

A CANINE AND HUMAN CHRISTMAS STORY

A wonderful group of caring children along with their resourceful and dedicated teacher have demonstrated the true spirit of Christmas 2013. This story spans two states and several agencies.

It began when a new member, Susan Moellering, of Parkway United Church of Christ in St. Louis, Missouri invited her sister, Jane Biehl to be a speaker at Parkway. Jane lives in North Canton, Ohio and has a severe hearing loss. She hears very little without her hearing aids. After a deaf friend was robbed and beaten because he did not hear the robber, Jane decided to apply for a hearing ear dog.

She contacted Circletail located near Cincinnati, Ohio. Marlys Staley, the executive director, started this wonderful agency several years ago. Circletail rescues and adopts out over 200 dogs a year and around 10 are partnered. The dogs with certain work ethics and unique personalities assist persons with mobility impairments, hearing losses and medical issues.

Jane received her beautiful yellow lab, Sita, in 2007 and an immediate bond was formed. Sita has alerted her to many new sounds she never heard before, warned her by touching her if there is a potential danger and made her feel more relaxed than ever before. Jane calls Sita her “guardian angel.” She wrote a picture book titled Here to Bump and Bump to Hear about Sita’s incredible story. Sita was abandoned in the streets, rescued by Circletail and trained in the foster care and prison program in Ohio.

Sally and Barb, the teachers at Parkway heard this story. She talked to the children and they decided to perform many chores around the house. Instead of keeping the money to buy items for themselves, they donated all of the earnings to Circletail.

What a Christmas story!! This is truly a win win situation for the dogs like Sita, who devoted her life to Jane and obtained a better life for herself; for the people like Jane who have had their lives changed forever; for the prisoners who are learning to give back; and for Circletail which has helped countless dogs and people throughout the years. And for the children who truly are giving out of love. This is the spirit of Christmas. This is the Christmas story.