

Palmetto Animal Assistance Life Services

Hope is the feeling that what is wanted can actually be achieved and that events will turn out for the best. You have made hope possible for someone greatly in need of an assistance dog. Your support of PAALS helps cover training, travel and veterinary costs incurred during the two-year period required to turn a puppy into a service dog. Without your support, many South Carolinians with autism, veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and adults with other types of disabilities would have no hope of getting a service dog due to the high costs involved. These costs are not covered by private or government insurance or disability benefits programs.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, PAALS raises all the money to provide service dogs to qualified individuals. For the PAALS clients who receive a service dog after years of waiting, it is often a light at the end of a long tunnel. A service dog opens doors, both literally and figuratively, that our clients never dreamed possible.

For instance, PAALS grad Abbe, a black lab, has drastically improved the life of Maya, a teenager with autism. Abbe has also made a tremendous difference in the life of Maya's mom, Ginny. Before getting Abbe, Maya and Ginny rarely left their home because ordinary noises and routine sights agitated and frightened Maya dramatically. Maya almost never initiated a conversation, and Ginny had accepted that her daughter would never be able to talk. Today, however, Maya makes direct eye contact and talks in an open, friendly way to most everyone she meets. Abbe is always by Maya's side, attuned to her state of mind and demeanor and ready to place stress-relieving pressure on Maya's legs and feet to calm her whenever needed. Rather than sleeping with her mom, as before, Maya now sleeps in her own bed, with Abbe. Ginny and Maya have even been able to take vacations, something that seemed impossible before Abbe came into their lives. Ginny says that PAALS dog Abbe has been nothing short of a miracle.

Your gift helps make miracles like this possible. On behalf of PAALS, let me express our appreciation for your donation of \$40,000 plus \$6,875.00. Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Elizabeth L. Anderson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" written in a larger, more prominent style than the last name "Anderson".

Elizabeth L. Anderson, Executive Director

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