



Contact: Katie Malatino, Public Relations  
Canine Companions for Independence  
Phone: 760-901-4307  
E-mail: [kmalatino@cci.org](mailto:kmalatino@cci.org)  
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## **GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS SERVICE DOG ORGANIZATION**

*Canine Companions Provides Assistance Dogs to People with Disabilities*

OCEANSIDE, CA The *Dog Days of Summer Golf Classic* will be held on Friday, September 25, 2009 at the Ocotillo Golf Resort at 3751 S. Clubhouse Drive in Chandler, Arizona. Teeing off with a shotgun start at 7:30AM, the event will include a post-tournament luncheon, a silent auction and a raffle following the golf game. Registration and sponsorship information can be found at [www.ccigolf.org](http://www.ccigolf.org). All proceeds from the tournament benefit Canine Companions for Independence®. *Canine Companions 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.*

Canine Companions trains assistance dogs for people with physical and developmental disabilities. Phoenix resident, Linden Aitken, received her service dog, Tor II, free of charge from the organization earlier this year. Tor helps Aitken with a variety of everyday physical tasks. "Tor gives me the freedom and independence to go wherever I want to go and do whatever I want to do," Aitken explains. "Just a few days ago, I dropped my keys under my truck. They were so far under, I couldn't reach them from either side. Instead of waiting for someone to come by and help me retrieve them, I just sent Tor to get them. Sure enough, less than a minute later, he popped back out with my keys in his mouth. He has been a lifesaver in so many ways already; I don't know what I'd do without him!"

Canine Companions is able to provide life-changing dogs like Tor at no cost to the recipients thanks to private donations, corporate sponsorships, and fundraisers like the *Dog Days of Summer Golf Classic*. Not your ordinary tournament, golfers at the *Classic* will have the chance to meet Aitken and Tor and see firsthand how valuable Canine Companions assistance dogs are to their partners. Aitken is happy to have the opportunity to support a Canine Companions fundraiser. "I just really appreciate everyone in all of the different ways that they help," Aitken explains. "Without them, (my partnership with Tor) would not be possible."

Volunteer puppy raisers will also bring their puppies to the tournament, and participants will be encouraged to rub their furry heads for luck and enjoy some puppy love in between holes!

### **About Canine Companions for Independence:**

Canine Companions for Independence provides highly-trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities. Established in 1975, CCI now has five regional training centers across the country. CCI is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. For more information, visit [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org) or call 1-800-572-2275.

### **About the Dog Days of Summer Golf Classic:**

For registration and sponsorship information, visit [www.ccigolf.org](http://www.ccigolf.org) or call Tournament Chair Pat Lawson at 602-312-3040.

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