

CHARITY NAVIGATOR AWARDS TOP 4-STAR RATING TO ECAD

ECAD, Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities, the highly regarded CT based not for profit has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the fifth consecutive year that ECAD has earned this coveted recognition for its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

"We are immensely proud that Charity Navigator has given us the highest rating possible," said Dale Picard, ECAD's Executive Director. "We work hard to see that every dollar given to ECAD is used in the most efficient and dedicated manner. As indicated by Charity Navigator's letter to us, only 7% of the charities evaluated receive a 4-star rating, so we know our work has set us apart from our peers and demonstrates our trustworthiness to our donors. Without the support of our donors, on a daily basis, we would not be able to continue our work."

ECAD was co-founded in 1995 by Picard and his wife, Lu Picard, director of programs. Its mission then and now has been to educate and place highly skilled Service Dogs to assist people with disabilities so they will have greater independence and mobility. To date, ECAD has placed 300 Service Dogs. Clients have included adults and children representing over 80 different types of physical disabilities, degenerative disorders, and injuries. Clients have included Veterans with invisible disorders such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). ECAD also places Service Dogs with children with Autism as young as two years of age.

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, they upgraded their methodology for rating each charity's financial health with CN 2.1. These enhancements further substantiates the financial health of our four star charities.

"ECAD's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds ECAD to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support ECAD."

ECAD, located in Winchester, CT, has recently launched a Capital Campaign to complete the building of the ECAD Wellness and Education Center currently in the earliest stages of development at the site. When completed, the Center will have full training facilities, and residential quarters for clients when they attend Team Training Sessions.

ECAD

Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities



ECAD's rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org. More-detailed information about ECAD's rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

For more information on ECAD, go to www.ecad1.org or visit our Facebook page, ECAD, Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities.

###