



Hero to the Rescue **The Memoir of an Unlikely Hero**

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By
Heddie Wittlin-Leger

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Grades 3–7



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Contact: Jennifer T. Cappoen
Paws and Claws Publishing, LLC
1589 Skeet Club Road, Suite 102-175
High Point, NC 27265
1-336-541-3997
info@pawsandclawspublishing.com



Missouri Author Releases New Children's Nonfiction Book About Hero, an Inspiring Therapy Dog Loved By All

New author Heddie Wittlin-Leger wrote Hero's inspiring story to share the life of this extraordinary Rottweiler. She and Hero were an unbeatable team that helped children learn to read, provided therapy for survivors after disasters, provided therapy for families in domestic-violence shelters, and comforted children fighting cancer and their families in hospitals. Hero touched many lives and will be remembered by all those with whom he interacted.

GREENSBORO, NC—FEBRUARY 1, 2016—When Hero was born, he wasn't breathing. The vet brought him back with puppy CPR. Hero's first owner died after an extended battle with cancer. Six months later Hero met Heddie Wittlin-Leger and her family. They adopted him. Hero missed his first owner and needed a new role. Because he had a gentle spirit and was calm and confident, Hero was trained as a therapy dog and passed the therapy-dog evaluations for four different organizations. He was also certified by the Dog Scouts of America™ and had other titles as well. Heddie wanted people to trust Hero, feel at ease with him, and not fear him. That's why she got so many credentials for him. She wanted people to know that Rottweilers can be great dogs when they're trained properly.

Time and again, Heddie and Hero used their animal-assisted therapy skills to help others who needed them. They taught children to read in schools, libraries, and other places. They provided therapy in domestic-violence shelters. They also provided therapy for children battling cancer and their families in hospitals and in a Ronald McDonald House. Hero never failed to offer hope, encouragement, support, comfort, and inspiration. Hero and Heddie were active and well known in their community and appeared in parades, at events, at organizations, and at local stores.

Hero fought cancer of the spleen. He survived surgery, 25 weeks of chemotherapy, and remission. During the remission time, he and Heddie continued to do what they had always done. Everything they did then mattered to Hero. He never gave up.

Hero to the Rescue—The Memoir of an Unlikely Hero is an inspirational, nonfiction book for children. Courage in the face of obstacles, survival no matter what life throws at us, and loving to be around people—especially children—are resounding themes on every page. Readers will find themselves drawn to this gentle-giant, people-loving teddy bear of a dog that will live on in the memories of all he touched.