



ECAD

ECAD, Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities

Phone: (914) 693-0600 ext. 1950 Fax: (914) 231-9333

Website: www.ecad1.org Email: Info@ecad1.org

Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Leslie Pihonak
Development & Communications Specialist
Phone: (914)693-0600 ext.1950
Fax: (914)231-9333

ECAD announces new partnership with PETCO.

PETCO's Helping Heroes grant will go a long way to placing Service Dogs with those who need them most.

Dobbs Ferry, NY (December 11, 2015): ECAD announced four new Service Dog Teams at the James V. Harmon Community Center in Hastings-on-Hudson this evening, including two Veteran Service Teams after an intense two-week training module.

Harris Weiss of Winsted, CT has been diagnosed with FALS, which is the hereditary form of ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Despite the fact that his disease has no cure, Harris' experience at ECAD has improved his outlook on life, and given him hope for greater independence. He says of Service Dog Hennessy, "I'm so happy with Henny. He seems to be able to predict my next move and he is so easygoing. Henny will enable me to access places, and help me with things. I have a well-behaved dog that helps me daily."

Ssgt. John Swales of Chesterfield County, VA is a ten-year Army veteran who suffers from PTSD. John deals with mobility and stability limitations that affect his ability to function in normal public areas. After being at ECAD, John has learned a lot about canine psychology, and is confident that his future will be filled with increased focus and activity. "Service Dog Jaeger's and my personalities are extremely similar. We are both Jerry Garcia incarnate", says Swales. Swales currently works at his local branch of the Veteran's Administration as a Recruiter and can't wait to introduce SD Jaeger to all his co-workers and fellow Vets.

Richard Fiedler of Long Valley, NJ is suffering from severely decreased mobility. He had given up many social and recreational activities. After being paired with Service Dog Champagne, Richard is more hopeful he will gain back his physical abilities, returning to daily activities with greater ease, and begin visiting more national parks with his wife. "Champagne is a beautiful girl who will give me companionship during the day and independence for years to come."

As a Marine, Sgt. Ben Chandler of Pine City, NY suffers from a degenerative left knee and PTSD after his service in Iraq. Due to his physical and emotional setbacks, Ben has anxiety and often refrains from going out in public. Ben is now hopeful that Service Dog Vixen's presence will aid in the easing of his nightmares, panic attacks, and will provide him with the increased confidence he needs to venture back out into the world. "I feel great about being matched with Vixen. She has been great to work with. We have bonded, and work together so well." Ben, a United Rentals employee, was sponsored in large part by the construction equipment company—who also is a corporate supporter of ECAD, as they continue their mission of support for returning Veterans.

FOR RELEASE 9 A.M. EST, DECEMBER 14, 2015

MORE

“Team Training graduations are always emotional for me”, says co-Founder and Director of Programs, Lu Picard “—and the transformation in the lives of our Clients is only beginning at that time. It’s a blessing to be able to shine some light in the lives of people who need it most.”

Founded by Lu and Dale Picard in 1995, ECAD has placed over 250 Service Dogs with over 50 different disabilities at a 98% success rate nationally. Of the over 250 Teams, ECAD has 28 Veteran-canine Teams with a 100% success rate in placement. ECAD Service Dogs receive 1,500 hours of education from birth to placement, including a portion of their structured education provided by at-risk youth and vocational students plus 80 hours of intensive client-canine orientation. ECAD has locations in Torrington, CT and Dobbs Ferry, NY.

###