

CHICAGOLAND EXTRA

VOLUNTEERS CHICAGO CANINE CLUB

Dog care business also helps people

Offers job training for people with disabilities

Group: Chicago Canine Club
Mission: Offers job training for people with disabilities and raises money to support Community Support Services, a nonprofit organization serving people with developmental disabilities in west suburban Cook County and eastern DuPage County.

What it does: "We're a doggy day care and we offer boarding and training," said manager Kathy Deets. "With Community Support Services, we're helping people with disabilities learn how to be around dogs. They take classes to be able to find a job working in an animal-related field. They're learning how to handle dogs, how to walk the dogs, how to greet a dog, how to clean, and work on the retail side of the business too."

"We're helping people with disabilities learn how to be around dogs."

— Chicago Canine Club's Kathy Deets

How it started: "Community Support Services was looking for a way to bring in additional funds into their agency and they looked at different businesses," Deets said. They settled on a dog day care and boarding shop.

Volunteer opportunities: People to work with the disabled, or volunteers to walk dogs, provide attention and clean the boarding spaces.

Why they do it: "We have such a passion for dogs that we want to give them the best care possible and we enjoy doing that," Deets said. "We're also trying to provide people with disabilities with training and a career."

How you can help: Chicago Canine Club, 16 W 129 83rd St., Burr Ridge, Call 630-654-0004.



Kathy Deets is the manager of Chicago Canine Club in Burr Ridge, a dog day care and boarding facility that also works with nonprofit Community Support Services to provide job training for people with disabilities. **JOB WINTERMANTL/PHOTO FOR THE TRIBUNE**