

Who we are...

Nor'wester Therapy Dogs: Canine Partners in Education, founded in 2007, is a 501c3 non-profit organization and is incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania. It began as a "reading dog" program but has expanded into all facets of the educational curriculum to become a true learning program.

Nor'wester Therapy Dogs uses registered therapy dogs to enhance the educational environment so that children are motivated to work on a wide range of academic skills. In addition, our therapy dog teams support specialized classrooms such as multiple disabilities, life skills, autistic support, and intensive learning support. Dogs are ideal reading and learning companions because they help increase relaxation, listen attentively, do not judge, laugh, or criticize, allow children to proceed at their own pace, and are less intimidating than the students' peers. Our teams also work with school guidance counselors and psychologists to support students with social and emotional needs as well as being on call to assist grief counselors in crisis intervention.



Therapy dog handlers work with students individually or in small groups under the direction and supervision of the classroom teacher. The handler is a skilled facilitator, shifting performance pressure off the child and providing support as the child receives supervised academic and reading practice. Unmotivated readers and learners gain motivation, confidence, and discover the joys of becoming a life-long reader and learner by the side of their therapy dog.

Nor'wester Therapy Dogs is also partnering with Bucks County Community College to provide stress relief and emotional support to college students through our Comfort Dogs on Campus program.

*“Dogs are not our whole life,
but they make our lives whole.”*

~ Roger Caras



*Canine Partners
in Education*

www.NorWesterTherapyDogs.org

WHAT MAKES THE NOR'WESTER THERAPY DOG PROGRAM SO UNIQUE?

LITERACY & LEARNING

Our therapy dog teams have positively impacted the learning environment of thousands of students since we implemented our program in 2007.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Our therapy dog teams work in tandem with teachers and counselors to support students with social and emotional needs.

COMFORT DOGS ON CAMPUS

Our therapy dog teams provide emotional support during high stress times such as exams and other rigors of college life

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our dedicated volunteers and their therapy dogs participate in a variety of community events which support our goals and mission statement.

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Our therapy dog teams aid and assist crisis intervention teams working with students and families in response to a school community tragedy.