

Kara Hirsch and Heidi



In 2015 my eldest daughter Kendra wanted to raise her own Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) puppy. She needed volunteer hours in order to receive her Honors Diploma. Heidi is the puppy who came to us in January of 2016. She was born on November 10, 2015 in California. She was our 11th CCI puppy. We were excited to start a new journey alongside Heidi with Kendra raising her. When Heidi was about 9 months old she was able to join Kendra at school. She attended all of her classes and extracurricular activities.

She was there for everything, from math class to band class. She even sat by the pool during swim practice. Heidi had her own bed in some of the classrooms. She was amazing and won the hearts of all the staff and kids at school. Heidi adored being at the school with Kendra.



On Aug 4, 2017 we had to take the journey to Oceanside California to say goodbye to Heidi and wish her the best in her final 6 months of training. We would miss her but knew that her mission was to become a service dog and help someone who needed their life changed for the better. Heidi spent those 6 months learning new skills. A few of the things she learned were; opening doors, turning on and off lights and picking up dropped items. She was learning so many new skills to help someone in

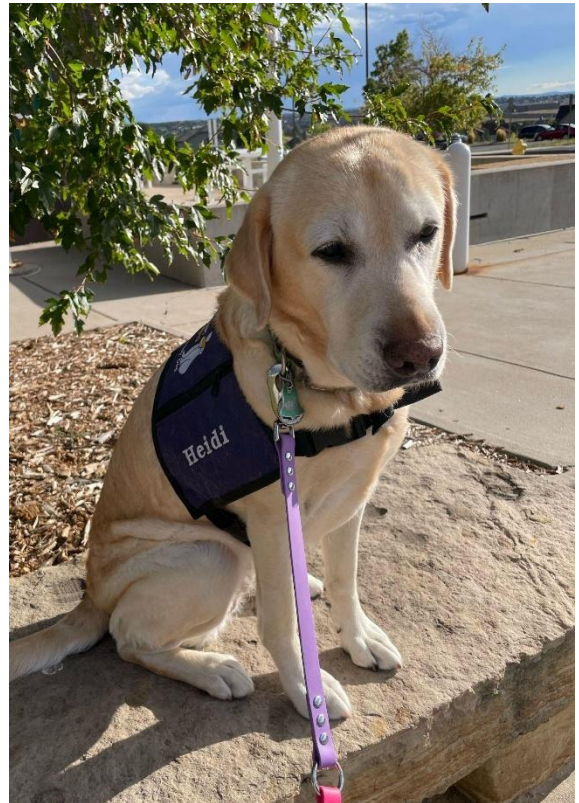
need. Unfortunately, we received the call that Heidi was released for health reasons and we had the chance to adopt her. Of course, we said yes and were excited to welcome her back home on Jan 26, 2018.

DPP Team of the Month (November 2025)



When Heidi came back home, I knew she needed a job. She had spent her life working and loved every second. She was bored being home with me all day. I began looking into organizations and found DPP. I knew this was a perfect fit for us immediately. In May of 2018 Heidi and I passed our test. We were both excited for the new adventures in front of us.

Heidi tends to be a bit of a lazy girl. She is quite content spending the majority of her day sleeping on the couch with her koala Squishmallow (as shown in the picture). She has never found a treat she doesn't like, but her favorites are broccoli and carrots. She loves to travel with us in our camper and take hikes in the mountains, as long as we avoid all water.

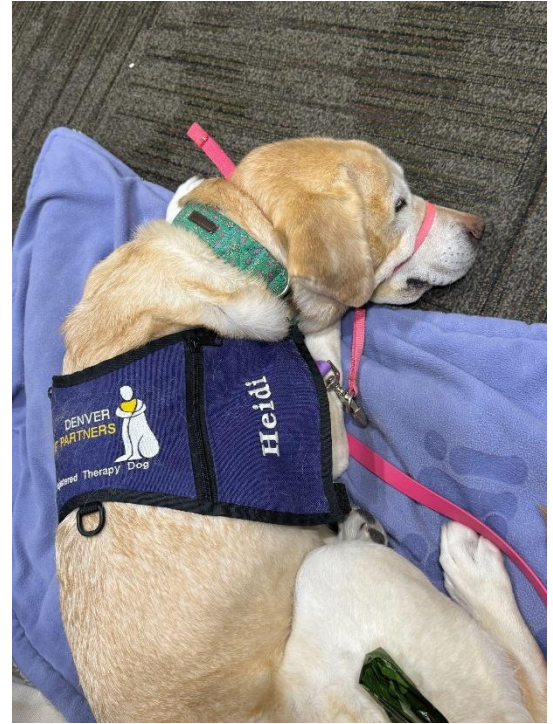


DPP Team of the Month (November 2025)



Heidi and I love to do the reading programs at Tallyn's Reach and Bemis Library. She is very happy just laying on her blanket listening to kids read while they give her belly rubs. I love seeing the kids light up when they see Heidi. They are always excited to read her a book, whether it's about dogs, cats, princesses, superheroes, or anything in between.

We are also a regular team at Denver Springs Behavioral Hospital. This holds a special place in my heart due to the fact that my brother struggled with addiction. I know how hard the battle can be, I love being able to give the people there a smile and brighten their day. Especially when they are missing their pets at home. Heidi especially loves visiting with the kids. She will lay on the floor while the kids surround her. Many times, there will be kids who choose to cuddle up next to her and lay on the floor by her side.



Thank you to DPP for giving Heidi and I this amazing opportunity to give back to our community.

-Kara and Heidi Hirsch