



formerly: **DOGS for the DEAF**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Contact: Harvey Potts, harvey@dogsforbetterlives.org, (541) 826-9220, x341
Anjanette Wright, anjanette@dogsforbetterlives.org, (541) 826-9220,x328

DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES PLACES FIRST PROGRAM ASSISTANCE DOG IN PORTLAND, OR

CENTRAL POINT, OR – *Dogs for Better Lives* (formerly *Dogs for the Deaf*) has successfully placed their sixth [Program Assistance Dog](#) with Gloria, a Structured Learning Center (SLC) Teacher with Bridger School in Portland, Oregon. Britt, a two-year old black Labrador, came to *Dogs for Better Lives* from [Guide Dogs for the Blind](#) in San Rafael, California.

Britt graduated from Program Assistance Dog training at *Dogs for Better Lives* in April 2017 and now resides with Gloria in Portland, Oregon. Certified Assistance Dog Trainer Jenny Nickelson spent six months training Britt teaching her the skills necessary to work in a classroom setting with children with special needs.

“Our Program Assistant Dogs really have a large scale impact, while working in classrooms and counseling centers. It’s truly a win-win for the client and the community served,” stated *Dogs for Better Lives* CEO Blake Matray.

Britt has made a significant impact on the lives of children in the classroom, as evidenced by the number of children that visit the SLC. “Britt is more than just a dog to these students at Bridger. If we had more dogs like Britt, it would help bring a higher level of humanity back into the classroom,” shared SLC Teacher, Gloria.

Britt is the sixth Program Assistance Dog in the last five years to be trained and placed by *Dogs for Better Lives*. Program Assistance Dogs are placed nationally and assist full-time professionals such as physicians, teachers, counselors and other licensed professionals with their clients. These dogs offer a calming effect, allowing the professional to better serve their clients and students.

Dogs for Better Lives also specializes in [Hearing Assistance Dogs](#) trained to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing to household sounds and [Autism Assistance Dogs](#) trained to act as an anchor to reduce or slow a child’s ability to run off, and provide a calming influence for the child. *Dogs for Better Lives* has been rescuing dogs from shelters and training them to become Assistance Dogs with qualified clients throughout the United States for nearly forty years. In the 2016-17 fiscal year, *Dogs for Better Lives* placed 23 Assistance Dogs across the United States.

###

Dogs for Better Lives (formerly *Dogs for the Deaf*) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization professionally training Certified Assistance Dogs and placing them across the country since 1977. Accredited through [Assistance Dogs International](#), *Dogs for Better Lives* has been regionally and nationally recognized for its excellence, including [Oregon Business’](#) “100 Best Nonprofits to Work For in Oregon,” The Chamber of Medford/Jackson County Excellence in Business Awards – Nonprofit Sector (2017), top-rated by donors with [GreatNonprofits](#), and nationally recognized as a four-star rating with [Charity Navigator](#). *Dogs for Better Lives* depends solely on the generosity of private funding to support their critical work of rescuing dogs and enhancing lives. For more information, visit www.dogsforbetterlives.org.