WHAT IS CANINE THERAPY CORPS?
Canine Therapy Corps, Inc.: empowers and motivates individuals to improve their physical and psychological health and well-being by harnessing the human-animal bond; provides goal-directed, interactive animal-assisted therapy services free of charge using volunteers and certified therapy dogs; and advances animal-assisted interventions through research and collaboration.

Since 1991, Canine Therapy Corps volunteers and their certified therapy dogs have been serving the Chicago metropolitan area, working with health care, education, and social services professionals and helping people recover from physical and emotional trauma. Canine Therapy Corps customizes and tailors our programs to meet the therapeutic objectives of the special needs population served. Programs are goal-directed and interactive, so working with a Canine Therapy Corps dog is an integral part of each client's recovery.

The foundation of Canine Therapy Corps' successful animal-assisted therapy (AAT) programs is the strength of the human-animal bond, which encourages and empowers individuals facing and overcoming personal challenges. The continuous and immediate positive feedback provided in AAT sessions catalyzes the motivation necessary to push through the hard work and pain of therapy, which is a lifetime project for many of our clients. In addition, sharing their love and compassion, and working as a team serving the community, deepens the bond between a handler and his or her dog.

In 2012, Canine Therapy Corps volunteer teams donated over 1,400 hours of animal-assisted interventions to more than 1,000 individuals.

WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?
Canine Therapy Corps collaborates with professionals at highly respected Chicago area hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation facilities to develop program curricula for children and adults, both in and outpatient, recovering from a number of challenges such as catastrophic accidents, illnesses, strokes, surgeries, substance abuse, or abuse at the hands of a family member or caregiver. We also serve children with chronic illnesses like cerebral palsy and those with chronic conditions like autism, Down syndrome, and mood and behavior disorders.

WHERE ARE OUR PROGRAMS?
Canine Therapy Corps currently provides therapy dogs to the following institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area:

- **Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital**, with children who have cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other chronic medical challenges. We also have a pediatric oncology visitation program here.
- **Ariella Joy Frankel Keshet Day School**, with children on the autism spectrum, some of whom also have other complex or chronic medical conditions.
- **Chicago Children's Advocacy Center**, visitation with children who have suffered abuse, awaiting appointments with treating professionals at a multidisciplinary facility.
- **Easter Seals Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research**, with children and adolescents on the autism spectrum.
- **Haymarket Center**, with adults in a residential substance abuse recovery program and teens in a court mandated outpatient substance abuse recovery program.
- **Heartland Alliance**, visitation with unaccompanied immigrant adolescents who have emotional and behavior disorders.
- **Jesse Brown VA Medical Center**, with veterans being treated for a myriad of mental illnesses, including PTSD, at the hospital's outpatient psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center (coming Fall 2013).
- **Lawrence Hall Youth Services**, with children and adolescents who have severe emotional and behavioral challenges due to trauma, abuse and neglect.
- **Northwestern Memorial Hospital**, visitation with inpatients and outpatients in medical, oncology and neuro/ortho/spine, and mental health departments.
- **Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago**, with clients of all ages recovering from spinal cord injuries, head trauma, burns, and other physical trauma.
- **Swedish Covenant Hospital**, with adult inpatients recovering from strokes, joint replacements and other physical trauma.
- **The Clare at Water Tower**, visitation with residents on skilled nursing and memory support floors.

WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?
- Over 100 people working in our programs; developing new and innovative applications for animal-assisted therapy; staffing outreach events and our program evaluation efforts; educating the community about animal-assisted therapy and humane issues; publishing our newsletter; and planning fundraising events.
- Approximately 60 dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes (from Pomeranian to American Pit Bull Terrier to Irish Wolfhound) have passed our rigorous therapy dog certification test and promote healing, health, and hope to many clients annually.