GUIDING PAWS NEWS

Puppy Raisers Wanted!
Help Make Our Mission a Reality
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DO’S & DON’TS OF GUIDE DOGS

Guide Dogs of the Desert
Fall 2019
GREETINGS FROM GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT

I continue to be amazed EVERY DAY by the dedicated staff and volunteers here at Guide Dogs of the Desert. Their commitment to the intricate process of raising and training Guide Dogs is impressive. As we all know, it is not an easy process and yet they all show up and help make it happen because we all get to experience the profound impact a Guide Dog has for a blind or visually impaired client.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we continue working to build an appropriate nursery space on our campus for our newborns. Every Guide Dog starts out as a puppy and now that process all starts right here on our campus.

Of course, with puppies we need loving families that are willing to help them get started on their journey to becoming Guide Dogs – we need Puppy Raisers! When I started I wondered how anyone could raise a puppy and then “give it up” after 18 months.

All I had to do was ask some of our incredible Puppy Raisers and they said that it is an honor be a part of each dog’s journey and they just stay focused on the higher purpose for the puppy – to be a Guide Dog and change someone’s life.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Puppy Raiser, please let us know.

Please know, you are always invited to come out and take a tour. We’d love to show you around.

All I can say is – thank you! Your enthusiastic support is what makes it possible for us to provide life-changing support for someone visually challenged. The reality is, it all begins with you.

Thank you,

Ben Schirmer
Executive Director
PUPPY RAISERS WANTED

OVERVIEW:

With selfless commitment and support, puppy raisers are an integral part of the program that makes our mission a reality! As a volunteer puppy raiser with Guide Dogs of the Desert, you help ensure safe mobility, love, companionship and the miracle of independence for the blind and visually impaired through the use of a guide dog.

Between 8-12 weeks of age, the puppies are placed in their new homes to learn about the world and bond with humans. The whole family is asked to make a commitment to the puppy until he/she is 18-24 months of age. The puppy needs your guidance in order to develop into a well socialized, easy to manage dog that can demonstrate excellent behavior in places of public accommodations and in the home. You will receive constant support from GDD’s Puppy Department Team throughout this time.

NEW PUPPIES ARE COMING SOON!

Volunteer puppy raisers are needed for new litters of puppies that will soon be ready to go to a good home for their initial raising and training! If you are interested in participating in our amazing Puppy Raising program, please check out the Guide Dogs of the Desert website at www.gddca.org and fill out a Puppy Raiser Application online or contact us at (760) 329-6257
DONORS OF FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

$150,000+
- The Marion Bowman Trust
- Melvin Riggins Estate
- Estate of Richard Allen Foster
- PK Bisbee AB Living Trust

$50,000+
- The Marion Bowman Trust
- Melvin Riggins Estate
- Estate of Richard Allen Foster
- PK Bisbee AB Living Trust
- Estate of Richard Allen Foster
- PK Bisbee AB Living Trust

$10,000+
- The Marion Bowman Trust
- Melvin Riggins Estate
- Estate of Richard Allen Foster
- PK Bisbee AB Living Trust

$5,000+
- The Marion Bowman Trust
- Melvin Riggins Estate
- Estate of Richard Allen Foster
- PK Bisbee AB Living Trust

$25,000+
- Blanchard Estate; Audrey J. M.
- Betty J. & Foster K. Brown CRUT
- Carol Moss Foundation
- Sharon L Parkhouse Charitable Remainder Trust

$10,000+
- David K. & Wanda J. Lehmer Estate
- El Cajon Valley Lions Club
- Estate of Claudia Hellmann
- Sandi and J. David Coffer
- Shirley and James J. Santiago
- Ruth and John T. Carey
- Yvonne and Steven H. Maloney
- Raymond ‘Gary’ Wood
- Sterling ‘Jack’ F. Higgins
- Jackie Autry
- Carrie Leslie Holtzman
- Orange County Community Foundation
- Palm Springs Marathon Runners Roadrunners Club
- S. Mark Taper Foundation
- Stater Bros.
- The William Wishnick Foundation

$5,000+
- Delta Gamma Foundation
- Desert Regional Medical Center Auxiliary
- Estate of Patricia Rootness
- Frances and Bill J. Muncy
- Grace and Ronald A. Wright
- Marianne and Arvid J Peterson Family Trust
- Clint H. Holland
- Annette and Donald Lasurdo
- Dana Nelson Rutledge
- Dorothy Milauskas
- Edward H. B. Little
- Jackie B. Carr
- Sharyn R. Brackett
- Network for Good
- T.S. & K.D. Glide Foundation
- Champions Volunteer Foundation
- Katharine A. Gnesa Revocable Trust

Western North Carolina Community Foundation
YourCause Corporate Employee Giving Programs

$1,000+
- Rose Choffnes Estate
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- AmazonSmile Foundation
- Augustyn Foundation
- Banning United Methodist Church
- Ben & Jerry’s/River Scoops
- Bighorn Golf Club Charities
- California Boring, Inc.
- Carl E. Wynn Foundation
- Cascade Service Dogs
- Cheryl Bressler
- Debbie Sherwood
- Dr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Siskind
- Dr. and Mrs. Charlie W. Shaeffer
- Dr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Ziprick
- Dr. and Mrs. Spencer Nadler
- Erman Retirement Advisory
- Ethel Frends Foundation
- Greenbaum-Strauss Foundation
- Heart of Gold Legacy Foundation, Inc.
- Inland Empire Optometric Society
- J.T. Automotive
- Kovler Family Foundation
- Kroger (Ralphs)
- Lions Club of Cali-Caipa Nooners
- Lions Club of Calimesa Breakfast
- Lions Club of Highland District
- Lions Club of Hillcrest-Mission Valley
- Lions Club of Lucerne Valley
- Lions Club of Prescott Noon Fnd.
- Lions Club of Prescott Pancake Breakfast
- Lions Club of Yucaipa Valley
- Lucky Seven Foundation
- Marc Ostrofsky
- Alix Trux
- Lois and Bruce Branco
- Darlene and Charles R. Bram
- Sally and Dane E. Brooks
- Bonnie and Darrell L. McBride
- Susan and Darry Sragow
- Donna and Darwin Rebisch
- Marguerite and Donald J. Hedstrom
- Sharon and Frank J. Bouten
- M.J. and G. J. Wright
- Amy and Gary M. Jeandron
- Renee and George Zukaucks
- Tiffany and Isaac Hagerman
- Stacy and Jim Jacob
- Pattie and John F. Lowey
- Bonnie and John Strauss
- Suzanne and John T. Jacobus
- Anne and Mark Brady
- Lori and Patrick A. Murphy
- Kathleen and Patrick D. Guthrie
- Shauna and Reid Thomas
- Midge and Richard A. Hood
- Lisa and Richard A. Ibay
- Sarah and Richard R. Clapp
- Trisha and Richard Schmidt
- Karen and Robert C. Hobbs
- Robert E. Doering
- Mary and Robert G. Engman
- Hallie and Shannon Clark
- Dawn and Skylar W. McCormick
- Lindsay and Steven G. Pase
- Mary and Victor G. Spaulding
- Sally and William B. Douglas
- Cynthia and William E. Woods
- Archie Ortega
- Carroll Wayne Cromer
- Donald G. Davis
- Eunic and Edgar J Fiedler
- Edward J. Herbert
- Marcia and Gary Wang
- Harold B. Matzner and Shellie Reade
- James Hutton
- Larry Carrillo
- Robert Heeman and Dennis Ramberg
- Stephen Phinny
- Stephen and Dr. Kristina Welker
- Steven Douglas
- Thomas M. Wolk and Minda Smythe
- Barbara Sandler
- Joyce H. Hayes-Locker
- Marjorie Griffith
- Meribeth Sullivan
- Darcy A. Wong
- Elissa B. Hepner
- Heather Huntington
- Jacqueline L. Johnson
- Joan E. Hamilton
- Lisa Schneider
- Lorna J. Burkel
- Mary E. Williams
- Maureen Ann Gillespie
- Tabby and Nani Warren
- Priscilla Shively
- Rosemarie M. Vacano
- Ruth Sokol
- Sarah Milmet
- Southern California Retina Consultants
- Susan Harris
- The David and Alan Greene Family Foundation
- Thrivent Financial Trust
- USSPCO
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
- Whitewater Energy Corporation
- Yucaipa Puppies & Pizza Puppy Raiser Group
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US: SUSTAINER’S CLUB

Our Sustainer’s Club members lend their support to GDD on a monthly basis. Dependable monthly income makes planning possible for both you and Guide Dogs of the Desert. The Sustainer’s Club has been rather popular for our donors. We invite you to join The Club!!

**Top Dog** — Your support of only $10 a month will help us continue to provide mobility, companionship and independence for our blind and visually impaired clients.

**Leader of the Pack** — Your support of only $30 a month will go a long way to helping us meet our mission and will qualify you to receive our annual Guide Dogs of the Desert calendar as our gift.

**Tail Waggers** — Your support of $45 a month will also help us continue to meet our mission and this level of support will also qualify you to receive our annual Guide Dogs of the Desert calendar and a “Poodle Doodle” note pad as our gift.

Visit our Amazon Wish List!

Now you can purchase items directly for GDD! In addition to AmazonSmile, we now have a wishlist on Amazon that allows you to purchase items for GDD when they are needed. The list will be updated periodically with new items that will help future guide dogs.

Visit tinyurl.com/GDDwish today!
If you would like to extend your support of Guide Dogs of the Desert to make a lasting impact, there are several gift arrangements to provide for your family while also supporting Guide Dogs of the Desert.

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit us after your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that lets you other similar tax-deferred retirement plan.

Please contact Ben Schirmer, Executive Director for more information at: bschirmer@gddca.org or (760) 329-6257
You may recall from our last newsletter, we are working to build a nursery on our campus for our Puppy Program! Thanks to two generous donors (one is a bequest from an estate and the other is a matching grant from our friends at the Auen Foundation). Thanks to them, our dream is about to become a reality.

In fact, right now we are in the process of drawing up the plans to convert some of our existing space on campus into a beautiful new nursery. This should be done by mid-September. The next step will be to pull the proper permits for the construction. We hope to have this done by December. Then, we start building!!! We hope to have the project done by the beginning of 2020.

The nursery is where our pregnant mom’s will come back to us to have their puppies. Not only will we have a special place for them to have their puppies, this will also be the space for them to raise their pups during their first few months.

*To say we are excited is an understatement!*

We will keep you posted on the progress of building out our nursery. Once it is done, we will invite you up to take a tour. It is such an exciting time for Guide Dogs of the Desert!!

**RECENT GRADUATES**

**Don & Phoenix** - “When we were doing one of our night training sessions, I didn’t look down once. I trust Phoenix so much! I never knew a dog could be trained to do so many different things for the visually impaired.”

**Barbara & Kinsey** - “I have so much more confidence going places and doing things with Kinsey. I now know her abilities and she is building my confidence. I don’t have to hesitate at all now because she is right in-sync with me.”

**Judy & Connie** - “Connie and I work as if we have known each other our whole lives. My first thought when I met her was...where have you been all my life? She is always looking back to check on me. Connie is my new life line.”

**Don & Phoenix** - “When we were doing one of our night training sessions, I didn’t look down once. I trust Phoenix so much! I never knew a dog could be trained to do so many different things for the visually impaired.”
YOU CAN HELP
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

• $100 helps provide shampoo and grooming supplies for the dogs on campus during their training
• $250 helps provide toys and bowls for the dogs on campus during their training
• $500 helps feed our dogs for 1 month
• $750 helps provides the necessary equipment (leashes and harnesses) for our dogs during their training
• $1,000 helps provide medical services for our dogs during their journey to become a guide dog

$5,000 – PUPPY SUPPORTER
• Name a puppy and join us for your named dog's journey
• Receive a birth announcement and photo of your named dog
• Receive update letters to age 18 months
• Update letters will be sent at birth, 9 months and 18 months letting you know how your named puppy is doing on it's journey

$10,000 – PUPPY ADVOCATE (Our Most Popular Level)
• All of the above, plus:
  • Private meeting with your named dog on our campus
  • Photo of you with your named dog
  • Private/VIP tour of our campus
  • GDD pin to show your support of your named dog

$20,000 – PUPPY CHAMPION
• All of the above, plus:
  • Private meeting with your named dog, at your place of choosing
  • Spend 4 hours with a GDD trainer - either for your own personal dog or with your named dog
  • Dinner with a graduating class and their dogs
  • Professional GDD leash for your personal dog or for your named dog, personalized
  • Two (2) tickets to Dog Day Afternoon, our signature fundraising event

$40,000 – PUPPY HERO – NAME 2 PUPPIES!
• All of the above, but you get to name 2 puppies, plus:
  • Session with a GDD professional to discuss nutrition for either your personal dog or for your named dog
  • Four (4) tickets to Dog Day Afternoon, our signature fundraising event
DON’T touch the dog without asking permission first. Touching or petting a working dog is a distraction and may prevent them from tending to their human partner. The dog may be in the process of completing a command or direction given by their handler, and you don’t want to interfere. Fortunately, most service dogs are trained to stay in work mode until they receive a release command from their handler. That’s why many service dogs are able to ignore outside influences.

DO keep your own dog a good distance away from a working dog. If you happen to have your dog with you when you encounter a service dog team, don’t allow your pet to approach them without first talking with the handler to see if it’s permissible. Other animals are an obvious distraction to working dogs, and in a worst-case scenario, there could be an altercation between the two dogs.

DON’T offer food to a service dog. Food is the ultimate distraction to a working dog and can jeopardize the working assistance dog team. Not only are food and treats a potential distraction, but many service dogs are fed a specific diet and often on a specific schedule.

DO treat the owner/handler with sensitivity and respect. Asking a service dog’s handler personal questions about his or her disability is out of bounds. It’s disrespectful and an intrusion of privacy. Assume the service dog team can handle things themselves. If you sense they could use your help, ask first. Don’t take it personally if your offer is rejected, as there’s usually a good reason.

DON’T assume a napping service dog is off duty. All dogs nap, including working dogs. When their handler is sitting or standing for some length of time, it’s perfectly natural and appropriate for a service dog to catch a few winks. They’re still technically at work, however, so all do’s and don’ts remain in effect.

DO inform the handler if a service dog approaches you. If a working dog approaches you, sniffs or nudges you, etc., politely let the handler know. Resist the urge to respond to the dog — the handler will correct the dog.

DON’T assume service dogs never get to ‘just be dogs’. Working dogs typically get plenty of R&R and playtime. When they’re home and out of their harnesses, they’re free to behave like any other dog. Since the jobs these wonderful animals do are often challenging and stressful, their handlers recognize they need plenty of downtime and exercise.
Puppy raisers are an integral component in preparing our puppies to become future guide dogs. They are responsible for care, socialization, and providing basic obedience training until the puppy is called back for formal training at 18 to 20 months of age.

Puppy raisers provide a loving home and many tummy rubs as they help their puppy grow toward its future job as a guide dog.

Thank you puppy raisers!

Puppy raiser events

The amazing guide puppy race

Guide pup jamboree

Metrolink training

Join the fun! Visit our website

GDDCA.Org

Puppies & pizza

Pool safety
UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduation
November 23, 2019 • Noon

Santa Paws 5K
December 21, 2019

FREE CONE DAY

You can help Guide Dogs of the Desert by simply going to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Select Guide Dogs of the Desert to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

A huge thank you to Ben & Jerry’s Rancho Mirage for hosting their annual Free Cone Day in support of Guide Dogs of the Desert!
NOW AVAILABLE!

2020 CALENDARS
All proceeds benefit Guide Dogs of the Desert

$10 Each • Purchase yours today at www.gddca.org