



Contact: Ashley Koehler
Canine Companions for Independence
Phone: (740) 833-3704
E-mail: akoehler@cci.org
November 7, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



HEIZERLING FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER WELCOMES SERVICE DOG

COLUMBUS, OH Tristan Renat, a volunteer for the Heizerling Foundation, received a service dog in August. Natalie IV, a female black Labrador-Golden Retriever mix, will help Tristan by picking up dropped items, turning on and off lights and opening doors. *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.* Tristan received Natalie IV free of charge from the organization in August.

Tristan and Natalie IV graduated together after completing an intense two week Team Training course at one of the Canine Companions' five regional centers. During Team Training, students are strategically matched with assistance dogs and learn how to work with them effectively. The dogs are trained for two years, learning 40 commands before they are ready to become someone's 24/7 partner. Thanks to Canine Companions' generous supporters, the dogs, their training and ongoing follow-up support are provided free of charge.

Tristan learned about Canine Companions for Independence at a conference and decided to apply. Tristan states, "I wanted to enhance my independence through the use of a service dog."

About Canine Companions for Independence

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

###