



American Center for Law and Justice

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.

Best Friends Animal Society

Canine Partners for Life

CureSearch

Foundation Fighting Blindness

Humane Society International

International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region

Melanoma Research Alliance

Multiple Sclerosis Association of America

Prevent Cancer Foundation

The Humane Society of the United States

A MESSAGE

FROM CHIEF COUNSEL JAY ALAN SEKULOW

Dear Friend & Fellow Member of the ACLJ,

You've been a major force to be reckoned with in 2019. Your support for the ACLJ has put us on the front lines of some of the biggest issues and cases across the nation and around the world.

With you at our side, we're *battling* — all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States in many cases — and we're winning. We're beating back an avalanche of extreme abortion laws. We're saving babies' lives. We're delivering blow after blow to the abortion industry and its exorbitant taxpayer funding. We're exposing insidious Deep State corruption in court. We're mobilizing to defend the persecuted Church. We've stood before the United Nations (U.N.) for dying Christians. We have not wavered in our stand for Israel: at the U.N., the International Criminal Court (ICC), and in Congress.

In all of this and more, our relentless pursuit of liberty compels us — and your support is key.

Aggression from the Left has reached a treacherous pitch.

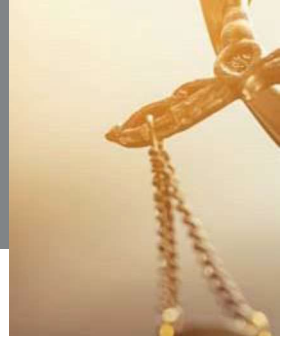
We're up against a firestorm of cases and issues.

We are battling at an unprecedented scope — going toe-to-toe with well-funded enemies that have incredibly deep pockets. But as this report reveals, *in the face of evil, we will not give up or back down.* We are relentless because you are relentless. God bless you for being faithful.



RELENTLESS ...

IN PURSUIT OF VICTORY



Pastor Andrew Brunson Freed From Turkey

Nearly 600,000 ACLJ members signed our petition demanding his freedom!

After more than two years of wrongful detainment in Turkey for his Christian faith, American Pastor Andrew Brunson was freed. The ACLJ represented Pastor Andrew during his imprisonment.

Christian Mom Asia Bibi Released

Her 10-year nightmare is over, thanks to you!

The ACLJ relentlessly fought for Asia Bibi's freedom, engaging in a multipronged legal advocacy campaign across the globe.

California Pro-life Pregnancy Centers Vindicated

A big win for life and free speech rights in National Institute of Family Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra

A federal court *permanently blocked* the state of California from forcing pro-life pregnancy centers to advertise state-funded abortions.

The Cross Shall Stand

Resounding win for religious freedom

With a strong 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court of the United States agreed with the ACLJ's amicus brief and upheld the constitutionality of Maryland's Bladensburg Peace Cross. The ACLJ filed numerous briefs as this

dangerous case made its way through the federal court system.

Supreme Court Victory for Life

Box v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky

The Supreme Court agreed with the ACLJ, upholding an Indiana law requiring the humane disposal of aborted babies. As expressed in our amicus brief in this case, abortionists cannot "treat the bodies of dead unborn children as 'medical trash.'"



Dismantling the Market for Aborted Babies' Body Parts

Demanding an end to this disgusting practice

After a massive public outcry from the ACLJ and members like you, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under President Trump ended a morbid contract involving the use of aborted babies in grotesque medical research.

Religious Freedom Victory in Bulgaria

Your support of freedom extends around the world!

One of the ACLJ's affiliates, the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), fought back against a dangerous bill amending the Religious Denominations





1Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

-1 Corinthians 16:13

Act of Bulgaria and violating the freedom of religion of Christians. As a result, *the main provisions violating freedom of religion were removed ...* and the rights of your Christian brothers and sisters were protected.

Supreme Court Rejects Atheist Challenge to National Motto

"In God We Trust!"

In a big win for our American heritage, the Supreme Court rejected a federal lawsuit aimed at removing "In God We Trust" from our national currency. The ACLJ filed a series of critical amicus briefs from the time the original lawsuit was first filed and during the appeals process.

Big Win for Life in the Abortion Capital of America

ACLJ beats pro-abortion New York IN New York!

The ACLJ experienced a major win against pro-abortion New York City in a Manhattan hearing room, in front of a New York judge. We presented such a strong case defending embattled pro-life pregnancy centers that the city had no option but to withdraw its own case.

Ohio Defunds Planned Parenthood

We're crippling taxpayer-supported abortion!

We helped secure a significant pro-life victory in Ohio, where the Sixth Circuit

Court ruled in agreement with our amicus brief that the state of Ohio could defund Planned Parenthood. This win sets a major precedent, allowing other states to enact similar laws.

ACLJ Defends "Woman's Right to Know Act"

Ensuring women are fully informed about abortion procedures — and consequences

The ACLJ testified before Maryland State legislators, defending the constitutionality of the pro-life Woman's Right to Know Act. This powerful legislation requires women seeking an abortion to be informed about alternatives, the abortion procedure itself, and adverse effects.



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IN DEFENSE OF LIFE



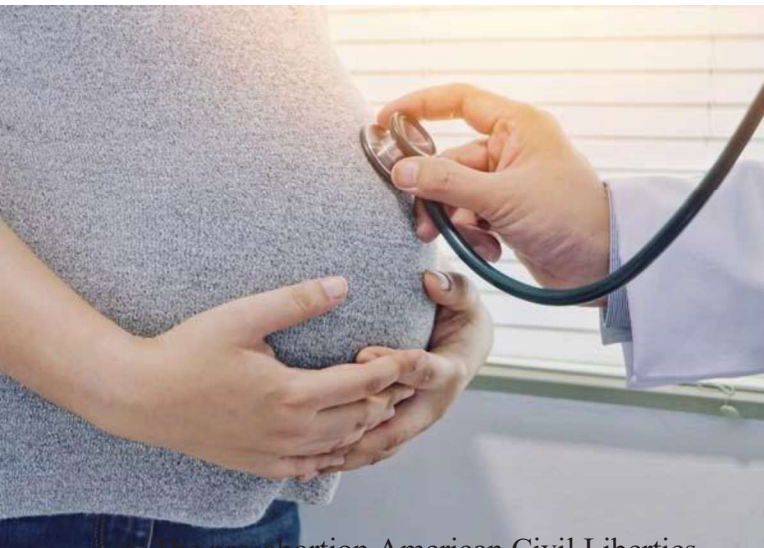
With your support — financially and in prayer — the ACLJ is aggressively fighting to eradicate the scourge of abortion from America.

Can Planned Parenthood and abortion be defeated? Yes, they can. Here's how we're doing it:

At the State Level: Heartbeat Laws

In states across the nation, the ACLJ is fully engaged in the battle to defeat abortion extremism and protect millions of precious heartbeats:

- The ACLJ's legal teams have been working with state legislatures to craft "heartbeat" laws that outlaw abortion once a baby's heartbeat can be detected (usually around six weeks). At press time, seven states have passed vital "heartbeat" legislation, with others pending.



- The pro-abortion American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Planned Parenthood are challenging "heartbeat" laws in court. We're fighting back ... filing briefs to

defend laws and working with legislators in other states to pass new bills.

- We continue working to overturn New York's outrageous abortion law that strips away the human rights of babies born alive after botched abortions.



- We've filed legal memoranda addressing New York state-level Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests seeking records exposing any interactions between the Governor's office/executive branch and Planned Parenthood during the legislative process.
- We filed FOIL demands to force the state of Virginia to produce all records regarding extreme legislation that allows abortion even at the moment of birth.
- We're fighting a massive wave of anti-life legislation at the state level in New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, New Mexico, Illinois, and Vermont.

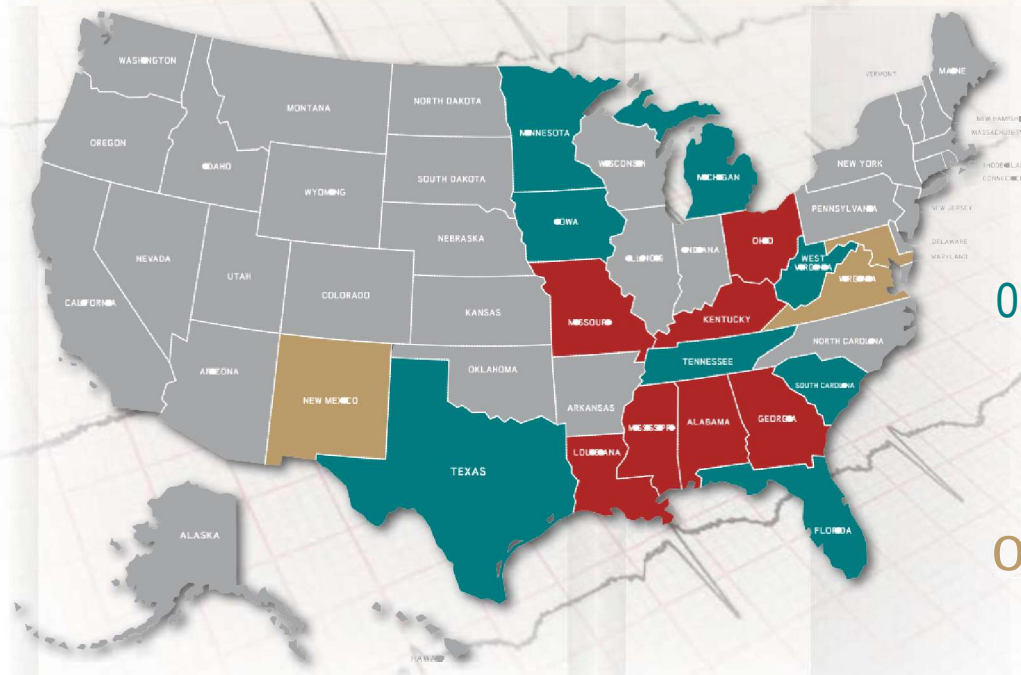




1For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

-Psalm 139:13

The ACLJ and You: Protecting Heartbeats Across the Nation



0 Fetal "Heartbeat" Law Passed

With the help of the ACLJ, these states now limit access to abortion after a doctor can detect a heartbeat, effectively banning abortions after 6-8 weeks: Georgia, Kentucky, and Ohio. Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri have also passed "heartbeat" legislation.

0 Fetal Heartbeat Legislation Pending

The ACLJ is currently engaged in researching, drafting, and giving input on multiple "heartbeat" bills in Iowa, Michigan, South Carolina, and Texas. Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, Tennessee, and West Virginia also currently have "heartbeat" legislation pending.

0 Defeated Live-Birth Abortion Laws

The ACLJ fought back and helped defeat horrific live-birth abortion laws in Virginia, New Mexico, and Maryland.

Every day, Planned Parenthood kills 900 babies — and takes \$1.5 million of our tax funds to do it. This indescribable evil must end. After decades in the fight, we are getting closer to decimating taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry:

Blocking the Flow of Abortion

1. Ohio's Sixth Circuit Court agreed with our amicus brief that Planned Parenthood has no constitutional right to state tax funds — setting a clear legal precedent that will allow other states to stop state tax dollars from funding the abortion giant.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services revised the Title X family planning program, cutting approximately \$60 million of Planned Parenthood's taxpayer funding.

However, this huge victory is now under attack. The legal fight could go all the way to the Supreme Court of the



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IN DEFENSE OF LIFE

United States. We're fighting back on appeal.

3. Internal turmoil has Planned Parenthood reeling too: the same week the Title X funding rule went into effect, Planned Parenthood ousted its president of just eight months in a secret board meeting. As a medical professional, she wanted to focus on healthcare services, but the Planned Parenthood board was determined to double down on abortion-rights advocacy, validating what we've known for a long time — Planned Parenthood is all about abortion.

4. We scored a major victory against Planned Parenthood at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where the abortion giant was dealt a major legal blow in its lawsuit against the Center for Medical Progress, the organization that exposed it was selling body parts of aborted babies for profit. The Ninth Circuit used to be regarded as a "cakewalk" for Planned Parenthood; but now a quarter of its appellate judges have been appointed by President Trump. As a result, Planned Parenthood can no longer simply file a

case in California and make its problems go away.

- We're also in federal court working to defund Planned Parenthood of state taxpayer money; we've already filed three crucial amicus briefs.
- We're working to stop H.R. 2740 in the Senate. Passed by the liberal House, the bill goes so far as to reverse our recent Title X victory and reinstate the massive flow of your tax dollars to fund abortions.

In the Courts

Members of the abortion lobby are frantically filing lawsuits against every pro-life law they can. But we are making tremendous strides — in the states, in federal court, at the Supreme Court. We can't let up ... because the abortion industry won't back down without a fight.

- Working in the courts to overturn New York's outrageous abortion law.
- *Miano v. Miller* and *Devine v. City of New York* — defending the constitutional free speech of pro-life counselors on public sidewalks.
- *Cynthia Isabell v. Trustees of Indiana University* — defending a very qualified nurse not hired for a teaching position based on her pro-life beliefs.





- ***Turco v. City of Englewood*** — battling an unconstitutional abortion buffer zone law.
- ***Aloha Pregnancy Care and Counseling Center, Inc. v. Chin (D. Haw.)*** — battling an anti-crisis pregnancy center law.
- ***Planned Parenthood Federation of America, et al. v. Center for Medical Progress, et al., N.D. California*** — fighting to expose the evil about aborted babies' body parts being up for sale.



- ***Preterm-Cleveland, et al. v. Lance Himes*** — fighting to prohibit abortion based on a Down Syndrome diagnosis.
- ***June Medical Services v. Gee*** — fighting for commonsense restrictions on abortion providers in Louisiana.
- ***Price v. City of Chicago*** — huge pro-life case with massive implications.



- Filing briefs to defend crucial “heartbeat” laws in multiple courts nationwide.

The abortion lobby is pushing its deadly agenda harder than ever. But we're fighting back: state by state, case by case, bill by bill.

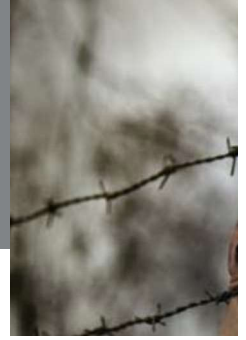
We'll dismantle the abortion industry piece by piece until we see victory.



**Countless defenseless babies depend on our action now.
Together, we will relentlessly defend their lives.
Together, we will see victory.**

RELENTLESS...

PROTECTING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS



More Christians are persecuted worldwide than ever before. At the ACLJ, we're expanding our efforts to defend the defenseless. We're mobilizing our international offices in the most expansive campaign for the persecuted Church we've ever undertaken as increasingly barbaric attacks are being carried out against Christians in countries like Nigeria, Egypt, and Sri Lanka.

- > Beheadings
- > Victims Burned Alive
- > Rape
- > Kidnapping
- > Enslavement
- > Destruction of Religious Sites
- > Sexual Slavery
- > Forced Conversion
- > Property Seizures
- > Forced Business Closures
- > Ransom Demands



- Through the ECLJ, we filed a written submission before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) detailing the spread of religiously motivated attacks against Christians around the world. It is critical that the U.N. and international community come together to put an end to this senseless violence against Christians.
- We continue to advocate on behalf of imprisoned 15-year-old Leah Sharibu, who was kidnapped by Boko Haram more than a year ago and is being held captive because she refuses to renounce her Christian faith.
- We're demanding justice and freedom for Christian Pastor John Cao, a U.S. permanent resident who has spent more





1 Rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors."

-Psalm 31:15

than two years imprisoned in China because of his faith.

- We've filed a written submission and delivered an oral intervention at the UNHRC regarding the repeated imprisonment in Iran of Christian Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani — an Iranian pastor who was originally sentenced to die



for "apostasy" five years ago. After nearly three years in prison, Pastor Youcef was finally set free. But Iranian agents have rearrested him. Our international legal team is fighting for his freedom.

- ***Victory!*** The ACLJ successfully recovered a Christian family of five from captivity in Pakistan. The family is finally free after nearly five years of bonded labor, physical torture, and severe brutality.

*11 Christians
will die today
from deadly
persecution*



POLITICS | UPDATED OCT. 1, 2019

What's Become of All the Extreme Abortion Bans From This Year?

By Amanda Arnold [@aMandolinz](#)



Planned Parenthood. Photo: Daniel Acker/Bloomberg via Getty Images

The first six months of the year saw relentless attacks on abortion rights on the state level. Five states passed bills banning the procedure after six weeks, before many women even realize they're pregnant. And in May, Alabama governor Kay Ivey signed a near-full ban on the procedure. The same month, Missouri — a state with only one abortion clinic — passed an extreme eight-week ban that didn't include any exceptions for instances of rape, incest, or

human trafficking. In all, seven states have passed similarly stringent laws in 2019, and more are considering them.

But in recent months, judges in many of these states have started to issue preliminary injunctions, which allow patients to continue accessing important reproductive care while the court hears the case in full to determine whether or not the bill is constitutional. In short, these court orders — also known as temporary blocks — maintain the status quo, allowing abortion to remain legal. Most recently, on October 1, a federal judge temporarily blocked Georgia's ban.

The fight doesn't end here, though. Planned Parenthood director of state advocacy media Bonyen Lee-Gilmore says now is not the time to “rest easy,” as states are expected to appeal to circuit courts. Under Trump, these courts have become increasingly hostile to reproductive rights.

“Trump has appointed over 100 judges to the federal bench, and we're seeing circuit courts become more and more anti-abortion,” Lee-Gilmore told the Cut. “This is no coincidence. Trump is remaking the judicial branch in order to push these unconstitutional laws forward, and we're seeing these judges stare Supreme Court precedent in the face and create new rules.”

Here's what's become of all the extreme bans this year so far.

Alabama

24-Hour Sale! 40% off unlimited access to The Cut and everything New York.

SAVE NOW »

Status: The American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood have filed a lawsuit. On May 15, Alabama governor Kay Ivey signed into law a bill that was so restrictive, even Republicans were divided over it: a near-full ban on the procedure with no exceptions for rape or incest. It would also make performing the procedure a felony in most instances. (The bill does include exceptions in cases where the mother's life is endangered.)

As promised, the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama and Planned Parenthood Federation of America swiftly filed a lawsuit to block the Alabama law, which is scheduled to go into effect in November. While a judge hasn't ruled on the case yet, attorneys for the state have indicated that they'd be willing put a temporary restraining order on the law until May 2020, while the state and the reproductive-rights organizations suing it resolve the lawsuit.

Georgia

Status: Temporarily blocked.

On June 28, the ACLU, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit challenging Georgia's six-week abortion ban, which contains only a few narrow exceptions, including cases in which the woman's life is endangered or the pregnancy is considered "medically futile," and in instances of rape or incest if the woman files a police report. While the law was scheduled to take effect in January 2020, on October 1, District Judge Steve Jones temporarily blocked the ban, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports.

"The federal district court today fulfilled its oath to uphold and defend the Constitution," ACLU attorney Sean J. Young told the *Journal-Constitution*. "This abortion ban has been unconstitutional from start to finish, and today is a victory for the dignity of women throughout Georgia."

Kentucky

Status: Temporarily blocked.

On March 15, Kentucky became one of the first states of the year to sign into law its six-week abortion ban, which was scheduled to go into effect immediately, per the New York Times. (The bill includes exceptions when the woman's life is endangered, but not in cases of rape or incest.) That same day, though, ACLU filed an immediate challenge, and Judge David J. Hale of the Western District of Kentucky temporarily blocked the law on grounds that it was potentially unconstitutional.

Louisiana

Status: Will only go into effect if Mississippi's is upheld in a federal appeals court.

On May 30, Louisiana governor John Bel Edwards signed a law banning nearly all abortions, including in cases of rape or incest. (It's worth noting that the bill was both sponsored and signed into law by Democrats.) However, the ban will only take effect if a federal appeals court upholds Mississippi's similar ban.

Mississippi

Status: Temporarily blocked; the attorney general has appealed.

On May 21, Mississippi governor Phil Bryant signed into law a six-week ban; just days later,

Judge Carlton W. Reeves issued a preliminary injunction against it, writing in his ruling that the law “threatens immediate harm to women’s rights.”

“[The ban] prevents a woman’s free choice, which is central to personal dignity and autonomy,” he continued in his ruling, which he issued on May 24. “This injury outweighs any interest the state might have in banning abortions after the detection of a fetal heartbeat.”

On June 21, though, Mississippi attorney general Jim Hood appealed the federal judge’s ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, according to local outlets.

Missouri

Status: Temporarily blocked.

On August 27, one day before Missouri’s restrictive ban was scheduled to take effect, U.S. District Court judge Howard Sachs temporarily blocked the ban, NBC News reports. In his order, he wrote that the law seemed “designed ... as a protest against Supreme Court decisions.”

Had Missouri’s law gone into effect, it would’ve banned abortion after eight weeks with with no exceptions for instances of rape, incest, or human trafficking. (It would, however, allow for exceptions in cases of medical emergency). Furthermore, doctors who would’ve performed the procedure under the law would’ve faced up to 15 years in prison.

Ohio

Status: Temporarily blocked.

On July 3, Judge Michael Barrett temporarily blocked the six-week ban that Governor Mike DeWine had signed into law in early April. “This court concludes that [the bill] places an ‘undue burden’ on a woman’s right to choose a pre-viability abortion,” Barrett wrote in his injunction order. “The law is well settled that women possess a fundamental constitutional right of access to abortion.”

RELATED

➤ **Missouri Passes Extreme Bill Outlawing Abortion at 8 Weeks**

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■ 1 COMMENT

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This County Criminalized Students for Bad Grades – Until Now ^[1]

Author(s):

Sarah Hinger

Sylvia Torres-Guillén

Since 2001, the Riverside County, California probation department has been needlessly funneling young people struggling with grades, behavior, trauma, and mental health into the criminal justice system.

This direct line to the criminal system is the product of a partnership between local school districts and the county probation department called the Youth Accountability Team (YAT). Instead of counselors or other school and community-based supports stepping in to support and help these kids, school staff would effectively turn students over to the criminal justice system. Black and Latinx youth in particular are more likely to be referred to the criminal system through this misguided program.

Thankfully, after more than a decade of placing children on probation, this is all changing. Today, we filed a landmark settlement ^[2] with the federal district court that, when approved, will end the relationship between the probation department and school districts in Riverside.

The settlement follows a lawsuit filed last year by the ACLU Foundation, together with the National Center for Youth Law and the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter, and Hampton. Through the YAT program, young people without legal representation entered a term of probation believing that they were avoiding more serious consequences in juvenile court, when that was often not the case. Many of these children experienced probation supervision even though they had not committed a crime. To make matters worse, the YAT program — originally intended to help divert kids from the criminal system — utilized outdated, unhelpful approaches, and violated their rights. The probation department subjected students to onerous terms like drug testing, surprise searches of their home and person, and a lengthy list of rules and restrictions.

As in many areas of juvenile justice, research on adolescent development shows that traditional models of juvenile probation are ineffective and even harmful to young people. Adults who have spent time with young people likely recognize what the research tells us: that youths have a hard time remembering and complying with a long list of rules, that long term consequences are often overshadowed by short term influences and incentives, and that they have a keen sense for fairness. These traits are a part of adolescent maturation and a product of healthy brain development. They also mean that young people are set up to fail when a probation department assigns them lengthy lists of rules and restrictions with zero-tolerance consequences.

Now, through the settlement, the county will no longer accept referrals for things that are not and should not be treated as crimes, such as school discipline problems and status offenses like truancy. Instead, these will be addressed through schools and community resources. The county is

committing to reinvest millions of dollars in community organizations that can better address the challenges young people face.

When young people accused of a crime do have contact with the probation department, they will now face a system that respects their rights and aims to meet them where they are, providing positive support to get them back on the right track. Young people who are recommended for diversion will have an appointed defense lawyer from referral until they exit the program. The probation department will improve transparency and communication with families, and remove rules and restrictions that violated the constitutional rights of young people. Across the board, the department will now focus on providing support and incentives to help young people make the right decisions instead of focusing on compliance and escalating consequences. The probation department is also changing its policies and practices by working with experts to provide training to all officers on this new approach. To ensure the program's success and foster accountability, they will track data to evaluate its progress and impact on young people of color.

The lawsuit we filed a year ago aimed to end a program that was wrong on the law, wrong on policy, and wrong for young people. This week's settlement will not only end these practices, but provide a transformative, youth-centered framework for Riverside County to become a model in juvenile justice — not only in California, but nationwide.

[Follow the Case](#) ^[3]

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[2] <https://www.aclu.org/legal-document/sbx-v-riverside-proposed-settlement>

[3] <https://www.aclu.org/cases/sigma-beta-xi-v-county-riverside>

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ACLU Comment on Supreme Court Census Citizenship Case Victory ^[1]

ACLU, Arnold & Porter, Leadership Conference to Discuss Ruling and Steps Forward

June 27, 2019

WASHINGTON — In a voting rights victory, the Supreme Court today denied the Trump administration’s effort to include a citizenship question on the 2020 census. The Supreme Court agreed that the administration’s stated reason for adding the question was “contrived.”

The American Civil Liberties Union, New York Civil Liberties Union, and Arnold & Porter challenged the administration’s action on behalf of immigrants’ rights groups.

Dale Ho, director of the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project, argued the Supreme Court case and had this reaction to today’s ruling:

“This case has never been about a line on a form. It is about whether everyone in America counts. This ruling means they do.”

Ruling: https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-966_bq7c.pdf ^[2]

Case details: <https://www.aclu.org/cases/department-commerce-v-new-york?redirect=cases/new-york-immigration-coalition-v-united-states-department-commerce> ^[3]

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[2] https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-966_bq7c.pdf

[3] <https://www.aclu.org/cases/department-commerce-v-new-york?redirect=cases/new-york-immigration-coalition-v-united-states-department-commerce>

[4] <mailto:media@aclu.org>

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Trans People Led the Fight Against HB2 in North Carolina. And We're Winning. ^[1]

Author(s):

Joaquín Carcaño

It's been more than three years since North Carolina lawmakers passed House Bill 2, the hateful North Carolina law that compromised the ability of transgender people like me to safely navigate our daily lives.

As the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit ^[2] the ACLU and Lambda Legal filed to stop this measure, I've spent the last three years fighting alongside LGBTQ North Carolinians and others to mitigate the harm caused by H.B. 2 and its discriminatory replacement law, H.B. 142.

Yesterday, we secured an important victory: a federal court ordered that neither of these laws can be used to bar transgender people from North Carolina restrooms that match who we are.

This victory belongs to the trans and non-binary people in North Carolina who continue to lead the fight for justice in North Carolina and beyond.

We reached this settlement, known as a consent decree, with Governor Roy Cooper, who officially agrees with us that trans people in North Carolina have the right to use the correct public restrooms for their gender. But the leaders of the General Assembly, who passed H.B. 2 and H.B. 142, refused to sign on.

After years of managing the anxiety of H.B. 2 and fighting so hard, I am relieved that we finally have a court order to protect transgender people from being punished under these laws.

Being able to use facilities that match our gender is a basic necessity for participating in public life and being treated as full members of society. It is not a luxury.

The nationwide outcry that followed these discriminatory laws sent a message that we still have to amplify now: Trans and non-binary people belong in public spaces. We belong in North Carolina. We belong everywhere.

Yesterday's order provides some clarity and relief for those of us who have been suffering under H.B. 2 and H.B. 142 for years. It is an important victory but not a complete one. Local protections for LGBTQ people are still banned under state law and so many members of our community, particularly Black and Brown trans and non-binary people, continue to face violence, harassment, and discrimination simply because of who we are.

This October, the Supreme Court is looking at the case of Aimee Stephens ^[3], who was fired for being trans. The Trump administration has attempted to roll ^[4] back ^[5] the rights ^[6] of trans ^[7] people ^[8] at every turn. Yet another Black trans woman, Denali Berries Stuckey ^[9], was killed this week in South Carolina. My community faces violence every day.

While a part of this court fight in North Carolina may be ending, our fight for full justice continues.

Source URL: <https://www.aclu.org/blog/lgbt-rights/transgender-rights/trans-people-led-fight-against-hb2-north-carolina-and-were>

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- [1] <https://www.aclu.org/blog/lgbt-rights/transgender-rights/trans-people-led-fight-against-hb2-north-carolina-and-were>
- [2] <https://www.aclu.org/cases/carcano-et-al-v-cooper-et-al>
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- [5] <https://www.aclu.org/blog/lgbt-rights/transgender-rights/black-trans-women-are-being-murdered-streets-now-trump>
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- [8] <https://www.aclu.org/blog/lgbt-rights/criminal-justice-reform-lgbt-people/trump-administration-attacking-trans-people>
- [9] <https://www.out.com/news/2019/7/21/denali-berries-stuckey-12th-black-trans-woman-murdered-2019>



IT'S NOT
ABOUT
THE CAKE

OPEN

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY: PROVEN STRATEGIES, PROVEN IMPACT



**SAVE
THEM
ALL**

Best Friends and our 2,700+ network partners are saving lives and creating more no-kill animal shelters at an unprecedented rate.

LIFESAVING PROGRESS AROUND THE COUNTRY

When Best Friends was founded in 1984, an estimated 17 million cats and dogs were killed in America's shelters.

Best Friends has expanded our national reach, deepened our local presence and galvanized the no-kill movement. And the data proves our approach is working; more cats and dogs are being saved every year.



MORE NO-KILL SHELTERS



1,169

2016



1,592

2017



1,844

2018

37%

of animal shelters
in the United
States are no-kill

OUR PROGRAMS WORK

Shelters that engaged with Best Friends programs last year reduced the number of animals killed in their facilities at **three times** the rate of shelters that didn't engage with us.

3X **37,688**
REDUCTION cats and dogs
were **SAVED**



BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY: 2018 SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

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WE WILL SAVE THEM ALL!





Canine Partners *for* Life

A.J. AND KODY, SUMMER 2016 GRADUATES



A.J. and his family are from nearby Delaware, although, it took visiting relatives from Long Island, NY to learn about CPL. A.J.'s parents mentioned in casual conversation that they were thinking of adding a dog to the family and their relatives suggested they look into CPL which happened to be very close to home.

A.J.'s parents always had a love for dogs but were concerned about adding one to the family because of the "puppy" stage. The extra excitement of having a young puppy and the sharp teeth could have caused additional anxiety for A.J. who has Fragile X Syndrome. It is a genetic condition so it was onset at the time of conception but he was not diagnosed until he was almost three years old. Fragile X Syndrome is the most common known single gene cause of Autism Spectrum Disorders worldwide. The condition can also cause intellectual disabilities, speech delay, hypersensitivity to certain noises and lights, ADHD, and anxiety.

As A.J. started to get older, his parents witnessed him interacting with his neighbors dogs. He would stop to pet them and even take the dogs for walks. They knew it was the right time to add a dog to their family and when they found CPL it was the perfect match.

A.J.'s parents originally wanted to apply for a released dog but after doing some research into CPL's programs, they realized A.J. would be a candidate for a home companion dog. After being on the waiting list for just over two years, A.J. was matched with Kody, an active Yellow Labrador. The two met at CPL and A.J. had a smile on his face the entire way home which helped to ensure his parents that Kody was the right match for their family.

When Kody moved into their home, the first thing A.J. said was "I need a bigger bed so Kody can sleep with me!" His wish soon came true. Within a week of receiving Kody,

A.J. moved to a bigger room with a queen size bed. The two now sleep together every night! A.J.'s mom shared in their application to CPL, "We feel this dog will not only provide A.J. with a companion since he doesn't have any siblings, but a sense of responsibility and reciprocated love." Kody has done that and more! Kody is an incredible companion for A.J. and has made him even more active than he already was. Kody greets A.J. each day when he gets off the bus. The two will often play together in the yard and take walks through their neighborhood but their favorite activity is swimming. Over the summer, they spend most of their weekends at their beach house and on the boat. During Kody's first trip to the beach, he was unsure of the water but A.J. quickly assured Kody that he naturally knew how to swim and now they are in the water as much as possible.

These two have only been together for a year and we see many more beach trips and boat rides in their future. A.J.'s mother shared, "Many parents are overwhelmed with the responsibility of a special needs child but CPL took a lot of the work out of it for us. We could start to truly enjoy Kody right away and didn't have to worry about training him. He has made us more active and more emotional. He has completed our family."



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Canine Partners *for* Life

BECKY AND YANKEE, FALL 2013 GRADUATES



From a young age, Becky loved to challenge herself. As soon as she would complete one challenge, she found another. Becky served in the United States Marine Corps, received her master's degree, and worked full-time in public service for 17 years. During that time, Becky has also had numerous unexpected challenges to overcome. She was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma twice and Esophageal Cancer but there is no challenge Becky can't conquer and she overcame cancer all three times!

Unfortunately, the repeated cancer treatments left Becky with many side effects and disabilities which resulted in her life changing dramatically. She is often fatigued and nauseous. She has a paralyzed vocal cord which results in a soft, raspy voice but the most difficult challenge has been a condition she developed called Orthostatic Hypotension which causes her to have sudden drops in blood pressure resulting in a loss of consciousness. When Becky loses consciousness, she often falls and injures herself which has led to many hospital stays. She had to stop working and became reliant on her family and friends to care for her.

One day, while watching the National News, Becky saw a story about a woman who had a dog that alerted to her low blood pressure. The story immediately piqued Becky's interest and she began to research service dogs. Becky said, "I felt like it was too large of a burden for my family to feel like they couldn't leave me alone due to being afraid that I would fall again and harm myself. I

figured a dog would allow me some more independence, while reducing the strain on others to continually monitor me.” Her research brought her to Canine Partners for Life and she was matched with Yankee in the fall of 2013.

In Becky’s application to CPL, she expressed that she wanted a dog that would have the ability to alert to her drops in blood pressure which would help her do more activities independently and free up her family or “human monitors”. Yankee has achieved that and more! He alerts to Becky’s low blood pressure by nudging her knees. This gives Becky time to sit down or kneel down which prevents her from losing consciousness. Yankee will alert until Becky sits down and then will lie next to her until it is safe for her to stand up. Since receiving Yankee, Becky has not had any falls requiring hospitalization.

Yankee also provides Becky with assistance while walking. Before Yankee, Becky was extremely fatigued and would need to use a walker on most trips. Now, Yankee provides support and even “pulls” Becky along which helps to reduce her fatigue. Becky is able to walk independently and travel again. They even spend half of the year living out of a camper visiting new locations and meeting new people! One of their favorite trips was to Luray Caverns in Virginia. Yankee pulled Becky through the caverns, assisting her up the hills and providing balance on the downhills. Becky said Yankee even seemed to enjoy the tour and would often be seen peering over the railings admiring the beauty and expanse of the caverns.

These two continue to find new adventures and Yankee has allowed Becky to once again challenge herself each and every day. Becky says, “Every time I can get out of the house and participate in things I enjoy, it illustrates how CPL and Yankee have changed my life.” We can’t wait to see where these two travel next and look forward to their next trip to CPL!



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Canine Partners *for* Life

ED AND CINDER, SUMMER 2012 GRADUATES



Ed and Cinder

Ed is a fighter. He has fought several chronic illnesses for the majority of his life but as he began to age, his Chronic Fatigue and PTSD started to take a toll on him both physically and emotionally. He had begun to live a life filled with anxiety and depression. He had to stop working, he started sleeping a lot, and he rarely left his home. Ed's doctor suggested he look into getting a service dog so Ed took the recommendation and began to research service dog organizations which led him to Canine Partners for Life.

When Ed met with our trainers for his initial interview, he knew exactly what he wanted in a service dog. He wanted a dog that would help enhance his daily activities. Ed's hope was that having a service dog would help him get out of bed each morning and help to create and maintain a regular routine. He wanted a dog to help him physically so he could increase his exercise, decrease his fatigue, and do things he loved like bowling and gardening. Most of all, he wanted a companion, someone who would love him unconditionally and reduce his feelings of loneliness and social anxiety.

The trainers were confident they could find a dog to match Ed's needs so Ed was placed on our waiting list. After being on the waiting list for just under a year, the trainers invited Ed back to CPL to work with a few dogs who could potentially become his service dog. Ed walked with three different dogs and wasn't feeling overly confident with any of them. The trainers had one last dog they wanted to try with Ed and it was the final dog that would steal Ed's heart. When Ed grabbed hold of Cinder's harness, it was completely different than the previous three dogs. He says, "It was love at first walk!" He had found the dog that would change his life.

Ed was matched with Cinder, a 70 pound female black Labrador full of love and spunk! Ed was eager to introduce his new partner, Cinder, to his very large and extended family. As he was trying to explain to his three-year old niece how to say her name, he said, "Her name is Cinder, like Cinderella, the princess!" The name stuck and Ed has always

affectionately referred to his girl as Cinder Ella and WOW, has she lived up to her title of princess!

Cinder helps Ed physically by picking items up from the ground, tugging open drawers and doors, and carrying items. Having Cinder assist with these tasks helps reduce Ed's fatigue which gives him more energy for the fun things in life and these two are always on the go! Ed has been able to be active again thanks to his service dog. The two attend concerts, take weekend trips, go camping in the Pocono Mountains, attend conferences, and more! Ed was even able to go back to work part-time with Cinder's assistance. He now works as a paralegal and helps people with employment and civil rights issues.

Even greater than the physical help, Cinder has changed Ed's life emotionally. She has reminded Ed to enjoy the simple things in life. When Ed is stressed; Cinder offers her belly for belly rubs. He says, "She wakes up happy EVERY morning and it's hard to be in a bad mood when you wake up to a bounce on the bed and wiggly dog with a very excited tail wag."

Ed is hopeful for many more years with the princess, Cinder Ella, who transformed his life.



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Canine Partners *for* Life

EDDIE AND ORION, SUMMER 2016 GRADUATES



Home companion dogs make social encounters more comfortable, help ease anxiety and fear, and are the perfect friend in a time of need. The emotional transformation these dogs make for our recipients is life-changing and Eddie's life was completely transformed when he welcomed Orion into his home.

Eddie is a very bright yet quiet young man. He enjoys video games and origami but often spends time by himself or with his younger brother, Jack. Eddie is on the Autism spectrum and has a hard time in social situations. It is challenging for him to start conversations and regulate his emotions. A break in his normal routine can upset Eddie and cause outbursts or tantrums. The outbursts made life challenging for Eddie's family. They never knew what would upset Eddie or when he would have an outburst, making any trips into public extremely difficult.

As Eddie received services in his home, his parents began to notice the one thing that seemed to calm him down was a therapy dog. Eddie showed compassion for the dog and the dog helped him interact with his brother. After interacting with the therapy dog, Eddie's family watched a dog for friends at their church. During the time the dog was in their home, Eddie had fewer tantrums and less anxiety. After witnessing how helpful the dog was to Eddie in such a short amount of time, Eddie's parents reached out to Canine Partners for Life and applied for a home companion dog.

On January 15, 2016 Eddie met Orion, a handsome yellow Labrador. Eddie was nervous about meeting this new dog and cautious at first. After spending time walking and playing with Orion, Eddie couldn't wait to bring his new friend home!

From the day Orion went home, the transformation in Eddie's behavior was incredible. Before Orion joined the family, Eddie would have four or five tantrums a week. Now, Eddie rarely has tantrums. Orion is the calming influence Eddie needs. When Eddie gets upset, Orion will sit with or sometimes even on top of Eddie to help ease his anxiety. He will lick Eddie when Eddie refuses to do something and the two sleep together every night.

They love to take walks through the neighborhood, play fetch in the yard, play football against their brother, and find new Pokémon for Eddie's collection on Pokémon Go! Walking Orion and playing with him in the neighborhood helps Eddie start conversations with other people. He introduces Orion to his neighbors and other children he meets on his walks which has greatly improved his social skills.

Orion has made life easier and more enjoyable for the entire family. Eddie's father remarked, "Orion has let us do more things as a family. We don't spend as much time or energy convincing Eddie to do things. Instead of arguing, we spend time playing games, going places, or simply relaxing. As parents, we feel better about going out. We are not as worried that Eddie will have an outburst. It has allowed us to be confident that Eddie will remain calm or be better able to regulate his emotions."

Eddie loves Orion and can often be found sitting with him while doing origami or reading to him while he does his homework. Their bond is unbreakable and Orion is the friend that Eddie has always needed.



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Canine Partners *for* Life

GINA AND SUSIE, FALL 2010 GRADUATES



College is a time of change, growth, and excitement. You move away from home for the first time, meet new people, and begin your journey into adulthood. Gina, like many other teenagers, was eager to take this next step in life. She had always dreamed of attending a school far from home but knew she could not do it on her own.

Gina has cerebral palsy which affects her body movement and muscle coordination. She needs help getting dressed and picking things up from the ground. With all new people in a new city, Gina knew she had to find an alternative for help. She began to research service dogs after a few of her friends had recently received service dogs.

Gina found CPL through a google search. She applied and was matched with her first service dog, Concord, in 2000. Meeting Concord and going through training was overwhelming. Gina knew having a service dog would change her life but didn't realize how much hard work went into the partnership in the beginning. Gina has a Type A personality and admits she expected her dog to be perfect and do everything right on the first try. She quickly learned that dogs are not perfect and she needed to give the partnership time to strengthen. Gina persevered and completed training. Looking back now, she is incredibly happy and thankful she put in the time and stuck with it. Concord made her dream of attending college a reality and shortly after being matched, the pair moved across the country to attend school together at The University of Arizona.

Unfortunately, college didn't start off as planned. Concord became suddenly ill and had to retire after Gina's first semester. Gina made the decision to continue school and completed her second year of college without the help of a service dog. It was during that time that Gina's need for assistance became evident. She did not want to complete another year of school alone so applied for a successor dog and was matched with Jinks the summer before her junior year of college. Going through training with Jinks was much easier because Gina knew what to expect. Jinks and Gina had a very successful partnership. With Jink's help, Gina was able to graduate from college and enter the working world. When it came time for Jinks to retire Gina immediately applied for another service dog and was matched with her third and current service dog, Susie, a bubbly black Labrador.

Susie helps Gina by assisting with a variety of physical tasks. Susie retrieves and carries items, pushes buttons to open doors, and pays cashiers. Gina says, "With Susie I can navigate busy intersections on my own. I can go get something from the store without taking my aide. Susie makes situations that are hard or uncomfortable easier."

Gina recently accepted a new job with the United States Federal Government in Washington DC. Accepting this position was a big transition for Gina. After working in the same building for eight years, she was comfortable with her coworkers. Moving to a new building with unfamiliar surroundings and people was a true test of her partnership with Susie. Gina had to rely solely on Susie throughout the day for assistance and Susie did not disappoint! Susie helps Gina navigate through the office and assists her with tasks throughout the day, like picking objects up that she drops and pushing buttons to operate doors or elevators.

Not only does Susie assist with physical tasks, she has also made a huge impact on Gina emotionally. Gina shares, "With Susie, I feel like I can conquer the world. I'm comfortable speaking about my disability because people ask how Susie helps me instead of what is wrong with me. It is amazing what doors are opened in my life because of my partnership with Susie. I truly believe Susie enjoys her job. She gets joy out of helping me and making a difference in my life. Each day is different, but, by being partnered with a service dog I have learned that it is ok to go out on my own because I'm not alone. Susie is by my side. I have shared different experiences with each of my service dogs, but had it not been for them, I would not have accomplished everything in my life thus far. Now, I look at what other dreams I can make come true."



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Canine Partners *for* Life

JORDAN AND FIDGET



Like any other teenager, Jordan is inquisitive about the world around him. As a young man, he's learning more each day about what he would like his life to become, and it seems the sky is the limit. His mother describes him as "a dreamer with big goals" given his experience in Boy Scouts and his affinity for going out on adventures. This incredible young man has not been discouraged by issues associated with his disability and he was ready to share his adventures with a canine partner.

In February 2016, Jordan and his mother visited CPL to interview for a home companion dog. He loved seeing all the dogs in the kennel and learning that all CPL dogs are socialized with other animals throughout their training. This meant that the transition for Jordan's new dog would be smooth when coming home and meeting the family cat.

Jordan waited patiently to be matched to a dog and finally, in the summer of 2017 the family received the call that Fidget had been selected for him. Fidget is a social dog with a good demeanor so all of the things Jordan would do with a canine partner by his side were finally on the horizon. Jordan takes full responsibility for Fidget's needs and he gets up early every morning to make sure Fidget is taken care of. Jordan is focused on Fidget throughout the day and Fidget follows Jordan everywhere. The pair is now inseparable and Fidget is always included on family trips! On one of those trips, a long boat outing with a family friend, Jordan and Fidget could be seen secured in their life vests together.

These two are constantly working together to find the next great adventure. Truly, an entire world of possibilities has been opened.



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Canine Partners *for* Life

JUDY AND TIA



It is impossible to envision Judy's life before Tia. She exudes such positive energy; it's easy to forget there was a time she was questioning if her spirit would win over her ailments. It was just a few years ago when she found herself not able to interact the same way with the world. She knew it was time to make a change!

"I need a service dog now and not down the line!" Judy said as she applied to various service partner organizations. She didn't know how long she would be able to function without assistance but her unwavering spirit wouldn't let her take no for an answer. She read about Canine Partners for Life in the pages of a publication about Parkinson's disease and decided to apply. She didn't know it yet but her partner, Tia, was waiting in the wings.

Judy first contacted our organization in November 2011 and she arrived for her in person interview in the spring. Judy was lucky, the wait was short. The next few months went quickly as she was enrolled to receive Tia in the summer 2012 Team Training class. For Judy the time on CPL's campus for training were her first outings in quite a while. But the time had come, so she joined us with enthusiasm and focus. It was the first time she truly felt connected to a community in a long time and she was determined to make the most of it.

Since graduation, Judy and Tia can now be seen spending their time out and about, in the community with neighbors, or possibly at Judy's art club where she recently won an award. They explore just about any place that Tia and she can sniff out together that seems interesting. The adventures have continued and include a two day trip with Tia to Yellowstone National Park, evidence that Judy is not slowing down.

There are times when it is necessary for Judy to rest and save her strength especially on long trips; those are the times when Tia steps in! Tia is there every night and has made it a custom to check on Judy in a way that comforts her and shows she is aware. Judy knows Tia is linked to her needs. Their incredible bond shows how a fully formed partnership brings many benefits.

Like her award-winning pen and ink drawing which depicts she and a childhood friend who were inseparable – Judy smiles saying “with Tia I have that same inseparable bond – with her, all things are possible”.



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Canine Partners *for* Life

ROSEMARY



“I’ve shared my home with CPL dogs in training for 65 weekends, and each one feels like the first time!” Rosemary said with excitement. We were thrilled to have that energy and passion brought into the CPL organization. We now teasingly call Rosemary the “storm” because we all feel her passion and excitement every time she is on campus.

Originally, Rosemary came to CPL looking for a dog-centered volunteer opportunity. She was referred by her friend, Helen, who knew it would be a fun match. But, initially, she informed the Volunteer Coordinator at that time, Mary, that because she lived so far away, she wouldn’t be able to take any dogs home. Mary smiled and said, “just wait and see.” Rosemary still remembers the smirk on Mary’s face as she signed Rosemary up as a Cuddle Time volunteer.

And then, sure enough, the inevitable happened!

Rosemary attended a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and, once again, stated that she lived too far away to provide dogs in their second year of training with weekend respites

from the kennel. Mary again smiled and said, “you are not too far away – you’d be GREAT!” Something clicked for Rosemary and to quote her “From that day on, I never looked back!”

With her son in college, she was a new empty nester. The thought of having dogs was enticing, but having just said goodbye to their beloved pet... it was tough.

Enter Cleo – the first dog to spend a weekend with Rosemary. “I was thrilled,” Rosemary exclaimed and the energy from her voice was palpable.

From that time forward, CPL dogs get to step away from the kennel for special weekends with Rosemary. This time is crucial to their training. It helps the dogs develop social skills in the home and gives them a chance to rest, play, and “reboot” for their coming week of training.

Since then, Rosemary has gone on to be involved in almost every aspect of volunteer life at CPL. She has joined the socialization trips which take dogs in training out into public environments every Thursday, she’s helped and initiated many fundraising activities to benefit the organization, and she intends to do more.

Rosemary shared, “It’s very hard to explain, but volunteering gives people joy. It feels funny when someone says “Thank You.” You gain in your heart more than you give of your time.”

We at CPL, celebrate Rosemary and the hundreds of volunteers who bring our mission to life each and every day. We are proud to share Rosemary’s story with you.



Rosemary and Hugo on a trip to the Philadelphia Zoo
