



Service Dogs



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Founded in 1975, Canine Companions for Independence® (CCI) 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.

We train 4 types of assistance dogs; Service Dogs, Skilled Companion Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Facility Dogs. After mastering over 40 specialized commands, students complete a two-week Team Training where they are matched with an adult or child to enhance independence and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.



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®

Exceptional Dogs for Exceptional People®

Service Dogs open doors.

More than a dog.

Imagine having a dog that could reach a light switch, pick up dropped keys or open a door.

Canine Companions for Independence Service Dogs are partnered with adults with physical disabilities to assist with

daily tasks and increase independence by reducing reliance on other people.

A Service Dog can pull their partner in a manual wheelchair, push buttons for elevators or automatic doors, and even assist

with business transactions by transferring money, receipts, and packages.

“I feel more confident about traveling because I don’t have to worry about wearing myself out pushing my wheelchair”

—Muffy Davis, accomplished athlete, business owner, and Service Dog Leibe.

Increased independence and enhanced quality of life.

A CCI Service Dog not only assists with physical tasks, but also provides emotional and social support. This can increase feelings of self-confidence and happiness.

During the two-week training, participants learn how to effectively handle an assistance dog to it’s fullest potential.



CCI Service Dogs and follow-up services are free of charge.

To receive a Service Dog:

- Be at least 18 years old and have completed one-year post-injury rehabilitation.
- Contact the nearest CCI regional training center for an application packet.
- Find a friend or family member to be a training assistant.
- Have a support system in place to facilitate a successful assistance dog partnership.
- Apply. This process involves several steps designed to ensure success.
- Once the application is accepted, attend a two-week Team Training class at a CCI training center.
- After the training session, attend on-going CCI training and and follow-up support services.



“Jethro has expanded my life in a way that makes me feel more a part of the world”

—Doug Smith, graphic designer and Service Dog, Jethro

