

JAKE

Omaha, Nebraska

When 12-year-old Tony Bailey stepped into the Platte River he was expecting the water to reach his waist as it always had. Instead, he was caught off guard by the river's depth and speed and was immediately pulled below the water's surface. He tried to swim, but the current was much too strong. Panicked, Tony cried for help. His family was only 20 feet away, but Tony's cry was too muffled for them to hear. Luckily, their dog Jake, a 4-year-old black Labrador retriever, was nearby. He recognized the boy's distress and immediately leapt into the river which drew his family's attention. They ran to the river bank and watched as Jake swam downstream to Tony, allowed the boy to wrap his arms around his neck, and then swam back upstream to safety. At that point, the family was able to throw Tony a net and help him to shore. Once thought of as an untrainable dog who likes to dig holes, Jake's unexpected rescue earned him new respect.

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