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Contact: Nancy DeVault, DeVault Communications LLC
WriterDeVault@gmail.com | (407) 484-4890



Bcenter's Stroke Survivors Collaborate with Canine Companions for Pet Therapy & Pet Assisted Services

Orlando, Fla. (February 20, 2015) — The Bcenter's "Hive of Hope" Stroke Support Group — a component of Global Stroke Resource, a nonprofit providing resources, hope and direction — hosted its monthly meeting at the Winter Park Civic Center on February 16th to explore pet therapy and pet-assisted options in collaboration with Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.

Kris Baker, a volunteer and client of Canine Companions, offered first-hand educational insight to the more than thirty stroke survivors and caregivers who attended into how a trained dog can foster independence to a disabled individual, such as by opening doors, pulling a wheelchair, and grabbing items.

Furthermore, animal-assisted therapy can benefit the after-effects of stroke, including aphasia (language disorder), depression, spasticity (tightened muscles), and weakness (on one or both sides of the body). Recovering stroke patients can practice language skills by reciting basic dog commands; depression can be combated with companionship; and mobility and strength can be addressed by walking a dog, playing fetch, or stroking the animal's hair.

Every 2 seconds, someone in the world suffers a stroke. However, there is life after stroke. Stroke groups challenge survivors to get beyond the limitations often imposed by themselves or others. The Bcenter's Hive of Hope hosts support, social, and educational gatherings on the third Monday of each month from 12-2 pm. For more information, visit Bcenter.com.

Download Event Photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sjh5hxurze1s6ya/AAC7Jy0wspJBOvtL6qcmF36ya?dl=0>

About Bcenter: Global Stroke Resource, Inc., dba Bcenter.com, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to empower, educate and light the path to recovery for stroke survivors and families. Bcenter is dedicated to providing treatment resources, hope and direction. Founder Valerie Greene personally overcame grim odds in the aftermath of two debilitating strokes that nearly took her life at just 31 years old. Acknowledging that her miraculous survival and recovery could impact others afflicted by stroke or any disability, Greene crusaded for years to support healthcare advocacy, programs and education, and now serves as a stroke coach. Visit Bcenter.com or call (888) 942-Bwell (9355).