

NEADS Recently Celebrated Grand Opening of Breeding Center



Photo credit: NEADS

As described in this recent [Worcester Business Journal article](#), NEADS hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 11 to celebrate the grand opening of its new, state-of-the-art breeding center in Princeton, MA adjacent to its main campus. The facility houses breeding, whelping, and early life care of its puppies, which are bred to be Service Dogs. The Foundation supported the project through the Activation Fund in 2020, providing a \$50,000 grant to construct the Behavioral Check List (BCL) Testing Area where staff identify those puppies that have the temperaments best suited to Service Dog work.



Photo credit: NEADS

NEADS (formerly known as **National Education for Assistance Dog Services and Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans**), is a non-profit established in 1976 that has trained more than 1,900 Service Dog teams. Its highly trained Service Dogs are matched with people who are deaf or have other physical disabilities, children with autism or other developmental disabilities, as well as veterans who have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In addition to providing Service Dogs directly to people with disabilities, NEADS Service Dogs are also paired with caring professionals in settings like classrooms, hospitals, courthouses, and mental health practices where they provide therapeutic assistance to many individuals.

In 1998, NEADS developed an innovative partnership with several New England Correctional Centers, enabling incarcerated individuals to help train NEADS Service Dog puppies. Today, people who are incarcerated train 90-95% of NEADS Service Dogs. The Foundation provided an Activation Fund grant of \$60,000 in 2018 for the purchase of a handicap-accessible van to transport dogs to the correctional facilities where they are raised and to appointments for veterinary care.

NEADS relies on the hard work and generosity of its dedicated volunteers. For information on how to get involved, visit <https://neads.org/get-involved/>.



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