

BRENDA'S STORY

Brenda has been through a lifetime of hardship starting from birth. She was born with hip dysplasia, a disintegrating hip bone, club foot and elbow issues. She had many surgeries and braces to try to help her situation. She was not diagnosed until about the age of 4 with nerve damage in both ears causing hearing loss. She was fitted with two hearing aids. Her hearing loss has gotten much worse since then. At the age of 16 she almost succumbed to Lymphatic Leukemia. After intensive radiation to her head and neck, along with chemotherapy treatments she finally overcame it after many, many months. The intensive treatments did cause mental developmental issues but she is a happy bubbly person. Later in life she developed Endometrial Cancer which she overcame. She recently has had spots of Melanoma removed and she is very closely monitored. Her current challenge is overcoming a total hip replacement and she is doing very well. We are all proud of her!! It is her desire to have an assistance/hearing dog. When we mentioned the possibility she lit right up because she did not think it was possible. Her husband of 16 years works many hours to provide for them and does not like to leave her alone. His fear is that she might fall with no one there to help. They are also afraid that with her hearing loss that she cannot hear smoke detectors, doorbells, telephones or people speaking to her when she does not have her hearing aids in.

She needs to feel that she can feel safe and finally be more independent. An Assistance Dog could help with balance issues from the hip replacement. A dog could also assist in alerting her when there is a phone call, door or fire alarm and more. She wants to be able to get out of her house on her own with this treasured friend to assist her.

Thank you for taking time to read Brenda's story. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated.