

## Support The Good Dog Foundation

Good Dog relies on the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporations to sustain its operations. It receives no reimbursement for the healing services it provides.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please mail a check made payable to The Good Dog Foundation (see address on back panel), or visit the secure online giving page on the website.

Please give generously to The Good Dog Foundation.

## How Do Good Dogs Help Humans Heal?

There is extensive evidence that dogs improve the health and well-being of people. For instance, research shows that:

- Dogs help nursing home residents become more engaged and active
- They help people with heart attacks survive
- Dogs reduce loneliness, anxiety, depression, and agitation among people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
- Dogs reduce anxiety for children who are undergoing stressful medical and dental procedures
- They help psychiatric patients become more active, less depressed, and less anxious
- Dogs are flawless listeners

Good Dogs bring a powerful form of healing that no human being can provide.

**When someone needs  
healing, a Good Dog can help.  
Because Good Dogs are  
good medicine.**

## What People Are Saying about The Good Dog Foundation

"Therapy dogs help patients connect with the outside world and help stimulate them to focus on recovery and returning home. For health care facilities that are striving to create a more homelike environment, therapy dogs are probably the single most cost-effective intervention they could undertake."

— Jane Ehrlich, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Columbia Memorial Hospital, Hudson, New York

"Patients undergoing stem cell transplantation stay in the hospital for weeks. Seeing a therapy dog dramatically improves the spirits of many of our patients, which is an enormous help to their recovery. Our staff unanimously agrees that therapy dogs are an important part of patient care."

—Michael Schuster, M.D., Director of Bone Marrow  
and Blood Stem Cell Transplantation  
New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Medical College  
of Cornell University

"When the dogs started visiting me, it was a turning point. My attitude improved, and my health started improving. Having been a nurse here at the hospital, it never dawned on me that therapy dogs would be such an important part of my well-being as a patient. It's phenomenal. I keep saying, 'When can I see the Good Dogs again?'"

—Patient at Norwalk Hospital



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PHOTOGRAPHY: KATHY LANDMAN



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## THE GOOD DOG FOUNDATION

provides therapy dog services to people in need in health care, social service, educational, and community facilities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, and at disaster sites around the country. Its highly trained, all-volunteer, human-dog teams offer exceptional, healing services completely free of charge. A non-profit organization, The Good Dog Foundation advances research and promotes awareness about the benefits of the human-animal bond.



Founded in 1998, The Good Dog Foundation worked to change New York State law to allow therapy animals to work within health care facilities. With this success, in 2000 it began providing therapy dog services in New York area hospitals. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Good Dogs visited family members of victims at the city's Family Assistance Center and accompanied them on ferry trips to Ground Zero. In November 2005, Good Dogs visited survivors of Hurricane Katrina along the battered Mississippi Gulf coast.

The Good Dog Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



## Activities

### Training and Certification

The Good Dog Foundation's 10-week training holds to the highest standards in the field, teaching dogs and their handlers obedience and therapy skills so that they can safely and successfully navigate in clinical and social settings. Dogs and their handlers undergo continual assessments about their fitness for therapy dog service and must meet stringent criteria to become Good Dog-certified. To maintain the best quality service, teams are recertified each year.

The Good Dog Foundation offers a master class for its certified teams to prepare them to provide therapy dog services in response to disasters.

### Visit Coordination

The Good Dog Foundation places its volunteers in facilities of their choosing and coordinates therapy dog services with these partner sites. Good Dog maintains ongoing contact with professionals on site to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of Good Dog visits.

### Research and Awareness

The Good Dog Foundation advances research about the human-animal bond and promotes public awareness about therapy dog services through presentations, events, and media.

## Volunteering

Volunteers are the heart of The Good Dog Foundation. Their generous hours of service enable Good Dog to achieve its mission of helping humans heal.

Anyone can become a Good Dog volunteer. Children and teens can volunteer along with an adult or guardian. All you need is a loving dog that shows or can learn good manners; a commitment to helping others; and some free time. Volunteer opportunities exist with a minimum commitment of just one hour per month.

Visit [www.thegooddogfoundation.org](http://www.thegooddogfoundation.org) to request an evaluation for your dog and to learn more about the 10-week training program.