



# UPDATE

LEADERDOG.ORG | ISSUE 2 | 2019

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND



## Family & Community

Impacting an Entire Family

Keeping Your Eyes Healthy

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Greetings.

**W**e are proud to be celebrating our 80th anniversary this year! Much has changed from our farmhouse beginnings, but we have never wavered from our mission: empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

As the weather warms, more people seem to be out and about in our neighborhoods and communities. Did you know that of the 1.3 million people in the United States who are legally blind, only 10% travel independently with either a white cane or guide dog? This means that thousands of people are waiting at home for a family member or friend to accompany them out into their community.

When someone loses their vision, the loss impacts more than just the individual. Friends, family and community often fear for the person's safety and wellbeing. That's where Leader Dog steps in. Providing the means for independent travel through our white cane training and guide dog program alleviates the burden of care and provides peace of mind for family and friends. When people who are visually impaired gain the ability to travel safely and independently, their communities become accessible again.

In this issue of Update, you'll learn more about how Leader Dog programs impact the lives of many, including our clients' families and communities.

It is because of you that we have been able to serve more than 16,000 individuals over the last 80 years. It is because of you that we will be here to serve the next 16,000 individuals by providing all our services free of charge.

Thank you for helping us make people unstoppable!

*Susan M. Daniels*

Susan M. Daniels  
President & CEO

LeaderDog.org  
FOLLOW THE LEADER



LEADER DOGS  
FOR THE BLIND

80  
YEARS



## A Family Working Together

### Steve Barshaw

When Steve Barshaw abruptly lost most of his sight, he spent a year in denial. It took a little nudge from his wife Lenore to make his next year one of growth.

As a high school transition coordinator, Lenore Barshaw works with children who are blind, so she was familiar with her state's Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. But when she reached out to them to get help for Steve, she learned that because he wasn't planning to go back to work, white cane training was not available to him. "So, I went on the internet and found the O&M Training program at Leader Dog," explained Lenore. "I'm glad Leader Dog offered this program because there were no other options for Steve to get the training he needed."

Steve had sheltered his family from how bad his vision had become. He gave up driving but continued to do a lot of walking. "Walking alone before I learned how to use a white cane was creepy," admits Steve. "Afterward it was pretty cool, especially because I didn't bump into people anymore."

Steve's decision to return to Leader Dog for Guide Dog Training was firmly supported by Lenore and their two adult children. "Steve is such a great husband and dad," said Lenore, "the kids were very excited for him. We were all looking forward to his independence as much as he was."

As for Steve, he is happy that he's built some freedom and lessened the burden on his wife. "I can now find the restroom by myself when we go out to dinner," he said. "[Leader Dog] Utah has given me independence when I'm alone and when I'm with my family."

If you know anyone that is in need of O&M Training or Guide Dog Training, please refer them to us at 888.777.5332 or [LeaderDog.org](http://LeaderDog.org).



### ▲ LDB CLIENT STEVE BARSHAW AND LD UTAH—MAY 2019

STEVE'S FAMILY POSES FOR A PHOTO DURING A VISIT TO LEADER DOG.





Happy 6th birthday to the best Leader Dog ever. Tulip has been my sidekick for 4 1/2 years now and I forget how to maneuver without her. She finds people for me... finds the car (no matter what car I ask for), she has kept me from walking in the path of a moving car (don't get me started on cars you can't hear), and she always finds the ladies room (I think).

This past year has been hard on us as a team due to my health, it has nothing to do with her abilities. She has been patient with me. She knows when I'm not feeling well and settles in.

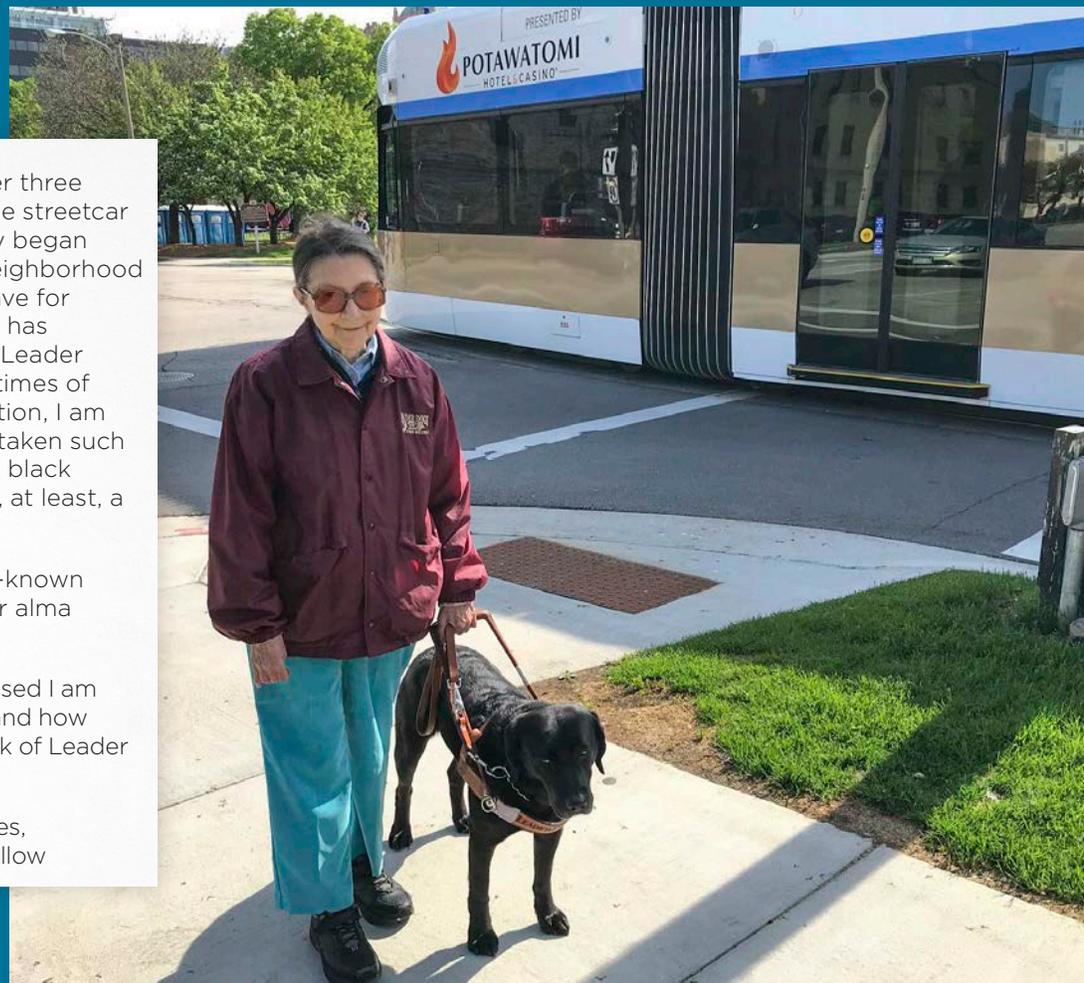
Jackie Panos  
Facebook Post 05.09.19

In November of 2018, after over three years of major construction, the streetcar in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, finally began operation. What a different neighborhood my fourth Leader Dog and I have for walking now! Since my Willow has been an excellent trooper and Leader Dog during these challenging times of construction and trolley operation, I am so very proud of her. She has taken such good care of us that I think my black Labrador deserves a trophy or, at least, a blue ribbon!

Certainly, Willow is a very well-known Leader Dog and represents her alma mater especially well.

Each day, I fully realize how blessed I am to have my fourth Leader Dog and how immensely important is the work of Leader Dog and its entire staff.

With our thanks and good wishes,  
Alice Massa and Leader Dog Willow



Five years ago, Skylar and I met for the first time. Sue, our instructor, made this whole story possible. Thank you, Sue. I will never forget your help and support in those first moments of our life together.

Skylar: Five years since you entered that room like a gale—wiping out the cookies I had in my hands. From the first moment you made me laugh. There is so much love, so much generosity and so much kindness in that little body that I don't know how it doesn't overflow. With you I have learned, I have grown. To this day we are more and more united. You've given me strength when I didn't have it. We have had each other and that is the greatest thing.

Thank you always, you have given me the greatest gift that can be made. You have given me a part of my life.

Laia Piana Alabau  
Facebook Post 05.27.19



*Laia - Bottom center  
Sue - Top right*



*Margaret Harrington  
and LD Estee*

I am a great supporter and fan of Leader Dog for all they do. The amazing freedom my mom has enjoyed with her Leader Dog, Estee, and me with my career changed dog, Trixi, are great examples of the powerful bond of dogs with people.

My mom, Margaret Harrington, went through Leader Dog training in 2005 when she was 84. She was diagnosed with macular degeneration and it rapidly took her central vision.

My mom lived independently with Estee until 2016 when she got very ill. Since that time my siblings and I take turns staying with mom and Estee 24/7. No one taught Estee to wake us up when mom gets up in the middle of the night, but she seems to know we are there to help, so she wags her tail on the guest bedroom door. I think Estee is about 15. My family and I are very grateful that Leader Dog helped my mom live independently for so long.

With Kind regards,  
Jane

# Impacting an Entire Family



When Kayla McDonough decided to attend Summer Experience Camp and then Guide Dog Training, she was looking for ways to meet new people and further develop her own independence. She didn't know what an impact her decision would have on the lives of her family.

## **Zach McDonough, Kayla's Brother**

Until his sophomore year of college at Marywood University, where he studies history and pre-law, Zach McDonough hid his visual impairment. He didn't want anyone to treat him differently. Because of this, he struggled a bit and didn't get involved in many activities. Then he met his sister's new Leader Dog.

"When I had the chance to go walking on a trail and see how Kayla's dog, Kane, was able to take her around things, it just clicked for me," said Zach. "I thought of all the things I would miss. When I was younger, I was stubborn and refused help. Now I realized help would be good for me."

After coming to Guide Dog Training himself and receiving Leader Dog Wings, Zach's increased independence put him on a new path. He joined the Phi Mu Delta fraternity, attends Agape Latte storytelling sessions on campus and will be a freshman orientation guide in the fall. He will also be a resident advisor in a dorm next year.

"My close friends are amazed at Wings' training—when the harness goes on and off, from work to play," explains Zach.

*(continued on page 8)*

◀ LDB CLIENT ZACH TRAINS AT YATES CIDER MILL, FOLLOWED BY A TRIP TO A LOCAL PET STORE.

LDB CLIENT KAYLA AND LD KANE (FAR RIGHT). ▶

“MY MOM  
COMMENTS THAT  
SHE HAS SEEN  
THE INCREASED  
CONFIDENCE IN  
BOTH THE KIDS.”

~JEANNINE PENZONE





“I HAVE TO THANK KAYLA BECAUSE SHE SHOWED ZACH THAT BEING BLIND DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A BURDEN OR A STRUGGLE.”  
~JEANNINE PENZONE

“I always went out at night with a friend because I have no night vision. Now, if there is something only I want to do, I'm down to go alone.”

### **Jeannine Penzone, Kayla and Zach's Mother**

Like most parents, Jeannine was nervous about sending her daughter to another state on a plane by herself. “There were no problems,” said Jeannine, “Just me worrying. I was glad she went to [Summer Experience Camp]. She met friends and saw people who were blind living a ‘normal’ life.” Jeannine also noticed that Kayla was more comfortable getting places on her own and was thrilled when Kayla started using her cane more often.

It got even better when Kayla joined the track team. “I was ecstatic,” exclaimed Jeanine. “For these moments, she was just like everyone else and she didn't have to have that fear. It was great to cheer her on and support her. I also don't have to keep having the conversation of ‘You can do whatever you want’ vs. ‘No, I can't,’ because now she knows that she can.”

Her enthusiasm continues with Zach. “The clubs and activities he's involved in now...” she paused. “He really came out of his shell. I am happy. I think it's awesome.”

“The only negative is that I get yelled at when I call either of them at school and say, ‘I need to see the baby,’ laughs Jeannine. “The response is always, ‘What about me, Mom?’ But those dogs just fit in so well as a part of our family.”

### **Back to Kayla**

“I got Kane right before I moved in for freshman year,” said Kayla, who attends King's College for management and business administration. “I'm shy, and he helped me make friends during orientation.” Since LD Kane is the first service dog on campus, Kayla enjoys educating people about what he does for her.

Like Zach, Kayla will be on the freshman orientation staff for her college in the fall. She is also involved in the student government association as the secretary of Class 2022.

Kayla and Zach have high praise for Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Alyssa Ozrovitz, who (coincidentally) trained them both. “If Alyssa hadn't trained Kayla and Kane,” said Zach, “I'd never have gone to Leader Dog.” They both agree, “She's our top dog!”

# Keeping Your Eyes Healthy— *Cataracts*

PRESENTED BY



**A** cataract is the clouding of the crystalline lens, which is located inside the eye behind the iris, the colored part of the eye. When the lens is clear, light passes through and forms a crisp image onto the retina. However, when the lens is cloudy, light scatters as it passes through resulting in a blurred image.

Cataracts most commonly form from age-related changes in individuals 55 and over but occasionally can occur in infants (known as a congenital cataract). Other factors that affect cataract formation include increased UV exposure, use of systemic corticosteroids, diabetes, malnutrition, smoking and ocular trauma. Common symptoms of cataracts include decreased vision, glare, reduced intensity of colors and rings/halos around lights at nighttime. Cataracts usually form very slowly and can lead to blindness if not treated.

Timing of cataract treatment is dependent upon the severity and number of visual symptoms a person may experience. Once symptoms get bad enough to affect daily activities (including nighttime driving), cataracts are surgically removed and replaced with

a clear lens implant. The process of cataract removal takes approximately ten minutes and is done as an outpatient procedure. Since cataracts do not come back, this is a one-time surgery.

Annual dilated eye exams can help diagnose cataracts. Your optometrist will educate you regarding the right time for you to consider cataract surgery. In the meantime, smoking cessation, a healthy diet high in antioxidants and UV protection when outdoors may help slow the progression of cataracts.

For more information visit:

<https://www.cataractandlaserinstitute.net/cataracts>

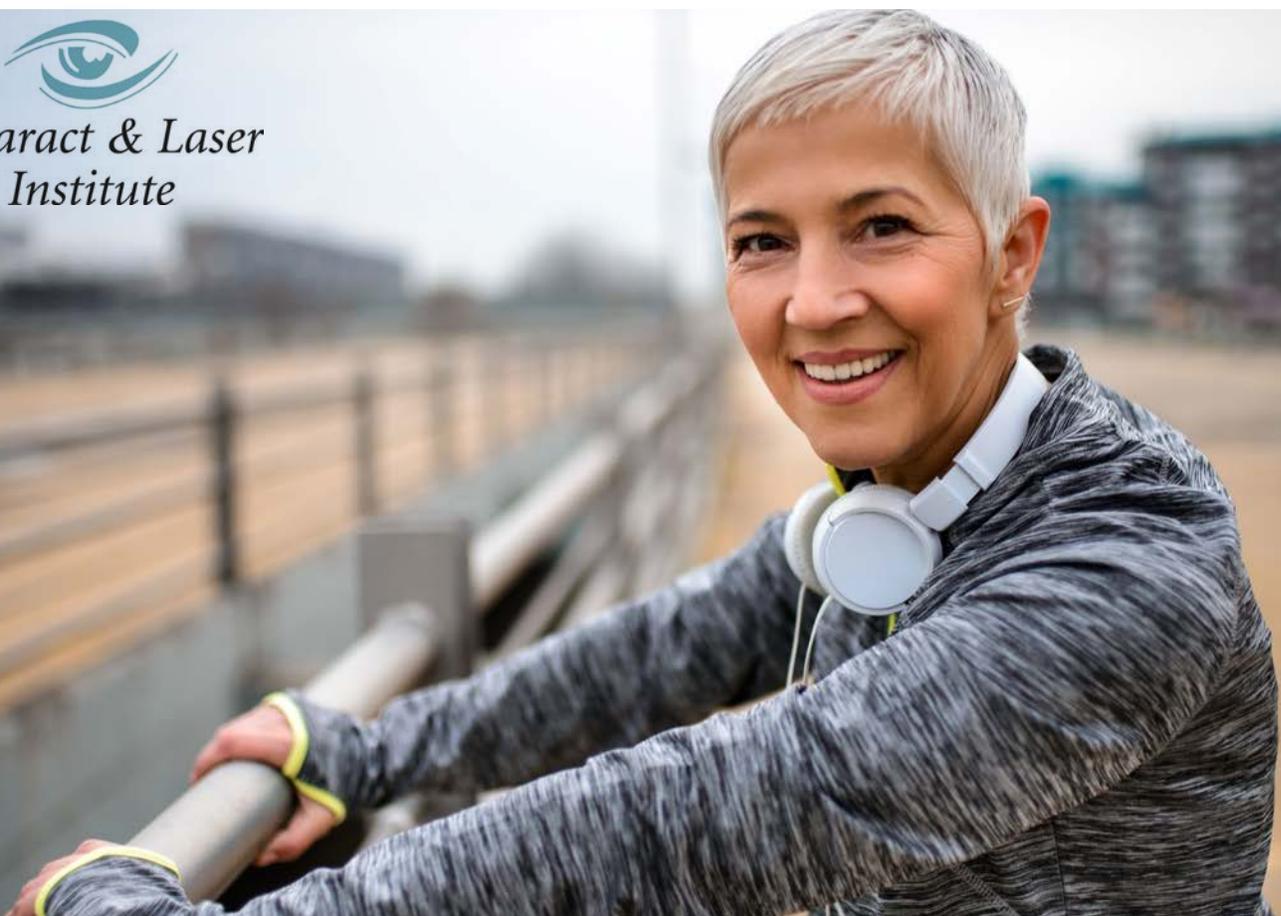


Resources

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1502210/>

<https://www.aoa.org/patients-and-public/eye-and-vision-problems/glossary-of-eye-and-vision-conditions/cataract>

*by Dr. Kora Edwards*



## Advantix II for Fleas & Ticks

Summer has arrived, which means long walks and fun adventures with our dogs. Unfortunately, fleas and ticks usually come along with the warmer weather and we need to protect our canine companions from these biting pests and the diseases that they carry. It is especially important to provide protection for those who have working dogs. Service dogs go everywhere their handler goes, so it's very important to keep them free of fleas, ticks and mosquitoes.

Because guide dogs are often in public spaces, we recommend that they get flea and tick preventative year round rather than only during the spring and summer months. Dr. Smith at Leader Dogs for the Blind recommends Tevrapet Activate II as their official flea and tick solution. Activate II kills and repels fleas and ticks on contact, which means these nasty pests don't have to bite your dog to die.

If you are a dog owner who lives in an area where there are a lot of water and trees, it is important to treat with a product that repels and keeps pests from landing on your dog and is waterproof for those dogs who love water sports. Activate II, a generic alternative to K9 Advantix® II\*, is waterproof, kills and repels fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. Activate II also kills flea eggs and larvae preventing re-infestation by breaking the flea lifecycle.

The main thing to remember is to treat your pets once a month, especially during the spring and summer. A few minutes a month will save you and your pets a lot of discomfort by keeping them and their environment pest free.

*\*This product is not manufactured or distributed by Bayer, the maker of K9 Advantix® II for dogs. K9 Advantix® II for dogs is a registered trademark of Bayer.*



LIVING A LIFE  
WITHOUT BOUNDARIES



tevräpet™

# Petco Foundation Guide Dogs for Veterans



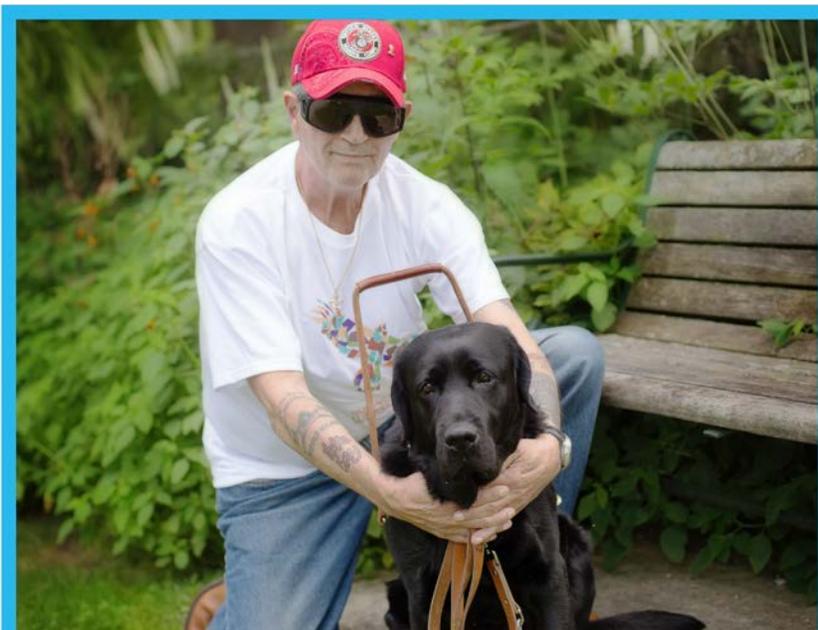
## FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHT

The Petco Foundation has made a \$5,000 investment in Leader Dog to support securing guide dog training for military members and veterans who are visually impaired and wish to travel with a Leader Dog. Over the years veterans of all ages have been referred to us by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to receive a Leader Dog.

There are currently more than 50 veterans who are working with Leader Dogs or have a pending application for training. The most common reason a veteran seeks a Leader Dog is to be able to better support their family, followed closely by achieving greater autonomy and independence. This grant was made possible through the Petco Foundation's annual Helping Heroes fundraising campaign, in partnership with Merrick Pet Care. Each October during the campaign, Petco customers are invited to donate online and in Petco stores across the country to support the life-changing work of service, therapy and working animals.

This is the fourth consecutive grant from the Helping Heroes campaign, and seventh overall, that we have received from the Petco Foundation. To date, the Petco Foundation has invested more than \$12 million to support the transformative effect that therapy, service and working animals have on people across the globe.

For more information about the Petco Foundation, visit [petcofoundation.org](http://petcofoundation.org). For more information about how your foundation can support Leader Dog's work with veterans, please contact Kathryn Tuck, director of foundation giving, at [kathryn.tuck@LeaderDog.org](mailto:kathryn.tuck@LeaderDog.org) or 248.218.6431.



Our Helping Heroes are Proudly Supported by:



## SIMPLE WAYS TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT



Leaving a donation to Leader Dogs for the Blind in your will or trust is a very simple but impactful way to support the work we do and ensure our future. Another way to make a lasting difference is to designate Leader Dog as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, IRA, life insurance or donor-advised fund.

To find out more about donating these types of assets or joining our Legacy Society, please contact Lora Cabarios, director of national personal giving at [lora.cabarios@LeaderDog.org](mailto:lora.cabarios@LeaderDog.org) or 248.650.7109.

### NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Lions Lowell & Kathy Gladd  
Kenneth J. & Cheryl A. Czerwinski



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



### Kathie Davis

*(pictured with her spouse, Joe, at the 2018 Dinner in the Dark event)*

It is not an easy task to get experienced, highly motivated people to volunteer on a nonprofit board of trustees. That is why we are doubly grateful that Kathryn (Kathie) Davis joined our board in 2011.



First, she has a very strong background in human resources and administration, which is very beneficial to our board. Second, she has been key in helping with recruitment, engagement and retention strategies for both employees and leadership volunteers,

which has attracted new board members with a variety of backgrounds.

Kathie served on our human resources committee in the past and is now a member of our governance committee. She is also currently the board secretary. In November, Kathie will be nominated as board vice chair and, after two years

in that role, will be nominated as board chair.

Kathie's successful career includes her current position as vice president, employee relations for Fifth Third Bancorp, along with previous human resource positions in finance, education and health care. She holds a master's degree in management from Walsh College.

We appreciate Kathie's extreme passion for the Leader Dog mission, which she shows through her board service, by attending events, sharing our story on social media, and introducing new people to our organization.

We thank Kathie for serving as a wonderful ambassador for Leader Dog!

*"While serving on the HR committee, I was able to see first hand the incredible commitment of the employees, leaders and volunteers at Leader Dog, and that made me want to get even more involved. As a board member, I continue to be inspired by our amazing clients and am dedicated to continuing to fulfill the Leader Dog mission every day!"*



## MISSION MOMENT

*"Already things have changed. I'm way more independent, way more confident. It's like having a person with you, a great emotional support. And people talk to me!"*

*~Cerridwyn Nordstrom and her first Leader Dog, Iris*



# Raising a Future Leader Dog, a Life-Changer



**E**ach year, we have a goal to match 200 Leader Dogs with 200 individuals who are blind or visually impaired. To do so, we rely on the continued dedication and support of 400+ volunteer puppy raisers, both new and returning!

Every puppy raiser gives 12-15 months of their time, energy and love to raising a puppy for us. Through daily care and training, puppy raisers provide the solid foundation of socialization and skills our puppies need to begin formal guide dog training upon their return to Leader Dog. We are extremely grateful to every one of these amazing volunteers.

Recently, we had the privilege of sitting down with four current puppy raisers to get their insight into their own puppy raising experiences.

### How many Future Leader Dogs have you raised?

**Mary St. Clair:** “Future Leader Dog Enzo is the 7th puppy I have raised for Leader Dog.”

**Joe & Trudy Nowak:** “We are raising puppy number 8 at this time. His name is George Orwell.”

**Kathy Pardee:** “We are first time puppy raisers. Learning together. Every day. And hopefully will be able to raise many more!”

### What has been the most unexpected part of the puppy raising experience for you?

**Joe & Trudy:** “Watching our puppies mature into working dogs. When we say that, we mean when the light switch goes on when they are around four months old. They know they are different from other dogs. Best learning experience ever.”

**Kathy:** “The most unexpected part was the amazing joy [Future Leader Dog] Shayne has brought to our lives!”

### What would you say to someone who is considering raising a puppy for Leader Dog?

**Mary:** “I would tell future raisers to ask questions of their counselors, other raisers and the puppy development team. You’re not in this alone.”

**Kathy:** “If you have time and patience the rewards will far exceed your efforts and expectations.”

### What has kept you raising puppies for Leader Dog?

**Mary:** “I keep raising to learn more techniques to be a better raiser. I also enjoy the company of like-minded people and have made quite a few friends.”

**Joe & Trudy:** “The clients and what our puppies mean to them. Learning about how the puppies change their lives in so many ways, and what the next story will be in our puppy’s life.”

We have an amazing community of puppy raisers. Many have formed lifelong friendships through their raising experiences. If you have been considering raising a puppy for Leader Dog, now is the time... to not only change the life of someone who is blind or visually impaired, but also your own.

Please visit [LeaderDog.org](http://LeaderDog.org) or call 888.777.5332 to learn more and apply to raise a Future Leader Dog.



*Joe & Trudy Nowak*



So how do a bunch of Corvette lovers become so involved with Leader Dogs for the Blind? Through the Lions clubs of course! More specifically, through Erich Senft, a member of the Armada Lions Club of Michigan.

In 1976 a group of GMC engineers who shared a love of the Corvette started a club to celebrate their passion for this great American sports cars. The current president, Erich Senft, was one of the founding members. Most of the other members were from the greater Rochester area, so when the club decided to host fundraisers and support a local charity, Leader Dogs for the Blind was a natural choice.

Every June the club hosts a Corvette Set Car Show at Canterbury Village in Lake Orion, Michigan. Through the years, the club has raised more than \$224,000 for Leader Dog.

“My hope for the future of the GMC Corvette Set is to continue to add new members to the club who share our love of Corvettes and community involvement.” said Senft. New events, like their successful Corvettes & Coffee hosted on Leader Dog’s campus, is just one of the ideas he hopes will attract new members.

The club’s longtime commitment to Leader Dog is a true testament of their passion. We are honored to partner with such a passionate group of supporters!

If your company is interested in volunteer or fundraising opportunities to help Leader Dog further advance our mission, please contact Maureen Smith, special events manager, at [msmith@leaderdog.org](mailto:msmith@leaderdog.org) or 248.659.5046.

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MELISSA WEISSE, LDB  
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY  
OFFICER AND ERICH  
SENFTE AT CORVETTES  
& COFFEE.



# Lions Present A Different Bark & Brew



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

When Vice District Governor Terry Hawkins visited Leader Dog, she saw the Bark & Brew shirts for sale in the gift shop and the name conjured up all sorts of fun ideas for a fundraiser she could do back in Lubbock, Texas. During Terry's upcoming year as District Governor, she wanted an event that would raise awareness of Lions and bring many Lions together—to serve and meet each other. And she wanted all profits to go to her two passions: Texas Lions Camp and Leader Dogs for the Blind.

The other Lions she shared this idea with reacted enthusiastically. They craved an event where people could bring their kids and dogs to enjoy the day as a family. Many of the 43 Lions clubs in her district offered ideas: wiener dog races, yoga with your dog, special-needs dog races, a pet parade, costume contest and more, including booths to introduce people to Leader Dog and Texas Lions Camp.

Lions from many clubs pitched in by handling logistics, club communications, website development, securing vendors, providing logo wear and printing. The event proved to be tons of fun. Many families attended, and Lions were everywhere decked out in their vests. Everyone worked cheerfully together including the Poo Patrol from the Slaton and Whitharral Lions clubs, who insisted they had fun too!

The event made money, so they were able to make ample contributions to Texas Lions Camp and Leader Dogs for the Blind. Mission accomplished.

"I couldn't be more grateful to my fellow Lions for their support," said Terry, "And I couldn't be prouder to be a small part of this great society of people who live our motto, 'We serve.'"

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LIONS (L TO R:) DR. DOUGLAS KLEPPER, TERRY HAWKINS (HOLDING JACK) AND JOHN EADS AT CAMP BARK & BREW FOR TEXAS 2-T2.





## LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

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# Save the Date



## DOUBLE DOG DARE | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

On September 21, we Double Dog Dare you to rappel down 15 stories! The first 92 individuals to raise a minimum of \$1,000 will earn a spot to go over the edge for Leader Dogs for the Blind. All money raised goes to providing lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Prefer to keep your feet on the ground?

Come watch and cheer on participants as they face their fears and go over the edge for Leader Dog!

**Oakland Towne Center | 28 N. Saginaw Street, Pontiac, MI**

For more information or to register: [myleaderdog.org/DOUBLE-DOG-DARE](http://myleaderdog.org/DOUBLE-DOG-DARE)