



Family Caregivers Unite! Archives Available

June 15th 2010: Seizure Response Dog Guides and Family Caregiving

Hastings Saunders is a 9-year old boy with epilepsy. His mother, Sandra Saunders, found him a seizure response dog guide. It was trained by the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Training Centre, where Ian Ashworth is Program Director. Sandra talks about the family's experience with seizures. She explains what led her to think of a dog guide, and about the particular challenges of seizures that she hoped it would help with. Hastings talks about the dog, Manny, and how it fits into the family. He describes how Manny helps him. Ian discusses the work of Dog Guides Canada in the training of se

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Featured Guests



Ian Ashworth

Ian Ashworth is Program Director, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Training Centre in Oakville, Ontario. His Dog Guide career began in April 1983 as an apprentice trainer with The Guide Dogs for the Blind in the UK. He worked as a guide dog mobility instructor and then a 'Dog Supply Supervisor' for over 10 years before moving to the National Breeding centre in the UK as Deputy Breeding Manager. He says that "There was a very steep learning curve moving from training to one of the largest breeding programs in the world, breeding 1100 puppies a year!". In 1999, he became National Breeding Manager. In this position he continued to improve international collaborative dog guide breeding pr

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Hastings Saunders

Hastings Saunders is an exceptionally bright 9 year old boy with epilepsy. When medication didn't help much his seizures, and the side effects took over his personality, his mother, Sandra Saunders, a special education teacher, looked for alternatives. In April 2010, through the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, she found Manny. He's a seizure response dog guide trained by Canada Dog Guides. Since then, says Sandra, Hastings' seizures have drastically reduced. Because he's so grateful to the Lions Foundation for this special gift he is doing everything he can to give back to the Foundation. He's created a movie about his story, which is shared at service-club meetings. He's also raise

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