



THE RITZ-CARLTON

LAGUNA NIGUEL

NEWS

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THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL RAISES \$1.5 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS

In 2018, the oceanfront resort contributed over \$90,000 to The Veterans Initiative of Canine Companions for Independence, totaling a combined \$1.5 million donation

DANA POINT, Calif. – February 20, 2019 – Continuing to reinforce the resort’s commitment to supporting worthy causes, [The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel](#) is pleased to announce that through the net proceeds from multiple Yappy Hour seasons and The Diamond Ball Gala, **\$1.5 million** has been donated to [The Veterans Initiative of Canine Companions for Independence](#), a non-profit that provides assistance dogs for veterans with disabilities. Since establishing the partnership in 2013, the resort has raised the incredible amount through the hotel’s popular [Yappy Hour](#) series, a monthly canine and companion cocktail party (returning May 16, 2019), and [The Diamond Ball](#), an evening gala with live and silent auctions that took place from 2014 to 2016. In 2018, the property raised over \$90,000 for Canine Companions, helping achieve the \$1.5 million total donation in only a short six years.

“At the resort, we are committed to making an impactful difference in the lives of those in need, all while connecting with our community to come together and raise funds for amazing causes,” says Bruce Brainerd, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. “Due to the U.S. being in the longest running war in our history, we now have the most injured veterans in the country as a result. Whether suffering from PTSD or mobility injuries, there is a growing need for support. We felt the importance of embracing this community by giving the gift of a loving assistance dog.”

Canine Companions recognizes the urgent and growing need for programs that provide support to veterans with disabilities. Many of the brave men and women returning home from combat with disabling injuries experience a litany of new challenges. Often, they face difficult transitions back to civilian life as well as uncertain futures with new disabilities. Canine Companions assistance dogs can help veterans regain independence, pride and hope. Beyond much needed physical assistance, the love, loyalty and positivity of a canine partner can make a profound, lasting impact on someone dealing with difficult emotions that are hard to communicate. To date, Canine Companions has served nearly 300 veterans, with 24 active teams from the Southwest Region. The average cost to train a Canine Companions service dog is \$50,000.

To learn more about The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel’s Community Footprint efforts and the 2019 Yappy Hour season, please visit www.ritzcarlton.com/lagunaniguel.

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About The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

[The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel](#) opened in August 1984 as the first Ritz-Carlton resort atop a 150-foot seaside bluff with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and direct access to more than three miles of sandy beach. Presented against an extraordinary backdrop, the reimagined surfside retreat redefines the guest experience by creating distinctive and unforgettable moments that embrace its oceanfront setting – from sea-inspired spa treatments and locally-sourced restaurant menus to ocean view accommodations, family-friendly eco-adventure excursions, and unique surfboard displays. The seaside property offers 396 guestrooms and suites with personal patios or balconies, along with six distinctive dining outlets, an intimate Ritz-Carlton Spa, a dedicated Eco-Adventure Center, and unrivaled activities that embrace the surroundings. The iconic resort emphasizes unparalleled Ritz-Carlton service while delivering a genuine experience with a playful approach to luxury. Follow The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel [@RitzCarltonLagunaNiguel](#) or [/RitzCarltonLagunaNiguel](#).

About Canine Companions for Independence

Headquartered in Santa Rosa, California, Canine Companions for Independence is the largest non-profit provider of assistance dogs and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. Canine Companions has been enhancing the lives of people with disabilities with its four types of assistance dogs that master more than 40 specialized commands: service dogs, skilled companions, hearing dogs and facility dogs.