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Service dog arrives for Rainsville autistic child

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By Stephen McLamb, Reporter CONNECT

RAINSVILLE, AL (WAFF) - A new dog is helping a DeKalb County family and their autistic child.

The service dog arrived Saturday to the family's home in Rainsville, but it took a community coming together to make it happen.

Stone is Sam Jackson's new service dog. He's a special service dog that can help with autistic children who are prone to run into roadways for no reason.

"If Sam tries to walk in front of a car or he tries to walk away from us, Stone will keep him from that," says Alison Jackson, Sam's mother.

Stone was delivered Saturday to the Jackson's home in Rainsville by the group Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers. The organization specializes in training dogs for people with such things as autism, diabetes, seizures, and PTSD. Their dogs get special names.

"Stone and all of our dogs are named after fallen officers. We do that to honor those officers who have given up their life in the line of duty," says Cheri Campbell, SDWR Training Director.

The seven year old enjoyed playing with his new friend on his first day but will also get sleep therapy from Stone that an autistic child may need.

"So the dog is trained that he'll sleep with him. He will lay his head across to help and give him that comfort to help him sleep," says Jackson.

Sam and his family will train with Stone for the next eighteen months.

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