Dogs, More Than Just Friends
Assistance Dogs

- Guide Dogs
- Hearing Dogs
- Service Dogs
Service Dogs

Mobility Dogs - most mobility dogs are taught to retrieve dropped items, retrieve a telephone, do bank transactions, open doors, and other specific tasks.
Service Dog Categories

- **Quad Dog**
  - Trained to work with someone with limited or no use of limbs
  - Generally using a power wheelchair/scooter
  - Dogs are taught retrieval skills, carrying items, turning on/off lights

- **Para Dog**
  - Trained to work with someone with limited use of lower limbs
  - Generally using a manual wheelchair
  - Dogs are taught retrieval skills, how to pull a wheelchair including directional commands (left, right, slow, fast)
Service Dog Categories

- Walker Dog
  - Trained to work with someone who is still ambulatory but may have balance issues
  - Dogs are trained to walk directly next to the person and is used as a mobile handrail, to go up/down stairs one at a time
Training of a Carolina Canines Service Dog

- Numerous hours of training
- Well socialized in public settings
- Temperament and health have been continually evaluated
- Carolina Canines Service dogs know about 70 tasks
- Training takes from 1 to 3 years
- Service dogs with Carolina Canines are trained by
  - foster families who commit to raise the dogs in the home environment following strict guidelines for training and attending regular classes
  - working within the military prison system to train dogs for wounded warriors
Service Dogs Assist by

- Opening doors
- Pulling wheelchairs
- Retrieving dropped items
- Rising to high counters to assist with transactions
- Providing physical support for transfers
- Recovery from falls
- Assisting with household tasks such as laundry, bed making, household tasks
- Offering stability for walking, and of course
- Unconditional love and companionship
Carolina Canines for Service

- **Primary Mission**
  - Providing people with disabilities enhanced independence through the gift of a quality trained service dog

- **Secondary Mission**
  - Projects involved with humanitarian assistance to people and their animal companions
Carolina Canines for Service

- Founded in 1996 by Rick Hairston, President/CEO
- Non-profit, 501 c 3
- Governed by a Board of Directors
- Three full time + one part time staff members including President/CEO
- Over 200+ volunteers
  - Volunteer hours logged each month averages 2500 hours
- Serve clients from Virginia to Florida, east of the Mississippi River
Carolina Canines for Service

- Placed 34 service dogs valued at over $40,000 each
  - **Value of service dogs placed over $1,360,000**

- Carolina Canines does not charge for a service dog at this time
  - There is an application procedure and compliance is essential for your needs to be evaluated
Important Points to Consider

- The ADA defines a service dog as one individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.
- There are many organizations that train service dogs, but the standards are not all the same.
Important Points to Consider

- When evaluating an organization consider the following:
  - How long has the organization or person been training service dogs?
  - How old are the dogs when provided to a client?
  - How have the dogs temperaments and health been evaluated?
  - Are the dogs hips assessed by x-ray?
  - Can the dog handle the public settings or is it timid or fearful?
  - When training is done with a client is it provided in a group or individually?
  - Is follow-up training provided?
Important Points to Consider

- Dogs help people in more ways than being a companion.
- Working dogs are highly skilled with many hours of training to help a person as a guide, hearing or service dog.
- While a Service Dog can benefit many people with disabilities, not everyone can use a Service Dog.
  - Each individual’s disability must be evaluated as to whether a Service Dog is appropriate for the individual.