

to calm him down and she mumbled, "He never even told me your name."

They stopped for a rest at the bench where it had all begun three months ago. The dog began barking and sniffing at a small scrape of paper stuck to the bench. The woman picked it up and was startled to read, "His name is Angel." She looked down at the dog, now resting at her feet; he, too, had found peace.

She thought about the little old man with the cane who had given her the dog. He was chubby, with red cheeks, and a long white beard. He said he was tired, but he didn't look it. In fact, he looked quite hale and hearty. She thought of the movie "**Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street**." Hmm. She questioned herself: Am I losing it?"

She tugged at the dog's leash and said, "Come on Angel, we're going home." Angel jumped to attention. She was startled to see that his eyes were gazing upward ~ not at her, but at something way, way above her. She followed his gaze but saw nothing.

As they headed home, she couldn't help but think that maybe, just maybe, **34<sup>th</sup> Street** didn't have the monopoly on Christmas miracles. There had been at least one in Bronxville. She quickened her pace. Were there more to come?

by Gail Farrelly, published as an original short story, *It's a Dog's Life: A Christmas Tale* in December 2011

# Merry Christmas!



## A Very Special School Christmas Concert



There's nothing cuter than little kids belting their lungs out during a holiday concert, unless, of course, they are accompanied by an absolutely precious deaf therapy dog wearing his best holiday costumes! Cole is a deaf Pit Bull puppy who works as a therapy dog at the Dr. Mennies School in South Jersey alongside his music teacher dad. Cole's profound and wonderful message is "A Disability is not an inability, it's a superpower!" Cole is *making a difference by being different!*



Cole was awarded the  
2022 Therapy Hero Dog of the Year  
by the American Humane Hero Dog