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## KILLBUCK RESIDENT WELCOMES SERVICE DOG

KILLBUCK, OH Mel Parks, a Killbuck resident, received a service dog in August. Baila, a female black Labrador-Golden Retriever mix, will help Mel by performing tasks that have become difficult and unsafe due to balance and coordination issues, such as retrieving dropped items. *Canine Companions for Independence® is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.* Mel received Baila free of charge from the organization in August.

Mel and Baila graduated together after completing an intense two week Team Training course at one of the Canine Companions' five regional centers. During Team Training, students are strategically matched with assistance dogs and learn how to work with them effectively. The dogs are trained for two years, learning 40 commands before they are ready to become someone's 24/7 partner. Thanks to Canine Companions' generous supporters, the dogs, their training and ongoing follow-up support are provided free of charge.

"Baila will make my life easier and help me to extend myself to family and others," shares Mel. Mel decided to apply for a service dog after researching the benefits of having one online.

### **About Canine Companions for Independence**

Canine Companions for Independence provides highly-trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities. Established in 1975, Canine Companions has five regional training centers across the country. Canine Companions is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between people and dogs. For more information, visit [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org) or call 800-572-BARK(2275).

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