

# CANINES FOR CHRIST THERAPY DOG MINISTRY

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Agency Name: Canines For Christ Therapy Dog Ministry, Inc. Federal EIN: 46-5668420 (501c3)

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## **Mission Statement**

Our mission is letting Christ's love shine through us and our canines as His disciples when we visit people who need love, hope, and compassion that only God's message can provide. We want them to know that God loves them. Millions of people have been touched by this saving message as we bring God's light of love into the darkness.

## **Ministry Description**

Our ministry is about "building caring relationships with the hope of gaining permission to share the life changing good news of Jesus Christ". Consequently, we are a Ministry of Presence first and therapy dogs second. The dogs do reflect the unconditional love of Christ, and they also break barriers which, otherwise, might prevent us from sharing the message of Christ to those we visit. Most existing volunteers already feel that it is an easy transition to sharing the love and compassion of Christ while the dog shares their love.

This is a very easy ministry to serve within because our members control their visit schedules, and our visit guidelines are easy to follow. Our volunteers make literally millions of direct contacts for Jesus every year, handing out crosses and books in the process. One of our hallmarks is to encourage, support and help direct efforts of our volunteers to educate and improve themselves in ways which make them more effective as Ambassadors of Christ.

For those interested, we also offer a program to become a Chaplain which offers increased access for visitation and skill development.

## **Ministry Requirements**

1. Have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (John 3:16), read and agree to C4C Statement of Belief
2. Complete and submit the "Canines for Christ Volunteer Application Form"
3. Must have current vaccine record of dog on file with the completed application.
4. The dog must be a minimum of six months old.
5. Provide the AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluation Form or approved Therapy Dog certification.
6. Submit a headshot picture of your dog for use on your business cards.
7. Follow the guidelines in the Volunteer Manual to include wearing C4C shirt and/or identification on their person and the dog is wearing their C4C vest or bandana.
8. Agree to pass out, as appropriate, the card with your dog's picture and the message of God's plan of salvation.
9. Agree, as appropriate, to listen and offer to share God's message of love and hope.

## **Serving Opportunities**

Long Term Care Facilities, 911 Centers, Memory Care, Schools, Churches, Special Needs Facilities, Airports, Fire Departments, Courts, Veterans Facilities, Community Events, Police Departments, Sam's, Hospitals, and all public areas where people gather.