

## Autistic brother and sister plus Brock equal joy!

Sharon Lindsey

It's time to give everyone our incredible update regarding Lauren, Matthew, and their amazing service dog, Brock. We have now had Brock for a little over 1 ½ years. Time has flown!

### Lauren transforms into a happy, confident girl



Lauren, my little girl who was terrified of everything including going outdoors is now meeting life head-on with Brock by her side. She wouldn't even go to the bathroom by herself, but she drags Brock with her and off they go together.

She takes him outside to play with her, downstairs, and when she needs a friend.

The greatest news is that she now goes to sleep with the light off, which is something she has never done. She has always been sooo scared that someone will hurt her, but with Brock sleeping with her she even sleeps through the night...well *most* of the time. We do have a few nights in there but then she wakes up and reads all night in her bed to Brock.

Her flapping, hands over the ears, noises when she is upset, and sensory overload have almost completely gone away. I remember how she was when we were at training. She was flapping, covering her ears, making noises and unable to handle it.

You would not believe that she is the same child today! Ask anyone, and they'll tell you she's a normal nine-year-old little girl. Brock has become her best friend, her protector, and her confidant. She will tell him anything!

As long as Brock is with Lauren, she can face anything!

### Matthew's still coping, but Brock comes to the rescue

Tonight was a bad night with Matthew. He was playing on the computer when it shut down just as he had finished his level and was about to be awarded his "money."

Matthew ran into his room, crawled under his covers, hit himself in the face, pulled out some hair, and bit himself.

Brock came charging in and crawled right on top of him. Matthew's meltdown almost immediately turned into fits of giggles as this 75-pound dog is lying



smack on top of him. Brock stayed with him for 30 minutes before deciding that Matt was okay. Then he left.

Brock has become more and more attached to Matthew and Matthew to Brock. Matthew still outwardly shows many signs of Autism: hand flapping, noises, being in his own world, speech issues, etc.

But Matt now has a best friend (Brock) who is always there for him never makes fun of him like some of his normal peers. Plus, he's become popular with his Autistic peers, setting a precedent and wanting to socialize with them!



He never knew how to give love and respond to others before Brock came into his life. He's a much calmer child, and when he gets out, Brock finds him right away. Matt has no fear of anything, and recently Brock has been getting in his way when Matt's tried to leave the yard or do something dangerous. It's just like Brock senses what is going on!

There's sooo much more but I think you get the picture...everything here with my kiddos is great! So much better than before Brock came into the family.

Brock is wonderful!!

Life is awesome!!!

Thanks to Karen and [4 Paws for Ability](#) for all they have done, and to all my friends and family for your love and support! I love you all!

Sharon

*July, 2009. Over the next few months, be sure to check out the Ladies Home Journal, as Brock will be featured along with three other dogs for their Outstanding Service Dog work! He deserves it as he is our amazing miracle!*