

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Canine Companions for Independence Announces 2010 Board of Directors

ORLANDO, Florida...The Southeast Regional Center of Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is pleased to announce that Dave Gordon, executive vice president and chief commercial officer of Exel Transportation Inc., has been chosen as president of the board of directors. As president, Gordon will lead the board in the development of ideas for methods to expand the impact of Canine Companions for Independence within the region, and to support the regional director and regional staff. Gordon has been an active volunteer with Canine Companions for the past 15 years.

Other board appointments include:

Officers - Vice President – Vince LaRuffa of Universal Orlando Resort and Christine O’Neal of SeaWorld Orlando; Treasurer – Duane Comprosky of GE Capital Solutions; Secretary – Reverend Chuck Green, pastor emeritus of Orangewood Presbyterian Church; Past President- Nancy Baumann of Paving Powerful Pathways.

New Members – Tammie Quinlan of CNL and Michele Murrell of the King Center in Melbourne. Quinlan and Murrell join 19 other members who offer their experience and knowledge to help monitor and strengthen CCI’s programs and services and who serve as public figures for the organization through fundraising and advocacy.

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CCI assistance dogs are provided free of charge, though costs to CCI exceed \$45,000 to breed, raise, train and provide ongoing support. Since CCI receives no government funding, charitable contributions, grants, and corporate support fund the substantial costs involved with this process.

Canine Companions has its own breeding program in Santa Rosa, CA. When the puppies are 8-weeks old, they are placed with volunteer puppy raisers across the country who will teach them up to 30 basic commands. When the puppy is 14-16 months old, the puppy raiser returns the dog to one of CCI's five regional training centers for six months of advanced training before it is placed.

Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. It is the largest non-profit organization in the world that provides assistance dogs for people with disabilities. The Southeast Region of Canine Companions for Independence serves the eight states of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi. For more information about CCI contact the Southeast Regional Center at 800-572-BARK, or visit their web site at www.cci.org

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