

There is a little boy, let's call him Sam. Sam is a happy little boy who is 7-years-old, he has 3 siblings, and all were looking forward to Christmas, only a day away. The family had hung their stockings, and all was right in their world, until it wasn't! It was Christmas morning and the family circled around the tree to open presents when the unthinkable and unexpected happened. Sam began having dozens of non-convulsive seizures. Sam's parents had no idea what was happening to their son and Sam was confused and scared.

These seizures gave no warning, exhibited no symptoms and there was no family history of seizures. This was a shock, scary and heartbreaking experience for the entire family. What could they do for little Sam to keep him safe and stable and provide all the support the medical profession could provide. Sam was seen by a pediatric neurologist and subsequently by an epileptologist who ordered both an EKG and an MRI - diagnosis: Childhood Absence Epilepsy.

The Doctor recommended Sam go through the process to have a seizure service dog. Sadly, to have the right dog identified, trained both without and with Sam, a long and costly process. To select this specialized dog from an accredited 501 c 3 organization requires the family to contribute \$20,000; a partial cost for the training and partnering of this service dog would provide Sam and his family with peace of mind, support, and alert the family to seizure activity if they were not in the room, nudge him to help him come out of the seizure, be a companion and friend, and be sure he was not alone if he had a seizure in public.

Sam's service dog would also serve to positively support his mental health, giving him confidence and security knowing his dog is here for him.

Sam's dad is serving in the United States Coast Guard. Sam's Mother reached out to the American Legion for financial support. Mt Diablo, Post 246, American Legion, shared Sam's story and his mother's request for a donation with all the Veteran Service Organizations who are based in the Veterans Memorial Building located in Danville, Ca. This group of veterans came together and collectively donated \$20,000 to support this little boy. Sam was a part of our military family, and we quickly agreed that this was an opportunity to do an act of kindness that would significantly impact the life of a little boy and his military family. Once you put on the uniform of the United States of America, you will be a part of our family; we will always be loyal and stand tall when you are in need. If you see an opportunity to do the right thing for the right reason, don't pass it up but be grateful for the chance.

Land of the Free, Because of the Brave