



\$75,000 Goes to the Dogs—The Search Dog Foundation

Santa Monica, CA (June, 2011)—The William H. Hannon Foundation has made a \$75,000 pledge over five years to support the construction of America's first National Training Center (NTC) for search rescue dogs. The NTC will be built in the Wheeler Canyon section of Los Angeles County.

"No technology can match a dog's speed and accuracy in finding people trapped alive under wreckage of a disaster, thanks to its remarkable sense of smell and the ability to quickly and safely navigate unstable and slippery terrain while keeping absolutely focused on the job at hand: saving lives," said Wilma Melville, Founder of the Search Dog Foundation. The Search Dog Foundation has a long tradition of providing professionally trained search dogs to Los Angeles Fire Departments, and currently there are 18 search teams in the region, supported by another 29 teams across California.

"We previously have supported the Search Dog Foundation with small grants, but after touring the construction site for the NTC and understanding the significant role search dogs play in earthquake rescues, it makes good sense to support this effort. "My late uncle, our Foundation's founder, was a community builder, and when tragedy hits, search dogs are critical to helping communities recover quickly from disasters. We watched intently as the dogs went to work in Haiti last year and Japan this year, and are grateful they stand ready to help when tragedy strikes us locally," said Jim Hannon, treasurer of the William H. Hannon Foundation. In January of this year, Hannon and his sister, Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, president of the William H. Hannon Foundation, toured the future home of NTC in Wheeler Canyon.