

Tinker and Me



Hello my name is Karen. I'm originally from Puerto Rico but moved to Fredonia, NY in 2010 seeking to improve my quality of life. For the last 22 years I'm been dealing with major health issues that has left me disabled and basically home-bound. In 1989 I went through the tragic experience of losing my father and three sisters in a horrible car accident in which I was also involved. As a consequence of such trauma I was diagnosed with Major Depression. Later, in 1996 I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Through the years, and without any

explanation many other conditions have joined my previous diagnoses, like Sleep Apnea, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, PTSD, Panic Attacks, Agoraphobia, Short Term Memory Loss, Cognitive Dysfunction where symptoms are very similar to patients with Narcolepsy.

For 22 long years I'm been living in constant pain, fatigue and exhaustion. During the last two years I'm been receiving long term care at home. A nurse and a personal assistant come a couple of days a week to help me with my personal and home care. I'm very grateful for this help, but the days that I'm home by myself are very hard. There are days when I can't even get out of bed, I can't even take my meds, and sometimes I can't even eat. A service dog could assist me in performing task I can't do on my own. A dog could help to provide balance and help to prevent falls due to balance issues, bring and help remind me to take my meds, pick up dropped or items from the floor, help me carry heavy items, open doors, etc. They would help to calm and support during Panic Attacks, help me deal with my Phobias and safely interact with people. The wonderful people of New Hope Assistance Dogs Inc., in Warren, PA., have kindly accepted me into their program. The cost of my Assistance Dog would be 17,000. With the help of my friends and community I'm sure I will reach my goal of 17,000. I could benefit greatly from the assistance that a Service Dog would offer. I am asking for your help in this effort to raise funds, for a dog that I need in order to finally have my assistant and new best friend. Any amount counts, every dollar, every penny. And please, share this page with everyone you know, so it can reach more and more people. I'll be forever grateful

Above is a picture of Tinker, one of the sweet Golden Retrievers that I met when I had a Meet and Greet with New Hope Assistance Dogs!