

Update

Leader Dogs for the Blind



Canine Center
UPDATE

Outdoor Adventures
Andrew Stone and Leader Dog Ingrid

Life Outside of Work for a Leader Dog

Greetings!

This issue of Update features the inspiring story of Leader Dog client Andrew Stone's outdoor adventures, and with the warmer weather upon us, hopefully we too will have an opportunity to spend some time outside.

Speaking of "the great outdoors," one question that we are often asked here at Leader Dogs for the Blind is, "Do Leader Dogs ever get an opportunity to play, spend time outside and just 'be a dog'?" There's no one better to address this question than Judge Paul Teranes. Judge Teranes has been a Leader Dog client for 56 years and is a retired circuit court judge. He has served on the Leader Dog Board of Trustees for almost 20 years, was Chair of the Board from 2010–2012 and currently sits on the Leader Dog Governance and Puppy Raiser Advisory Committees. Judge Teranes' current Leader Dog is a female black Labrador named Morgan.

As Judge Teranes mentions in a recent article he wrote for our puppy raiser newsletter, "The average day in the life of a Leader Dog varies as much as the life of its user. Some dogs spend most of the day in a work environment which may consist of lying under a desk or beside a machine... Some dogs may be working in a busy city or college campus environment leading its user on and off public transportation, down crowded sidewalks and across busy intersections. Other Leader Dogs may be working in quiet neighborhoods enabling its user to run errands, and to have the freedom to get out and walk whenever the user chooses. No matter what circumstances or environment the Leader Dog finds it is working in, every Leader Dog has a home life... it is likely that the dog will spend more time in the home than working outside the home." In addition, Judge Teranes notes, "All dogs like to play, and people like to play with dogs. Play is a mutually enjoyable activity." You can read Judge Teranes' entire article at leaderdog.org/leader-dog-client-and-board-member.

Like Judge Teranes, Leader Dogs for the Blind's philosophy is that when a Leader Dog is at home and out of harness, it should be allowed to play, nap and just "be a dog," in order to be rested and relaxed when it's time to "go back to work" – just like us. So this spring and summer, when you're frolicking outdoors with your furry friend, please think about our valued clients who are also enjoying spending time with their Leader Dogs!

As always, thank you so very much for your continued support of Leader Dogs for the Blind. Please enjoy this issue of Update and I hope you find many opportunities this season to get outdoors and create your own adventures.

Susan M. Daniels

Susan M. Daniels
President and CEO



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No Limits *By Jennifer Wilkinson*

Two days after her 16th birthday, Ashley Eisenmenger came to Leader Dog for the first time for Summer Experience Camp. What followed was a week of new experiences that changed her life. “I rode my first tandem bicycle there,” she says. “I attribute my love of cycling to that, which led to me competing in triathlons.”

The opportunities that Ashley received while at Leader Dog that summer helped her to realize that just because she is visually impaired, she does not have to limit herself or her expectations. Her time at camp represented such an important change that she soon found herself coming back to Leader Dog as a volunteer camp counselor. “It’s one of the highlights of my summer,” she says. “Some of the kids are super confident in what they can do and some of them, it’s the first time they’ve been around other kids their age who have visual impairments.”

Now in college, Ashley is majoring in communications and considering graduate school for sports psychology or looking for a job in her field once she graduates, preferably in the nonprofit sector. She has spent more time behind the scenes at a nonprofit than most others her age since Ashley is a member of

“I run triathlons tied to another person, and that’s not how that’s normally done,” she says. “The best advice I could offer is to understand that while the ways you do things might be different, don’t be afraid to try.”



Ashley (on the left) running with a guide.

Photo by Ali Engin



Ashley serves as a volunteer counselor at Summer Experience Camp at Leader Dog (above at Bear Lake Camp in 2013).

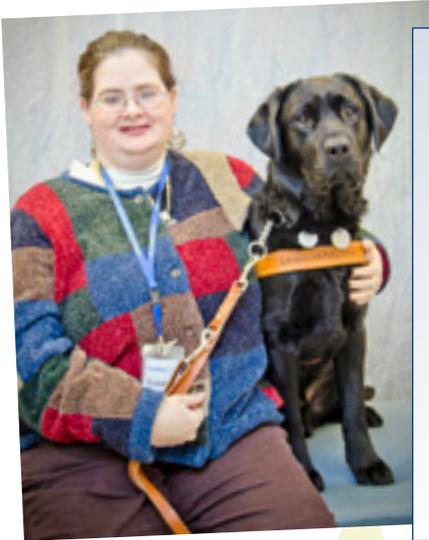
Leader Dog’s Voice of the Client Committee. “It’s cool to be on the ground level of all that’s going on here and get an insider perspective,” she says. “It’s reaffirmed the genuine care the Leader Dog staff have for the clients and the dogs.”

When she isn’t studying or volunteering at Leader Dog, Ashley trains as a competitive triathlete and endurance runner. She has been racing regularly for about a year and ran her first marathon this year, qualifying for the Boston Marathon in 2017.

Ashley’s experiences at Leader Dog and her guidance of other teens at Summer Experience Camp have contributed to her confidence, and she sees similar changes in the campers coming here for the first time. “It’s a really cool thing to see the kids realize that there don’t have to be limits.” Her message to other young people with visual impairments is to not let difficulty turn into impossibility. “I run triathlons tied to another person, and that’s not how that’s normally done,” she says. “The best advice I could offer is to understand that while the ways you do things might be different, don’t be afraid to try.”

Letters from our Alumni

Presented by **SELLERS**
SUBARU



Susan Still and LD Zombo

Hi all. It does not seem so very long ago (February 2013) that I came and trained and took Zombo home with me. Zombo has really changed my life. Together we make a good team. When we go out for a meal people are amazed that this beautiful dog sat very peacefully under the table. He puts spark in life and works very well at stores. Everyone at my landlord's office gets excited and meets in the lobby to greet Zombo. The local hospital staff loves him. He has really made my life better and I cannot begin to say thank you enough to all who made this possible.

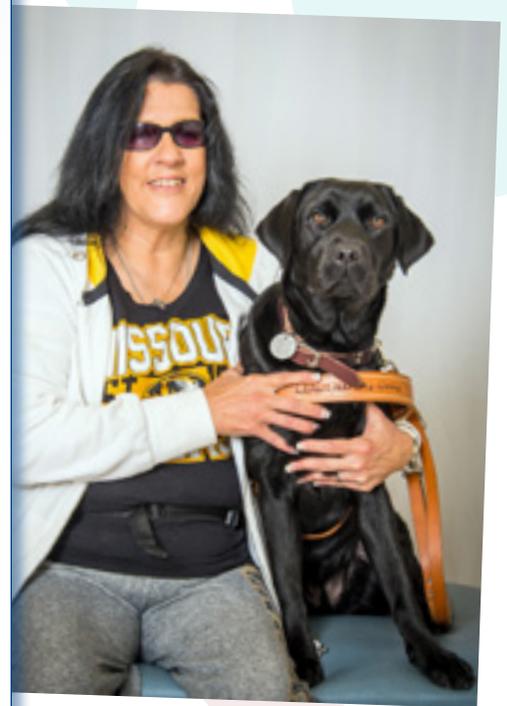
Susan Still
Facebook message - February 10, 2016

It is hard to express the enormous gratitude I feel towards this amazing organization that is **Leader Dog**. You have opened possibilities that are **endless** in my quest for independence. You have **allowed** me to gain a new vision through my extraordinary **dog**. She has led me fluidly and flawlessly while **expanding** my world beyond the veil of darkness. **Releasing** me from the paralyzing fear of blindness, she **directs** me to live outside the shadows. What I **once** longed for has been realized beyond measure, **giving** me a new hope to excel in who I am—more **self-assured** and confident.

You have proven your excellence from the beginning. Starting them as puppies, you take on the care and commitment that is required for the ultimate visual partner—never losing your way or purpose, you train tirelessly. Each dog has the potential to offer hope to one who's own life has left them on the exterior of their lives. One's hoping to engage, without trepidation, in their daily activities.

Thank you,

Karen Moses



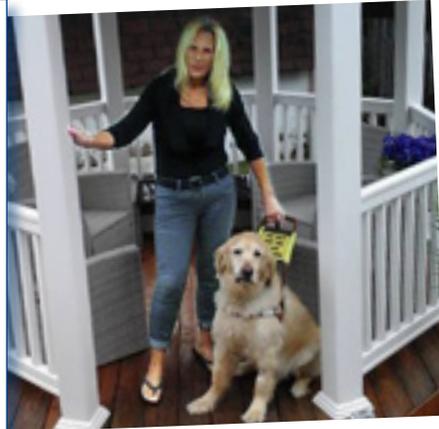
Karen Moses and LD Kelly

... more letters

Presented by **SELLERS**
SUBARU

I used to sit on my front porch just watching people as they took their daily walks. I felt alone, sad and confined. Leader Dog gave me the best gift I have ever had. In 2007, I received Romeo, a beautiful golden retriever. My guide dog loves walks and in the summer we do about six to eight miles per day. Romeo changed my life 360 degrees. I finally feel free. Thank you Leader Dogs for the Blind for such a precious gift and all your continued support throughout the years.

Liuba Bernier
Facebook message - February 1, 2016



Liuba Bernier and LD Romeo



Kenny VanDerbur and LD Dylan

I want to let you know I am so happy with my Leader Dog, Dylan. I am now getting around on a daily basis with his help. My world was so small before I was matched with him. My depression has subsided and let me tell you:

I now go to church, the grocery and pharmacy without the help of anyone but Dylan. I have never rode public transportation before, but now we do. Doctors appointments and volunteering in my community never would have been possible without Dylan. He has prevented me from falling. I fell an average of four times a month and I haven't had any falls since Dylan came to my rescue.

Now let's talk about fun. Dylan loves to play and keep me company and fight the loneliness. He loves my kids and family and they love him too.

It's all I can do to keep everyone from petting him while he is working because he is so sweet and adorable.

Thank you Leader Dog for this gift of travel and the wonderful companionship I now have and enjoy daily.

[Guide Dog Mobility Instructor] Paul Meister was so great to work with as well. He helped us to be the best team we could be. Barbara at Leader Dog was so encouraging and I am so thankful for her help. Ryan the puppy raiser at Fort Dodge Correctional Facility did a great job. I wrote him a letter to let him know how thankful I was.

Thank you so very much.

Kenny VanDerbur



Outdoor Adventures *By Megan Peterson*

Andrew Stone is an active person who enjoys fishing, backpacking, hiking and camping. Thanks to his Leader Dog, Ingrid, he's been able to continue these activities even with minimal sight. Ingrid especially loves the water, so the two of them spend hours beachcombing along the shores of Washington State—where Andrew currently lives.

Andrew wasn't always this confident spending time on outdoor adventures though. At the age of five he learned that he had Retinitis

“There's this misconception in our culture that people with a physical challenge are 'different.' My Leader Dog changes that perception completely. People approach me all the time to chat and ask questions about Ingrid. My social life has completely changed.”

Pigmentosa (RP), and by the time he was 19, his vision had deteriorated to the point where he was no longer able to drive.

“There was a six year period that I wasn't a fun person to be around,” Andrew says. “I got very angry and eventually I got tired of feeling that way.”

The Michigan native ended up traveling to Kalamazoo to visit the Michigan Commission for the Blind. He used that resource for about six months learning how to deal with his RP on an emotional level. During this period he decided it was time to pursue getting a Leader Dog.



Andrew and LD Ingrid



Andrew enjoys a nice afternoon of fishing while LD Ingrid takes in the scenery from the shore.



Andrew and LD Ingrid walk to Andrew's job as an integrated scheduler for Boeing Corporation.

"There's this misconception in our culture that people with a physical challenge are 'different,'" Andrew says. "My Leader Dog changes that perception completely. People approach me all the time to chat and ask questions about Ingrid. My social life has completely changed."

Andrew shared that Ingrid has helped him regain his confidence socially, and to pursue the activities he enjoys doing. He's even been able to travel quite a bit now that Ingrid is by his side. They've been on planes, trains and boats together. Ingrid is especially helpful on the trips he takes from Washington back to Michigan to see his family.

Leader Dogs for the Blind is honored to help clients feel comfortable and mobile in any environment – we're excited to see what adventures Andrew embarks upon in the future.

Visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (enter "Andrew Stone Leader Dog" in the search field) to watch a short video about Andrew and Leader Dog Ingrid.



Tips to Enjoying the Outdoors with Your Leader Dog

- 1. Don't limit yourself.** You can do anything. Trust your Leader Dog to help you as you enjoy the outdoors.
- 2. Try new things.** Feel free to pursue new outdoor activities now that you have your Leader Dog by your side.
- 3. Trust.** Trust your Leader Dog to be aware of your surroundings so you can enjoy yourself completely.



Canine Development Center Update *by Rachelle Kniffen*

On June 7, we were thrilled to announce that we had reached our \$14.5 million campaign goal for the Canine Development Center!

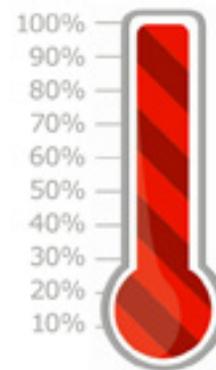
We were able to reach this goal through hundreds of donations, large and small, from our generous supporters. The Lions made a big fundraising impact with donations, pledges and grants totaling \$2.43 million. We were taken to the top by a grant from the Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Foundation.

Any additional donations received beyond the \$14.5 million goal that are designated in support of the Canine Development Center will be utilized to support the ongoing operations of the Canine Center.

Naming opportunities are still available. Please contact Melissa Weisse, CFRE, chief philanthropy officer at 248/659.5029 to learn how you can make a lasting impact for the Canine Center.



14.5 MILLION



PHASES 1 & 2 ARE COMPLETE!

With the recent completion of Phase 2 of the Canine Center, we are now utilizing our new veterinary clinic, puppy area, breeding stock area and five housing villages for our dogs in training.



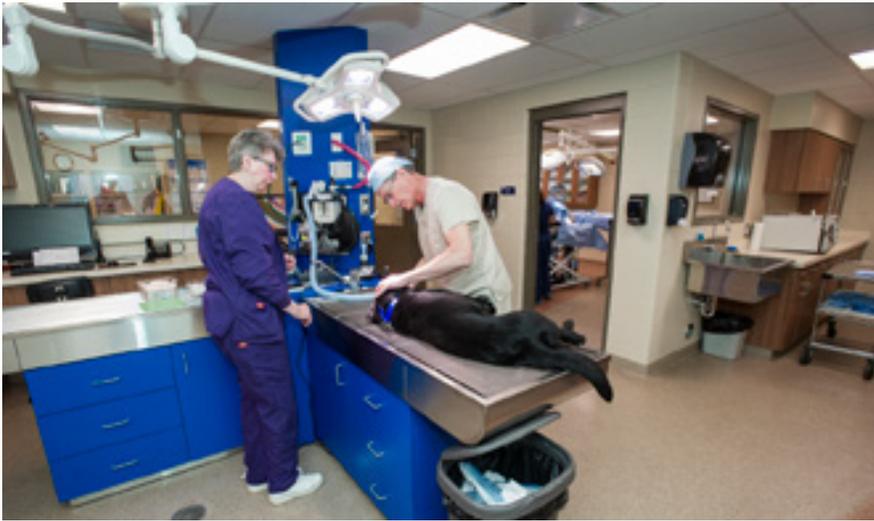
The new puppy area can house up to 10 litters in dual-sided puppy bays, three of which open up to outdoor play areas. The low walls allow the puppy care attendants to see and hear the puppies to ensure their health and safety.



Dog Care Attendant Mike Johnson takes full advantage of the large, open area in village 2 to play with a group of dogs in for training. The area offers ample room for staff and volunteers to groom, practice T-Touch (specialized dog massage) and interact with the dogs, which helps to lower their stress levels. The housing suites on the perimeter of the room are large enough to house two dogs per suite when the dogs show a preference for cohabitation.



Canine Development Center *(continued)*



Dr. David Smith, director of canine care, and Roseann Folloubout, veterinary technician, prep a dog for surgery while Dr. Kelly Wilson, assistant director of canine care, completes an operation in the surgical suite. The new veterinary clinic is 35% larger, allowing for needed space to simultaneously conduct dog exams, dental procedures and surgeries.



The larger clinic includes a dedicated endoscopy room. Our veterinarians can do upper endoscopies, colonoscopies, bronchoscopies and gastroscopies. In this photo Dr. Smith is aided by Breeding Specialist Stacey Booms and Breeding & Puppy Care Attendant Rachel Webber during a transcervical insemination procedure.



Veterinary Technician Kristen Harmon ensures that the dog she is X-raying is properly positioned and safe during the procedure.

PHASE 3

Construction Continues



We were excited to start demolition on the final phase of construction before the end of May. This is the most

critical phase of the project because this wing of the building sits over a basement and there are limits on the equipment that can be used to remove debris during demolition. Immediately after demolition in each bay is complete (there are nine bays in all), construction crews will start installing new walls, ceilings and floors. This means that demolition and construction will take place simultaneously in a very confined space.

We anticipate the final phase will be complete in October 2016.

To view more pictures of the facility, go to LeaderDog.org/canine-center.



19 Years and Going Strong—Grand Tour

Every year, Leader Dog is fortunate to have outside groups who fundraise on our behalf. The groups take an activity they love and turn it into an event with meaning. One such group, Grand Tour.ORGanization, does this by organizing a three-day personal water craft endurance ride.

Started in 1997 with a group of 19 riders, the event is in its 19th year and will take place August 11–13. Not only does the group love the sport and challenge of the Lake Michigan course, they are proud of the \$300,000+ they have raised for Leader Dog.

The riders, along with land support crew, local Lions clubs and Leader Dog puppy raisers, gather in Mackinaw City, MI for the kick-off. Then it's on the lake for three days. Michael LaBelle, Grand Tour event director, said,



Participants of the Grand Tour event get ready for departure from Mackinaw City, Michigan.



Grand Tour participants in Charlevoix, Michigan.

“The continued partnership between the Grand Tour and Leader Dog has allowed us to hear from clients on how their lives have changed from receiving services provided by Leader Dog. That motivates us to do what we do... and it's why we've done what we've done over the past 18 years.” The Grand Tour is planning a very special celebration for their 20th ride in 2017 that will include a stop on Mackinac Island.

To learn more about the Grand Tour or to donate to this dedicated group, please visit myleaderdog.org/grandtour.



myLeaderDog Crowdfunding Pages

Fundraising for Leader Dog just got a whole lot easier with new myLeaderDog crowdfunding pages. Whether you're celebrating an upcoming birthday, honoring a loved one or pet, or participating in a sporting event, creating a myLeaderDog page is a fun way to get your entire network to celebrate your life



Birthday



Honor



Event



Group



Occasion

events while supporting Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Visit myleaderdog.org to learn more and create your page today!

Helping Youth Resonates with Michigan-based Grantors *By Kathryn Tuck*

Each year, our Summer Experience Camp offers 20+ teens a challenging, fun, enrichment opportunity that is fully accessible and provided to the campers free of charge. Summer Experience is packed full of a variety of activities that encourage the kids to enjoy Michigan's beautiful summer weather by fishing, tandem biking, swimming and tackling a ropes course.

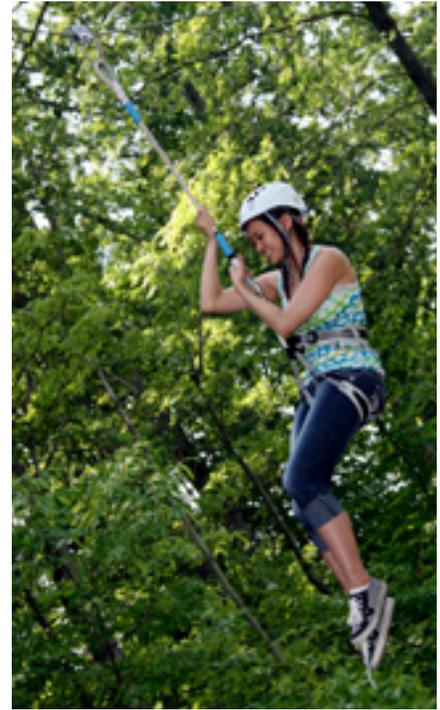
The camp has garnered full support from a number of foundations and individuals including the Ford Motor Company Fund, whose

generous grant supports activities, travel, staff support and camper expenses.

"It's hard to imagine a more powerful, positive impact on the lives of these young people than the increased

independence and new life skills they will gain through this camp and their relationship with Leader Dogs for the Blind," says Janet Lawson, director, Ford Volunteer Corps. "Ford Motor Company Fund is proud to support Leader Dogs for the Blind as we work to strengthen communities and make people's lives better."

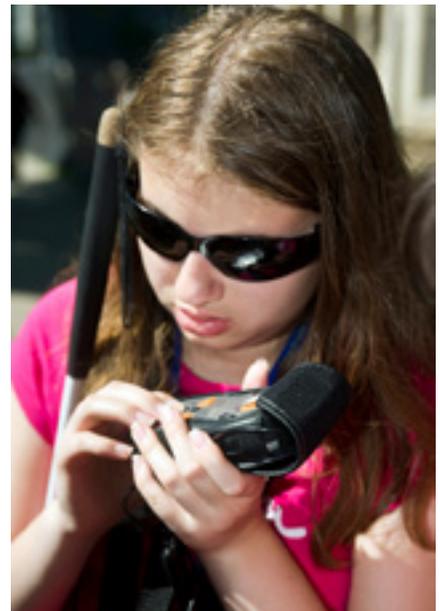
In addition to the Ford Motor Company Fund, Summer Experience also receives grant support from the DELPHI Foundation, an anonymous endowment, and many generous individuals. If you have questions about how to transform your grantmaking into life-changing program support, contact Kathryn Tuck, director of foundation giving, at ktuck@leaderdog.org or 248/218.6431.



Campers are rewarded with a zip-line adventure after a rock wall climb.



A day full of fishing, canoeing and being one with nature is one of the highlights for campers—complete with a barbecued outdoor lunch.



The DELPHI Foundation grant supports youth technology. Here a camper utilizes the free Breeze+ GPS device she is given during Summer Experience Camp at Leader Dog.



Bark & Brew *By Dani Landolt*

On Saturday, June 4, we hosted our inaugural Bark & Brew event presented by Chief Financial Credit Union. More than 2,000 attendees came out to support Leader Dogs for the Blind and raise critical funds to support our mission. Attendees enjoyed live music, sponsor showrooms, carnival games, craft beers and more! Of course, there were plenty of Future Leader Dogs, Leader Dogs in training and working Leader Dogs for them to meet! Our presenting sponsor, Chief Financial, unveiled their new Leader Dog Visa card (*see next page for details*). A great time was had by all!

To view more pictures from the event visit bit.ly/barkbrew.



Thank you to all our sponsors!



Media Sponsors





Share the Rewards with your Leader Dog Visa By Dani Landolt

Chief Financial, the official credit union of Leader Dogs for the Blind, has unveiled a new Leader Dog Rewards Visa card—and it is adorable.

Not only that, when you shop with your Leader Dog Rewards Visa, Chief Financial will donate a percentage of all of your monthly purchases to Leader Dog—automatically. The more you spend, the more rewards you earn and the more you help to provide people who are blind and visually impaired with the life-changing services of Leader Dogs for the Blind.

To learn more and apply today visit leaderdog.org/chief.



“Chief Financial Credit Union continues to amaze and humble us with their support of Leader Dog and our mission,” said Sue Daniels, president & CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind. “Now, as part of our ongoing partnership, not only have they created a Visa card that I know our Leader Dog supporters will love, but they are also going to match all rewards earned through use of that card with a donation to Leader Dog.”

Mission Moment

“I’m on top of the world. This is the best experience in my 53-year-old life. [I] should have come here when I first went blind 33 years ago.”

**Greg Hammond and his first Leader Dog, Ella
(class 16-01)**



Legacy Giving—In Memory of Mr. Frederick W. Fountain *By Roberta Trzos*

As a child, Frederick Fountain lived in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from Pershing High School in 1937 and joined the Navy, serving two years in the Atlantic and Pacific on the destroyer escorts L.A.Scott, DE 769 and the Jenks, DE 665.

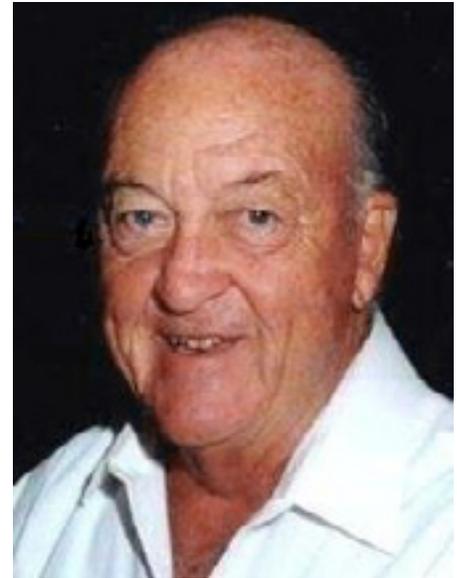
The loves of Mr. Fountain's life were his wife, Evelyn, and their two children. They spent most of their lives in Michigan where they were able to watch Leader Dog instructors train dogs and clients and saw many puppy raisers in the community raising Future Leader Dogs.

Throughout her life Mrs. Fountain had poor eyesight and so the couple greatly appreciated the meaningful work they saw Leader Dog doing for decades. Because of this, Mr. Fountain wanted to include a gift that would make a difference for Leader Dogs for the Blind in his estate plans. To this end, Leader Dog recently received \$2.83 million from Mr. Fountain's estate, which will make a significant impact on the lives of the clients we serve.

His legacy is left across the country through donations to many wonderful nonprofits and a scholarship foundation.

Words cannot begin to express how grateful we are for Mr. Fountain's forward thinking in making this gift to us.

Please consider creating a legacy by leaving part of your estate to Leader Dogs for the Blind. To learn how to do this, please contact Roberta Trzos, CFRE, manager of gift planning, at 248/659.5014 or rtrzos@leaderdog.org.



*Frederick W. Fountain
December 14, 1919–October 29, 2014*



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Instagram

We're now on Instagram! Find our daily photos at instagram.com/leader_dog



Lions “Serve” in Many Ways *By Beth Slade*

One thing that Lions know is that summer months are wonderful for bringing communities together. During these long, warm days Lions across the U.S. hold a multitude of fundraisers from dog walks to dinners to car shows.

Another thing that Lions know—nothing brings folks together like food! Whether it’s a pancake breakfast or a fish fry, Lions are great behind a grill! In Texas, you can grab some great grub at the Walter Gonzales Memorial Horseshoe Tournament and Fajita Cookoff—a combined effort with the Taylor Noon Lions Club. If that’s not to your liking, hike up to northern Minnesota where the Lakers Lions hold an annual Memorial Day bratwurst sale.

Do you like some fun with your food? Then look for the Lions logo on food trucks and booths at your local fair. Festival fare can range from hot dogs to fried Oreos. And chances are your local Lions club actually brought the fair to town, like the Rochester Hills Lions Club (MI) and the Rolla Lions Club (MO) both do in their communities. Other Lions-sponsored summer fun includes golf outings, car cruises and fishing tournaments.

Lions club members work hard year-round to raise money to support Leader Dog for the Blind and other organizations. The Lions motto, “We Serve,” starts with serving pulled pork to a hungry crowd but ends when the harness of a Leader Dog is put in the hands of someone who is blind.



Have fun and support Leader Dog by attending a Lions fundraiser in your community.

Legacy Society

Creating a provision for Leader Dogs for the Blind in your estate plans is a true partnership.

This prestigious society was established to recognize donors who have included Leader Dog in their financial or estate plans.

Please contact Roberta Trzos, CFRE, director of planned and personal giving, at 248/659.5014 to learn more about the Legacy Society.

New Legacy Society Members

Ronald and Luellen Newmann

Dr. and Mrs. Bret A. Robinson

DG Kenneth R. Snyder

Lion Linda Mellinger Snyder

Martin and Karen Voss





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