



Guide Dog Tales



A Newsletter from Guide Dogs of the Desert International
July 2004



A NEW BEGINNING

GDDI Board of Directors

As our puppies are beginning a new journey into becoming guide dogs, Guide Dogs of the Desert is also having a new beginning. Because of a recently faced cash flow problem the school has been in a restructuring mode. Expenses and staffing have been trimmed to the minimum.

Current Employees:

Trainer: Katryn Webster

Apprentice Trainer: Jill Browning

Kennel Management: Mindy Romero

Breeding/Puppy Management: Carol Moon

Office Administrator: Vicki vanHorn (volunteer)

Office Assistant: April Ranney

Graduate Services: CJ Daniels

A strategic business plan has been developed along with a fund development program being implemented. New board members are in place bringing increased business expertise and direction.

Our web site has a new look and is available for your review at www.guidedogsofthedesert.org

While the financial picture has eased slightly, your continued support is necessary to ensure that the mission of the school continues. In a concerted effort to minimize

the costs of operations to the school and to keep you more informed of various activities and the progress at GDDI, we are striving to send more information via email. We will be providing newsletters and updates on a dog you may be sponsoring, special events, pictures and the list goes on and on, but to do that efficiently, please supply your email address and the permission to send you information by email. Naturally, GDDI will maintain the confidentiality of your email address. Please complete the Updated Mailing Information form at the end of this newsletter and return it to GDDI.

A GRADUATE'S POINT OF VIEW

Cynthia Woods

A guide dog can change a life. It's the confidence to know that an eight-lane street can be safely crossed at rush hour or the freedom to walk through a crowded mall and know that there will be no collisions with other shoppers. It's knowing that someone will be looking out for the danger in an unfamiliar area, and always stop for a curb or an unexpected flight of stairs. It's also the little things that preserve dignity like finding the end of the checkout line at the grocery store or locating the empty seat in a crowded waiting room.

These are things that most sighted people take for granted. But when normal vision is lost or impaired, the landscape changes dramatically. Simple things like finding the elevator in an unfamiliar building suddenly requires assistance or if traffic is accidentally misjudged, disastrous results can occur. A skilled white cane traveler can overcome some challenges. But a guide dog can do so much more.