



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION

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AdventHealth Georgia Welcomes New Therapy Dog, Winston, During EMS Week

Rome, Ga. – During National EMS Week, AdventHealth Georgia is welcoming a new source of comfort, connection and encouragement to its Emergency Medical Services team: Winston, a therapy dog in training who will support patients, families and caregivers in Northwest Georgia.

At just 12 weeks old, Winston has already begun his journey to support patients, team members and neighbors across Northwest Georgia. Generously donated, Winston comes from a family with a special connection to AdventHealth. His father serves as the "Chief Bark Ambassador" at AdventHealth Wesley Chapel near Tampa, Florida. Several puppies from Winston's litter are also joining hospitals across Texas and Florida as therapy and support dogs.

Winston's placement with AdventHealth Georgia EMS was made possible through support from the AdventHealth Georgia Foundation, helping expand programs that provide comfort, emotional support and meaningful connection during difficult moments.

"The AdventHealth Georgia Foundation is eager to support this exciting addition to our EMS teams," said Garrett Nudd, president of the AdventHealth Georgia Foundation. "Winston will be a valuable member of our EMS teams and an asset in connecting with the community and helping our patients and staff feel whole."

Once fully trained, Winston will serve alongside AdventHealth Georgia EMS team members during patient and staff visits at local hospitals, community and school events, visits with public safety partners, peer support and critical incident stress management debriefings, and community outreach opportunities.

"I have great faith in this program, and the difference Winston is going to make in people's lives," said Jodi Johnston, Winston's handler and EMS team member. "Mental health in public

safety has needed greater attention for many years, and we are taking important steps in the right direction to raise awareness and create meaningful change for our public safety brothers and sisters. Winston will play a big role in that effort, and we are incredibly grateful to our foundation for the opportunity to pilot this program.”

Winston received his own AdventHealth team member badge and as he has officially become part of the AdventHealth Georgia EMS family.

As a faith-based health care system focused on whole-person care, AdventHealth recognizes the meaningful role therapy animals can play in supporting emotional comfort, reducing stress and helping people feel cared for during difficult moments.

During EMS Week and throughout the year, AdventHealth Georgia celebrates the dedication of EMS professionals who care for neighbors across Northwest Georgia with skill, compassion and heart. Winston’s arrival reflects that same spirit of connection and support for patients, families and caregivers alike.

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About AdventHealth

AdventHealth is a connected network of care that helps people feel whole – body, mind and spirit. More than 105,000 team members across a national footprint provide whole-person care for millions of people annually through more than 2,000 care sites that include hospitals, physician practices, ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, hospice centers, the AdventHealth app and more. Our wholistic approach to improving the health and prosperity of our communities is inspired by our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ.