

# Through a Dog's Eyes

Stories of service dogs and the people whose lives they have changed




Millions of Americans with disabilities rely on hope to get them through each day; hope for a breakthrough; hope for gaining or reclaiming independence; and hope for a friend. Each year, hundreds of them find hope at a handful of organizations across the country that train assistance dogs for people with disabilities. A new documentary, *Through a Dog's Eyes*, follows the life-changing journey of recipients as they go through the heartwarming and sometimes difficult process of receiving and being matched with a service dog. Jennifer Arnold, founder of one of the nation's largest service dog organizations, Canine Assistants, shows her unique teaching methods and allows viewers to have an intimate look at the canine-recipient matching process.

As Arnold states, "People feel like they're sort of picking out their dog, when in reality, the dog very clearly picks out their person. I don't know what it is. We know that personality has a lot to do with the matching process. And from there it's just that magic of chemistry. And when you see those bonds develop so quickly and so powerfully, it's pretty overwhelming."

The documentary follows potential recipients like 6-year-old Aiden who was born with cerebral palsy and spends most of his time in a wheelchair. Aiden hopes that his dog Nala will help him at school with routine tasks such as picking up pencils, as well as offer silent support in social situations. His mother hopes that an assistant dog will help make his wheelchair become invisible so people will get to know Aiden as a person rather than Aiden as a disability.

Destiny is 11 and has a rare form of epilepsy and has constant seizures around the clock. Her family are hoping to offer their daughter a measure of freedom she has never before experienced. The hope is that her canine assistant companion, Salsa, will be able to alert Destiny and her family to impending seizures.

We're hoping that this documentary will be shown on Australian TV so that the general public understand the important role these wonderful dogs play in the lives of people living with a disability, injury or disease. Documentaries like *Through A Dog's Eyes* bring to the light the organisations that work so hard to make positive change within people's lives. People who are profoundly challenged are getting a new lease on life through assistance dogs—loving canine companions are working small miracles every day. Not just because they're trained; not just because they're smart but because dogs see the world differently than any other animal because dogs are born to care about us.

Check out the full documentary online at PBS website [www.pbs.com](http://www.pbs.com) 



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