Mission Moment

At 41, Angel’s world went dark in a single afternoon due to complications from cataract surgery. She felt her life was over and she was certain her active lifestyle was a thing of the past.

Angel was given a cane but no training on how to use it. After a year of using her cane “like a light saber,” she came to Leader Dog for much needed orientation and mobility training to learn to use it correctly. She learned a lot and enjoyed the training, then on the last day she had the chance to walk with a dog. “That changed everything!” she exclaims. “I knew after walking with that little gal that I wanted a dog, I needed a dog. My brain and heart were set on a path to get my life back even better than it was before I lost my sight.”

“When it comes to Leader Dog training, I believe that if a client comes with the right heart and the right mentality, it will truly change their life. I know it did for me. Leader Dog gave me my life back, and a better one at that. Though I am blind, I sometimes think I ‘see’ life more clearly than I did before.”

~ Angel Prince and her second Leader Dog, Radar
A Message from Susan Daniels

Each year, Leader Dogs for the Blind is the answer for hundreds of people who are in critical need of our services—and the need continues to grow. In the United States, 75,000 more people become blind or visually impaired every year. Blindness changes everything. But even though a person’s life is forever altered, it isn’t over. That’s where Leader Dog comes in. From white cane training to matching people with a guide 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.

CONFIDENCE & INDEPENDENCE
By taking part in white cane training or guide dog training, our clients regain their sense of independence and find something they thought was gone forever—confidence. Before training, many were frightened to walk down the sidewalk alone; but today their travel knows no boundaries.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
With their newfound confidence and ability to travel, our clients can once again – or perhaps for the first time – live a healthy lifestyle that encourages mental and physical wellbeing.

EMPLOYMENT
Whether it’s gaining the confidence to further their education or utilizing their travel skills to ride mass transit to a job interview, Leader Dog programs allow our clients to position themselves to join the workforce.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
When people who are visually impaired gain the ability to travel safely, communities that they were isolated from become accessible again. Also, family and friends experience greater peace of mind and relief from the role of caregiver.

After 80 years, Leader Dog remains steadfast in our belief that every person deserves equal opportunity for travel and independence, which is why all our services are provided at no cost. As always, thank you for your support of Leader Dogs for the Blind, as together we work to make people unstoppable.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Daniels
Susan M. Daniels
President & CEO
By the year 2025, we at Leader Dogs for the Blind envision:

- A national reputation for high quality
- Growth in the number of clients served in all areas
- A diversified revenue base
- The ability to serve Central and South America through partnerships with local providers
- A culture that attracts and retains high quality team members (both paid and volunteer)
- Continuing to pioneer advancements in technology through collaborations and client instruction
Philanthropic Growth

Substantial increases over 2016–17 were made indicating continued donor commitment to the Leader Dog mission. Lions clubs revenue grew 7.5% for a record $2.3 million (from 4,300 clubs), major gifts were up 40.87% and estate giving from wills and bequests grew 13%. Foundation revenue exceeded one million for the second year running.

Branding Updated

In November 2017, we introduced new branding including a fresh logo and associated color palette. The bright colors and streamlined imagery are more modern, higher contrast which is easier to see and offer more flexibility in design. We also developed new program icons and constituent group icons, such as volunteers and donors, to recognize their support and commitment to Leader Dog.

Dinner in the Dark Fundraiser

On March 9, 2018, 500 supporters attended our inaugural Dinner in the Dark fundraiser. The evening included dining under blindfold while a Leader Dog client narrated the dinner including describing food selections and giving tips on eating without sight. The event was a great success, raising more than $281,000.
2018

Developed the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan

Our three-year strategic plan has three main goals: to increase the number of people we serve and improve our quality of service, to grow and diversify our revenue streams to ensure future sustainability, and to advance workplace culture by further engaging team members to achieve the Leader Dog mission.

New Website Launched

In June 2018, we launched an updated website at LeaderDog.org. This site offers greater accessibility to people who are blind or visually impaired and was beta tested by Leader Dog clients using a variety of software programs. It is also mobile friendly and has a more intuitive user experience.

Apprentice eTraining Module

We began development of an on-line training course for apprentice guide dog mobility instructors (GDMIs). This course supports the hands-on learning apprentices experience on a daily basis. It is also available to veteran GDMIs to keep their skills fresh and learn new, innovative ideas in training protocol.
When Jeff began losing his vision to Stargardt disease, a hereditary disorder that affects the retina, he lost more than his active lifestyle — he lost his self-confidence. Now, with the help of Leader Dog Gracie, he’s rediscovered his independence and seeks out adventure everywhere he can.

More than 75,000 people become blind or visually impaired each year. In stark contrast, only 10% travel independently with a guide dog or white cane. But with your help, we’ll raise and train even more of these capable canines. And together, we’ll make people unstoppable.

DONATE TODAY
LeaderDog.org
**PROGRAMS**

**GUIDE DOG TRAINING**

Guide Dog Training is a 25-day residential training program matching hand-selected, highly trained dogs with people who are legally blind, or both deaf and blind.

![Dog icon]  

184

- 10 Deaf-Blind
- 117 GPS* devices issued

**ORIENTATION & MOBILITY TRAINING**

O&M Training is the only seven-day residential orientation and mobility program in the U.S. providing clients with cane skills to become safer, more independent travelers.

![Cane icon]  

92

- 13 GPS* devices issued

**SUMMER EXPERIENCE CAMP**

Summer Experience Camp is a unique summer camp for 16- and 17-year-olds who are legally blind, combining fun outdoor activities and leadership training with an introduction to guide dogs.

![Tent icon]  

18

- 18 GPS* devices issued

*GPS Technology empowers clients to identify their current location and plan their own travel routes. Leader Dog is the only guide dog organization that provides GPS devices to clients free of charge.

**CLIENTS SERVED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breeding Stock Hosts</td>
<td>104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puppy Raisers</td>
<td>544</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Campus*</td>
<td>611</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes 28 Board Trustees

**VOLUNTEERS**

- Breeding Stock Hosts: 104
- Puppy Raisers: 544
- On-Campus*: 611

FY 2017 | 2018  | 9
When Rita was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disease that damages the retina, she found her enthusiasm for life waning out of fear. Now, after learning to travel safely using a white cane, her confidence and her go-getter attitude have returned with a vengeance.

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.

DONATE TODAY
LeaderDog.org
Revenue

Expenses

Other

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND
Summarized Statement of Activities
For the year ended June 30, 2018

Revenue

Contributions $15,201,797
Investment & Other 892,890
Total revenue 16,094,687

Expenses

Programs & Services 13,203,295
General & Administrative 1,850,305
Fundraising 2,391,658
Total expenses 17,445,258

Change in net assets (1,350,571)
Net assets, beginning of year 28,922,783
Net assets, end of year $27,572,212
Knowing that he will one day be totally blind makes Nikolas nervous, but he wants to take the steps now to learn to cope with the future. His week at Summer Experience Camp allowed him to start a support system of peers and mentors that will help him along the way.

Summer Experience Camp is a life-changing learning program for teens ages 16–17 who are legally blind or visually impaired. It combines summer activities with independent travel skill and leadership training. With your help, we combine the summer of a lifetime with skills that last a lifetime.

DONATE TODAY
LeaderDog.org
CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  (as of 11.13.18)

Executive Officers
Susan Daniels, President & Chief Executive Officer
Lorene Suidan, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
Rod Haneline, Vice President & Chief Programs & Services Officer

Officers
Margaret Dimond, PhD, Board Chair
John Hebert, Immediate Past Chair
Steve Guarini, Vice Chair
Kathryn Davis, Secretary
Kim Gorman, Treasurer

Trustees
Arun Anand
Franklin Carmona, DVM
Jill Gaus
Mark Guthrie
Paul Hemeryck
Michele Honomichl
Justice Marilyn Kelly
Daniel Markey
Thomas O’Masta
Paul Preketes
John Reed
Hendrik Schuur
Mary Smith
Daniel Spriet
The Honorable Paul Teranes
Douglas Wright, CPA

Honorary Trustees
Celia Domalewski
Lon Grossman
Tom Kimble
James Platzer
Tom Thompson, PDG
John Villa

Trustees Paul Preketes and Tom O’Masta pose for a photo with a golden retriever puppy in the canine center.

Enjoying the 2018 Dinner in the Dark are Immediate Past Chair John Hebert and wife Margo, and Trustee Dr. Franklin Carmona and wife Jacqueline.
BOARD COMMITTEES

Alternative Revenue Task Force
Researched and develops strategies to increase alternative revenue sources per the organization’s strategic plan.

Audit Committee
Oversees the organization’s annual external audit and its system of internal controls over financial reporting.

Executive Committee (Board Officers only)
Conducts such business as is necessary or desirable during those periods when the Board of Trustees is not in session.

Finance Committee
Oversees fiscal accountability and budgetary affairs.

Governance Committee
Establishes and maintains a dynamic, diverse, engaged and knowledgeable Board of Trustees.

Mission Assurance & Quality Committee
Oversees performance metrics, outcomes, quality, continuous improvement and strategic plan progress and ensures alignment with the mission statement of Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Philanthropy Committee
Oversees development and fundraising activities, ensuring that the case for support is strong, current and based on the organization’s mission and goals.

Technology Committee
Serves as a strategic partner for the Leader Dog team, focusing on the alignment of core business and technology so that the organization remains in the mainstream of continually evolving technology and IT solutions.

MISSION MOMENT

“I wanted to fine tune my cane skills and my GPS skills. [During O&M training] I faced my fears of escalators and moving sidewalks! I haven’t had O&M training since 2007, and Leader Dog’s O&M training has exceeded my expectations.”
~Elizabeth Ulrich

Sarah Osaer (left), extended services coordinator, gives Elizabeth a quick GPS lesson before she heads out for O&M training.
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Accreditations
International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF)
National Accreditation Council (NAC)

Member
Assistance Dogs International (ADI)
Council of US Dog Guide Schools (CUSDGS)
American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)
VisionServe Alliance
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

For more information about Leader Dogs for the Blind, go to LeaderDog.org or call 888.777.5332.

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Email: leaderdog@leaderdog.org

LeaderDog.org
FOLLOW THE LEADER