



HISTORY

Everybody likes a good idea, but when a good idea becomes an organized effort, great things begin to happen! The Lions Project for Canine Companions (LPCC) started out that way - a good idea for Lions to help a growing organization in its mission to help people with disabilities.

Many Lions and Lionesses offered their help to Canine Companions before 1981, both as individuals and through their clubs. The idea of district-wide support of the program began when Dick Woolf, Cabinet Secretary, invited Canine Companions to send a speaker to District 4-C7's August 1981 Cabinet Meeting. Lion Don Webb, who had been personally involved in supporting Canine Companions and wanted Lions to know about it, assisted in the presentation. The response was enthusiastic.

After many demonstrations with these highly trained dogs by Canine Companions and Lion Don, the current District Governor announced his decision to make Canine Companions his district project for the fiscal year 1981-1982. The Council of Governors of Multiple District Four, California sanctioned the foundation in 1983. From there, LPCC grew to what it is today.

In 1982, at the urging of the late Lion Ty Tyree, articles were drawn up to establish a foundation similar in structure to the Lions Eye Foundation, with a network of coordinating trustees in every district, Life Members, Member Clubs, and other forms of support. After much perseverance, that set of plans became a reality and Lion Ty became the first president of the Lions Canine Companions Foundation (soon to be re-named the Lions Project for Canine Companions). Lion Ty also became the first Life Member.

During the 1990's, as a result of its fundraising, LPCCI was honored by Canine Companions with the naming of the Canine Companions Northwest Regional Center Board Room and the Southwest Regional Center lobby area "The Lions Den". In June 2012, LPCC celebrated the successful completion of a \$100,000.00 pledge to name the board room at the Canine Companions Northeast Regional Center "The Lions Den" and in December of 2015, LPCCI signed a \$150,000 pledge to name the Family Room, "The Lions Den" at the newest South Central Regional Training Center in Texas.

On May 18, 2018, LPCC celebrated 35 years of supporting Canine Companions. During these 35 years, LPCC raised over \$4 million for Canine Companions and continues to donate over \$100,000.00 each year.

Since its humble beginnings, LPCC has grown in membership and support from Lions Clubs in just two states to 26 states across the nation. Currently LPCC has 15 Area Directors and 47 Trustees working to create awareness and provide support for Canine Companions. Lions and Lions Clubs contribute to LPCC through Life Memberships, Club Memberships, awards, sponsorship's, fundraising, puppy raising, and volunteering. Our goal is to have representation and support in all 50 states across the nation.