

## **Jetta, Canine partner of Chris Spaetzel 2009 - 2014**

I truly believe Jetta lived by the saying, It's not the amount of time you have on earth, it's what you do with the time you have. Jetta lived a short 5 1/2 years but did amazing things in that time. She was a black lab mix, rescue who came to our family at the age of 8 weeks. Immediately upon getting Jetta I knew she had great things planned for us. She loved being around people and especially loved children. Jetta became a therapy dog at the age of 2 and joined HOPE at the age of 3 1/2.

Jetta attended many safety fairs, public speaking engagements, camps, open houses, Red Cross educational events, and memorial services. We were honored to attend the 9-11 Ten Year Remembrance and Healing Ceremony in New York City. We visited our local hospital regularly where Jetta especially loved the pediatric unit. She was active at our church, attending services regularly and visiting families who stayed at our church as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. One of her favorite places to visit was Camp Imagine, a local camp for children with special needs. Jetta was able to connect with many of the children because she suffered from epilepsy. The children knew she was special just as they were. Parents of the children would tell me it was the most amazing thing to witness their children with Jetta. Until Jetta, some of these children had never been able to be in a room with a dog let alone sit with, brush, pet or hug a dog.

Jetta also helped our own daughter through a traumatic event when she lost three of her sorority sisters in a horrific car accident. Jetta visited the families of two of her friends who survived the accident but were hospitalized a very long time.

Our last event together was two days before Jetta passed away from a seizure. The event was our local Big Trucks/Safety Fair. Jetta greeted hundreds of people at this event and left a wonderful impression of what HOPE dogs are all about!

Our dear, sweet Jetta will be missed terribly by our family, friends, neighbors and all those she has touched in her life.