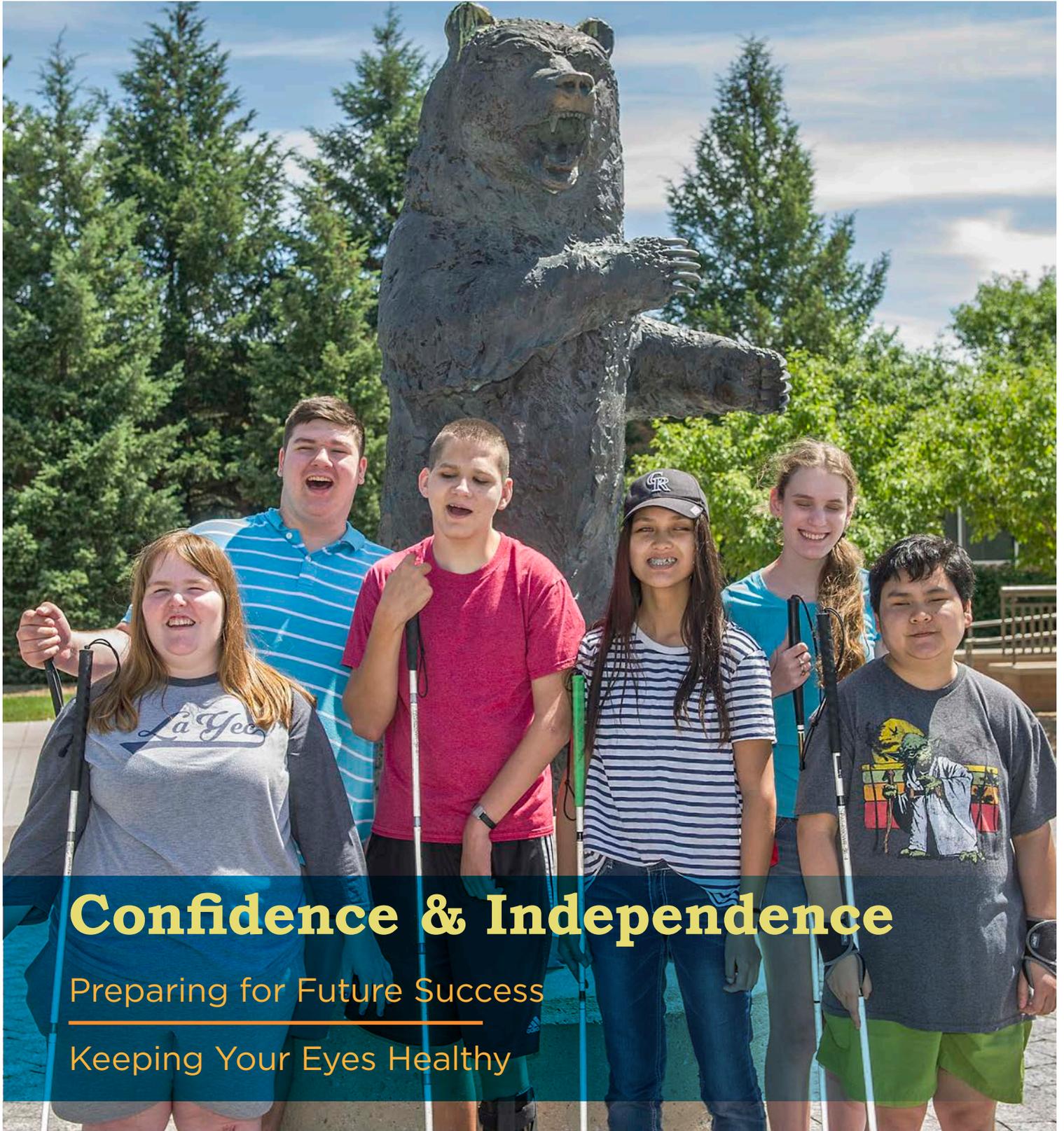




UPDATE

LEADERDOG.ORG | ISSUE 3 | 2018

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND



Confidence & Independence

Preparing for Future Success

Keeping Your Eyes Healthy



Greetings,

It is officially fall. In Michigan that means the leaves are changing color and the morning air is crisp. For many, this is time for back to school. Each morning children gather at bus stops, walk, bike or carpool to school. How might you choose to get a child to school if you were blind or visually impaired?

Every year, 75,000 people become blind or visually impaired in the United States. When this occurs, people who were once independent must now rely on others for assistance in daily tasks. Things that were once routine and taken for granted can suddenly become insurmountable hurdles. Getting to work. Visiting family. Connecting with friends. Walking alone

out the front door. Walking around the block. Getting children to school. But even though life is forever altered, it is not over.

That's where Leader Dog comes in. From Summer Experience Camp to white cane training to matching people with a Leader Dog, we provide the tools and training to reintroduce people to a life of independence, confidence and companionship. It's a way of living that leads to a new perspective on life.

In this issue of Update, you'll learn how Leader Dog increases each client's confidence and ability to travel independently, making tasks that seemed insurmountable, achievable.

It is because of you that we can change the lives of so many people who are blind or visually impaired and that we are able to continue to offer all of our services free of charge.

Thank you for helping us make people unstoppable.

Susan M. Daniels

Susan M. Daniels
President & CEO



Building Skills Over Time

Kayla McDonough

Since she was a toddler, Kayla McDonough has lived with Retinitis Pigmentosa. “For 14 years I have adapted my life to my vision,” said Kayla, “I made things work—but my vision has changed and now I have night blindness and very little peripheral vision.” Kayla realized she needed to develop better travel skills because, “If you don’t have mobility, you can’t get across the street safely.”

To expand her skills, Kayla attended Summer Experience Camp when she was 17, and at 18 she became a camp counselor. “The first time I flew alone to Michigan I needed a flight attendant to get to baggage claim,” explained Kayla. “But the confidence I built during camp and over the following year made it possible for me to make my way to baggage claim on my own this time.”

SUMMER EXPERIENCE
CAMP COUNSELOR KAYLA
MCDONOUGH, FRONT AND
CENTER, POSES FOR A
GROUP SHOT WITH SEVERAL
CAMPERS THIS PAST JUNE.



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

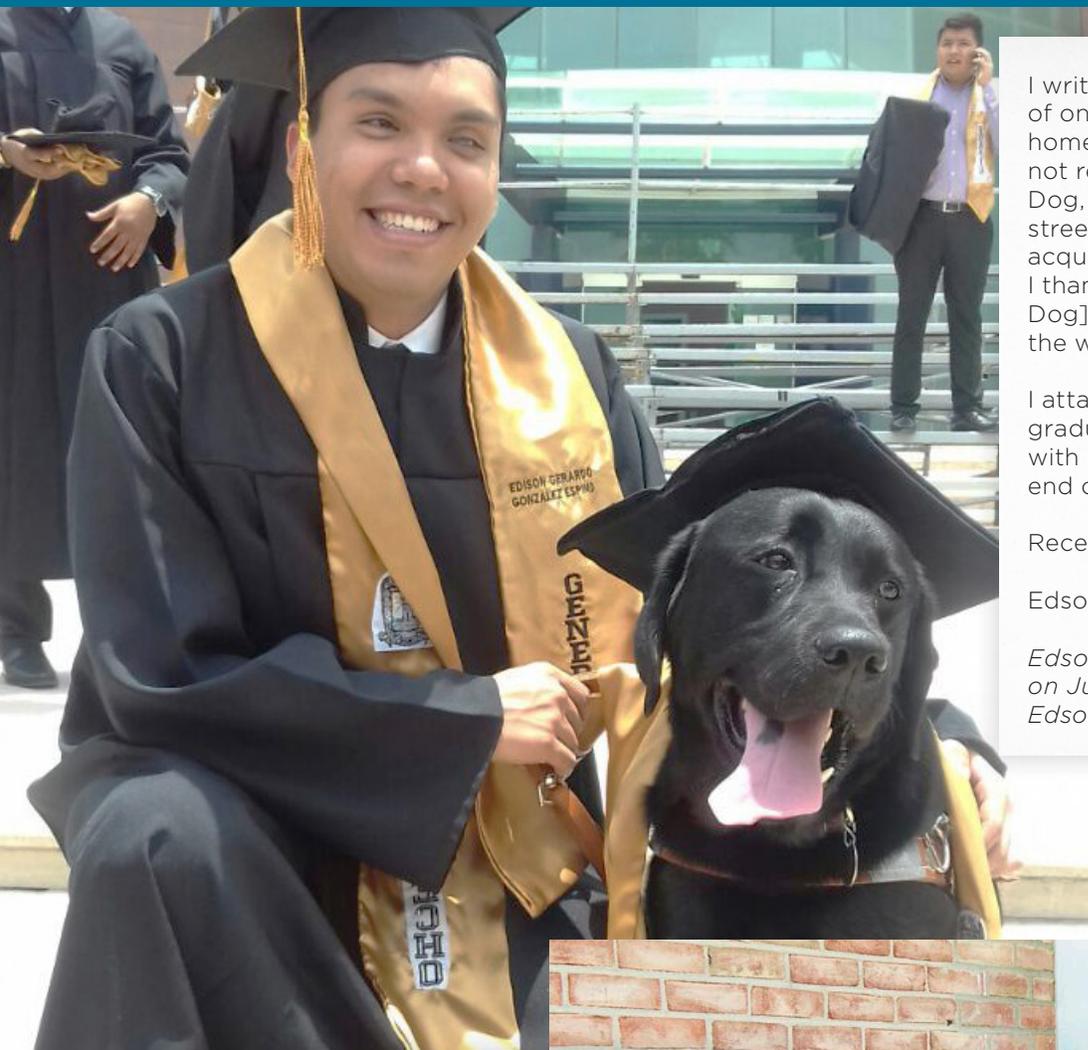
During camp, Kayla fell in love with the staff and environment at Leader Dog. “Leader Dog had already made me more independent during camp,” said Kayla. So, she had no trouble deciding where she would go to get her first guide dog.

Less than a week after finishing as a Summer Experience Camp counselor, Kayla was back on Leader Dog’s campus to receive Leader Dog Kane, a male yellow Labrador retriever. “Kane just kind of melts into me, he always has to be touching me,” laughed Kayla.

Kayla is now a freshman at Kings College in Pennsylvania heading for a degree in business administration. She is living on campus and other than having to enforce “no food off the ground” to LD Kane when in the cafeteria, things are going great.

LDB CLIENT KAYLA MCDONOUGH
POSES FOR A CLASS PHOTO WITH
LD KANE THIS PAST JULY.





I write to you with the pleasure of one who writes to his second home... there is no day that I do not remember my stay at Leader Dog, and when I walk down the street with the freedom that I acquired in the last three months, I thank God infinitely for [Leader Dog] Cable. He is the best dog in the world!

I attached the video of my graduation, where Cable goes up with me. Also, a picture of us at the end of the ceremony (left).

Receive a very strong hug from us!

Edson Gerardo Gonzalez

Edson and LD Cable graduated on June 20, 2018. Two days later Edson became a lawyer.

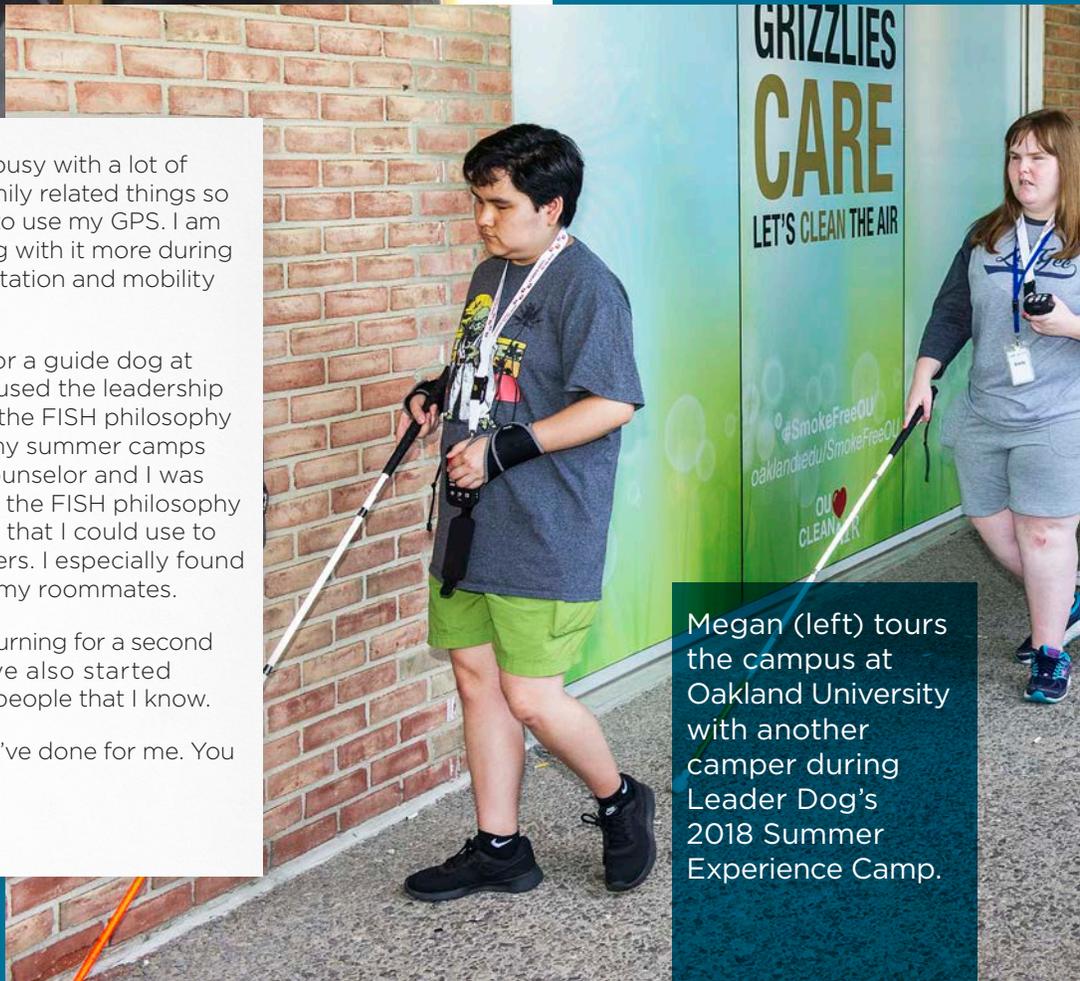
My summer has been pretty busy with a lot of summer camps and other family related things so I have not gotten much time to use my GPS. I am definitely planning on working with it more during the school year with my orientation and mobility instructor.

I am interested in returning for a guide dog at some point. I have definitely used the leadership skills I have learned and also the FISH philosophy this summer. During one of my summer camps I was learning how to be a counselor and I was able to apply all four parts of the FISH philosophy and leadership skills as a tool that I could use to help me and also to help others. I especially found myself using them a lot with my roommates.

I am definitely planning on returning for a second year next summer and I have also started recommending this camp to people that I know.

Thank you for everything you've done for me. You guys are amazing.

Meg Shermer



Megan (left) tours the campus at Oakland University with another camper during Leader Dog's 2018 Summer Experience Camp.

Brian returned home with Ziggy and resumed classes. He has gotten straight A's since going completely blind.

He said that when he lost all vision, he became 'invisible' to others. Ziggy not only allows him to travel independently, but also increases his social interaction.

It has changed his life—and ours.

Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough.

Kathy S.

Kathy with her son Brian and LD Ziggy



Tucker (far left) and friends pose for a photo during Leader Dog's 2018 Summer Experience Camp.

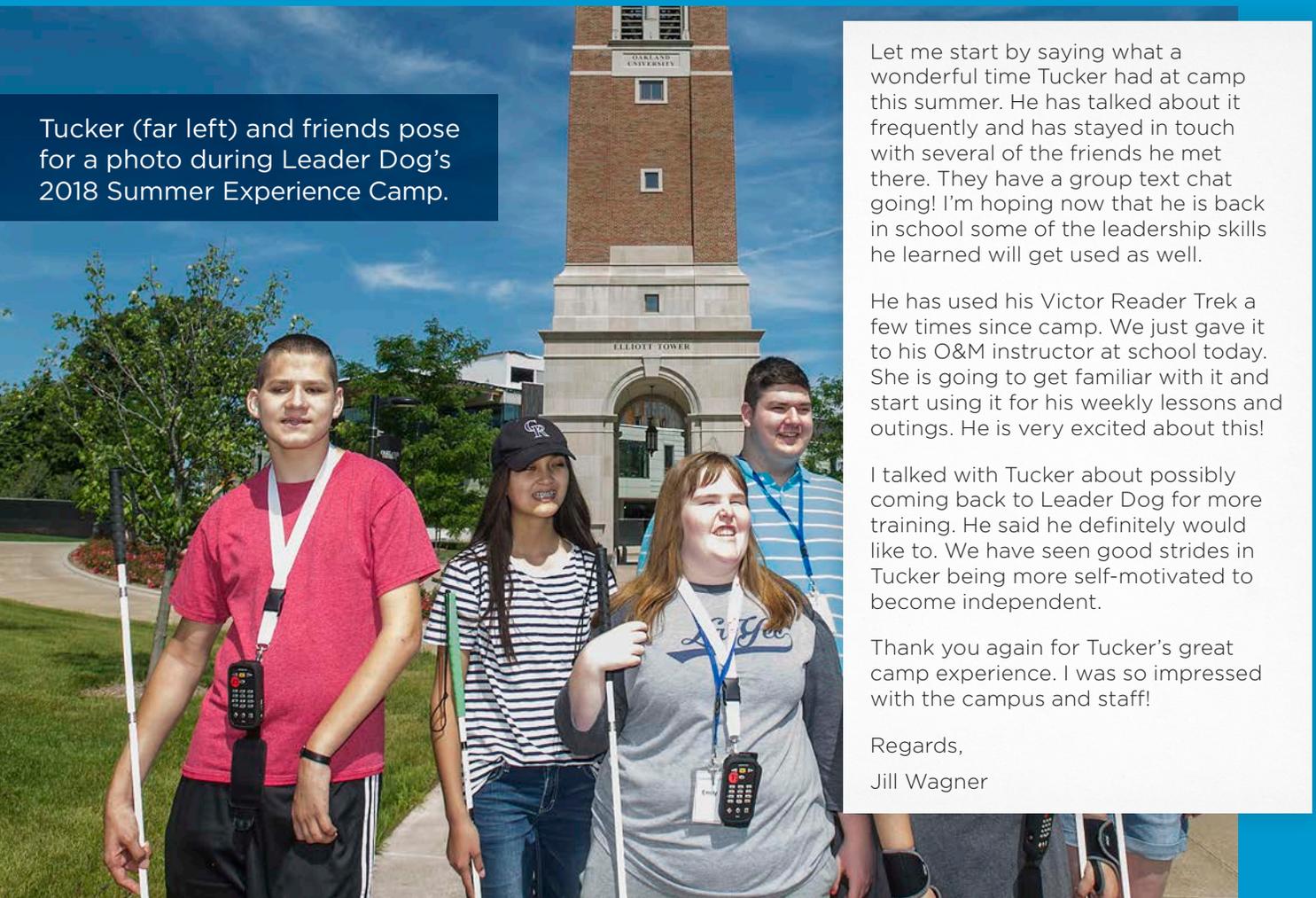
Let me start by saying what a wonderful time Tucker had at camp this summer. He has talked about it frequently and has stayed in touch with several of the friends he met there. They have a group text chat going! I'm hoping now that he is back in school some of the leadership skills he learned will get used as well.

He has used his Victor Reader Trek a few times since camp. We just gave it to his O&M instructor at school today. She is going to get familiar with it and start using it for his weekly lessons and outings. He is very excited about this!

I talked with Tucker about possibly coming back to Leader Dog for more training. He said he definitely would like to. We have seen good strides in Tucker being more self-motivated to become independent.

Thank you again for Tucker's great camp experience. I was so impressed with the campus and staff!

Regards,
Jill Wagner



Preparing for Future Success



Getting a driver's license when turning 16 is a game changer for many teenagers. They often become less dependent on their parents and begin taking more responsibility for themselves as they gain the ability to travel on their own.

But what if this route isn't available to you? For teens who are blind or visually impaired, a driver's license isn't the next step in independent travel, but there are other ways to build the important skills of independence and confidence needed for a successful future.

Leader Dog's Summer Experience Camp offers 16- and 17-year-olds the opportunity to prepare for the next stage of life, helping our campers increase their confidence in their abilities in a multi-layered approach that weaves learning and fun in a unique experience.

It starts by adapting everyday activities to the campers' vision levels. We design kickball, bike riding, rock wall climbing and more to the campers' abilities. When they succeed at an activity, they gain the confidence to take these adaptations back home for others to try, which helps to position them as leaders.

Next, we help them prepare to transition to college. After being shown how once or twice, campers are required to get themselves to meals and meetings on time and take medications if needed (with staff backup). Also, for many campers this is their first extended time away from home,

(continued on page 8)

◀ 2018 SUMMER EXPERIENCE CAMPERS SPEND A MORNING TOURING OAKLAND UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

CAMPERS ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT AND WALKING WITH A LEADER DOG IN TRAINING (RIGHT), LANDMARKING LOCATIONS ON A VICTOR READER TREK GPS (BOTTOM LEFT) AND SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.



“I REALLY ENJOYED CAMP BECAUSE I EXPERIENCED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO LIVE BY MYSELF.”

~MAX C.

“CAMP WAS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE THAT HELPED ME CONNECT WITH OTHER VISUALLY IMPAIRED TEENS AND GOT ME INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A GUIDE DOG.”

~KELLY C.



encouraging them to self-advocate for their specific needs including meal requirements and attending religious services.

Throughout the week, campers learn to program routes and find destinations using a Victor Reader Trek (provided free to each camper by HumanWare). By Friday, campers have enough confidence using the GPS device that they compete in a scavenger hunt through downtown Rochester. Many of the campers return home to teach their O&M instructors how to use the device—a great confidence-booster for them.

The GPS comes in handy during their campus tour of Oakland University. Campers learn how to “landmark” the multiple buildings on campus so they can map their own campus when they get to college. They also learn about the university’s disability support services, which are like those on other U.S. campuses.

The underlying theme for the week follows the FISH! philosophy of leadership—Be Present, Make Their Day, Play and Choose Your Attitude. Campers learn to use these concepts in all aspects of their lives and begin to show them during camp as they band together to raise the entire group’s morale and enhance their daily experiences.

Finally, campers spend time with our guide dog mobility instructors and Leader Dogs in training. They get to care for and travel with a Leader Dog while learning about the responsibilities of working and living with a dog in daily life. They experience how a Leader Dog can increase their mobility and confidence in their own travel skills.

This week is life-changing for many of the campers and results in solidifying their resolve to attend college, making life-long friendships and, for many, clarifying their desire to return to Leader Dog in the future to receive their own guide dog.

Keeping Your Eyes Healthy— *Children's Eye Exams*

PRESENTED BY

Midwest
EYE CONSULTANTS

Are you a parent? You might be wondering when to schedule your child's first eye exam or if there are warning signs to look for that might indicate a vision problem. One in four children have a visual impairment that affects their near and distance vision, peripheral awareness, eye-hand coordination and focusing skills needed to thrive throughout their crucial learning years.

We recommend that infants have their first eye assessment at six months. At this assessment, the doctor will be sure each eye focuses, that they are straight and there is no internal eye disease. Pupil responses and ability to fixate on and follow an object will also be tested. If you notice your baby's eyes are not aligned correctly and don't move together, or there has been an eye injury or physical change that concerns you, schedule an eye exam right away.

After the first exam, your child should be examined annually or according to your optometrist's recommendations. Most childhood

eye conditions can be corrected or effectively treated, especially if caught early. Your child might have passed a school vision screening, but a comprehensive eye exam is more thorough. Screenings are intended to catch obvious symptoms while exams provide a complete assessment of eye health.

Here are some warning signs to look for:

- Loses place or uses finger to maintain place while reading
- Avoids close work
- Tends to rub eyes
- Has headaches
- Turns or tilts head
- Makes frequent reversals when reading or writing
- Omits or confuses small words when reading
- Consistently performs below potential
- Struggles to complete homework
- Squints while reading or watching television
- Holds reading material closer than normal

For more information visit
midwesteyeconsultants.com

TAKE *Care*
of your
EYES!





Though volunteer puppy raisers must be at least 18 years old, those younger can be listed as a secondary raiser, making for a rewarding family project. While the adult has the overall responsibility for the dog, their child can have the daily duties of training, feeding, exercising and attention.

Raising a puppy is a great learning experience that is hard to find elsewhere. After a year with the puppy, the young raiser must say goodbye when the dog returns to LDB for formal guide dog training. So why do they do it? "I'm excited to be a part of something bigger than myself, and that I, even as a young person, can make an impact on our world," said Lexie Medford, age 15. "I've learned that great things are not easy, and require selflessness and dedication, but are completely worth it in the end."

Julia Eichberger, age 16, who is also on our Puppy Raiser Advisory Committee, enjoyed the community support. "I came into puppy raising as a freshman in high school. We train and expose our puppies to different scenarios in the everyday world. The thought of my puppy being able to give someone's freedom back to them is AMAZING!"

As the young puppy raisers become adults, some continue to volunteer and even introduce their own children to the joy of raising a Future Leader Dog, which can definitely be a family affair!

To learn more about raising a puppy, go to LeaderDog.Org/puppy-raise.

PUPPY RAISER JULIA HOLDS FUTURE LEADER DOG CENTURY, THE SECOND LDB PUPPY BEING RAISED BY THE EICHBERGER FAMILY.



"THE THOUGHT OF MY PUPPY BEING ABLE TO GIVE SOMEONE'S FREEDOM BACK TO THEM IS AMAZING."

Mary P. Dolciani Halloran Foundation

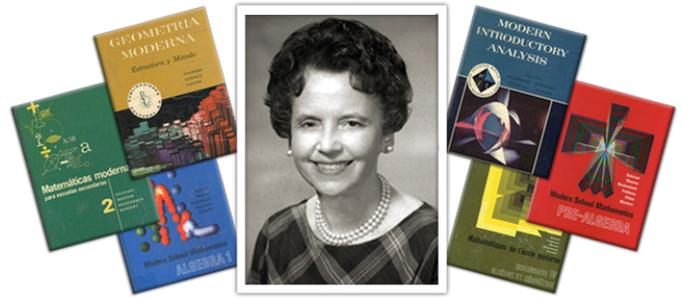


Trailblazing is something Leader Dog's college-bound clients have in common with the namesake of the Mary P. Dolciani Halloran Foundation. Mary loved mathematics, pursuing the field from the early 1940s through the end of her life, a time when few women choose this path. Her efforts yielded a Ph.D., exceptional scholarship and teaching, and over twenty mathematical texts.

Tom Quinn, a member of Mary's extended family, introduced the Foundation to the mission of Leader Dog when he adopted a career changed dog. Tom wanted to positively impact his community while remaining focused on the ideals of the Foundation, which support mathematics education and initiatives for young people. He saw a fit with the training Leader Dog provides to young clients readying themselves for college or graduate school.

Last year, Leader Dog served 26 clients who are also students—10 with Orientation and Mobility Training and 16 with Guide Dog Training. Most of these clients attended training while on summer break. Each guide dog client also received follow-up services after moving onto their college

FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHT



campus to help pattern their dog to a class schedule, connect with the institution's disability services department and assist with acclimating to a new living environment.

Also supporting this generation of clients was the Flagstar Foundation, a new partner with a well-established presence in Michigan.

Leader Dog offers a variety of programming, at no cost to the client or their family, because of the generosity of donors, grantors and corporate sponsors. If you represent a foundation that works with young people ages 16+ and wish to learn more about how you can help, contact Kathryn Tuck, director of foundation giving, at kathryn.tuck@leaderdog.org or 248.218.6431.



MISSION MOMENT

◀ *"I came to camp to learn things before I am 100% blind, which I will be one day. I'm nervous, but I'm learning how to cope with it."*

~Nikolas K.

(Summer Experience Camper)



Nikolas (right) enjoys a tour at Oakland University campus as part of his summer camp experience.

BOARD MEMBER FOCUS

In 2008, we were happy when Margaret Dimond joined our board of trustees; if we knew then how dedicated and influential she would be, we'd have been ecstatic!

Through the past decade Margaret has served on several committees including Programs & Services, Governance and Executive. She served as board vice chair before becoming board chair in 2016 (the first female chair in our history), a position she still holds today.



Margaret puts the “pro” in proponent

by supporting us philanthropically as well as enthusiastically attending all events. She is an amazing ambassador who introduces friends, business owners and family to our mission by educating them about who we are and what we do.

Margaret Dimond, Ph.D.



(pictured (center) with her son Christopher and Pat McNulty at the 2018 Dinner in the Dark)

With an impressive background including her current position as president and CEO of McLaren Oakland, master’s degrees in social work and public administration, and a doctorate in philosophy, Margaret’s understanding of how to provide much-needed human services helps guide the direction of Leader Dog.

Margaret has led us through two strategic planning cycles and held a leadership role during the campaign for our canine development center.

Whatever we ask of Margaret, she does—and very quickly too (her McLaren staff frequently refer to her speed of action as ‘Dimond time!’).

Finally, to bring LDB fully into her life, Margaret adopted a career changed Leader Dog named Kylie.

“I require my son to volunteer and attend fundraising events. These moments provide a child with knowledge and an opportunity to develop sensitivities. Chris still talks about his blindfold experience at Dinner in the Dark, and how hard it would be for him to lose his vision. We would not have even had that dialogue if he were not exposed to simulated sight limitations.”

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

Burrell and Linda Kolonich
Kathleen O’Neill
Memory of John B. Atkins Senior
Kathryn Bradfield
Nancy J. Harpell
Roberta A. McCall



You are invited to join the
LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND
LEGACY SOCIETY

Partnering in Celebration



Coastal Pet Products is a family of pets and people.

Fifty years strong, the Ohio-based, family-owned manufacturer is a leader in the pet industry with an unwavering commitment to innovation, safety and quality (much like Leader Dog). They design quality products that people trust for the pets they love.

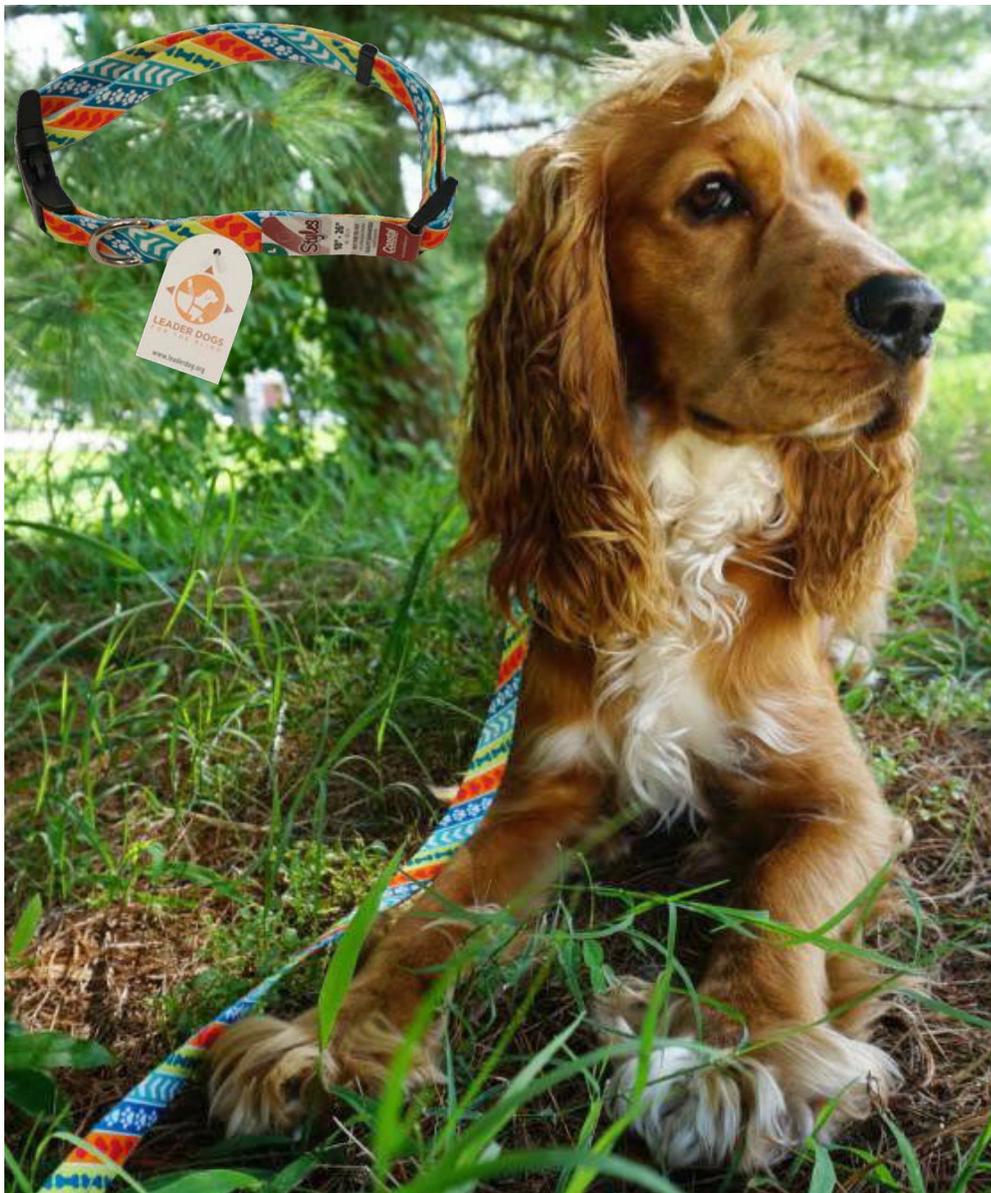
In celebration of their 50 years, they are recognizing the deep relationships they have formed over the years. Coastal Pet believes success is achieved by people who share their values, which is why they partnered with Leader Dog. "Our relationship with

COASTAL PET PRODUCTS

Leader Dogs for the Blind is one that brings us joy and continuously inspires us to learn and do more," said Kim Stout, president.

In support of our partnership, Coastal has created the Outreach pattern, designed to bring awareness to Leader Dog and the programs we provide. A portion of each sale of this pattern is donated to Leader Dog.

We congratulate Coastal on their 50 years of success and, with them, are excited to see what the next 50 years bring.



SPECIAL OFFER

In honor of Coastal, during the months of **October and November**, when you purchase either an Outreach pattern collar and/or leash from the Leader Dog Gift Shop, you will receive a free Leader Dog drinking cup with straw. Go to LeaderDog.org/shop

Kids Learning to Make an Impact



Whether it is a lemonade stand, birthday donations, selling popcorn or Pennies for Puppies, Leader Dogs for the Blind is fortunate to have quite a few donors who haven't even received their drivers licenses yet!

Pennies for Puppies is a school initiative designed to teach children the importance of giving back. Puppies and their raisers attend a fundraising "kick-off" to teach students the importance of their donations and how Leader Dog assists people who are blind or visually impaired. Then, the kids raise funds by helping around the house.

A GROUP OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS USE THEIR COUNTING SKILLS TO TRACK THEIR PROGRESS.

▼

Last year over 25 schools participated in Pennies for Puppies, but one school's efforts stood out from the rest. The kindergarten and third grade classes from Rogers Elementary in Berkley, Michigan raised almost \$1,000! The winning classes received an ice cream party and visit from Future Leader Dog Westley and his puppy raiser, Mary St. Clair.

Sometimes raising money for Leader Dog becomes a family tradition. The Peppertree, a women's clothing store owned by Judith Walby, includes a popcorn sale during their yearly sidewalk sale event. The 2018 popcorn fundraiser was run by the third generation of Leader Dog donors from the family and raised \$500 for Leader Dog.

To learn more about Pennies for Puppies or youth fundraisers, please contact Maureen Smith, special events manager, at msmith@leaderdog.org or 248.659.5046.

ROGERS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENJOY THEIR PENNIES FOR PUPPIES KICK-OFF EVENT.

▼



Walkersville Leos Club Making History



IN EVERY LEADER DOG LIES THE HEART OF A LION—A Leader Dog partner since 1939.

When Walkersville (Maryland) Leo member 8th grader Claire Smith became passionate about Leader Dog, her family surprised her with a trip to Michigan to pick up a Future Leader Dog for the family to raise. Eventually, the little puppy became Leader Dog Sasha and was placed with a client from Minnesota. This experience was great for the entire Smith family, but it also ignited a passion for Leader Dog in the Walkersville Leos Club.

With unrelenting drive and enthusiasm, the Leos planned a “dining in the dark” event to benefit Leader Dog with a goal to raise \$2,000. Dressed in bow ties and cummerbunds, the Leos greeted their guests for an educational evening featuring a silent auction and dinner under blindfold. By the end of the night, they had raised almost \$9,500!

To add to their success, this past spring their second dining in the dark event raised \$11,198!

According to Jennifer Smith, Claire's mother, several factors made the events so successful, including:

- An amazing cause!
- Providing guests with mission-focused information.
- Someone to help guide the vision, to encourage and to give suggestions. Lion Kim Giles of Waco Women's Lions Club (Texas) mentored the Walkersville Leos.
- A wonderful group of kids whose enthusiasm motivated their families and the local community.
- Support from local Lions clubs.
- Families that give countless hours, and in-kind donations and services.
- Press coverage!

With their first donation in 2017, the Walkersville Leos Club solidified their place in Leader Dog history as the first Leos club to earned Top Dog status.

Congratulations and thank you to this wonderful group of kids and their families!





LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

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DINNER IN THE DARK

Please **SAVE THE DATE** for **Friday, March 8, 2019** for a meal like no other. Dine under blindfold at our 2nd Annual Dinner in the Dark fundraiser at MGM Grand Detroit (in the Grand Ballroom).

*Hosted by
MGM Grand Detroit*

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 photo

Dress: Snappy casual

For additional information, please visit leaderdog.org/dinner-in-the-dark.

