



Skilled Companions



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.

Connect with CCI

cci.org
info@cci.org
1-800-572-BARK (2275)

National Headquarters
& Northwest Regional Center
P.O. Box 446
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446
(707) 577-1700 VOICE (707) 577-1756 TTY

Southwest Regional Center
P.O. Box 4568
Oceanside, CA 92052-4568
(760) 901-4300 VOICE (760) 901-4326 TTY

Colorado Satellite Office
1045-P Garden of the Gods Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(719) 260-6151 VOICE

North Central Regional Center
4989 State Route 37 East
Delaware, OH 43015-9682
(740) 548-4447 VOICE/TTY

Chicago Satellite Office
P.O. Box 41
Woodstock, IL 60098
(847) 816-7360 VOICE

Northeast Regional Center
P.O. Box 205
Farmingdale, NY 11735-0205
(631) 694-6938 VOICE/TTY

Southeast Regional Center
P.O. Box 680388
Orlando, FL 32868-0388
(407) 522-3300 VOICE



Canine Companions for Independence®

Exceptional Dogs for Exceptional People®



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.

Skilled Companions, *partners.*

Increase independence.

People with disabilities often have trouble reaching a light switch, picking up a pencil when dropped or opening a door. Imagine having a dog that could do all of that, and more.

Our Skilled Companion Dogs are trained to work with an adult or child with a disability under the guidance of a facilitator. A facilitator is typically a caregiver, spouse, or parent who handles and cares for the assistance dog and ensures the success of the primary human-canine partnership.

The facilitator's role is to provide structure in order to encourage a strong bond between the recipient and the Skilled Companion Dog. They are also responsible for the care and customized training needs of the dog.



"Ilia's just changed my life. It makes me feel good to have a partner. He's with me every day and every night. He's my best friend. He's with me for life."

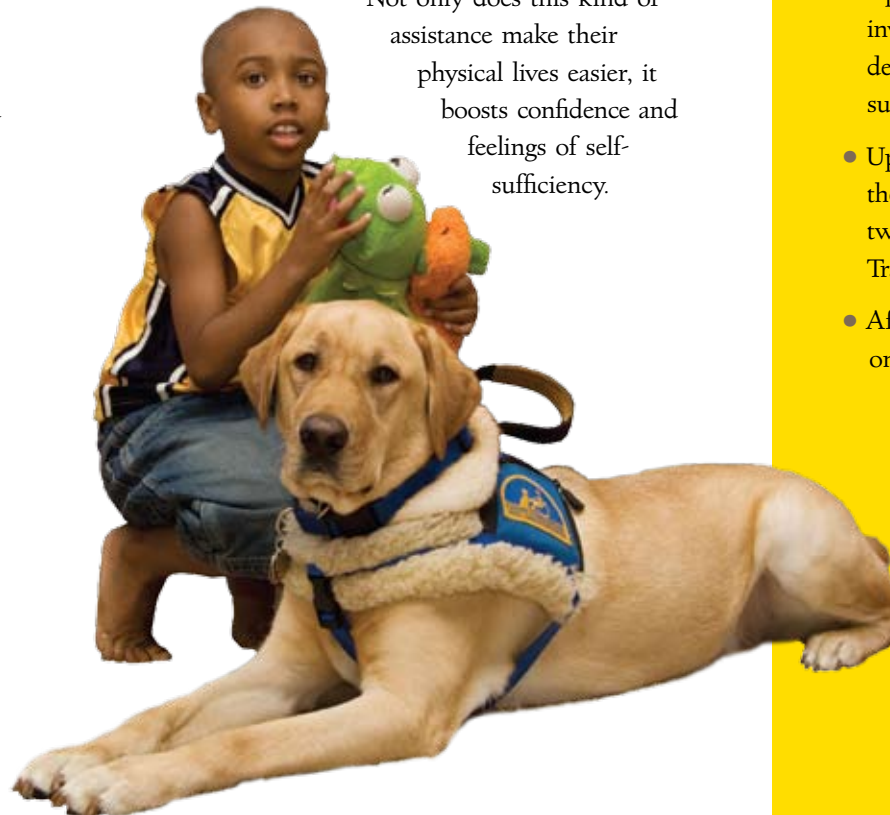
-Cole, 9 years old, and Skilled Companion, Ilia

Enhance quality of life.

Bred to be calm, reliable and loyal, a CCI Skilled Companion reduces the reliance on other people to complete simple daily tasks.

A CCI Skilled Companion can also serve as a social bridge to people who are not used to relating with a person with disabilities.

Not only does this kind of assistance make their physical lives easier, it boosts confidence and feelings of self-sufficiency.



Skilled Companion Dogs and follow-up services are free of charge.

To receive a Skilled Companion:

- Choose a facilitator for the team.
- Contact the nearest CCI regional training center for an application packet.
- Apply. This process involves several steps designed to ensure success.
- Upon acceptance, the participant and the facilitator must attend a two-week Team Training class at the CCI Regional Training Center.
- After the training session, CCI provides on-going support and follow-up services.



"Now kids don't look at the trach tube, but instead notice Cary and Melly as a pair"

-Maurice, Corey's dad and facilitator of Skilled Companion Melly