

Creating *life*-changing independence for people with disabilities.

Imagine not being able to open a door. Answer the phone. Hear a fire alarm. Or even pick up a pencil. Think what it would be like to have people stare at you because you're in a wheelchair. Or feel isolated and alone because you're "different." These are the kinds of challenges many people with disabilities face daily.

Put a Canine Companion assistance dog in the picture, and everything changes. Thanks to the physical tasks the assistance dog performs, lives are suddenly filled with new promise and potential.

"Arrow is the best thing that's ever happened to me. He's my best buddy."

—Brian and Skilled Companion Arrow



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Canine Companions for Independence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and an accredited founding member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI), a coalition of organizations that train and place assistance dogs worldwide.



Canine Companions for Independence®

The most advanced technology capable of *transforming* the lives of people with disabilities has a **cold nose** and a **warm heart**.



The assistance dogs we breed, raise and train aren't just the ears, hands and legs of their human partners. They're also their goodwill

ambassadors, and often, best friends as well. They open up new opportunities and new possibilities. And spread incredible joy. We unite people with dogs in a powerful program that leads to greater independence and self-esteem.

This is the magic of Canine Companions for Independence.

Exceptional Dogs for Exceptional People®

cci.org

We train **4** types of assistance dogs

Service Dogs assist adults with physical disabilities by performing daily tasks

"Hammill gives me more security, independence and daily companionship. He really improves the quality of my life."

—Chuck Green and Service Dog Hammill

Hearing Dogs alert the deaf and hard of hearing to important sounds

"Jared is a favorite in the office and helps me to feel accepted. He invites conversation and interaction, at which point people realize I am smart and funny and fun to talk to."

—Maria Karunungan and Hearing Dog Jared

Facility Dogs work with a professional in a visitation, education or healthcare setting

"Odele makes a huge difference in many people's lives on a daily basis."

—Laura Nelson and Facility Dog Odele

Skilled Companions enhance independence for children and adults with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities

"Now kids don't look at the trach tube, but instead notice Cory and Melly as a pair."

—Maurice, Cory's dad

Life. Unleashed.

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.



Puppies

Canine Companions breeds Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, and a cross of the two to be assistance dogs. Volunteer breeder caretakers care for

CCI breeder dogs and nurture newborn puppies for eight weeks until they are brought to CCI. From ages eight weeks to 18 months volunteer puppy raisers care for, provide basic obedience training and socialize our CCI puppies.



Training

Professional CCI instructors teach the dog to master over 40 commands for six to nine months, before the dog can go through Team

Training and be matched with an adult or child who has a disability, or a professional assisting people with disabilities. Team Training culminates in a joyful graduation ceremony for graduates beginning a new journey and for puppy raisers witnessing their puppies' achievements.



"If you want to help people—and you believe dogs are the way to do it—you need to be involved with Canine Companions."

—Terry McGraw
Chairman and CEO
The McGraw-Hill Companies

To the left: Cory and Skilled Companion Melly

Connect with CCI cci.org

Apply

Receive an assistance dog and on-going support services free of charge.

Volunteer

Raise a puppy or volunteer time at a regional center.

Donate

Make a donation, become a monthly Miracle Maker, or leave a legacy with estate planning.

"What I receive from Canine Companions far outweighs anything I could give."

—Nancy Baumann
Canine Companions volunteer since 1995 with CCI Breeder Dog Baumann

