



## Contributions Provide

\$100	Initial vaccinations
\$200	Rescuing a dog from a shelter
\$500	Evaluation & testing plus spaying/neutering
\$1,000	Initial testing of the dog for alertness & aptitude for training
\$1,500	Taking a dog through the entire quarantine/evaluation period in preparation for training
\$2,000	Follow-up visits of five teams
\$3,000	Costs for placement week, going to applicant's home with the dog, training the applicant, and transferring the dog to the person
\$25,000	Total cost of rescuing, training, placing, and follow-up support for the life of the dog

The total expense of operating Dogs for Better Lives is covered by contributions from individuals, service clubs, businesses, foundations, memorial fund designations and bequests.

Dogs for Better Lives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization approved by the Internal Revenue Service. Donations are tax deductible according to current laws. NO FEDERAL FUNDING supports Dogs for Better Lives.

## To help us you may

- **SUPPORT** Dogs for Better Lives financially, so that more people can have the benefits of these special dogs and more dogs can be rescued.
- **ACQUAINT** people who might benefit from one of our professionally trained dogs with the services we provide.
- **MAKE** a bequest to Dogs for Better Lives, ensuring that your love of dogs and desire to help lives on for generations to come.
- **EDUCATE** the public about Assistance Dogs. Materials are available for group or club presentations.
- **HELP** raise donations through club projects, memorials, or special gifts.



**Professionally training dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed and the people we serve.**



formerly: Dogs for the Deaf

Serving America from:

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# Assistance Dogs



*“Dogs for Better Lives is an amazing national nonprofit organization that has rescued dogs since 1977. They professionally train these dogs to assist people, including the Deaf or hard of hearing, children with autism, and licensed professionals who assist people dealing with challenges. They’re truly about people helping dogs, to help people.”*

~ Actor Ryan Lane and his rescue dog Zero



Providing Assistance Dogs Since 1977

[www.dogsforbetterlives.org](http://www.dogsforbetterlives.org)

## About the Dogs

Our dogs are chosen from animal shelters where they might otherwise be euthanized. The dogs are usually mixed breeds up to 36 months of age. The trainers look for dogs that are friendly, energetic, healthy and confident. Those passing the behavioral evaluation are brought to our facility for a medical evaluation and vaccinations. All dogs are spayed/neutered and microchipped before they begin an intensive four to six months of training.

The dogs are taught to work for toys, treats and affection.



**HEARING DOGS** are trained to alert people to household sounds that are necessary for everyday safety and independence. Imagine not being able to hear the fire alarm at night or being a deaf mother who cannot hear her baby crying. Hearing Dogs are trained to make physical contact and lead the person to the source of the sound. The phone, fire alarm, door knock, doorbell, oven timer and the baby cry are some of the sounds to which Hearing Dogs can alert. By providing sound awareness and companionship, these dogs provide greatly increased freedom and independence.

**PROGRAM ASSISTANCE DOGS** go to work with and assist professionals such as physicians, teachers, and counselors, in the treatment of and work with their clients. These dogs help to provide a calming effect and ease anxiety, allowing professionals to better assist their clients. These dogs do not have public access except when accompanying the professionals and their clients with disabilities in order to provide assistance.

**CAREER CHANGE DOGS** are wonderful dogs who are happy and healthy but just not suited to working for a living. These dogs make loving pets and companions and are looking for their forever homes. Adoptable dogs are placed locally within a three-hour drive from our facility.

"The concept of Dogs for Better Lives is pure genius: match dogs who need homes with people who need help."

~ Geoffrey Riley, past DFBL Board Member

"Dogs for Better Lives did more than supply me with a Hearing Dog. The Dogs for Better Lives team and Cajun led me out of isolation and supported my return to a full and meaningful life."

~ Janice, Oregon

"I would not be able to live on my own if it weren't for Dani and the help she provides. She is so smart! I'm very grateful to Dogs for Better Lives for Dani."

~ Erma, Nevada

## About the Clients

People who appreciate the loyalty and companionship that a dog provides can benefit from these services. Any person who is deaf or hard of hearing, or a professional with clients that have disabilities that can be helped by an Assistance Dog, may qualify for one of our dogs. Typically, we require a fenced yard for the dog and all applicants must agree to meet certain requirements:

- A safe, loving, caring home for the dog
- Regular practice sessions to maintain the dog's obedience training and special skills
- Responsible dog ownership
- Hearing Dog clients cannot have any other dogs in the household unless it's a retired Dogs for Better Lives dog
- Dogs for Better Lives does NOT provide training for dogs already owned by the applicant

## Placement & Follow-up

Placement procedures vary depending on the type of dog being placed. In all cases, one of our professional trainers works one-on-one with the client to teach the person how to keep the dog working and how to maintain the dog's obedience skills. Placements of Hearing Dogs and Program Assistance Dogs involve the trainer spending time teaching the client in his/her home.

Following placement, the client must report regularly on the progress of the dog. If any problems arise or the client has any questions, the trainer offers help and answers questions. In-home follow-up is also done.

Dogs for Better Lives guarantees follow-up support for as long as the person and the dog are together.

## How Can I Apply?

Those interested in applying for one of our special dogs should e-mail or call Dogs for Better Lives and ask for application information. More information on applying can be found on our website at [dogsforbetterlives.org](http://dogsforbetterlives.org)



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