

*MICHELLE CHUN AND
GUIDE DOG PUPPY
HALLMARK*





Guide Dogs for the Blind

A NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

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Guide Dogs for the Blind follows the guidelines recommended by the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools and the International Guide Dog Federation for the humane care and training of our dogs, and the instruction and services offered to our clients.

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On occasion, GDB will share donor information with like-minded non-profit organizations to better fulfill our mission. If you do not want your information shared, please email us at donations@guidedogs.com.

GREETINGS FROM THE CEO

Greetings,

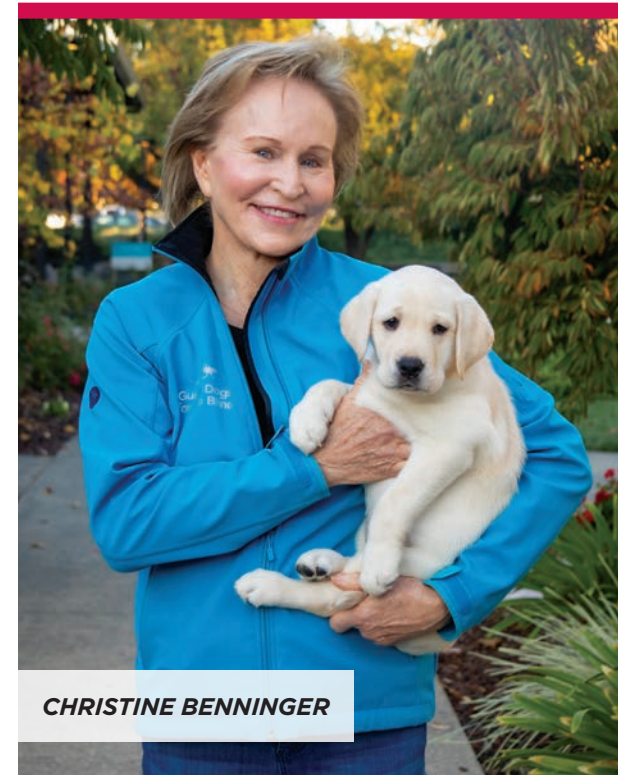
This September, Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) is celebrating National Guide Dog Month. The month-long observance honors the life-changing work of guide dogs and raises awareness, appreciation, and support for guide dog schools across the U.S. and Canada. To mark the occasion, GDB has created a video with tips on blindness and guide dog etiquette as part of our vision of inclusion. You can watch the video at [guidedogs.com/explainer-videos](https://www.guidedogs.com/explainer-videos).

This issue of the newsletter shines the spotlight on three key programs and services that are part of our strategic efforts to meet clients where they are and our commitment to a broad range of lifelong support. Our Support Center ensures our Guide Dog, K9 Buddy, and Orientation & Mobility clients receive timely assistance and resources. Two key Youth Programs, Camp GDB and Careers & Canine Connections, provide weeklong sessions that introduce teens and young adults to the guide dog lifestyle, and how a guide dog might fit into educational or career goals. And our Nursing staff helps keep our clients healthy while they attend training programs on our campuses. Thanks to supporters like you, we can provide these vital services free of charge.

We also celebrate our amazing puppy raising volunteers whom we honored at our annual Fun Day event. Puppy raisers are a vital part of our mission, and we simply could not do what we do without them.

With wags of gratitude,

Christine Benninger
President and CEO



CHRISTINE BENNINGER



**GDB CLIENT EVER ARREOLA
WITH GUIDE DOG FALANTE**

AN INSIDE LOOK AT GDB'S SUPPORT CENTER

Guide Dogs for the Blind's extensive follow-up program and alumni support services are the most comprehensive of their kind, including everything from phone consultation, personal home visits, education, networking, and many things in between! "Our commitment to clients continues through the working life of their guide dog or K9 Buddy, the dog's retirement, and beyond," says Lauren Kenney, GDB's director of client experience. "We have a robust client support program that is truly unique."

GDB's Support Center Team is available by phone Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5 pm PT as well as via a dedicated email address. Support Center staff assist clients with a variety of matters including ADA-related issues, guidework and dog behavioral concerns, travel questions, financial assistance for veterinary care, and provide emotional support around issues related to a dog's retirement. "If someone calls with a problem, our team is very creative at coming up with a solution. We have even flown staff to a client's home to bring a guide dog to our campus while the client recovers from an illness or injury," explains Lauren.

Guide Dog Client Ever Arreola says GDB's client support services are first rate. "Once you leave GDB, things don't end there. You have a big family that is there to help you out, either by contacting the Support Center, or reaching out to other members of the Alumni Association. It's all a great help."



**"Our goal is to prevent small issues
from becoming large problems."**

—Susan Armstrong, GDB VP of client programs

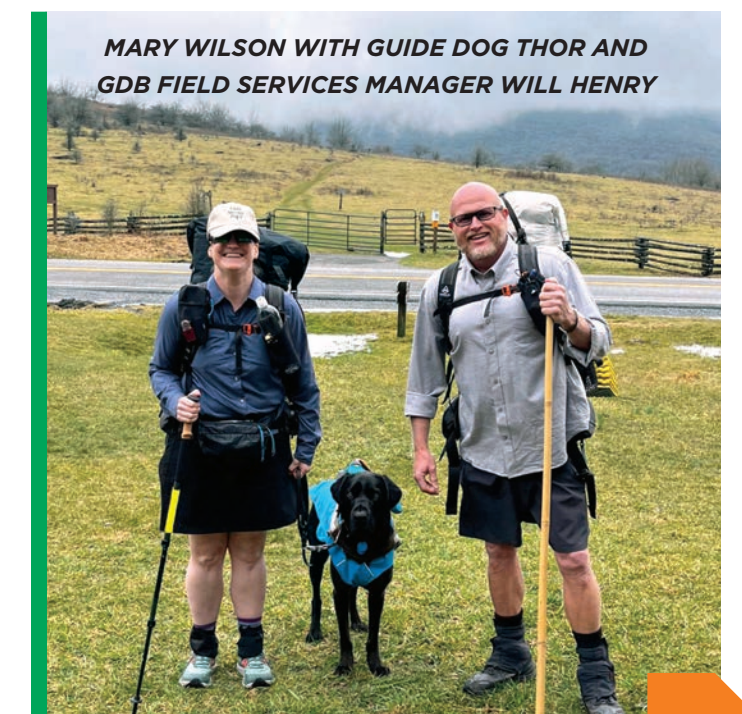
Lauren says support staff is also available via the Specialized Help section of the *Be My Eyes* app to assist GDB clients with guide dog related issues such as equipment fit or questions regarding a frequently traveled route. "During the pandemic GDB was the first guide dog school to offer this kind of visual assistance through the app as an innovative way to problem solve with clients," notes Lauren.

Situations that require in-person support are referred to GDB's field service managers and guide dog mobility instructors who assist clients throughout the U.S. and Canada with any issues they may be having with their guide dog or K9 Buddy. In tandem with the Support Center, the field service managers and guide dog mobility instructors coach and help problem-solve issues related to guidework, dog care, canine behavioral issues, and more. Susan Armstrong, GDB vice president of client programs, says GDB's expert staff visit clients as needed and work on aspects of guidework such as navigating street crossings or public transportation, or improving their timing when giving their dog food rewards. "Our goal is to prevent small issues from becoming large problems," explains Susan.

GDB client and outdoor enthusiast Mary Wilson says the Support Center was incredibly helpful when she wanted advice on how to safely prepare

to hike the Appalachian Trail with her guide dog *Thor*. Her GDB Field Services Manager Will Henry, also a guide dog mobility instructor and an avid hiker and backpacker, joined Mary for a 50-mile portion of the trail. "Will has been a huge resource for me, helping me troubleshoot little things if they popped up," says Mary. "Hiking with my guide dog is vital to my mental health and physical wellbeing. I am incredibly grateful for people like Will who devote their lives to empowering people who are blind or visually impaired through the partnership of a guide dog."

"We're here to help clients like Mary live the life they want to live," says Will, adding "It was an honor to work with her and *Thor* and be a part of their journey."



**MARY WILSON WITH GUIDE DOG THOR AND
GDB FIELD SERVICES MANAGER WILL HENRY**



ZOEY

KALEB AND ANGEL

LUCIA

SUMMER PROGRAMS HELP TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPLORE LIFE WITH A GUIDE DOG

At Guide Dogs for the Blind, we envision a world with greater inclusion, opportunity, and independence. By optimizing the unique capabilities of our dogs and our extensive network of support, we provide youth who are blind or visually impaired the opportunity to participate in the guide dog lifestyle.

CAMP GDB

This weeklong camp brings teens ages 14-17 together from across North America to explore the possibility of life with a guide dog. Participants receive hands-on guide dog instruction with an emphasis on the specific skills required to be a successful guide dog handler. They also enjoy fun social activities like hiking, kayaking, swimming, and nightly campfires.

Youth Outreach Specialist and Camp Director Jane Flower says campers learn about the specific orientation and mobility skills required to be a successful guide dog handler and explore the responsibility, and companionship of having a guide dog. “They get hands-on experiences that involve grooming dogs and caring for dogs during an overnight visit,” says Jane. The highlight of the week is when campers get the opportunity to walk with a guide dog. “Walking with a guide dog is a very different experience than walking with a cane. It’s a thrilling experience.”

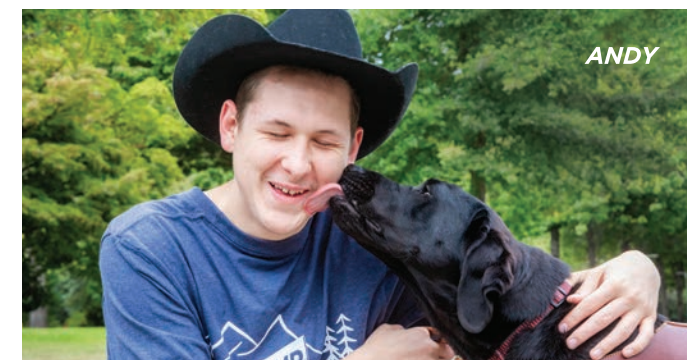
Jane says the camp is also life-affirming for many campers. “They may be the only student at their school who is legally blind. At camp they meet other teens with similar lived experiences and that can be very powerful,” explains Jane. “Lifelong friendships are formed.”

CAREERS & CANINE CONNECTIONS

For young adults ages 18-24 who may be transitioning into the workplace, GDB held Careers & Canine Connections in partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind’s Career Connect program. The week-long workshop offers a deep dive into career exploration as well as how a guide dog could fit into future employment plans. The program marks the first time in the U.S. a leading educational organization in the blindness community has joined forces with a guide dog school to offer career programming for young adults considering the guide dog lifestyle.

“We want to help more young adults overcome the unemployment and underemployment issues the blindness community has historically faced,” says Jane. Participants learn about new career options, practice interviewing techniques, explore the value of networking, and enjoy unique hands-on experience with guide dogs.

Like all GDB’s programs and services, both programs are free of charge and made possible by generous donors. The Delores Barr Weaver Family Endowment Fund supports GDB’s youth initiatives because they have such a positive impact. “They’re literally life-changing for youth and their families and that has a ripple effect in our communities. We’re proud to invest in GDB’s mission.”



ANDY



ZAVIER

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAMS

Please use the enclosed donation envelope or donate online at [guidedogs.com/newsgift](https://www.guidedogs.com/newsgift)

-  **\$50** helps provide a leash and grooming supplies
-  **\$100** helps cover a camper’s meals or activities
-  **\$250** assists with the cost of a “Puppy Raising Kit” for a volunteer raiser
-  **\$500** helps pay for an ergonomic guide dog harness
-  **\$1,000** helps support the cost of training a guide dog team



FUN DAY 2023

Our annual Fun Day event took a walk on the wild side with an animal safari theme. SaFURi celebrated and honored our amazing puppy raising volunteers for their contributions in nurturing future breeder dogs, guide dogs, and K9 Buddies. Hundreds of puppy raisers and GDB puppies in training donned festive attire: think elephants, lions, and giraffes. Activities on our California and Oregon campuses included puppy lawn games such as Jungle Jenga, photo booths, guide dog training demonstrations, and a roving scavenger hunt. The event culminated with dozens of puppies meeting their new puppy raisers for the first time. To see more photos from Fun Day, visit [flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind](https://www.flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind).



CELEBRATING GDB'S LEGACY SOCIETY

It was wonderful to celebrate more than 180 Legacy Society members and guests at our Legacy Luncheon on June 30 which was held at the beautiful Claremont Club & Spa in Berkeley, Calif.

Attendees enjoyed reconnecting with each other, mingling with guide dog puppies, and hearing from CEO Chris Benninger along with Youth Outreach Specialist Jane Flower who shared GDB's exciting youth program expansion.

More Legacy Society regional celebrations are planned across the country throughout the year. We remain grateful to all Legacy Society members for their visionary support by including GDB in their estate planning.

Pictured below are many of our Legacy Society members at the Luncheon. To learn how you can leave a legacy to support Guide Dogs for the Blind, please visit [guidedogs.com/plannedgiving](https://www.guidedogs.com/plannedgiving).



SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Join us for our annual fundraising tradition!

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 5:30pm PST

Register at [guidedogs.com/holiday-celebration](https://www.guidedogs.com/holiday-celebration)



Did you know that nurses are available to support the health and welfare of our clients while they are on our campuses to participate in our client programs? “GDB is one of the few guide dog schools that has nurses on staff seven days a week until 9 pm,” says California Nurse Supervisor Andrea Ferrance. “Our clients’ ability to learn and absorb information is connected to their comfort, safety, and health. Having that nursing support can ultimately contribute to each client’s success.”

Nurse Manager Debbie Knapp has worked for GDB for more than 20 years and oversees the nursing staff on the Oregon campus. “We interview every client before they come to our campus for training to ensure we can meet their physical, emotional, and dietary needs,” says Debbie. “We also work with our chef, instructors, and other staff to make sure everyone is aware of any food allergies or health concerns the client may have.”

In general, GDB nurses support and assist clients that range in age from teens to seniors. “That age span covers a lot of time and aging,” says Debbie, noting that nurses provide clients with first aid, emotional support, and everything in between. “We’re vigilant and stay on top of everything. A simple blister on someone’s foot could turn into a wound if not treated properly and end up being a deal breaker for their training.” Most recently, Debbie cited an example of a client who became ill with the flu while in class. “We were able to treat him, and working with his instructor team, able to give him ample rest to recover, and ultimately he was able to return home with his new guide dog,” says Debbie. “He was so appreciative. This is why I do my job.”



“We interview every client before they come to our campus for training to ensure we can meet their physical, emotional, and dietary needs.”

—Debbie Knapp, nurse manager

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW & CONTINUED SUPPORTERS

April 1, 2023-June 30, 2023

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Honoring the generous donors who contribute \$5,000+

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Lillyan Tremaroli
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NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

April 1, 2023-June 30, 2023

Recognizing the vision of those who have included GDB in their estate plans.

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Vicki Beninga
Shawna Cooper
Michele Elliott
Yvonne Gee
Diane W. Geiger
Martha Glavin
David Graves II
David Hollopeter
Kathy Holmes
Patrick Hughes
Elizabeth and Bruce Johnstone

Theda Lord
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Linell Seegall
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|----------|------|-----------|------|
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| 85 | 8.7% | 85/90 | 8.3% |
| 80 | 7.6% | 80/85 | 7.0% |
| 75 | 6.6% | 75/80 | 6.1% |
| 70 | 5.9% | 70/75 | 5.5% |



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Sample gift amount: \$5,000 \$10,000 \$25,000 Other: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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