

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM



Dogs entering the Fidos Therapy Dog program must pass temperament and obedience tests. Volunteers and their dogs must attend special classes where they are trained to participate in this quality pet therapy program. Teams participate in room-to-room and group visits at local health care facilities such as:

- Laurel Regional Hospital
- Holy Cross Hospital
- Cherry Lane Nursing Center
- Hill Haven Nursing Center
- Sheppard Pratt Psychiatric Hospital
- Holy Cross Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
- Johns Hopkins Children's House
- Montgomery General Hospital
- Brooke Grove Rehabilitation & Nursing Center

Everybody ages. Most of us will be admitted to a hospital or nursing home during our lifetime. Imagine what it would be like if nobody came to visit you. These very special, well-mannered and obedient dogs provide unconditional love and emotional and physical benefits to many people in our community who miss their own pets very much. Many Fidos volunteers consider this program to be one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

DEAR© PROGRAM - In June 2001, Fidos initiated the Dogs Educating & Assisting Readers literacy program that improves the reading skills of elementary school students by encouraging them to read one-on-one with a Fidos Therapy Dog in a relaxed learning environment.

FACT: Each year Fidos volunteers educate more than 10,000 school age children about people with disabilities and how assistance dogs improve their quality of life.

Can a Fidos For Freedom, Inc. Hearing Dog or Service Dog help you or someone you know?

Would a friend or a loved one in a nursing home or hospital enjoy a Fidos Therapy Dog visit?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, we invite you to join our Family of Supporters.

Please send me information about:

- Hearing Dog and Service Dog Programs
- Hearing Dog Application
- Service Dog Application
- Therapy Dog Program
- DEAR© Program
- Sponsorship
- Junior Volunteer Program
- Becoming a volunteer
- Donating a dog
- Please add my name to the mailing list to receive a free, trial subscription of the Fidos Speaks newsletter
- I would like to make a tax deductible contribution of \$_____ (please make your check payable to Fidos For Freedom, Inc. or use a credit card online at www.fidosforfreedom.org) - contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Fidos Training Center and Administrative Offices are located at **1200 Sandy Spring Road** in Laurel, Maryland, 20707.

A copy of Fidos current financial statement is available upon request by contacting Fidos For Freedom, Inc. at P.O. Box 5508, Laurel, MD 20726, or by calling (410) 880-4178. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying.

Rev. 10/2007



Increasing the quality of life of people living in the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Community through the use of specially trained:

**Hearing Dogs
Service Dogs
Therapy Dogs**

**P.O. Box 5508
Laurel, Maryland 20726**

(301) 490-4005 (V)

(410) 880-4178 (V)

(301) 570-7570 (TTY)

Fax: (301) 490-9061

E-mail: office@fidosforfreedom.org

www.fidosforfreedom.org

Fidos For Freedom, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is a voting member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). All donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.



Combined Federal Campaign:

CFC # 41908

Maryland Charity Campaign:

MCC # 2605

United Way - Write-in: "Fidos For Freedom, Inc."

ASSISTANCE DOG PROGRAM FACTS

- Assistance Dogs In Training are donated by breeders from across the United States; rescue dogs are also used.
- Assistance Dogs In Training are raised in the homes of volunteers, and are taught a solid foundation of basic obedience skills.
- There is a small non-refundable application fee.
- After each client is carefully matched with a dog and the team is custom trained to meet each client's individual needs.
- Clients must spend a minimum of 120 hours in training before they can take a dog home with them.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM - is presented at schools, churches, civic organizations, businesses and government agencies. This program focuses on disability awareness and the impact that assistance dogs have on the lives of individuals with hearing and mobility impairments. Heightening public knowledge about these issues increases acceptance of assistance dogs and their partners in our community.

JUNIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM - was developed to help students (12 years or older) meet the Maryland State high school graduation requirement for community service hours. Juniors help with our public speaking, fund raising, administrative tasks, dog training activities, etc. They learn about people with disabilities and the impact that assistance dogs have on their lives. This hands-on program increases the self-esteem of these young people and teaches them about the true meaning of giving.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM - was initiated to provide Fidos supporters with an opportunity to experience the proud feeling of giving someone independence by providing a highly skilled canine partner. An individual, club or business can select a particular Assistance Dog In Training and financially sponsor part or all of its training, or allow the funds to be directed to another specific area of need within Fidos. Donations are tax deductible and make it possible for Fidos For Freedom, Inc. to provide its many services to people living in our community.

Did you know that more people suffer from hearing loss than from heart disease, cancer, multiple sclerosis and kidney disease combined?

HEARING DOGS are trained to reliably alert people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to all of the significant sounds in their environment, such as:



- Telephone
- Smoke detector
- Alarm clock
- Teakettle
- Someone calling the person's name
- Items that have fallen (money, keys, pens, etc.)
- Baby's cry
- Door knock and/or door bell

Fidos Hearing Dogs have changed lives . . .

★ *"Echo is right beside me everywhere I go, I feel safe and secure when Echo is with me. People know me as Echo and Tina, not just my name. I have my independence and freedom because of Fidos and Echo. I am so grateful for the program and wonderful staff. They are like family to me."*
- Hearing Dog Client, Tina F.

★ *"When Tiffany is with me, I don't have to worry about what noises are going on around me, especially at work. I know that she will alert me to the fire alarm bell or the timer on the stove. I don't have to rely on other people to keep me safe, Tiffany does that!"* - Hearing Dog Client, Karen G.

★ *"While in college, I slept through two major fire alarms. Now that I have Sande I do not have to worry about my safety. This year he immediately alerted me to two fire alarms - sounds he'd never before heard. My entire family is more relaxed knowing that I can hear emergencies wherever my professional, active life takes me"* - Hearing dog Client, Bruce C.

Did you know that there are more than 15,000 individuals with mobility impairments who live in Prince Georges County, Maryland?

SERVICE DOGS are trained to aid individuals who are mobility impaired to achieve their desire to be independent by performing tasks that are physically demanding and frustrating. Service Dogs assist their physically challenged partners by performing duties such as:



- Retrieving out-of-reach objects
- Opening doors
- Counter-balancing a person who is walking
- Assisting in chair-to-chair or floor-to-chair transfers (especially useful in bathrooms)
- Assisting with dressing or undressing
- Helping a person who has fallen to stand

Fidos Service Dogs have helped our clients . . .

★ *"Sparky makes every single day spectacular! With his pep, intelligence, and encouraging smile, he lightens my load and allows me to function independently at home or in the workplace. The constant wagging of his tail as he helps me up from the floor, complete transfers, retrieve objects, and counterbalance shows me that we were truly meant to be "Partners." He inspires me to be a strong leader and teach others to reach for their goals as he helps me to achieve mine."*
- Service Dog Client Dori T.

★ *"Linus brings me joy, freedom, and laughter every day in every way. His skill at retrieving the items I continually drop is only surpassed by his patience in bringing them to me over and over until I am able to grasp them and hold on. Having him by my side gives me the independence and courage to pursue new ventures. It is truly my privilege to be partnered with Linus."*
- Service Dog Client Doris M.