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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*For organizational information and event participation info:*

Nicole Shumate (“shoo-mayt”)  
Executive Director, Paws & Effect  
Des Moines, Iowa  
nicoleshumate@paws-effect.org  
515.822.5285 (cell)

*For Iowa Jaycees participation info:*

C.J. Derlein-Hoffman  
2015 State President  
Iowa Junior Chamber  
president@iowajaycees.org  
319.538.7825



## **IOWA JAYCEES TO HELP BOOST SERVICE-DOG ACCESS AWARENESS IN 2016!**

In a Veterans Day 2015 announcement, Iowa Junior Chamber (“Iowa Jaycees”) 2016 State President-Elect Erin Flage said the organization is partnering with Central Iowa non-profit dog trainer Paws & Effect to boost awareness about service dog access to public spaces.

“Business owners, managers, and employees are often at the front lines of protecting the rights of service animal handlers,” says Flage. “When you see a trained animal working in a restaurant, retail business, or office space, you can rest assured the business knows the law.”

Paws & Effect is a Des Moines, Iowa-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that raises, trains, and places service dogs with military veterans and others.

The Jaycees will work directly with service dog recipients, providing support through their “Passport to Leadership” training, empowering each veteran to take an active role in both this project and their communities. Additionally, funds raised through Paws & Effects’ annual July fund-raiser, “Tables & Tails,” will be used to provide community classes about service dogs and access rights. During the event, business owners contribute a portion of one day’s proceeds.

“The development of a statewide relationship between the Jaycees and Paws & Effect is one that will yield many benefits to both organizations,” says Raymond Ropa, a Cedar Rapids member of the Iowa Jaycees, himself a veteran. “Now, veterans have another resource to welcome them as a service dog team, helping remove the obstacles to access and making for a smooth integration into the community.”

Iowa Junior Chamber is a membership-based nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization of young leaders ages 18 to 40. As a member of Junior Chamber International (JCI), it is part of a network of over 200,000 young leaders in 5,000 communities and more than 100 countries around the world. JCI members are committed create lasting positive change.

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