



Greetings,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoy the new look of Update magazine. We want to keep it exciting and innovative—just like the programs we offer our clients!

Our programs remain the answer for thousands of people who are blind, visually impaired or Deaf-Blind and want to live fulfilling and productive lives. Each year, the population of people who are blind or visually impaired in the United States grows by 75,000. This means that the ability for us to provide services becomes increasingly critical.

Blindness changes everything. It impacts confidence, wellness, employment and family relationships. Leader Dog provides the tools that

help our clients become more independent, live healthier lifestyles, return to school or work, and get involved in their community. And we couldn't do it without your support!

Every year, you + Leader Dog =
1,095,000 Days of independence

200 Leader Dogs matched with clients

100+ Clients provided with white cane training

24 Teenagers who gain leadership and travel skills

6+ Clients who are deaf and blind provided with customized guide dog training

\$0 Cost passed on to our clients

These statistics are truly impressive and would not be possible without your dedication and commitment to our mission. Thank you for your continued support of Leader Dogs for the Blind. Together, I'm confident that we'll make more people unstoppable in 2018!

With warm gratitude,

Susan M. Daniels

Susan M. Daniels
President & CEO

Taking Her Gloves Off

Jill Gaus

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Jill Gaus, a Michigan native, is a highly involved member of the Deaf-Blind community. She works with the state of Michigan as a consultant for youth who are Deaf-Blind.

“Having a Leader Dog,” says Jill, “preserves my independence and enables me to show the kids that they can be successfully independent too.”

A longtime Leader Dog client, she trained with her two previous Leader Dogs, Heidi and Asher, in Michigan. Jill attended our warm weather training in Florida to get her third dog, Twinkie. The unfamiliar surroundings and variety of new travel routes Jill encountered in Naples made her feel like a first-time client. She was thankful to have Leader Dog Twinkie at her side.

Clients who are Deaf-Blind benefit from Florida’s mild climate because it aids the American Sign Language (ASL) and Tactile ASL processes; gloves and mittens needed for Michigan’s cold winters can be hindering. “The biggest advantage was the warm weather,” says Jill. “Not only was it easier because I didn’t have to worry about wearing gloves or slipping on ice; it was a different type of training with a smaller group and more individual instructor time, so I learned a lot.”

Jill relies on and trusts Twinkie. “I never dreamed that I could become attached so quickly. She has really given me my independence and self-esteem back again. She helps me travel and has saved me from getting hit by a car twice now.” The pair have since travelled back to Florida for Jill’s annual vacation to visit friends.

◀ **JILL GAUS** (*right*) COMMUNICATES VIA AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE WITH GDMI JENNY SANDERSON.





Michelle and Hunter Hall sit with Chase (Bradley) Ganey and LD Leo.

My son Hunter and I went to visit Chase in celebration of his graduation from the University of Southern Alabama. Due to a schedule conflict, we were not at the actual graduation ceremony, but the video gave me goosebumps! The applause when Chase walked across the stage after he received his diploma was deafening. I am not sure if the applause was for [Leader Dog] Leo or for Chase, but to me it was a combination of both.

We raised Leo as a puppy and we met Chase in August 2016 when he was in Rochester as part of the client visit with the puppy raisers. We hit it off right away.

I am so proud of this young man and all he's accomplished. And seeing Leo again working in the field knowing that we raised him could not have been a more special moment for us.

Michelle Hall (puppy raiser)

I just wanted to let you know that JERRY, my [retired] Leader Dog died in September.

Jerry was more than my guide dog. He was my constant companion, since everything I did, I did with him. During family visits, he would play and run with children—always returning to my lap. I would spend hours at the library with Jerry sitting at my feet without complaint. I used to be terrorized when going up long stairs. I lost my fear with his help.

When I insisted on crossing the street, he let me know when it was not safe. Once, when the house was full of smoke, he lifted my hand with insistence until I got up (because my bedroom door was closed I did not hear the smoke alarm).

He never complained. He was 16 years old.

He was the light I could not see, the love that never failed, the companion I always loved and when he objected to something it made me stop to think why he did not want me to go ahead. How I miss him! Thanks for this gift of life!

Vilma Anderson



Vilma Anderson and LD Jerry

It was very hard losing my last [Leader] Dog, Disney. We were together for ten years and I could not imagine having the same confidence with another dog so soon. But, while training with Apollo, we were standing on the platform of the train, and the instructor told me I was facing the edge and to tell my dog forward. After walking up three flights of stairs, I knew how high we were, and I was afraid. But, I had to trust this young dog the way I trusted Disney, so I told Apollo "forward." He took me about a foot away from the edge and stopped and put his body in front of me and gently pushed me back and turned me around and took me back to where I started. At that point I was on my knees hugging him and I knew I would be safe with him at my side. At that very moment, I knew we were a team.

He is with me every minute and I know wherever I am in my home he is right there at my feet. I spoil him terribly, but he is worth it!

Linda McLane

Linda McLane and LD Apollo



Just to give you a little update since leaving Leader Dog, Tempe and I have been on a fair amount of adventures including going to Michigan, Florida and starting the life of a college student.

I had some family [visit] for a couple of days. We went to a movie, the park, Mall of America and many other places.

We spend many days up in the cities wandering the streets and going in and out of restaurants, stores, university buildings, trains, buses, etc.

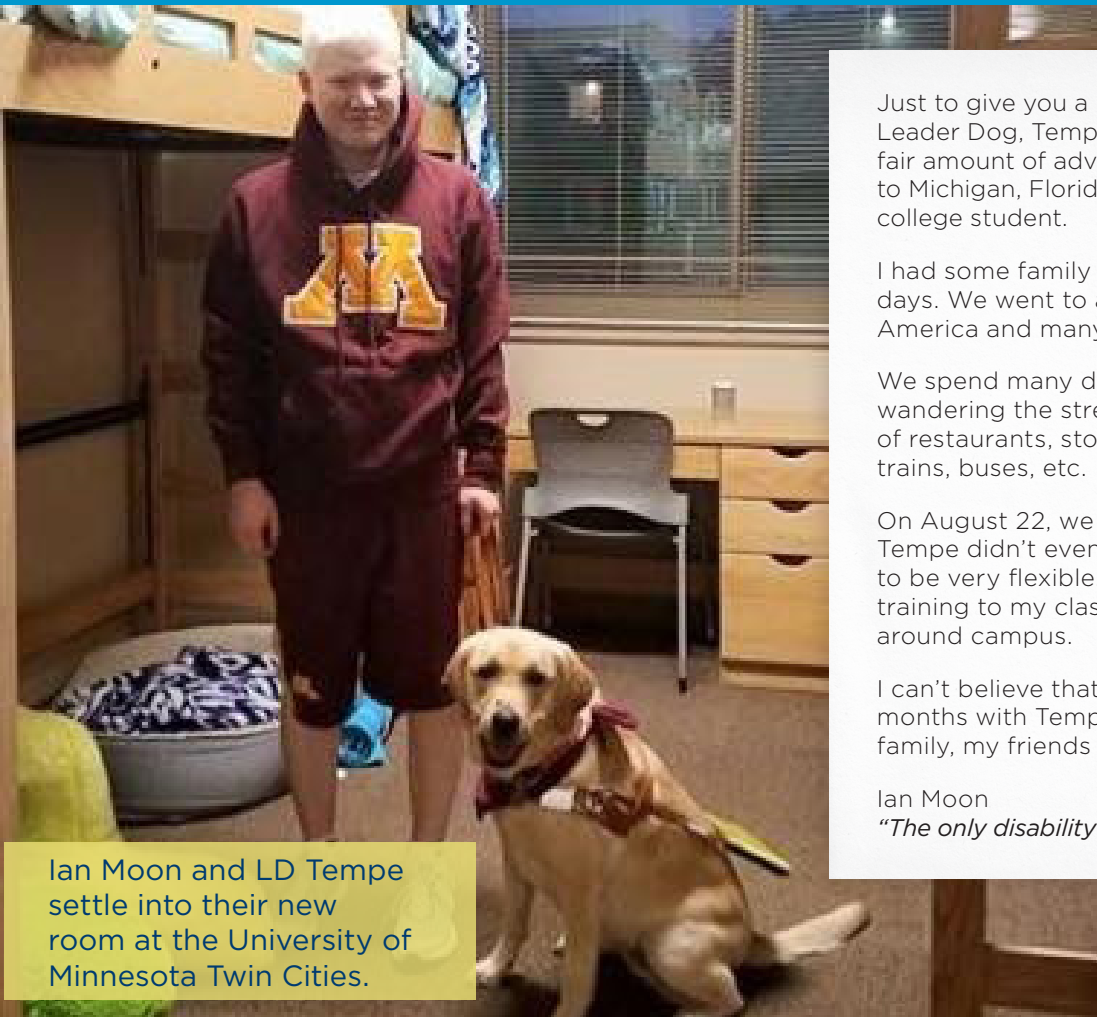
On August 22, we moved into our dorm! Tempe didn't even flinch as she has learned to be very flexible. We did some route training to my classes and other venues around campus.

I can't believe that it's been a little over six months with Tempe. She is loved by my family, my friends and most importantly, me!

Ian Moon

"The only disability in life is a negative attitude"

Ian Moon and LD Tempe settle into their new room at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.



Taking on the Sunshine State



Since 2011, we have been trading in snow for sunshine through our warm weather training program.

Tom Simmons, an Arizona native, decided to seize the opportunity to take on Florida in February.

In Florida, Tom received his fifth Leader Dog, Nelson, who he depicts as “a lovable character.” Having trained with his four previous Leader Dogs in Michigan, he was familiar with that training environment. “It’s been many years since I’ve been to Rochester, but I had the routes memorized in the past,” says Tom. “In Florida, I wasn’t familiar with where we were going and found that I had to pay more attention to my instructor, my dog and what I was doing.”

Training in Florida is an accelerated two-week program, but it is highly individualized to each client’s unique living and working environment. With six clients in class and two guide dog mobility instructors (GDMI), clients receive plenty of attention. “We could work for longer periods of time each day,” says Tom. “It was a little more personal than training in Michigan.”

Despite being an accelerated program, we try to ease clients into training in new environments. Our GDMIs set up on-site obstacle courses similar to those set up in Michigan. Obstacle work reinforces what the dogs learned during their four months of training at Leader Dog. Cones are used to simulate traveling through a crowded environment or avoiding objects

◀ TOM SIMMONS AND NELSON EASILY HANDLE A LONG FLIGHT OF STAIRS DURING TRAINING.



blocking sidewalks. Overhead obstacles remind the dogs that even though they can walk under a tree branch or low object, the person they are guiding cannot.

At the time he trained in Florida, Tom worked for the Arizona Department of Revenue. He appreciated that warm weather training allowed him to take less time off work than the standard 25-day training in Michigan. Tom says, "I would have come to Michigan in winter if absolutely necessary because I don't like being without a Leader Dog." Although the sunny, warm weather was more suitable to their transition back home, his favorite perk of training in Florida: "Being able to dunk my feet in the Atlantic Ocean for the first time."

CLIENT TOM SIMMONS WORKS HIS LEADER DOG, NELSON, THROUGH OBSTACLE TRAINING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF GDMI RANDY HORN

"I LEARNED ABOUT LEADER DOG FROM A MEMBER OF THE PHOENIX VALLEY OF THE SUN LIONS CLUB WHO SAW ME IN A RESTAURANT AND HANDED ME LEADER DOG INFORMATION AND HIS BUSINESS CARD. I'VE BEEN A MEMBER OF THAT CLUB FOR 28 YEARS."

Florida-based O&M Training

Q&A with Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists Erica Ihrke and Lynn Gautreaux

What was the motivation for having an O&M client train in Florida?

Erica: We tailor our O&M training to meet the needs of each client. So, when Bob Nickelsen, who lives in Texas, needed training, we felt Florida was more suitable for his objectives. Bob had a Leader Dog 20 years ago and when he applied for a second dog, we suggested that he complete O&M training first since he had lost his remaining vision over time. Warm weather training allowed him to be trained faster and safer since there was no snow and ice.

Did you work closely with the guide dog clients and GDMIs?

Lynn: O&M skills are the foundation and prerequisite for getting a guide dog so there is an overlap of training methods, but at the end of the day, they're two separate programs with different objectives. We did train in close vicinity with the guide dog clients. I like to think that it helped motivate Bob to work harder at cane travel so he could prepare himself to meet his goal of getting another Leader Dog.

Were there any other advantages of Florida training?

Lynn: One big advantage was interacting more with the public. Although clients get that in Michigan, in Florida we were staying at a hotel, which is more public than the Leader Dog campus. We had a few dinners at local restaurants, which was great practice for Bob in terms of maneuvering through tables and crowds of people. The mild weather allowed us more working opportunities and we could travel longer distances without breaks. During winter in Michigan, it can be hard to adjust to the cold when you live in a warm climate, so we find ourselves taking breaks every 20-30 minutes.

LYNN GAUTREAUX (RIGHT) WORKS WITH CLIENT BOB NICKELSEN DURING WARM WEATHER TRAINING. ►

“WORKING IN SNOW AND ICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED TO IT IS BENEFICIAL. BUT, FOR CLIENTS FROM WARMER LOCATIONS, FLORIDA TRAINING GIVES THEM MORE TIME TO BUILD ON THE SKILLS THEY NEED LIKE LEARNING INTERSECTIONS, STREET CROSSINGS AND IDENTIFYING RED LIGHTS.”
– LYNN GAUTREAUX



Keeping Your Eyes Healthy—*Glaucoma*

PRESENTED BY

Midwest
EYE CONSULTANTS

More than 2 million people in the United States suffer from glaucoma and that number will continue to increase significantly. This eye disease is not preventable nor does it show any symptoms. However, there are ways to preserve your vision.

WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?

Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the internal pressure of your eye rises to a point that the optic nerve is damaged. It is one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States. The exact cause of glaucoma is unknown. If for any reason the normal balance of fluid produced and draining from inside the eye is disrupted, then fluid pressure can increase within the eye. The nerve fibers and blood vessels in the optic nerve can be easily damaged by this pressure. An injury, infection or tumor in or around the eye can also cause the pressure to rise.

Glaucoma most frequently occurs in individuals over the age of 40 and there is a hereditary

tendency for the development of the disease. If diagnosed at an early stage, glaucoma may often be controlled and little or no further vision loss should occur. If left untreated, side vision (peripheral vision) and later central vision will be destroyed and blindness may occur.

TIPS TO PRESERVE YOUR VISION

- Schedule a comprehensive eye exam
Our comprehensive eye exams include tests for glaucoma, including a simple and painless procedure called tonometry that measures the internal pressure of your eye. Your doctor will also examine the health of the optic nerve and measure your field of vision.
- Pay attention to your risk factors
- Exercise
- Protect your eyes from injury
- Eat healthy

For more information visit
midwesteyeconsultants.com/glaucoma-awareness-month-5-tips-preserve-vision/

TAKE *Care*
of your
EYES!



Consider Raising a Future Leader Dog

Do you love dogs? Are you passionate about making a difference in the life of someone who is blind? Consider becoming a volunteer puppy raiser. Opening your home to a puppy is a commitment, but in exchange you'll receive moments of joy that will last a lifetime.

Sandy and Gary Frick were in their living room watching the news when the words, "You too can be a puppy raiser," caught their attention. Sandy was immediately on-board, Gary was reluctant. It was a few months before Sandy sent in their puppy raiser application. She did it when Gary was at work.

After receiving their first puppy, Murphy, a black Labrador retriever, Gary cautioned Sandy, "You won't be able to take him back." Sandy remembers, "When returning Murphy, I didn't get 10 blocks from home before I started crying. I only made it to Leader Dog because I couldn't let Gary be right."

24 Leader Dog Puppies Later...

The Fricks say that meeting clients who received the dogs they raised is what keeps them coming back for more. Sandy recalls, "One client told us that getting her Leader Dog was better than all the Christmas gifts she had ever gotten in her life. We're amazed that what we thought was a small thing we could do makes such a big impact on a person's life."

"I'd tell anyone who is considering raising a puppy to take time to think about it," says Sandy. "Also, that it has been one of the most rewarding things we've ever done. When you experience how you can directly impact someone's life, it's a feeling that you will always remember."

To learn more about raising a puppy, go to LeaderDog.Org under the 'Volunteer' tab.

◀ **FUTURE LEADER DOG GIBSON. TO SEE HIS ADULT PICTURE, GO TO PAGE 15.**



"WE STARTED OUT AS PUPPY RAISERS AND NOW LEADER DOG IS A HUGE PART OF OUR LIVES."

Giving More Than Our Time

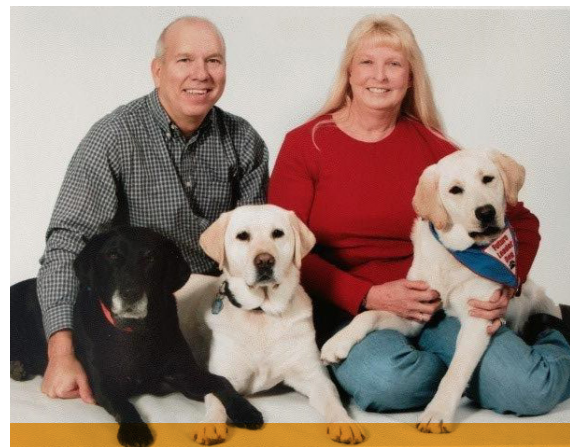


by Glenn & Ginger Rossow

We were first introduced to Leader Dogs for the Blind (LDB) during the summer of 2005 while walking our Labrador retriever, Alta. Someone hosting a LDB breeding stock dog stopped us and asked if our Alta was a career changed Leader Dog. A few weeks later, we saw a cute 10-week-old black Labrador puppy winding its way down our road. The people walking him mentioned to us that they were raising the puppy for Leader Dog. This really sparked our interest. It was our initial love of Labradors that led us to new friends and a lifelong involvement with this fantastic organization.

The first puppy we raised, Aspen, graduated successfully and went to work with someone in Taiwan. Cortina, our third dog, was paired with a client who is deaf and blind. Currently we are raising our ninth puppy and volunteer as puppy counselors. So far, all our experiences with LDB have been very rewarding.

DONOR HIGHLIGHT



Glenn & Ginger Rossow with (L to R) Retired LD Banff, Garmisch and FLD Montafon.

We decided to give more than just our time to Leader Dog. So, when we were setting up our trusts, it was an effortless decision to include Leader Dog in our

estate plans. Hopefully, it will be many years before Leader Dog receives anything from our estate; so, until then, we will continue to give on a yearly basis.

Please contact Lora Cabarios, director of national personal giving, at 248.650.7109 or Roberta Trzos, manager of gift planning, at 248.659.5014 to learn about including Leader Dog in your estate plans.



MISSION MOMENT

◀ *"It's not a want, it's a need. I need another set of eyes and ears. I've stayed home. I want to be that guy who can go anywhere."*

Chris LeBombard and his first Leader Dog, Polo

Judge Paul Teranes

(pictured with his 9th Leader Dog, Morgan)



When Paul Teranes or “Judge,” as he is fondly called around Leader Dogs for the Blind (LDB), joined our board of trustees in 1997, he had already spent 34 years learning about Leader Dog—as a client. During these years he graduated from University of Michigan

Law School, was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and served as a Circuit Court judge. He was selected as one of Michigan’s Top Five Most Respected Judges in Lawyer’s Weekly and won the Professional Man of the Year award from the University of Detroit High School.



Judge has been very involved with LDB, serving on our board as secretary, vice chair and board chair. As board chair he oversaw formation of the LDB Foundation, the launch of the Canine

Development Center project and creation of our three-year strategic plan. Obviously, Judge is not one to rest on his laurels. We figured out that, during his tenure on the board, he has:

- Attended 314 board and committee meetings
- Read 1,256 pages of Braille notes
- Drank 628 cups of coffee and eaten 314 muffins!

To date, Judge has had nine Leader Dogs. This means he also:

- Took his dogs out to park four times a day, so over 83,000 times!
- Groomed his dogs five days a week for 10 minutes, equaling 148,200 minutes!

Whew, that’s a lot of faithful dog-duty!

Judge and his wife, Barbara, have four children. He feels that as a LDB client, he has a different perspective than most board members. “I have had the Leader Dog experience of going through training and using a dog,” says Judge. “This gives me a greater insight into the operation of the organization and better knowledge of the programs.”

We are so grateful to Judge for sharing his knowledge and leadership with us for so many years. Thank you Judge!

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

Fredrick D. Bojack

Allan S. Jacob

David Roy Lawrence

Paul and Barbara Teranes



HAVE INDEPENDENCE WILL TRAVEL

Robert "Bob" Rock

After Bob lost sight in both eyes—one due to a nail accident, the other from **glaucoma and cataract surgery** complications—he couldn't find the confidence to walk around the block. Today, he's tearing up the town by walking up to 40 miles a week with his white cane.

More than **75,000 people become blind or visually impaired** each year. However, only **10% travel independently with a white cane or guide dog.** That's why we're making vital orientation and mobility training more accessible for clients. With your help and our expertise, more people can travel safer, easier and with greater freedom than ever before. And together, we'll make people unstoppable.

DONATE TODAY
LeaderDog.org



LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND

FOLLOW THE LEADER   

Richard M. Schultze Family Foundation



Continues Support for Warm Weather Training

For the second year in a row, Leader Dog is the recipient of a grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, which supports work in Lee and Collier counties in Florida (where our warm weather training is delivered) and a seven-county region in Minnesota.

Richard Schulze is best known for founding Best Buy. “As a young boy, Dick Schulze took great pride in his paper route,” says Mary Beth Geier, senior program officer and regional director for the Foundation’s Florida-based operations. “As a result, many of these very early experiences developed his sense of customer service, as well as his business acumen. His determination to do what is right and valuable for the consumer is extremely important to Mr. Schulze. From his early ‘paper boy’ days to our current work at the Foundation, his keen sense of business and customer service drives the work of the Foundation. We want to serve the community by doing meaningful work and we do that by partnering with agencies who are innovative, effective and compassionate!”

When the Greater Naples community was impacted by the storm surge from Hurricane Irma, the Foundation, along with their local nonprofit partners, were able to make grants to help people get back on their feet. The

Foundation also brought many agencies together, including Leader Dog, for a conference on collaboration and collective impact. “Sharing resources and discussing new opportunities with the people who are ‘making things happen’ in the community is always a benefit for everyone involved,” states Geier.

The aspect of guide dog training that impressed the Foundation the most was the level of trust that can be seen and felt by people observing a team traveling together. The Foundation hopes that clients gain access to new opportunities by completing training with a Leader Dog and that they go on to feel comfortable, confident and empowered to live a great life!

If you represent a foundation, fund or trust that has interest in grantmaking that changes lives one person at a time, please contact Kathryn Tuck, director of foundation giving, at 248.218.6431.

GDMI BRIAN YOUNG WORKS
WITH CLIENT GUI DOUYON
AND EMMA DURING WARM
WEATHER TRAINING.



Lion Bill Graham and Leader Dog Gibson



LIONS CLUB CONNECTION

When Lion Bill Graham began losing his sight from cone dystrophy, he was luckier than most—he already knew of organizations to turn to for support. First, he took orientation and mobility (O&M) training through his local Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Then, he turned his attention to Leader Dog. “I’m a Lion, so of course I had always known about Leader Dog,” says Bill. So, he came to Michigan in December 2013 for additional O&M training.

Soon after, Bill and his wife, Dale, moved from rural Georgia to Raleigh, North Carolina to take advantage of the city’s public transportation so Bill could lead a more independent lifestyle.

“Unfortunately,” says Bill, “Between us and Raleigh is Falls of Neuse Road with five lanes of traffic and tens of thousands of cars speeding along each day.”

Bill, who had been contemplating getting a Leader Dog, made up his mind that the time had come. Because he lives in a warm environment, Bill was given the option of warm weather training in Florida. “I knew I would have to work harder since the training time is shorter,” says Bill. But he was up for the challenge.

Bill was paired with Leader Dog (LD) Gibson, a friendly golden retriever. Over the past year, the bond between Bill and LD Gibson has continued to develop. “Gibson is doing absolutely everything I need him to do,” boasts Bill. “I can cross Falls of Neuse Road safely. Before when I made [orientation and mobility] mistakes I would laugh them off, but trying to cross that road really could have killed me. Gibson has helped me across a barrier I just couldn’t navigate alone.”

Lion Bill is his district’s Leader Dog chair, promoting the organization to Lions. Bill and LD Gibson recently returned to Georgia to lead the Toccoa Lions parade with Lion David Chase, a Leader Dog chair, and his Leader Dog, Shadow. “Lions and Leader Dog are two great organizations. I’m honored to be a part of both.”

◀ GDMI SARAH DUYCK OVERSEES BILL GRAHAM AND GIBSON’S TRAINING ON THE STREETS OF FLORIDA.





LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

1039 S. Rochester Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307-3115
Toll Free 888.777.5332
Phone 248.651.9011
LeaderDog.org

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DINNER IN THE DARK

Please **JOIN US** on **Friday, March 9, 2018** for a meal like no other. Dine under blindfold at our Dinner in the Dark at MGM Grand Detroit (in the Grand Ballroom). The night will include a “blind” wine pull and a powerful program featuring Leader Dog clients.

Ticket Prices:

- \$125 SUPPORTER TICKET (dinner only)
- \$225 VIP

VIP Ticket includes: two drink tickets, passed hors d'oeuvres, blindfold walk with a Leader Dog in training and “blind” wine tasting

Dress: Snappy casual

For additional information or to purchase tickets, please visit leaderdog.org/dinner-in-the-dark.

*Hosted by
MGM Grand Detroit*





UPDATE

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LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Warm Weather Training

Taking Leader Dog to Florida

Raising a Future Leader Dog

