



Impact Report
July 2017

Your investment in focused training yields life-enhancing results.

Storm Watch Wellie: Home Town Hero



When the live tornado warning interrupted the television program that Jennifer was watching one spring day, she was unaware because these types of weather update are not closed-captioned. Jennifer had no idea where the "rotation" was located, how fast or where it was moving - she was "in the dark" and had to rely on the limited information scrolling across the bottom of the screen. *"Tornado Warning, Huntingdon County, Take shelter now. Rotation has been spotted in Huntingdon."* That's all that Jennifer knew and she had a split second to "grab and go". Normally, Jennifer would rely on her husband to relay the more detailed severe weather updates since he can hear, but he worked second shift that week and could not help her. Jennifer had no choice but to rely on the very limited information from her local weather station, "her gut", and her Hearing Dog Wellie for awareness.

Jennifer's deafness and visual dependency drove her to key on Wellie's behavioral cues to know when the storm was dying down as they huddled together in her basement safe room. The room has no windows, and Jennifer cannot hear. Wellie was

reassuring during her stressful ordeal, and Jennifer is forever grateful for his companionship, watchful ears and eyes, and his calm demeanor during the storm. His impact in Jennifer's life continues to grow!

Hilton to the Rescue

A young man remained outside of his classroom in his mother's car. Rebecca, Ashland School District Transitional Program Teacher, recalls that he would not come inside. "He experiences autism, severe anxiety, and depression", Rebecca explained, "and has only averaged 1-2 days per week of class before coming to my class." His mother would take him to school each day and he would complain of illnesses, aches, and pains to avoid going to class.



Later that month, a beautiful brown, tan and black rescue dog named Hilton was at the door. Hilton had joined Rebecca's classroom as a Program Assistance Dog, professionally trained by Jenny at Dogs for the Deaf. On that day, the young man said: "I'm going in, Mom." From that day forward, he never missed a day of class.

We see miracles like this every day at Dogs for the Deaf and it's your support that helps make it happen - thank you!

Love Comes in Small Packages

Harley is a six-month-old yellow ball of curiosity. He is being fostered by Dogs for the Deaf board member Al and his wife Kim. Recently, they lost one of their own dogs, Ziggy, and their other dog Barney just wasn't the same afterward. To help raise Barney's spirits, they decided to foster a Dogs for the Deaf puppy.

The moment that Barney spotted Harley, his tail started to wag and the two have been inseparable since then. They love playing together and when they are too tired to continue, they curl up and take naps next to each other.



Harley and Barney's story is just another example of how dogs change the lives of not only the families who receive our Assistance Dogs, but also the lives of the volunteer families who put in countless hours giving these foster puppies the foundation they need to become Assistance Dogs.



Dogs for the Deaf's mission is to professionally train dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a life long commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed and the people we serve.

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