

Real Life Story

Canine Companions for Independence

Independent and Outgoing After All

__Tammy Middleton and Terzian, her Canine Companion, teamed up so that Tammy could keep her independence after all.

__At age 16 while on a double date, a car accident left Tammy paralyzed from the waist down. Having always been an independent person, Tammy found herself instantly dependent upon others. She also found herself self-conscious about her wheelchair.

__Tammy wanted so badly to be independent, but she knew simple things most people take for granted would make this challenging, such as picking something up off the ground, or going grocery shopping. So Tammy applied for a service dog from Canine Companions for Independence.

__Tammy eventually received her wish for a Canine Companion named Terzian. Terzian began to help her physically by carrying her purse, pulling her wheelchair, and helping take in the garbage. Moreover, he has been there as her number one fan: he supported her on her first day at work, he offers her a sense of security, and he's always there whenever she needs a hug.

__Tammy is thankful to live on her own and work full-time as a lawyer. Now, with Terzian, she is as independent and outgoing as before her accident.