

### News Story Summary

In Ventura, California, an inmate program helped change the life of a widowed deputy. The program, called RUFF (Rehabilitation Utilizing Furry Friends), rescues dogs from shelters and matches them with inmates who train them as therapy animals.

The dog had been given up to be euthanized, but the staff chose the dog for the training program. The widow, Maura Kelley, whose husband died while on duty, was devastated by his loss and struggled to move on and rebuild her life. But the dog, named Chenko, came into the picture. After completing his training, he was matched with Maura. The two became inseparable, giving and receiving love they both desperately needed. They visit Boys & Girls Clubs and senior citizens. And as for the inmate who trained the dog, he teared up as he spoke at Chenko's graduation from his training, and noted that the dog had changed his life.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase, "deputy's widow receives dog in Ventura, CA")

### Focus Attention

To replace the Guide idea under Focus Attention, summarize the story above. Led the group to identify the different action required for Chenko to become a service dog (selection, training, and placement). Then ask: *What kinds of transformation did you notice in this story?* Say: *This story shows how the interaction of various people and even pets can transform a life.* Complete the step as written, beginning with SAY: *Transformation does not occur easily....*

### Challenge

To supplement review ideas under Summarize and Challenge idea, begin by reminding the group of Chenko and the change he made in the life of the widow and inmate. Emphasize the change in these two people came through a personal encounter with Chenko. Ask: *What makes personal interaction so significant?* Focus the group's attention on how Jacob's personal encounter with God changed him. Complete the step as written, emphasizing the transformation of Jacob.