



May 2, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE RECEIVES \$7,580 GRANT
FROM CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION
For February 2008 Team Training**

Orlando, Florida – February, 16, 2008 – Canine Companions for Independence is proud to announce that it has received a \$7,580 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. The award was one of almost 100 grants totaling almost \$800,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations that help people living with disabilities become more fully integrated members of society.

Canine Companions for Independence will use the grant for Team Training, a rigorous two-week training session at CCI's Southeast Regional Center in Orlando, FL. During Team Training, Participants learn all of their assistance dog's commands and how to properly care for them. Team Training is an essential part of CCI's program because it gives the recipient an opportunity to learn how to work with and benefit from an assistance dog. The process consists of daily lectures, exams, practice and public outings, held at five CCI training centers nationwide, four times per year, including Orlando.

Canine Companions for Independence is honored to receive this award to help in its mission of enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. Canine Companions for Independence thanks The Reeve Foundation for its generous support.

“As the late Dana Reeve once stated, our Quality of Life grants are about freedom, said Peter T. Wilderotter, president of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.” “Canine Companions for Independence provides hope for individuals living with paralysis and their caregivers who are everyday striving to improve their physical and emotional well-being. We are honored to help Canine Companions for Independence continue the heartfelt mission that Dana Reeve herself started back in 1999. “

The Reeve Foundation's Quality of Life grant program, started by the late Dana Reeve, acknowledges the ever present and demanding needs of people living with paralysis and other disabilities and the importance to enable individuals to maintain a positive and fulfilling quality of life. To date, the Reeve Foundation has awarded 1,454 Quality of Life grants totaling nearly \$12 million to organizations nationwide that help improve opportunities, access and day-to-day quality of life for individuals and their families.

Health Promotion grants, a special category of Quality of Life grants, are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Funding is awarded to non-profit organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord injuries and other diseases and birth conditions that result in paralysis. Health Promotion grants strive to remove societal and environmental barriers that limit the abilities of individuals living with paralysis to participate in life activities. Participation in these activities improves physical and emotional health and prevents secondary conditions for persons living with paralysis. Health Promotion grants totaled \$558,341 and were awarded to 57 organizations.

About the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-225-0292.

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. The Southeast Region of Canine Companions for Independence serves the eight states of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Patrice Shields at 407/ 522-3305, pshields@cci.org or visit our website at www.caninecompanions.org.