

4 Paws for Ability

Mission

4 Paws for Ability strives to be the leading provider of service dogs for children regardless of disability as well as adult children with caregiver guardianship who cannot live independently. 4 Paws assists veterans who have given selflessly to our country by providing service dogs which can assist with disabilities on a case by case basis, as well as adults living with hearing loss, diabetes, or Alzheimer's.

About

Founded in 1998 by Karen Shirk, 4 Paws for Ability filled an otherwise unmet need - providing children with task-trained service dogs.



Cost

A service dog costs between \$40-\$60,000. Clients pay \$17,000, while 4 Paws covers all remaining costs with cash and in-kind donations, grants, and other fundraising activities.



Success

More than 1350 service dogs have been placed across 49 US states and many countries with children and veterans.



Placement

Families travel to Xenia, OH for a training placement class to receive their task-trained service dog. During this class they learn all of the speciality tasks of their service dog. The class culminates in a public access test with their service dog.



Breeds

4 Paws for Ability primarily works with Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Labs, Poodles, Goldendoodles, German Retrievers, Newfoundland Retrievers, and one small breed, the Papillon.



Types of Service Dogs

Alzheimer's Assistance Dog

Autism Assistance Dog

Diabetic Alert Dog

FASD/DE Assistance Dog

Facilitated Guide Dog

Hearing Ear Dog

Mobility Assistance Dog

Multipurpose Service Dog

Seizure Assistance Dog

Veteran's Assistance Dog



www.4pawsforability.org

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501(c)(3) Nonprofit Charity - EIN 31-1625484

4 Paws for Ability

For the Press

4 Paws Point of Contact for Press and Media Inquiries

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4 Paws Alaska

4 Paws for Ability also has a very small satellite location in Anchorage, AK. Residents of Alaska may be able to receive their service dog from this location.

4 Paws for Veterans

4 Paws believes that if every reputable service dog organization placed a small portion of their dogs with veterans, our veteran population would be fully supported in our communities. 4 Paws has chosen to focus on serving veterans of recent combat whose primary disability is a mobility or hearing impairment as a result of a combat injury during one of the more recent wars and conflicts are eligible for the program.

Veteran recipients receive their service dog at no cost to them.

4 Paws Adult Placements

4 Paws for Ability primarily places service dogs with children. 4 Paws has a very small program for non-veteran adults seeking Diabetic Alert and Hearing Ear service dogs, who are fully independent and able to safely handle a service dog, and who are able to be placed with a small breed service dog.



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