

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

A common misperception is not having a “severe enough” disability to receive an assistance dog.

Often when we talk with clients, one of the perceptions they share with us is that they debated considering an assistance dog because they didn’t feel their disability was severe enough to warrant receiving one. Sometimes it’s because they are relatively young, or they do not use an assistive device, or their disability is not noticeable to others, or for whatever reason, they feel that someone else is more deserving.

However, our Client Services Department explains the careful screening process to applicants, and frequently, those who felt they would not qualify are exactly the ones who might benefit the most from an assistance dog.

Casey, who received Hearing Assist Dog Fallon in 2018, voices the way so many of our clients felt when deciding whether or not to apply for a dog.



In Casey’s Words

Due to my disability, I lost my career. Although no longer working, I pressed on with life as if nothing had changed. I unknowingly refused to accept the reality of my disability. I was consumed by my desire to be independent making it difficult to admit I needed help. How could I possibly qualify for a service dog, as I really am not that disabled? I felt unworthy knowing there were many people who (I felt) needed and deserved the support of a service dog more than me.

What I know now is I could not have been more wrong. Fallon, my service dog has changed my life! She alerts me to things I thought were not necessary, but most definitely are! My family has less anxiety knowing Fallon is there for me. They can enjoy life with me instead of worrying about me. Life with Fallon has flipped my thinking from reminiscing on the past to being excited about my future!

If you or someone you know might be experiencing similar doubts when thinking about the need for an assistance dog, reach out to us at apply@candocanines.org. It might be the best decision you ever make.