



Spectrum Health K-9 Security Program

Our September 20, 2017 LEAD Learning Session was led by Brad Estep, Supervisor of Security Operations at Spectrum Health, including Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and the entire K-9 Security team—Bak, Cain, Fix and Rex!

Members of the K-9 Security team are more than just security guards—they provide emotional support for patients, families and staff. You might see them walking next to a nurse carrying a crying infant, nuzzling a teenage girl being treated for a blood disorder, or calming an adult cancer patient awaiting chemo treatment. They not only keep us safe, they aid in the healing process.

In addition to the gentle, loving care they provide our patients, these dogs have serious responsibilities. They understand commands in Dutch, German and English and can detect explosives. Spectrum Health K-9 Officer dogs are not trained to sniff for drugs because of the medications used on site. They are primarily a deterrent for crime. For example, suspected gang members in the emergency department left when seeing a K-9 Officer in the area.

At our LEAD event, the dogs showed off their skills including sniffing out gun powder, staying obedient under pressure and bringing smiles to all our faces. We all agreed the hospital is safer and happier with these furry officers on staff!



The K-9 Security program exists solely because of philanthropy. Your support will provide training, food, veterinary care, and housing needs of the four dogs in our K-9 program. Please consider allocating your LEAD gift for 2017 to the K-9 program, and help us **reach our goal of \$24,643, which will fund this program for one year.** Your investment in this program will ensure that our K-9 dogs will continue to bring comfort and restoration to our pediatric patients and their families.