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NEWS RELEASE
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**FIDELCO GUIDE DOG FOUNDATION, INC. APPOINTS
FORMER GOVERNOR M. JODI RELL
TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bloomfield, Conn. - The **Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc.** has announced that the **Honorable M. Jodi Rell**, former governor of Connecticut, has joined its **Board of Directors**. Mrs. Rell served as the state's 87th Governor from 2004 – 2011.

"We're honored that Governor Rell has chosen Fidelco as an organization worthy of her expertise and commitment of time," said Eliot D. Russman, CEO and Executive Director of Fidelco. "Adding the Governor's level of leadership and vision to Fidelco's board, combined with her compassionate sensitivity for our fellow citizens, will benefit Fidelco clients around the country. I'm confident that Governor Rell will be most helpful in shaping the future of Fidelco. Of course, the Governor's love of dogs is a plus."

"I'm very pleased to join the Fidelco Board of Directors," said Governor Rell. "I knew Fidelco's co-founders, Charlie and Robbie Kaman, and I've always admired the life-changing service that this internationally recognized organization, founded in Connecticut, has provided to so many people who want their help. Fidelco is an organization that is doing great work and making a difference in people's lives every day."

Governor Rell held elected office in Connecticut for more than two decades, serving in the key leadership roles in the House of Representatives, and as the 105th Lieutenant Governor for over nine years, prior to holding the state's highest office.

Beyond her work for the State of Connecticut, Governor Rell is widely regarded as an active community member and humanitarian who works tirelessly to empower others to look to the future with confidence.

Governor Rell is a long-time supporter of the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, serving as Honorary Chairperson of its year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2010. She understands how Fidelco German Shepherd Guide Dogs can assist men and women who are blind experience increased independence and mobility, and achieve their life goals, including more than 250 Connecticut citizens. Fidelco career change dog "Marshall" was the Rell family pet for over a decade and lived in the executive residence.

Amongst her many achievements, Governor Rell has been honored with the Mary Waterman Award from the Breast Cancer Alliance for her "outstanding individual achievement in the search for a cure for breast cancer" and was recognized by the Connecticut Valley Girl Scout Council as a "Woman of Merit."

In 2003, Ms. Rell was named a Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest form of recognition conferred by the Lions Club International Foundation, for representing humanitarian qualities such as generosity, compassion and concern for the less fortunate.

Governor Rell has also received special honors from the Uniformed Professional Firefighters, AmeriCares, Arthritis Foundation, Connecticut Race for the Cure, Connecticut Library Association, Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Administrators, Connecticut Preservation Council and the Connecticut Federation of Business and Professional Women.

The Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Bloomfield, CT, that breeds, trains and places its own, unique "breed

within a breed” German Shepherd Guide Dogs with men and women who are blind. Each Fidelco Guide Dog costs \$45,000 and takes two years to raise and train, and they are given to clients at no cost. Fidelco relies solely on the gifts and the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations and civic organizations to help it *Share the Vision*®. Fidelco has placed over 1,300 German Shepherd Guide Dogs in 35 states and four Canadian provinces, and it pioneered “In-community Placement” in the United States – a process that allows guide dog users to be trained in the communities where they live and work.

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Photo caption: Honorable M. Jodi Rell 87th Governor of Connecticut with future Fidelco Guide Dog.