



“ My life hasn’t turned out as planned or hoped, but there still is purpose and fulfillment in it.

Sheena Walter knows she has a special purpose in life. “I am passionate about advocating for other people with disabilities and for other patients with chronic illnesses,” she said. She also writes to federal and state legislators about disability issues.

“I have had health issues and disabilities since birth,” Sheena said. “Doctors are still trying to find the underlying cause.” Sheena has been diagnosed with dysautonomia (malfunction of the autonomic nervous system), Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (a group of disorders that affect connective tissues), autism, and she is suspected of having mitochondrial disease, a chronic and debilitating illness. Sheena experiences muscle weakness, balance issues and falling, digestive problems, and neurological issues such as migraines and seizures, all of which have worsened over time. These symptoms make everyday tasks, such as cooking, driving, and opening doors, more difficult for Sheena. >> [READ MORE](#)

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**Domesti-PUPS**

Dogs aren't the only animals she loves. Sheena also has a cherished cat, which she trained to sit and play dead. When she's not training animals, she enjoys reading all different genres of books, drawing, writing, and volunteering. Having a service dog by her side improves her quality of life and open so many doors for her—both literally and figuratively. Her service dog helps Sheena continue to live alone, but also serve as a loving friend to keep her company.

Sheena's service dog helps her live an independent life and helping others. "I know there is a reason I am here—still something I can do to help others. That is what I hope to accomplish. I just have to listen to my body, rest when I need to—and realize that, though my life hasn't turned out as planned or hoped, that there still is purpose and fulfillment in it."

Sheena's story is just one of the lives where Domesti-PUPS service dogs create opportunities for independence.

*Your gift
will make
a difference
in the lives of
people like
Sheena*

“

I am now able to go places without another person having to be with me, to be able to do more at home and also be more active in my community.

