



Niles, my eight-year-old Golden Retriever/Labrador retriever mix, is my service dog. I live with Cerebral Palsy, use a power chair to get around, and have very limited use of my hands. For the last 7 years, Niles has enabled me to live independently. At home, he opens doors for me and picks up things that I drop, placing them gently on my lap. When I go out, he can jump up and activate with his paws the automatic doors to buildings. Most of all, Niles makes my life whole. He makes me laugh with his antics and he touches me with his soulful eyes. At night, he sleeps next to my bed, his steady breathing soothing me.

Last fall, I was hospitalized with complications of my illness and am now recovering in an extended care facility. When my veterinarian recently found a tumor in Niles, I thought I was about to also lose my best friend -- and hope of living independently again. With my medical expenses, I couldn't afford the surgery Niles needed. It is only through the incredible generosity of Paws 4 A Cure - and the kindness of founder Keri Goldman - that Niles is able to have his life-saving surgery. I look forward to returning to my apartment soon and being reunited with sweet Niles. Words cannot express my gratitude to Keri, Paws 4 A Cure, and all of the good donors to that organization.