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For more information, contact:
Brooke Cayot
405- 951-4821
405-629-3204 pager
E-mail: brooke.cayot@integrisok.com

Psychiatric Service Animals Workshops

OKLAHOMA CITY (June 24, 2011) – Increasingly, mental health clinicians are recommending that patients partner with a psychiatric service dog as an adjunct to their current treatment plans. INTEGRIS Health, in conjunction with the Psychiatric Service Dog Society and Creatures and Kids Inc., invite you to special series of workshops to learn more.

It is common knowledge that service dogs are beneficial for people with physical impairments like blindness and broken or missing limbs. It is also known that such animals can help patients with certain medical ailments such as diabetes or epilepsy.

But did you know that service animal assistance dogs can also assist those living with mental illness and other brain disorders?

It might surprise you, but therapeutic service dogs are used to help treat a variety of psychiatric issues: depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress, schizophrenia, bipolar and autism just to name a few. These animals can help their owners build self-esteem, develop relationships and improve socialization skills. In some cases they can even sense oncoming episodes of mental illness and be utilized as a suicide prevention tool.

The “Animals Connecting People” workshops will teach participants the many ways to incorporate animals toward improving human quality of life. They will discuss the difference between official service animals and therapeutic animal interaction/intervention teams.

WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION

DATE: Fri., July 15

TIME: 6 to 8 p.m.

ACTUAL WORKSHOP

DATE: Sat., July 16

TIME: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(will break for lunch)

Both events will take place in the INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center auditorium, 3300 NW Expressway. The \$25 registration fee includes both dates. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. E-mail cki-psds@live.com or call 405-478-8550 for a registration form or online registration information. Personal pets are **NOT** allowed to attend the workshops.

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INTEGRIS Health is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Contact hours have been applied for