



THE GOOD DOG FOUNDATION
dogs helping humans heal

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The Good Dog Foundation To Hold Fundraising Gala in NYC on May 18th Marking 19 Years of Therapy Dog Service in the Northeast

***Dr. Kimberly Collica-Cox and Pace University To Be Honored
For Developing First-Ever Study Using Animal-Assisted Therapy
To Help Female Inmates Reunite with their Children***

Human & Canine Guests Welcomed – Festive Attire; Live Music Entertainment Planned

New York, NY -- April 19th, 2017 -- The Good Dog Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and globally recognized leader in therapy dog team training, deployment, and research, announced its annual *Fetching Affair Gala* – which welcomes both human and canine guests – will be held Thursday, May 18th at Guastavino's in New York City, from 6:30 pm-10:00 pm. The gala will honor Dr. Kimberly Collica-Cox and Pace University's Dyson College, Criminal Justice Department, for a groundbreaking research partnership with Good Dog.

The two-year research study, called *Parenting, Prison, and Pups*, is in its inaugural year and will be piloted at two correctional institutions - The Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan and the Westchester County Department of Correction in Valhalla. It is the first program of its kind to pair an evidence-based parenting curriculum for prisoners with Animal-Assisted Therapy. Female inmates typically have challenging family histories and suffer high rates of depression and trauma as a result of prison-induced separation from their children, who also are traumatized. Nationally, 70% of incarcerated women have children under the age of 18. The program hopes to prove that Animal-Assisted Therapy can help prisoners healthfully reunite with their children, become better parents, and stay out of prison.

A Fetching Affair Gala will be hosted by Jordyn Rolling, an NYC-based multimedia journalist and host, and will also feature a live and silent auction; photography by celebrated fine art dog photographer Jesse Freidin; and a performance by concert pianist Nicholas King and mezzo-soprano Kady Evanyshyn, a 4th year Julliard student. Julliard is a Good Dog partner-facility whose students benefit from Good Dog therapy team visits to help them deal with the rigor of their practice regimen and the stress of preparing for their careers.

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“Good Dog is committed to assuring a professional future for Animal-Assisted Therapy in the United States,” says the foundation’s founder and president, Rachel McPherson. “Our ongoing training and deployment of volunteer teams along with our elite crisis response training, evidence-based research projects, and development of software that will allow us to better collect and publish impact data are all part of that commitment. We are thrilled that Pace University and Dr. Kimberly Collica-Cox have chosen to partner with Good Dog on a vital study to help female inmates.”

Proceeds from *A Fetching Affair Gala* will go to support Good Dog’s research, training programs, and the work of nearly 1000 Good Dog certified volunteer dog and handler teams in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Good Dog teams give over 30,000 hours of their time annually, working at major hospitals like Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute and New York Presbyterian as well as at close to 300 other organizations including schools for children with disabilities, universities, senior centers, veteran’s hospitals, and more.

Dozens of canine guests will be in attendance on Good Dog’s gala night, and a complimentary “doggy bar” will be available for them, sponsored by Unleashed by PetCo.

More information on sponsorship, individual, and group tickets is available at <http://thegooddogfoundation.org/afetchingaffair/>.

The Good Dog Foundation

Founded in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, The Good Dog Foundation is a globally recognized leader in Animal-Assisted Therapy. Its mission is to ease human suffering and promote healing among children and adults experiencing trauma from disease, disability, disaster, aging and other stressful conditions. To achieve its mission, Good Dog offers up to eleven weeks of in-class training for hundreds of volunteer teams (dog and handler) annually. The foundation’s quality control, team placement, certification, and supervision protocols are widely recognized as setting the bar for best practices in the industry. This past year, Good Dog worked with a corps of nearly 1000 trained and certified volunteer therapy dog teams, carefully matching teams with close to 300 partner-facilities (hospitals, schools, nursing homes, etc.) in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The teams work free-of-charge to help hundreds of thousands of people annually recover from stress and trauma. In collaboration with esteemed institutions such as Yale University, Pace University, University of Pennsylvania, and the American Federation for Aging Research, Good Dog participates in scientific studies on the benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy. A landmark study in 2015 with Mount Sinai Beth Israel was the first to show the benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy with cancer patients undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. Recently, Good Dog introduced an academy for Crisis Response Training, preparing a well-prepared elite corps of volunteer teams in the event of national disasters. In addition, Good Dog is beginning a licensing operation to extend its reach globally and has started to train healthcare professionals in utilizing their own dogs to assist in select practice areas. For more information visit: <http://thegooddogfoundation.org/>.

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Dr. Kimberly Collica-Cox

Kimberly Collica-Cox, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Criminal Justice and Security in Pace University's Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, is the Principal Investigator for *Parenting, Prison, and Pups* and is a certified instructor of the evidence-based curriculum, *Parenting Inside-Out*, which will be utilized throughout the program Dr. Collica-Cox has nearly 19 years of practitioner experience in the implementation and maintenance of prison-based peer programming. Her main area of expertise is female offenders – about which she has presented and written articles. Dr. Collica-Cox holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil. in criminal justice from CUNY Graduate Center and an M.A. from CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she also received her undergraduate degree. Prior to teaching, Dr. Collica-Cox worked for a New York women's correctional facility, coordinating an HIV prison-based peer education program, and for a New York jail supervising their jail-based transitional services unit.

Pace University

Founded in 1906, Pace University prepares its students to be innovative thinkers who will make positive contributions to the world of the future. A private university, Pace has campuses in New York City and Westchester County, enrolling almost 13,000 students in bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in its College of Health Professions, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Lubin School of Business, School of Education, School of Law, and Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems.

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