



# The Ability Center

Making independence possible since 1920

## DO YOU LOVE PUPPIES?

*The Ability Center's Assistance Dog Program helps individuals with disabilities achieve greater independence by training and placing service and therapy dogs to assist with the individual's daily needs. Trainers and staff guide you through the training experience and placing process of your assistance dog. Dogs are specifically trained for the tasks presented by their future partner.*

**Puppy Raisers** care for and train dogs from **8 weeks until 16 weeks** of age. They bring the puppy to weekly classes to learn basic obedience and simple commands. Fun and educational games are taught to build good recall and skills training.

**Cuddling, extra love, and tons of playtime are also a big part of your job as a puppy raiser!**

## 3 WAYS TO WHELP

1. Foster takes the dam at two to three weeks prior to whelping. Foster whelps the litter in their home and raises the litter for 8+ weeks. (Puppies leaving will depend on the day of the week the pups are born and if there are any health reason for keeping them a little longer)
2. Foster takes the dam two to three weeks prior to whelping. Whelps the litter in their home and raises the litter the first 4 weeks.
3. Foster raises the litter in their home the last 4+ weeks. Foster must volunteer to visit puppies and dam the during the first four weeks so that the dam will know the foster.
  - o Foster must have the dam visit their home at least once before the litter is born.
  - o Fosters must be aware that in some cases the dam and litter may have to stay longer in one location because of a medical or some other emergency reason that might occur with either the dam, puppies, or fosters

"Being a puppy raiser is so rewarding and is so amazing to see how quickly the puppy learns so much in a short time at such a young age."

**HEATHER LUDWIG**

"I loved whelping and the eight weeks involved in learning and caring for future service dogs. It is a lot of work, but it also feeds your soul."

**DEBBIE ARQUETTE**

Interested in volunteering with us? Call 419.885.5733 | Fill out a [volunteer form](#).

