

# Update

Leader Dogs for the Blind



**The Scoop on Home Deliveries**  
*cover photo: Sandy Falardeau and Leader Dog Aero*

## Message from the President and CEO

Greetings,

Welcome to summer and the desire to be out and about! There's an old saying that it's not where you go, but how you get there. This holds true for training with a Leader Dog, when that "how" is as unique for each of our clients as their individual personalities and life circumstances. For some clients, the "how" is a home delivery, where we bring their new Leader Dog, and associated training, to them. We average about 30 home deliveries a year, which accounts for approximately 15% of the guide dog clients we serve annually.

Home deliveries are approved for clients who would benefit from this training format or have extenuating circumstances that do not allow them to be away from home for 25 days. Examples include:

- Primary caregiver for a family member
- Medical conditions such as dialysis
- Conditions such as severe post traumatic stress disorder
- Physical limitations
- Unique work environment that cannot be emulated in training

Training through a home delivery is one-on-one with a guide dog mobility instructor (GDMI), usually for an average of 10 days. Though costlier than group training at Leader Dog, home deliveries allow us to support the diverse needs of our clients.

We pride ourselves in offering services that empower our clients to travel farther, travel safer and prepare them for their next life challenge. After all, we believe every individual deserves the opportunity for independence and mobility. It continues to be my honor and pleasure to serve as the president and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind. My dedicated team and I look forward to continuing to provide the highest quality services to our clients for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of Leader Dogs for the Blind and our mission. I hope you and your family have the opportunity to get "out and about" this summer. Enjoy the season and all the beauty it holds!

*Susan M. Daniels*

Susan M. Daniels  
President and CEO



## In this Issue *Cover photo by Patti Brehler*

- 4 Alumni Letters
- 6 Delivering Leader Dogs in Your Area
- 9 Bark & Brew
- 11 Keeping Your Eyes Healthy
- 12 Jean and Don McColl Estate Gift
- 15 First Time Raiser Turned Corporate Sponsor





## Home Delivery Aids Client Who is Deaf and Blind

Bryan Grubb was in a good news/bad news scenario; Leader Dog had a great dog available to pair him with, but he was unable to get time away from work for training. Luckily for Bryan, we had a solution—a home delivery.

Like most guide dog clients, Bryan came to Michigan to receive his first Leader Dog, Magellan. The 25-day training taught him how to work with a guide dog and gave him time to bond with Magellan before heading home.

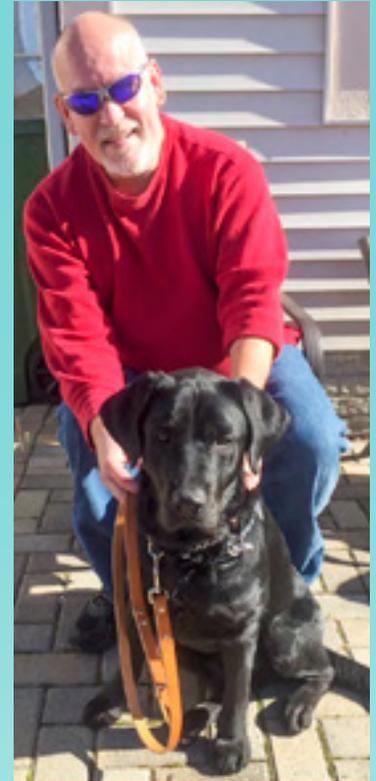
However, due to his work schedule and the fact that training for clients who are Deaf-Blind wasn't available for several months,\* Bryan trained with Leader Dog Dozer in his home environment with Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Jennifer Sanderson.

After spending a few days on basic guide work and getting to know each other, Bryan and Dozer set off for work with Jennifer at their side. Together they set up a safe place for Dozer to stay while Bryan worked and patterned Dozer to the cafeteria, rest room and exits in the manufacturing facility where Bryan is employed. For several more days Jennifer accompanied the team from home to work to home again.

As an experienced guide dog user, Bryan relied on his knowledge of commands and dog handling to quickly become a safe traveling team with Dozer. Being in his home environment, Bryan traveled familiar routes, which is especially important for people who are deaf and blind because learning new or multiple routes can be time-consuming and stressful.



Client Bryan Grubb and LD Dozer



*"I want to thank Leader Dog for letting Jenny bring Dozer here to my home. He is a wonderful dog. This was easier for me and Dozer to understand how to work as a team."*

*~Bryan Grubb*

In their 18 months together Bryan and Dozer have strengthened their bond and teamwork. According to Bryan, Dozer is a good listener that really understands Bryan's routine and where he needs to go. He adds, "I am glad to have the right dog."

*\* Leader Dog is the only organization in the western hemisphere with a dedicated Deaf-Blind program. Classes for clients who are Deaf-Blind are offered twice per year.*

## Letters from our Alumni

Presented by



Martha "Marty" Homan

I want to thank all the staff at Leader Dog for an excellent week of Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Training and my "on the street" training in my community. I especially want to thank my personal O&M specialist, Leslie Hoskins, whose professional expertise exceeded my expectations and helped me find a practical way of regaining my independence. Just as important as the actual cane techniques, Leslie also instilled a "Can Do" attitude with her patience, encouragement and a core belief that I would succeed. Dispelling fears and providing a safe environment made learning possible. Thank you for these invaluable skills.

It was wonderful to be in a team inspired environment. Every experience was impressive! From the kindness shown in my initial correspondence, the resident assistant who greeted me at the door, the chefs who met my dietary needs and all the staff I had the pleasure of meeting. Again, my thanks go to all for this enlightened, useful, realistic training, guidance and support.

Warm Regards,  
Martha "Marty" Homan

Our son, James Lockwood, received the most wonderful high school graduation gift in 2004—Scout, his first guide dog. The entire family fell in love with Jim's loyal companion and were sad, yet excited, to see them head off to college. Scout attended every class with Jim for four years of undergraduate work and three years of law school at Notre Dame. We always said that Scout was the most educated guide dog ever. He was a favorite around campus and professors often commented that they hoped they weren't boring Scout as he snored through some of the lectures.

Notre Dame is a closed campus so there wasn't much concern about traffic and people driving maintenance vehicles became familiar with Jim's walking routes and watched out for them. It sometimes became a standoff as the maintenance vehicles were waiting for them to cross a road and Scout was waiting for the vehicle to go past. As time went on, it was predictable that Scout became less vigilant about crossing streets. Therefore, when Jim graduated law school and prepared to move to a bigger city, he applied for and received his new best friend, Ollie. My husband and I gratefully accepted Scout back into our home where he became my best friend and companion and had a wonderful retirement.

I know you have heard this a million times because your dogs are all so awesome, but we all loved that dog with our whole beings and miss him terribly. Please keep up the good work you do because without Scout, it would have been extremely difficult for Jim to have the life and career he has now. Scout gave him the confidence that he can do anything a sighted person can do. Leader Dog Scout will never be forgotten.

Sherry Lockwood



James Lockwood and LD Ollie

## ... more letters

Presented by



Five years ago, a giving family hosted Perry's mother (Knickers) and Perry entered into the puppy raising program. Amy, from Kalamazoo, lovingly raised Perry for a year, navigating him through the obedience classes and returned him to Leader Dogs for the Blind [to start his formal training].

His instructor harnessed Perry's personality and energy where he earned his nickname of PearBear.

PearBear allows me to work with families fleeing domestic violence. The setting is constantly changing and PearBear adapts like a pro. He allows me to work with a lady for a few hours and then zoom across a building, up three flights of stairs, where he then waits patiently while I advocate for my clients via the phone.

To decompress from the day, PearBear and I go on a 3-5 kilometer route each night. Like a surgeon, PearBear guides me through a moving maze of obstacles and traffic. My family, friends and colleagues are grateful for the donors (financial and of their time) who changed our family's lives!

Chad Duncan



*Chad Duncan and LD Perry*



*David Wilson and his first Leader Dog, Lady, in 1967.*

My donation was made in memory of David Wilson, the father of my oldest daughter. He passed away last week.

David lost his sight as a teenager over 50 years ago. He received five dogs from your organization. David accomplished much in his life. He earned two master's degrees, taught at a university, traveled across the U.S. and to many countries, and proudly raised two lovely daughters. At times he was a stay-at-home dad who cooked, did the laundry, diapered, bathed and dressed his little girls. He would do errands with a baby on his back, a satchel over one shoulder and a dog in the other hand, traveling by foot and by bus. In his later years he became locally known as "Blind Dave," a blues singer. His dogs made much of these accomplishments possible for him. They also became his best friends and part of the family. In fact, just a few months ago his current dog, Bob, walked down the aisle with him as he gave his daughter's hand in marriage.

On behalf of all the people who were touched by David's presence in their lives, I want to thank this organization for providing one of the most important tools for him to live independently and accomplish his dreams.

Sincerely,  
Connie Herold



## Delivering Leader Dogs in Your Area *By Peggy O'Dell*

Nowadays, you can get almost anything your heart desires delivered directly to your door. From Alaskan king crab legs and designer shoes to best-selling books and vintage cookie jars, we all love when the delivery truck stops in front of our houses. For qualified Leader Dog clients, however, it's the white Leader Dog van in their driveway that makes the best delivery of all: independence in the form of a highly trained Leader Dog.

"Home deliveries are a great option for some people who have other commitments such as families, jobs, medical conditions or special home circumstances," said Leader Dog Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (GDMI) Kevin Ihrke. "We try to do two or three home deliveries from each class."

To qualify for a home delivery, the client must first be able to independently travel. The admissions committee will review their orientation and mobility, and if accepted, they will be put on a list to be reviewed by the training teams. Once a client has been matched with a dog, a Leader Dog representative will work out the delivery details with the client.

Photo by Patti Brehler



*LD Aero happily waits while client Sandy Falardeau attaches his harness before they take off.*

**Lee Anne Atkinson** first heard about home delivery in 1991 when she was on the Leader Dog



*Lee Anne Atkinson and her third Leader Dog, Ava*

campus receiving her first dog. "I wouldn't have qualified for home delivery then because I hadn't gone through the training on campus yet, but when I was ready for my second dog, and was a busy mom to four kids, I applied for the program and was so happy to have my dog brought to me," she said.

Now an empty nester, Lee Anne received her third dog, Ava, a golden retriever, via home delivery last fall. "My boyfriend was recovering from surgery at the time so he couldn't take care of my retired dog, Jazz, while I was gone. Home delivery worked out great for us."



When GDMI Linda Fisher arrived with her new dog, Lee Anne was waiting with a list of 21 things she wanted to work on. Lee Anne enjoys walking, so her list included working on routes to her doctor, local grocery store and around her downtown area. “One of the benefits of home delivery is the one-on-one training. My list was similar to the travel training I would have gotten on campus, but it was custom tailored to me. It’s definitely easier to teach a dog a new route when you have an instructor there, too.”

The instructor generally stays with the client anywhere from seven to 14 days, depending on their specific needs. During that time they will work with them up to eight hours a day.

After two successful experiences with home delivery, Lee Anne said she feels blessed that Leader Dog is able to offer the service to their clients.

**James Torgerson** didn’t plan on having a home delivery when he arrived on campus to receive his second dog, but a combination of illness and other issues training with the dog sent him home early—without a dog.



*LD Kellen focuses on client James Torgerson during a quick stop and photo break in James’ small hometown.*



*Leader Dog has completed home deliveries in 35 states. You better believe our guide dog mobility instructors are keeping their fingers crossed for a Hawaii delivery someday.*

“I had already retired my [Leader] Dog Polaris to a wonderful family, so I figured I would just brush up on my cane skills while I waited for them to find my new dog. They told me when they did, they would bring him right to me,” James said.

It was seven months before he got the call that they had found the right dog for him. After months of cane travel, he was happy to start working with his energetic new Leader Dog, Kellen. “Cane travel is so much slower than walking with a dog that I felt like I lost my stamina and was out of shape. When I first started walking with Kellen, I actually had to stop every few blocks to catch my breath.”

James built up his stamina while Kellen worked on ignoring distractions by travelling around numerous construction sites in James’ small town. All the different sights, sounds and smells proved to be the perfect environment for James to learn how to help Kellen focus.

James admits he missed the social aspect



## Deliveries *(continued)*

of being on campus, but he appreciated having the instructor's undivided attention and expertise to work with Kellen in his home environment.

"Kellen is a great dog, but he can be challenging at times. When the instructor left, I was confident I could continue to work with Kellen on my own," he said.

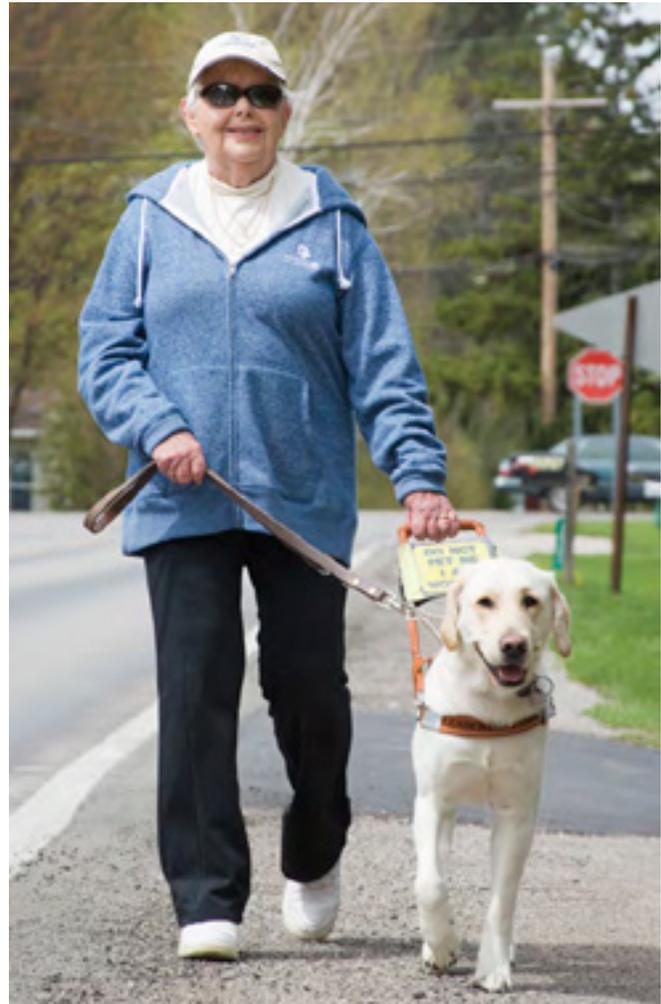
**Sandy Falardeau** was looking forward to her trip to the Leader Dog campus to meet her new dog, Aero. A true "people person" at heart, she was also looking forward to meeting the other people in her training class. Unfortunately, she was forced to cancel her trip when she was sidelined by an injury. "I was so disappointed at first, but when GDMI Kevin Ihrke called me and said 'How about if I come to you?' I said yes right away."



*Sandy Falardeau and LD Aero*

Kevin spent nine days working with Sandy and Aero in Bay City, Michigan. The retired teacher experienced firsthand the advantages of training in her home environment. "It really was nicer working from home, except for the food. The food at Leader Dog is great!" she laughed. "We did everything we would have done on campus and spent a lot of time on country travel. The only thing we couldn't do here was train on escalators, because we don't have any in town. But that's OK, I like elevators better anyway."

Sandy felt she bonded fast with Aero. "She adapted to me and my lifestyle very quickly. She's perfectly patterned to my life now. When Kevin left I was confident that I had learned everything I needed



*Sandy Falardeau explores the streets of her hometown, Bay City, confidently with LD Aero at her side.*

to get back to my busy life."

GDMI Kevin agreed. "Sandy accomplished everything she needed to be successful in a shorter amount of time. It was an absolute pleasure to work with Sandy and Aero, and I wish them nothing but happiness from here on out."

If you think a home delivery might be an option for you or you would like to learn more, please contact client services at 248/218.6211 or email [clientservices@leaderdog.org](mailto:clientservices@leaderdog.org).

Photo by Patti Brehler



# Bark & Brew *presented by Chief Financial Credit Union*

On Saturday, June 3, more than 2,600 people joined our puppy raisers, breeding hosts, volunteers, clients, employees and dogs of all ages at Rochester Mills Beer Co. in Rochester, Michigan to make memories, enjoy great beer and food, and together raise over \$115,000 for Leader Dogs for the Blind! We'll be doing it all again next year, so join us June 2, 2018 for another fantastic event.

Check out photos from the event on Facebook or Flickr, and thank you for making the 2017 Bark & Brew a success!

## Dogs...



## Plus Music...



## Plus good brew... makes for some smiling faces!



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## Securing Your Legacy

Presented by  CHIEF FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

### Thinking about your future? We are.

None of us like to think about plans for our legacy. It is an uncomfortable conversation to have with ourselves and our family—yet it must be done.

Taking time to plan your legacy means that your gifts will be carried out as you wish.

Providing for your family or friends through a gift in your estate plans is important. After you do this, consider leaving a gift to Leader Dogs for the Blind. Leader Dog can be listed as a beneficiary on your investment accounts, life insurance policies and retirement accounts.

Another way of giving a gift is to set up a Charitable Gift Annuity with Leader Dogs for the Blind. Below are current interest rates for specific ages (with gift of \$10,000.00).

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>
70	5.1%
80	6.8%
90	9.0%

Please contact Leader Dog's manager of gift planning, Roberta Trzos, CFRE, to discuss your legacy giving. She can be reached at **248/659.5014** or [rtrzos@leaderdog.org](mailto:rtrzos@leaderdog.org).



## Mission Moment

*"I think I'll be a lot more comfortable. I often have a feeling of isolation, even if I'm in a room with other people. With the dog, you're never alone."*

**Ron Molles and his first Leader Dog, Faith  
(class 17-03)**



## Keeping Your Eyes Healthy

Presented by **Midwest**  
EYE CONSULTANTS

Now that summer has finally arrived, we are spending more time outside, which exposes us to the ultraviolet radiation (UVR) of the sun. Most people are aware of the damage the sun does to our skin. However, many people are unaware of the damage the sun's rays can cause to our eyes.



Source: Dr. Tara Svatos, Midwest Eye Consultants – Granger, IN

You are at risk of UVR overexposure even if you aren't sunbathing. The amount of UVR exposure your eyes receive depends on the degree of UVR reflection. Sand, water, concrete and snow reflect large amounts of UVR, resulting in high exposure.

UVR-related eye disorders include skin cancers of the eyelids, corneal burns, corneal degeneration, corneal and conjunctival growths, cataracts and macular degeneration. The more time you spend in the sun without proper protection, the higher your chances for UVR-related eye disorders. Children's eyes are especially at risk for UVR-related eye disorders.

What can you do to protect your eyes from the sun? You can start by reducing your exposure to UVA by as much as 50 percent simply by wearing a wide brimmed hat and protective sunglasses. Experts

**TAKE** Care  
of your  
**EYES!**

recommend that the lenses in your sunglasses transmit no more than one percent UVA and UVB. This is accomplished by a UV filter that is applied to the lens. A polarized filter can also be incorporated into the spectacle lens to reduce the glare that bounces off horizontal surfaces, such as water. Enjoy the sunshine, but remember to take care of your eyes!



For additional information about keeping your eyes healthy visit us at [midwesteyeconsultants.com](http://midwesteyeconsultants.com)



## The Jean and Don McColl Estate Gift to Leader Dog

Michiganians Jean and Don McColl were a quiet couple, passionate about dogs. As the owners of Shaggy Shoes MacDuff, the North American Grand Champion Old English sheepdog in the early 70s, they travelled the country together to show “Duffy” and share their dedication to the breed.

The couple also fostered a commitment to the Leader Dogs that they observed training in the metro Detroit area. Upon retirement they adopted a career changed Leader Dog, Bandit. Later, they adopted Buddy, a black Labrador retriever who allegedly “flunked squirrel” during training and who became their constant companion for the next 14 years.

When Don passed away in 2003, Jean and Buddy moved to a senior community where Buddy became the first therapy dog at the rehabilitation units and where everyone greeted the friendly black lab by name. Although Buddy was by far one of the largest dogs at the center, he socialized well with everyone in true Labrador style and kept Jean company.

Jean was a loyal donor who supported Leader Dog with steadfast and regular gifts. As she aged, Jean was no longer able to care for Buddy; so at age fourteen, he went to live with a close friend. Buddy still visited Jean regularly and always on his birthday, which came complete with birthday cake.

Jean passed away in October of 2016, just days after her last donation to Leader Dog. She selflessly helped others right to the end of her life. Buddy, her loyal canine companion, passed away in February 2017 at the age of seventeen.

Jean and Don McColl were private, deeply humble people and quiet philanthropists. Upon Jean’s death the couple’s estate made a \$2,800,000 gift to benefit the Leader Dog mission.

Generous gifts such as the McColl bequest allow Leader Dog to support people who are blind in transformative ways, providing new opportunities for our clients and their families. It is with deep gratitude that we honor Jean and Don McColl’s commitment and their lasting legacy.

Please consider remembering Leader Dogs for the Blind in your estate plans. Contact Roberta Trzos, CFRE, manager of gift planning, at 248/659.5014 to learn more about leaving Leader Dog an estate gift.



*Don and Jean McColl*



*Career changed Buddy*

**Gifts such as the \$2.8 million McColl bequest allow Leader Dog to provide new opportunities to our clients.**



## Celebrating 100 Years of LCI and the Future of Giving

Lions Clubs International (LCI) is celebrating 100 years of service at their annual international conference in Chicago, Illinois June 30–July 4, 2017. Leader Dog team members are excited to join over 30,000 Lions from around the world in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the organization. The convention is an opportunity for Lions to attend seminars, vote on the future of Lions Club International, take in the sights of Chicago and learn about Leader Dog.

Leader Dog team members will be giving presentations during the convention. We look forward to meeting and thanking Lions, Lionesses and Leos for their 78 years of unwavering support for the Leader Dog mission.

Over 4,900 Lions clubs support Leader Dog annually and were an instrumental part of the campaign for our Canine Development Center. We will also have the opportunity to extend our gratitude to the international Lions friends who stop by our booth.

Lions Clubs International introduced a global service framework that focuses on five areas of service: diabetes, vision, environment, hunger relief and pediatric cancer. Since two of those areas (vision

and diabetes) are in direct alignment with our mission, we are excited to continue to work with Lions clubs to confront and address these critical issues.

We look forward to celebrating 100 years of service in Chicago, but more importantly to continuing our strong partnership with Lions Club International, the global leader in humanitarian services.

For more information on Lions club giving or on how you or your club can get involved with Leader Dog, please contact Kathleen Breen, director of Lions engagement at 248/218.6407.



Members of the Eynon-Archbald Lions Club of District 14-H in Pennsylvania present Leader Dog with a check for \$20,000.

Lions supported our Canine Development Center Campaign to the tune of \$2,566,900 through a combination of matching LCIF Grants, club gifts and pledges, and individual gifts and pledges. In all, over 2,700 Lions, Lionesses and Leo Clubs contributed to the campaign!



**Lions Clubs International**  
**FOUNDATION**

## Leader Dog Delivers Services Around the World and in Your Community

One of the most frequent questions our grantors have is: what services does Leader Dog provide in my community?

There are more than 1,200 active Leader Dog working teams in the U.S. with about 180 or more being added each year. These people, along with our Summer Experience Camp and Accelerated O&M clients total 6,212 Leader Dog alumni in the U.S. So it is very likely a LDB alumnus lives in or near your community.

Community foundations across the United States whose philanthropic support is prioritized for their geographic area have selected Leader Dog for this very reason. The Community Foundation of Greater Flint; Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.; Frederick County Foundation; Greater Sauk County Community Foundation; and the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin have found value in making grants over the past fiscal year to support essential operations, home deliveries, field (brush-up) services to graduates and correctional facilities participating in our Prison Puppies initiative located in their areas.

Often, community foundation funds are made possible by a generous donor who has observed first-hand Leader Dog's impact as a volunteer, friend or recipient of our services or through Lionism. Other times a donor directs that the foundation uses its resources to address blindness, accessibility or equality, which allows the foundation to support Leader Dog based on an identified need in its community.

If you are working with a community foundation to secure your legacy, please contact Kathryn Tuck, director of foundation giving, at 248/218.6431 to learn more about how we are already serving people in your community.



*LD Cleo was delivered to William Fischer at his home in Pennsylvania in September 2016.*



### Follow the Leader



Visit us online at [leaderdog.org](http://leaderdog.org)



#### Facebook

Join us by searching “**Leader Dogs for the Blind**”



#### Flickr

Check out recent photos at [flickr.com/photos/leaderdog](https://www.flickr.com/photos/leaderdog)



#### Twitter

Follow us today @**Leader\_Dog**



#### YouTube

Watch us in action on [youtube.com/leaderdogvideos](https://www.youtube.com/leaderdogvideos)



#### Instagram

Find our daily photos at [instagram.com/leader\\_dog](https://www.instagram.com/leader_dog)

## First Time Raiser Turned Corporate Sponsor

Angela Links started her journey at Leader Dog as an on-campus volunteer in 2013. She soon knew that her next step would be to become a puppy raiser. So, on August 24, 2015, Angela brought home Future Leader Dog (FLD) Murphy Fox. After six months of adventure with the sweet, silly, goofball of a FLD, she was hooked. Angela even found a way to fit Leader Dog into her busy schedule which included building a real estate business. In 2016, since partnering with Home & Land Real Estate East, Angela



*Angela and FLD Murphy Fox.*

regularly reduces her listing commission for Leader Dog employees and volunteers, as well as anyone willing to make a donation to Leader Dog. She also gives to Leader Dog by making a donation with every property she closes. To date she has achieved over 15% of her fundraising goal of \$20,000. Angela is currently raising her second puppy, Jaxson Bear, and is overwhelmingly proud that Murphy Fox graduated



*FLD Jaxson Bear at five months. He will return to Leader Dog on July 29 to start his formal training.*

and is working with a client in Wisconsin. When asked why she continues to support Leader Dog, Angela said, "Leader Dog has changed my life in so many ways—being a puppy raiser and corporate sponsor is the least I can do in return." Angela is committed to being a lifelong raiser and volunteer.

For more information on Angela, or to learn more about her services, visit [myleaderdog.org/realestatemyway](http://myleaderdog.org/realestatemyway). You can also follow Angela's Instagram dedicated to raising Future Leader Dogs at [instagram.com/AdventuresInPuppyRaising](https://www.instagram.com/AdventuresInPuppyRaising).

## 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, manager of gift planning, at 248/659.5014 to learn more about the Legacy Society.

### New Legacy Society Members

Elizabeth A. Costa

Gloria List

Timothy and Deborah Panther





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