

## Accounts Receivable

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**From:** Grants <Grants@helmsleytrust.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 1:19 PM  
**To:** Accounts Receivable  
**Subject:** RE: Helmsley Charitable Trust Grant Eligibility Request - 20171 - Canine Concierge Corporation

Dear Michael,

While we appreciate your interest in The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, we do not accept unsolicited requests. Limitations on our grants budget and staff time require us to turn down many requests for meetings and support. As a result, we cannot give your request any further consideration and must decline it without prejudice. Please understand that this in no way reflects upon you or the work of your organization.

We wish you much success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

**The Grants Management Department**

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust  
230 Park Avenue, Suite 659  
New York, NY 10169  
[grants@helmsleytrust.org](mailto:grants@helmsleytrust.org)  
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[@HelmsleyTrust](#)

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**From:** Accounts Receivable <finance@canineconcierge.vip>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:22 PM  
**To:** Grants <Grants@helmsleytrust.org>  
**Subject:** Helmsley Charitable Trust Grant Eligibility Request - 20171 - Canine Concierge Corporation

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# CANINE<sup>SM</sup> CONCIERGE

ON-DEMAND SMILE DELIVERY



March 4, 2024

The Helmsley Charitable Trust  
230 Park Avenue, Suite 1820  
New York, NY 10169

Dear Helmsley Charitable Trust Team,

On behalf of Canine Concierge, I am thrilled to present our groundbreaking grant eligibility request to support our Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) program utilizing medically trained working dogs to provide invaluable support to facilities across Fairfax County, VA. Our mission is to enhance the well-being and quality of life for individuals in need, including patients, residents, and staff at hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, senior citizens' centers, and police stations, all while offering these services free of charge.

**Introduction:**

Canine Concierge is a nonprofit organization founded and led by Michael Stokes, an SSA-disabled, retired IT consultant with a passion for making a positive impact in the lives of others. Our innovative AAT program harnesses the unique abilities of working dogs to deliver compassionate and effective therapy to those who need it most. With a pending IRS 501c(3) tax-exempt status and extensive social media marketing efforts already underway, we are poised to make a significant difference in our community.

**Project Overview:**

Our AKC Golden Retriever AAT dogs, affectionately known as working dogs, will be deployed to various facilities in Fairfax County, VA, to provide support and companionship to individuals facing multiple challenges. From offering comfort to patients in hospitals to providing emotional support to seniors in nursing homes, our therapy dogs will play a vital role in improving the overall well-being of those they encounter.

**Program Goals:**

1. To enhance individuals' emotional and mental health in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, senior citizens' centers, and police stations through animal-assisted therapy (AAT).
2. To foster a sense of connection and companionship between therapy dogs and community members, promoting feelings of love, joy, and belonging.
3. A profound commitment to education and advocacy lies at the heart of Canine Concierge's mission. Their goal is simple yet profound: to elevate public understanding and appreciation of AAT dogs, positioning them alongside their esteemed counterparts, Service dogs.
4. To raise awareness about the benefits of AAT and the importance of supporting organizations like Canine Concierge in their mission to improve community well-being.

5. While the landscape of AAT continues to evolve, significant barriers persist, including invisible coverage from major insurance providers. Canine Concierge is trying to challenge these barriers, advocating for greater recognition and support for AAT services locally and nationally.

**Program Implementation:**

Our team will work closely with participating facilities to coordinate regular visits by our certified therapy dogs and handlers. Each visit will be tailored to meet the unique needs and preferences of the recipients, ensuring that our therapy dogs provide maximum comfort and support. In addition to in-person visits, we will leverage social media platforms to share heartwarming stories and testimonials, raising awareness about our program's impact.

**Budget Overview:**

- Purchase, training, and certification of two therapy dogs and their handlers;
- Veterinary care and wellness checks for therapy dogs;
- Transportation expenses for visits to various facilities;
- Administrative costs for program coordination and communication;
- Social media marketing and outreach efforts to raise community awareness;
- Equipment and supplies for therapy dog visits.

**Funding Request:**

We seek financial support of \$208,000 (\$52,000 per quarter) to help launch and sustain our AAT program. Your investment will enable us to provide these critical services to individuals in need within our community without placing a financial burden on the facilities we serve. With your support, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families in Fairfax, VA.

**Sustainability Plan:**

In addition to grant funding, we seek to secure our pending IRS 501c(3) tax-exempt status, enhancing our ability to attract ongoing support from donors and sponsors. We are also committed to expanding our network of community partners and volunteers to ensure our program's long-term success and sustainability.

**Conclusion:**

Thank you for considering our grant eligibility request to support the Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) program at Canine Concierge. Your support will not only enable us to provide vital services to those in need. Still, it will also help us to advance the field of animal-assisted therapy and promote the well-being of our community. We look forward to working together to make a lasting and positive impact.

Sincerely,

Michael Stokes  
Director, Canine Concierge Corporation



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<https://canineconciergecorp.org>  
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