



Grayson and Yoko

This summer our second Autism Assistance Dog, Yoko, was placed with Grayson, a 10 year old child on the Autism Spectrum Disorder in southern Oregon. Yoko is a two year old Yellow Labrador Retriever that was professionally trained by Jenny N. to assist Grayson.



We are so proud of Yoko and the impact that she is already making with Grayson! Grayson previously had difficulty connecting with the world around him, but with Yoko's stability and companionship, Grayson is now learning to freely engage with his environment. Stay tuned for more updates on Grayson and Yoko in the coming months!

Program Assistance Dogs

Dogs for the Deaf's CEO, Blake Matray and demo dog Abby traveled to Bellevue, WA in September to attend the Courthouse Dog Foundation's annual conference. Courthouse Dog Foundation provides technical assistance and training for courtroom agencies seeking to establish programs for utilizing a Program Assistance Dog to provide support to children and adults in legal proceedings. Dogs for the Deaf is now the 6th member organization of Assistance Dogs International to be added to their list of approved organizations they refer clients to. Blake commented,



“The conference was a great opportunity to showcase the services our Program Assistance Dogs offer. We’re looking forward to our dogs helping children and adults navigate through the often challenging legal process occurring in courtrooms nationwide.”

Shayna and Lileu

My name is Shayna and I am 21 years old. On April 7, 2016 my life changed: I stopped being afraid. That was the day that Dogs for the Deaf trainers Katie and Jenny arrived at my door with my partner and new best friend, Lileu.

Lileu’s abilities are astounding! She is so smart and she continues to learn about me and my hearing needs daily. When she’s not working, Lileu is fun and goofy - she makes my day, everyday!

Lileu gives me the confidence to engage in conversation with strangers and acquaintances, to travel solo, to live alone or to even just leave my house. Some think that you will be judged for needing a service dog, but in actuality the support, kindness and accommodations that I have received far out-weigh the negative. People now make sure that I can hear them; my invisible disability is now visible. When I am out in public, I am frequently stopped to respond to questions or to receive kind words of encouragement. In just a few short months, Lileu has been to a Broadway Show, two Major League baseball games, an Andy Grammar concert, has stayed in a hotel and traveled by subway and train. Because of Lileu, I was able to have these wonderful experiences, and this is only our beginning...

