

# Go Team Therapy, Crisis and Airport Dogs, Inc.

**CARING – COMPASSIONATE – CANINES**

## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

GO TEAM Therapy, Crisis and Airport Dogs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The GO TEAM handler/dog teams are dedicated to placing well-trained, certified therapy dog teams in programs that provide comfort and caring through a canine-human bond.

Our special volunteers serve in a wide variety of settings including assisted living homes, libraries, schools, airports and hospitals. Teams provide help to victims in distress and work with our servicemen, first responders, and anywhere a therapy/comfort dog is needed.

## **Our story – how we started.....**



## **Our City Is On Fire!!!!!!**

The Waldo Canyon fire started approximately four miles (6.4 km) northwest of Colorado Springs, Colorado on June 23, 2012. On June 26th, the fire blew up and raced down the foothills into the Mountain Shadows area of Colorado Springs. It was not declared 100 percent contained until July 10, 2012. Over 32,000 residents were evacuated, two souls were lost, and 347 homes destroyed.

Two therapy dogs and their handlers visited displaced residents in hotels and evacuation centers. They also spent time with first responders. The dogs provided comfort and distraction to those dealing with the tragedy. In fact, the reception was

overwhelmingly positive! Current Executive Director Nancy Trepagnier – one of the original volunteers – saw the need for well-trained therapy and crisis handler/dog teams, the GO TEAM was started, and the rest is history!

Fast forward one year: The first class of GO TEAM therapy dogs started training. During a training session, the Black Forest fire started. The teams jumped into action and worked a special event for those Black Forest residents who had lost homes or been evacuated. The teams also visited with first responders, and brought them welcome relief from the long hard days and nights they worked to stop the fire.

## **Growth of GO TEAM**

The GO TEAM has grown significantly from those 2 original dog/handler teams. To date, over 800 teams have gone through the training program! We are nationwide and are continuing to grow. Recently, a new nonprofit was formed to take over the running of this expanding group of GO TEAM volunteers. The new board is committed to supporting our GO TEAM community of handlers and dogs.

## **GO TEAM Dogs**

The dogs on GO TEAM are evaluated and recommended for our training program. Dogs must pass an AKC approved Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test and be at least one (1) year old prior to attending the class. Our two-day training classes include real life situations such as working in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes, Paws2Read Library Events, Special Community Events, TSA Airport Security Drills, Elevator / Stairs / Escalator Etiquette, Airport Comfort, Participating and Interacting with First Responders, and much more.....

When you go through GO TEAM training, you will learn what to do and most importantly, what not to do, with your therapy/crisis/airport dog.

## **Training is Forever**

The GO TEAM philosophy is simple: "Training does not stop after one class, it continues for a lifetime."

If you would like to become a member of GO TEAM Therapy, Crisis and Airport Dogs, Inc., or if you would like more information about our organization, please feel free to contact us at 1-863-5GO-TEAM (1-863-546-8326) or [info@goteamdogs.org](mailto:info@goteamdogs.org). Please see our testimonials page and our class sign up page for information that will help you make this important decision. We look forward to you being a part of our team!

# Executive Director



## Executive Director: Nancy Trepagnier

### Background

Nancy Trepagnier is a native of Coronado, California. She helped found GO TEAM in memory of her son and to fulfill her passion to give back to the community. Nancy's dream of working with animals began at an early age. She trained dogs for competition at the age of 8 and taught group obedience classes starting at age 13. Growing up, she worked for a family run kennel in San Diego, then spent 35 years working in the airline industry. As a visible animal supporter, Nancy served as spokesperson for the Pet of the week segments on CBS, NBC, ABC and Fox and was an advocate on the Wild and Exotic Animal Show on CBS and PBS. Nancy holds an Education degree from San Diego State University with an emphasis in special needs children. Nancy has 3 sons, 6 grandchildren and 2 golden retrievers named Tabor and Snickers.

### Dog Training and Volunteer Experience



Nancy with Snickers and Tabor

Nancy is a professional dog trainer, therapy dog and PTSD service dog trainer specialist, behavior specialist, presenter and educator. She has extensive experience in canine handling, training and behavior modification. Nancy is a CGC/CGCA evaluator for the American Kennel Association (AKC) SM. She formerly evaluated dogs for two large and well known therapy dog organizations. Over the course of 6 years, Nancy delivered over 3000 hours of private and group obedience classes for a local Sit Means Sit® franchise. Nancy's dogs Tabor and Snickers proudly hold the title of "first 2 dogs on the GO TEAM." Tabor and Snickers are part of the Golden Angels Flying Service Dogs and between the two, have flown on over 700 flights. They fly with children with autism and soldiers with PTSD. Even today, when not training GO TEAM classes across the country, Nancy still finds time to volunteer with Tabor and Snickers. Some of Nancy's favorite volunteer activities include United/SkyWest Airlines Fantasy Flight and volunteering with firefighters and first responders across the United States. She and the dogs also volunteer in hospitals, schools, and at the US Air Force Academy.

## Therapy Dogs

A therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, assisted living homes, schools, hospices, disaster areas, or anywhere a therapy dog is requested and their presence appropriate. Therapy dogs are usually not assistance, emotional support, or service dogs, but can be one or both with some organizations.

*"A Simple Act of Kindness Creates An Endless Ripple....."* – Author Unknown

*"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."* – Mohammed Ali

GO TEAM Tri-Cities, WA



## GO TEAM

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The GO TEAM is an active group of handler/therapy dog teams working in states across the US (including Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico). We even have a team in South Korea! Handlers and dogs wanting to join GO TEAM go through a rigorous two-day, hands-on situational training program. Teams that pass are offered membership into the GO TEAM. Teams that don't pass are given a list of skills to practice and can come to another GO TEAM training at no additional cost. We want teams to be successful! This is why each year, members are required to attend a GO TEAM training session so our trainers can get "eyes on the dog/handler" before memberships are renewed. We are committed to providing the training and support necessary for our members to be successful therapy dog volunteers in their communities.

### Did you know each color on the GO TEAM Therapy Dog Patch has a meaning?

**Red:** Honors Our First Responders (Firefighters, Hot Shots, EMS.....)

**Black:** Honors Our Fallen Military

**Blue:** Honors Our Law Enforcement Officers

**White:** Honors The Special People in Our Lives Who Are No Longer With Us