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SERVICE DOG ORGANIZATION GRADUATION SCHEDULED

7 People to Receive Assistance Dogs November 12

DELAWARE, OH -- Canine Companions for Independence®, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance dogs for people with disabilities free of charge, will hold its graduation ceremony Saturday, November 12, 2011. The event will be held at the Dublin Recreation Center (5600 Post Road, Dublin, OH) at 11AM. Open to the public with free admission, this inspiring ceremony will honor the 7 newest recipients of Canine Companions' highly-trained assistance dogs.

Both adults and children with a wide range of physical and developmental disabilities benefit from these canine helpers and will be among the November graduating class.

The dogs graduating November 12 have been in training for over two years and know up to 40 different commands including opening doors, turning light switches on and off, and retrieving dropped objects. The graduation ceremony is the culmination of an intensive, two-week Team Training course completed by these new human/canine teams at Canine Companions' North Central Regional Training Center in Delaware, Ohio.

The ceremony will also feature volunteer puppy raisers turning in the puppies they have been raising for Canine Companions for the past 14 to 16 months. Next, the puppies will embark on six to nine months of professional training with staff instructors in the hopes that they will one day become assistance dogs for someone in need.

About Canine Companions for Independence:

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 people and dogs. There is no charge for the dog, its training and on-going follow-up services. For more information, visit cci.org or call 740-833-3700.

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