



# COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

Happy New Year! As we reflect on our many experiences in 2021, we embrace 2022 and look forward to all God has planned for our ministry. A few highlights from this last year were being blessed to begin seeing people in person again, adding a new monthly visit to our schedule, and the addition of new team members. God's providence has inspired and encouraged us through some challenging situations and given us a resolution to keep our eyes on Jesus and follow him just as Triton follows our handlers. May we all walk closer with Jesus in the months to come!



**HOPE CENTER VISIT**-Triton was invited to **"Cookies and Cocoa,"** a Christmas event at the Hope Center on **December 2**. He was serenaded by the McKinney flute choir, met lots of different people and brought his usual comfort and joy. The Hope Center is a great wealth of contacts, and we are grateful to be good neighbors and make connections whenever we can.



For more information about the Comfort Dog Ministry, contact our **"Top Dog" Carolyn Nussman**, email: [messiahk9comfort@gmail.com](mailto:messiahk9comfort@gmail.com)  
Triton's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TritonComfortDog>

Triton's Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/lcck9triton/>

**END OF YEAR MEETING**-On **December 7**, members of Team Triton gathered for fellowship, training, and to receive/share information. Each person that gives their time to the Lord through this ministry is what keeps us going as we meet new people in the community and continue to work with the friends we have made already. As we nibbled on delicious refreshments supplied by Michele Haugen, there was role playing to demonstrate good practices which keep our skills sharpened and to remind us of the information we need to know. We also discussed our team calendar structure that we use to schedule Triton's visits and training time. Katherine Wolfe stepped up to assist our Top Dog, Carolyn Nussman, who manages Triton's schedule to help coordinate our weekly schedule. Coordinating new and recurring visit requests and training time for Triton along with the necessary handlers and ministry partners is challenging, but we are getting better at it each month! It's a continual work in progress to make it possible for the maximum number of visits and events along with some training and the inclusion of everyone on the team evenly. Go Team!



**CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT** -What a thrill to participate in our 4th annual LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Christmas card project. Each year 30+ teams work in cooperation to create some amazing memories for selected individuals throughout the country. It begins with each team creating a Christmas card for their K-9 Comfort Dog, and then selecting up to 5 people to receive cards from them and the other contributing teams. This means a person receives 30+ Comfort Dog Christmas cards and you can imagine the joy of seeing all of those adorable Golden Retrievers! It is just another way we can share comfort through the dogs and it is especially meaningful if the one receiving the cards cannot visit with the dog in person for whatever reason. Our three recipients were the patients at the Center for Discovery food addiction treatment facility, Phoenix House treatment Center, and Madeline Herzog (member here at Messiah). All of these young people are facing tough, grown-up issues and a visit from Triton turns sadness into joy every time!

