



Assistance Dogs Transforming Lives

The awesome things the dogs can do!

- Alert others to an emergency
- Carry grocery bags
- Open closed doors
- Retrieve dropped items
- Turn on light switches
- Unzip a coat
- Interrupt panic and anxiety attacks

We specialize in customized Assistance Dogs for two groups:

• **Children and adolescents** with physical, neurological, psychiatric or emotional disabilities. Proper training and employment of an Assistance dog may allow a child to independently perform tasks that are standard for his or her peers. Over time, this reduces the necessity of overdependence on adults and aids, thus allowing the child to grow and mature more independently. We believe this is the very essence of independence, and one of the most important roles of an Assistance Dog.

• **Veterans and active-duty Service Members** with Chronic/Complex Post Traumatic Stress (C-PTS) Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Military Sexual Trauma. Many recipients have “invisible disabilities” so that their use and access to public venues is questioned more readily than a handler whose disability is visible. It is important for people to understand and recognize that these dogs, when employed correctly and within confines of the law, are providing invaluable services to their user by assisting them in their recovery and return to their previous lifestyles. This is yet another example of priceless well-deserved independence.

“CLAIRE has significantly increased the quality of my life and enhanced my ability to contribute to the community.”

– April C.



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Pay-It-Forward

The value of a fully trained dog is \$40,000-\$60,000 and they are provided to the client at NO COST. As a result, paws4people must raise funds from various sources. One of these is the Pay-It-Forward program, in which the client voluntarily engages in awareness efforts on behalf of the organization. This is in recognition that the efforts of previous clients made it possible for the current dogs to be trained, so each group pays it forward to the next group of clients by raising awareness and funds, helping the organization to continue to provide more Assistance Dogs for more people.

“He goes everywhere with me and he truly is my best friend. His emotional support has played a major role in adjusting to my new life.”

– Justin H.



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