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CareCredit Awards \$25,000 Grant to Canine Companions for Independence

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COSTA MESA, Calif.

Grant Benefits Program Matching Children with Disabilities and Assistance Dogs

COSTA MESA, Calif.--(<u>BUSINESS WIRE</u> [21])--CareCreditSM, a leading provider of healthcare financing for people and their pets, today awarded a \$25,000 grant to Canine Companions for Independence in recognition of the organization's commitment to enriching the lives of people with disabilities through highly-trained assistance dogs.

This is the second, consecutive year CareCredit has committed this level of support to Canine Companions for Independence for its "Exceptional Dogs for Exceptional Children" program, which matches dogs with children who are seeking increased independence and loving companionship.

"It is a huge compliment to have this level of support from a leading provider in the healthcare financing industry," said Lisa Cannon, Canine Companions development director. "CareCredit's belief in our mission and generous contributions enable us to continue enhancing the lives of children with disabilities."

The CareCredit Caring Communities program helps more people access care and supports charitable organizations in making a greater impact on the communities they serve.

"CareCredit is pleased to again recognize the tremendous work of Canine Companions for Independence to help children with disabilities gain greater independence," said Patrick Keefe, veterinary sales leader for CareCredit. "The bond between these incredible dogs and children is amazing and we're glad to help make a difference by facilitating these matches through our Caring Communities program."

Isaac and his assistance dog, Kaylor, are one of the many Canine Companions for Independence success stories. The seven-year-old Californian has autism spectrum disorder, impacting his communication abilities and socialization. Earlier this year, Isaac was matched with Kaylor, a Golden Retriever-Labrador mix, and his mother, Dawn, said a change was noticeable almost immediately.

"Isaac is communicating with others much more than he ever did before Kaylor and is beginning to develop social skills he needs in life, and it's all because of Kaylor," she said. "I see the world opening up for him."

"People like my son are reaping the benefits of Canine Companions for Independence because of the generosity of companies like CareCredit."

About Canine Companions for Independence:

Canine Companions for Independence provides highly-trained assistance dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities. Established in 1975, Canine Companions has six training center locations across the country and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. For more information, visit cci.org [3] or call 1-800-572-BARK.

About CareCredit:

For nearly 30 years, CareCredit has helped millions of clients receive needed and desired care. CareCredit is a healthcare credit card that can be used as a financing option for certain expenses not covered by insurance or to bridge payment when desired care exceeds insurance coverage. CareCredit is accepted at more than 180,000 healthcare and veterinary practices nationwide. For more information about CareCredit, visit www.carecredit.com [4].

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