

Helping Paws

**Saturday, February 4
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

**Karen Molony,
Puppy Trainer for
Canine Companions
for Independence**



Canine Companions are smart, dependable, loving and eager to please. Most of all they make a world of difference in the lives of adults and children with disabilities. Come and meet some of the specially trained dogs who assist people with disabilities, providing increased self-reliance and independence. Learn how these dogs are trained and how a person's quality of life can be improved through the introduction of a constant, non-judgmental, loving companion.

This program is open to all. Donations will be accepted.

Sponsored by the Women's Ministry Team of
Faith Lutheran Church.



Help is a Four-Legged Word™

Canine Companions for Independence® provides highly-trained assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities, free of charge. The most advanced technology capable of transforming the lives of people with disabilities has a cold nose and a warm heart!

Karen Molony

Karen Molony, a bookkeeper at La Cueva High School, is among seven New Mexicans who are volunteer puppy-raisers for **Canine Companions for Independence**, a nationwide nonprofit that breeds, raises and trains assistance dogs, from birth to retirement, and provides these dogs to qualified applicants at no charge.

A vital step in that process are people like Karen and her husband, Mike, who have raised five puppies for the organization.

All of Canine Companions' puppies are a Golden Retriever and yellow Labrador cross. The organization also raises purebred Labs and goldens because of the breeds' sunny disposition and adaptability.

Puppy-raisers have their dogs from age 2 months until they're just over a year old.

Canine Companions for Independence trains four types of assistance dogs:

- Service dogs that assist adults with disabilities by performing daily tasks;
- Hearing dogs that alert the deaf and hearing-impaired to important sounds;
- Skilled companion dogs that enhance independence for children and adults with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities;
- Facility dogs that work with a professional in visitation, education or health care settings.

The puppy-raisers' goal is to raise well-socialized dogs that are used to all types of environments and display "a good learning attitude." By the time they're ready to advance to professional training, the puppies are adept at basic obedience and 40 specific commands.

Only about 35 percent of the organization's puppies make it all the way through the specialized training. The puppy-raisers who trained them get first dibs on adopting dogs that don't quite measure up and loving homes are found for the rest. About 10 percent of the puppy-raisers' dogs are selected for Canine Companions' breeding program.

For more information about Canine Companions for Independence or becoming a puppy-raiser, visit www.cci.org or call them toll free at 800-572-BARK (2275).

Karen Molony is also a NARHA Instructor through **Cloud Dancers Therapeutic Horsemanship Program, Inc.** Cloud Dancers is an Albuquerque-based recreational horsemanship program founded in 1982 for people with disabilities. This nonprofit organization is located in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico. Their goal is to provide individuals with an opportunity for a unique therapeutic, recreational experience in a fun, safe environment.

Cloud Dancers is an Affiliate Center Member of NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association). Cloud Dancers offers both a Therapeutic Riding Program and a Hippotherapy Program, which is facilitated by an on-site Occupational Therapist. To learn more about Cloud Dancers and their programs, visit their website at www.cloudancersofthesouthwest.org.