



THE FREEMASONS'
GRAND CHARITY

CASE STUDY

Dogs for the Disabled

In 2010, Dogs for the Disabled received £25,000 from the Grand Charity



The project was featured on BBC news in May 2011. To read the article please press here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13531511>

Dogs for the Disabled is a charity that trains assistance dogs to help improve the lives of adults and children with physical disabilities, and to help support families with a child affected by autism. This grant is helping to fund a new and unique programme highlighting the benefits of a trained pet dog for families with a child with autism.

The charity has previously provided fifteen trained assistance dogs to families with a child with autism, with positive results. In particular assisting the child in social development and helping the family to carry out everyday activities such as going to the shops or even on holiday, visits that most of us take for granted but for a family affected by autism can be nearly impossible.

Taking these experiences, Dogs for the Disabled's new project, known as PAWS (Parents, Autism, Workshops and Support), is aiming to help over 300 families in its first three years. The project will help a family choose the right pet dog for their requirements and then provide advice and support to help the family integrate their pet into family life including using a dog's routine and requirements to help develop a child with autism's social and communication skills. In a pilot held last year, one family said that the arrival of a puppy was the first time that their child had ever spoken directly to another being. The link between their child and pet dog also assisted in everything from cleaning teeth to getting dressed into school uniform.

If you would like to find out more about Dogs for the Disabled please visit:

www.dogsforthedisabled.org



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