



## ABOUT OUR GOAL-DIRECTED THERAPY DOG PROGRAMS

*The foundation of these programs is a partnership between Pawsitive Teams and professionals who set goals for their clients. Pawsitive Teams-certified therapy dog handlers are then challenged to find creative ways to use their dogs as motivators to help accomplish these goals.*

*Program dates and times noted are subject to change.*

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### COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM

*In courthouses throughout San Diego County*

Under the direction of the San Diego District Attorney and Victim Advocate Offices, our therapy dog teams meet with child and elderly witnesses who testify in court. The dogs are a valuable tool to relieve tension prior to and during testimony and often enable these victims to give more effective testimonies, thus resulting in more convictions. **Limited opportunities based on DA Office request; always weekdays.**

### ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

*At multiple locations in the City of San Diego*

Our therapy dog teams work with injured outpatient active duty service members from the Naval Medical Center to give patients the support, encouragement, and optimism unique to canine therapy. This six-week Canine Inspired Community Reintegration (CICR) Program is designed to help patients recovering from PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury re-enter the community by establishing a greater sense of trust and less hyper-vigilance in public settings. We work directly under the guidance of a Recreation Therapist at Naval Medical Center. Each service member is assigned a therapy dog to handle during the sessions that are held in a variety of community settings. **Limited opportunities; meets Thursday mornings.**

### TEEN ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

*At two locations in the City of San Diego*

Our six-week Teen Enrichment Programs give us the opportunity to work one-on-one with teens from residential facilities, alternative school settings, and specialized counseling programs. We use our therapy dog teams to explore life skill themes such as Trust, Teamwork, and Communication in partnership with the therapists and counselors who work directly with the teens. Each teen is assigned a therapy dog to handle during the six-week session. Our programs are conducted at one of two venues: **at our Training Center in the Miramar area (Wednesday evenings) or at an alternative high school in the San Diego Unified School District (midday on Mondays).**

## **PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

### ***At Clairemont High School***

Students with communication challenges work in a fun, supportive environment with our therapy dogs and handlers. Students' disabilities include autism spectrum disorder, speech impairments, and developmental delays. Therapy dog teams work directly under the supervision of the Speech and Language Pathologist who sets the goals for each student. **Meets Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 pm during the academic year.** Frequency of volunteer involvement is a minimum of twice a month.

## **PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

### ***At Abraxas High School in Poway***

Therapy dog teams work one-on-one with students selected by the special education teachers. These Transition Students (ages 18-22) have developmental and/or physical disabilities. Some of the students are working on verbal skills such as learning to speak more clearly, while others work to develop a greater range of physical motion. The special education teachers set individual goals for each student—often the goals are written directly into the IEP for the student. **Meets Tuesdays from 12:00-1:15 pm during the academic year.** Frequency for volunteers varies—some assist twice a month while others volunteer weekly.

## **MEDICALLY FRAGILE PROGRAM**

### ***At Creative Performing and Media Arts Middle School & Clairemont High School***

Therapy dog teams work with middle and high school students with a range of disabilities—most are low-functioning and non-ambulatory. The dogs assist in meeting the teacher's goals for the students, which generally include motivation to get the student to reach out, roll over, smile, or relax. The primary goal of the program is to provide comfort and stimulation to this very special population that benefits greatly from the presence of a calm dog. **Frequency for volunteer involvement varies; meets weekdays during the academic year.**