

Of all the things Shea's dog is trained to do, the most important is opening doors.

A rare muscle disease keeps Shea confined to a wheelchair. But thanks to her best friend Mercer, she's not confined *by* it. Mercer is at Shea's side 24 hours a day to help her do all sorts of things on her own, from picking things up off the floor to opening the refrigerator and turning on the lights. How inseparable are Shea and Mercer? Take a look in her school yearbook and you'll find his picture right there next to hers.

For more than 30 years, Canine Companions for Independence has been teaming people like Shea with dogs like Mercer completely free of charge. To find out more about making a donation, volunteering, or applying for a dog of your own, visit www.cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK.

