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Morinville-Based Kadence Legacy Fund Honours Local Teen's Life Through Service Dog Support for Veterans

Morinville, AB — The Kadence Legacy Fund is a Morinville-based not-for-profit organization supporting veterans and first responders living with PTSD and operational stress injuries through its service dog initiative, *One Dog, One Life*.

The organization was founded in memory of Kadence Gillies, who grew up in Morinville, attending Georges H. Primeau School and graduating from Morinville Community High School. Kadence passed away on April 19, 2024, after a five-year battle with cancer. Her legacy now lives on through a mission rooted in compassion, service, and community responsibility.

Kadence's parents, Tina Gillies and (Step Dad) Derek Piiskern, are both military veterans. Six years prior, Gillies, an Afghanistan veteran and Sacrifice Medal recipient, was connected to a service dog through Courageous Companions after a recommendation from fellow veteran John Dugas of Hold Fast K9. As a veteran living with PTSD, Gillies was able to access a service dog to support her mental health, support that extended to her daughter during cancer treatment.

Sadie, Kadence's service dog, attended hospital visits, medical appointments, and ongoing training sessions multiple times each week. Throughout years of treatment, Sadie played a critical role in helping Kadence manage the mental and emotional toll of serious illness, while also supporting the family through prolonged stress and uncertainty.

Following Kadence's death, her family recognized that the impact of a service dog extended far beyond one individual. The same support that helped Kadence through her illness also helped her family navigate profound grief. From that experience came a clear mission: one dog can change one life, and often more than one.

The Kadence Legacy Fund was established to carry that understanding forward by providing ethical, community-rooted service dog support to veterans and first responders and their families. The organization operates with a focus on integrity, sustainability, and long-term impact.

How to Get Involved

- Apply for a service dog
- Donate or become a sponsor
- Support through fostering or partnerships
- Share the mission to raise awareness

Learn more at kadencelegacyfund.ca

One dog. One life. One legacy.

Media inquiries:

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