



Courageous Companions
Compagnons Courageux

Dear Prospective Advertiser:

Thank you so much for showing interest in the “Courageous K9” magazine for Courageous Companions. Courageous Companions is a non-profit charitable organization which provides to military service men and women, veterans, and first responders diagnosed with an operational stress injury to be paired and trained with a service dog. These dogs minimize the individual’s functional limitations resulting from their injury. Courageous Companions is volunteer run and governed by a board of directors, most of whom have ties to the Canadian Armed Forces or First Responder field.

Each Service Dog undertakes specialized training to provide for the needs of the individual for whom they are being trained. The two are then trained together to become a service dog team. Service dogs are an additional treatment option to psychiatric and social support. The dogs have been shown to have a calming effect on PTSD sufferers. Among other effects, a service dog can provide the following:

- psychiatric support and interruptive behavior;
- deliberate disobedience to redirect the clients’ behavior, then tactile stimulation to disrupt emotional overload;
- wakening the client from nightmares;
- deep pressure grounding for a calming effect;
- crowd control and panic prevention in public;
- arousal from fear paralysis or a disassociation spell;
- assisting a client to leave an area by finding an exit;
- allowing the client to feel calm enabling personal space expansion.

Courageous Companions provides all the funding related to acquisition, training, certification, equipment and transportation of the dog and person team. We depend on sponsorship and donations as the average cost of training, certifying, and maintaining the certification of a service dog is between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The initial training takes approximately two years to complete. By placing an advertisement, you will be helping to improve an individual’s quality of life by providing them with a specially trained companion, specifically chosen to help reduce the effects of their post-traumatic stress injury.

Sincerely,

John Dugas (K9 Mia)

Chairman

Board of Directors

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