

Media Alert
For Immediate Release to Assignment Desks
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“PAWcasso” Art & Wine Event Will Benefit Canine Companions for Independence

Orlando, Florida - World-renowned artist Luis Sottit will unveil a unique and original piece of art on Sunday March 14th that he created with a Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) graduate. Sottit worked with CCI Skilled Companion graduate Sami Castro, and her mother, Linnea, to trace the paws of Fanny II, their assistance dog. He took this back to his studio in Mexico where he added his artistic touches and will donate the proceeds of the sale of this art to CCI. Since 2005, 11 CCI graduates have participated in this unique artistic program.

WHAT: *PAWcasso: An Afternoon of Art & Wine* will also include the pouring of a signature wine, painting demonstrations by two other artists, live auctions on art work, and light hors d'oeuvres



WHEN: Sunday, March 14, 2010; 2 to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Rosen Centre, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

COST: Tickets are \$25 per person

WHY: 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, special events, and corporate support fund this substantial cost.

Interview Opportunities: Luis Sottit; Sami Castro and her mother.

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 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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