

Lions Assistance Request for Marge Eaton, Highland, IN



Marge Eaton has MS and uses a motorized wheelchair. She lives independently and can also drive, thanks to a van that has been adapted for accessibility. Marge has home health care for 3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening, that is funded by Medicare/Medicaid. Most of the day is spent alone. Marge relies heavily on her canine companion for assistance and companionship.

To date, she has had two canine companions through Canine Companions for Independence (CCI)*. Unfortunately, the second companion, named Encore, passed away in February and she has not had a companion since. Although Marge still continues to live independently, she is in great need for a companion from CCI. If she drops anything, the dog would be able to retrieve it for her. In addition, the dog is trained to open and close doors and drawers, turn lights on/off, take off socks and other clothing, carry clothes to the hamper, pick up items as small as a penny, carries bags when shopping, etc.

Marge has the opportunity to get a canine companion through CCI around August of this year. However, there are some road blocks that are currently keeping this from being possible for her. Medicare/Medicaid is unwilling to provide Marge with her home health care in the mornings and evenings during her 2-week stay at CCI in Ohio, where she will go through the required training with her companion. In addition, CCI does not have complimentary accommodations. Lastly, Marge will need a Hoyer Lift to assist in getting her in and out of bed/wheelchair. She has been told that she may be able to get a one-month prescription for a Hoyer Lift while she's in Ohio, but there is a cost.

At this point, she is not exactly sure what this will all cost, but we have been able to estimate (at this point \$4,000) based on the information that has been provided so far. The details are as follows:

- There is no cost to Marge for the training or for the dog.
- It is believed that Marge will require approximately 5 hours of home health care, consisting of 2 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening while in Ohio. We have been told that this may cost approximately \$25/hour.
- It is estimated that her hotel stay will be approximately \$120 per night, for 2 weeks.
- There may not be any cost associated with the Hoyer Lift. At the Zone Meeting it was learned that Hobart Lions Club has one, so we're checking into that.
- Marge has transportation to and from Ohio, although it may not be possible to take her accessible van, because one of the doors needs repair. Nonetheless, we're told that Marge will still have transportation.

Through Lions fundraising efforts and donations, we'd like to make it possible for Marge to get her canine companion in August.

Highland Lions Club will be fundraising for Marge's cause during Highland's 4th of July Festival, where the Lions will be selling Italian Beef Sandwiches. A container will be displayed at the booth to receive donations for Marge. In addition, the Highland Lions will have a fundraiser on July 22nd at the Highland Wendy's, where 15% of sales will be donated to the Highland Lions.

Donations may be sent to:

**Lion Susan Westerfield
c/o Highland Lions Club
9211 Wildwood Drive
Highland, IN 46322**

Checks may be written to Highland Lions Club