

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2008

Northeast Regional Center of National Non-Profit Organization Receives \$1.5 Million Donation for New Center on Long Island

NEW YORK, NY – Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), a national non-profit organization that breeds, trains and places assistance dogs with children and adults with disabilities, is thrilled to announce that long-time supporters Anne and Wayne Gittinger have generously offered a challenge grant of \$1.5 million to CCI’s Northeast Regional Center Capital Campaign. The challenge grant will match dollar-to-dollar each contribution made to the campaign up to a cumulative maximum of \$1.5 million for donation pledges made by December 31, 2009. Anne has been on the National Board of CCI since 1994 and is currently serving as vice president.

“We are grateful to the Gittingers for their generous donation,” Corey Hudson, CEO, Canine Companions for Independence, said. “The goal of the gift is to add greater incentive to finish raising the final \$3.3 million of the capital campaign, allowing us to continue expanding our vital services in the Northeast Region.”

The Center has been working out of a converted barn at the SUNY Farmingdale Campus on Long Island for the past 19 years. The need to expand the Northeast Regional Center, which

serves 13 states from Maine to Virginia, is a result of the overwhelming demand for CCI assistance dogs as well as the desire to provide dormitory space for recipients attending the two week Team Training course – a requirement to receive an assistance dog. The new center, “The Miller Family Campus” will enable CCI to expand its program staff, care for more dogs, reduce the wait for a Canine Companions assistance dog and help more people with disabilities live more independently. The campaign has raised approximately \$7.5 million to date.

For more information on the organization or to donate towards the challenge grant, please call 1-800-572-BARK.

About CCI

Canine Companions for Independence is the largest non-profit provider of trained assistance dogs with five regional training centers across the country. Established in 1975, Canine Companions provides highly trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. There is no charge for the dog, its training and ongoing follow-up services. For more information visit www.cci.org or call **1-800-572-BARK**.

###