with chronic disabilities. Since 1991, Canine Therapy Corps has been serving the Chicago metropolitan area, working with health care, education, and social services professionals and helping people recover from physical and emotional trauma.

For more information about Canine Therapy Corps, visit www.ctcorps.org. For more on the Petco Foundation, visit petcofoundation.org and join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by using the hashtag #HelpingHeroes.

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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 2019, Canine Therapy Corps’ teams provided around 1,000 hours of animal-assisted therapy services to nearly 8,000 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.

About the Petco Foundation
At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we’ve invested more than $290 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. We also partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we’ve helped more than 6.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we’re just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.

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