

News Release

Media Contact:

Marché Warfield

marche@satorimarketing.net

Scotty's House Launches Paws for Hope Program with Sawyer III *A Furry Addition Joins the Team*

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A recent graduate from [Canine Companions for Independence®](#), Sawyer III has joined the [Scotty's House](#) team as the first official facility dog for Scotty's House's newly launched Paws for Hope program. [Paws for Hope](#) was established in an effort to enhance and better promote the Scotty's House mission. Sawyer will assist in the daily duties at Scotty's House, providing comfort and companionship for victims of child abuse in Brazos Valley.

For over 40 years, Canine Companions® has bred, trained, and placed assistance dogs with individuals and organizations, free of charge. A certified facility dog with over 40 trained commands, Sawyer is an LGX breed, a cross between a Labrador Retriever and a Golden Retriever. He attended their extensive training program for two years before being placed with Scotty's House. His innate, calming abilities allow him to comfort those he surrounds, especially children, making him a perfect fit for Scotty's House.

"Sawyer has already made such a difference in the office," said Cary Baker, Executive Director of Scotty's House. "His wagging tail brings a smile to every face when he walks into the room. Sawyer will definitely leave his paw print on the Scotty's House team."

As a working facility dog, Sawyer will be utilized daily in various ways at Scotty's House. His main priorities are to provide accompaniment to children (birth to 17 years old, as well as developmentally-delayed adults) during forensic interviews, medical exams, therapy sessions, and legal proceedings. Sawyer's presence will help calm the children and allow them to better participate in the activities listed above. (His participation in the courtroom during special legal proceedings will be subject to the judge's discretion).

"We're looking forward to other ways we will be able to integrate Sawyer. He will be an excellent ambassador for Scotty's House," said Cary Baker, Executive Director of Scotty's House.

Staff members at Scotty's House are excited for what is to come now that Sawyer has joined the team! His addition will help better support the children in the seven counties they serve, as well as add viability to their existing services. The opportunities Sawyer will create will not only help to enhance the mission of Scotty's House but to better educate and lift their surrounding community.

About Paws for Hope

Paws for Hope is the new facility dog program, launched by Scotty's House, that utilizes a Facility Dog to enhance and better promote the Scotty's House mission. The Paws for Hope program was built to provide companionship and comfort to victims of child abuse. Scotty's House is hopeful that the use of this program will help their clients participate more fully in activities such as medical exams, forensic interviews, legal proceedings, and counseling sessions. To find out more information on the Paws for Hope Program visit PawsForHope.net.

About Scotty's House

Scotty's House is a non-profit Child Advocacy Center (CAC) serving seven counties in the Brazos Valley: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington. The Scotty's House team collaborates with Child Protective Services (CPS) and law enforcement officials on every case, and our compassionate and collaborative approach is key to providing victims of child abuse and/or neglect with safety, healing, and justice.

From the initial report to the recovery stage, and everything in between, Scotty's House facilitates all areas of the investigation process. We provide initial needs assessments, forensic interviews and medical evaluations, and child abuse counseling.

To find out more information visit ScottysHouse.org.

About Canine Companions for Independence

Canine Companions for Independence provides highly-trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities. Established in 1975, Canine Companions has six regional training centers across the country. Canine Companions 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 or call 1-800-572-BARK.

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PawsForHope.net

