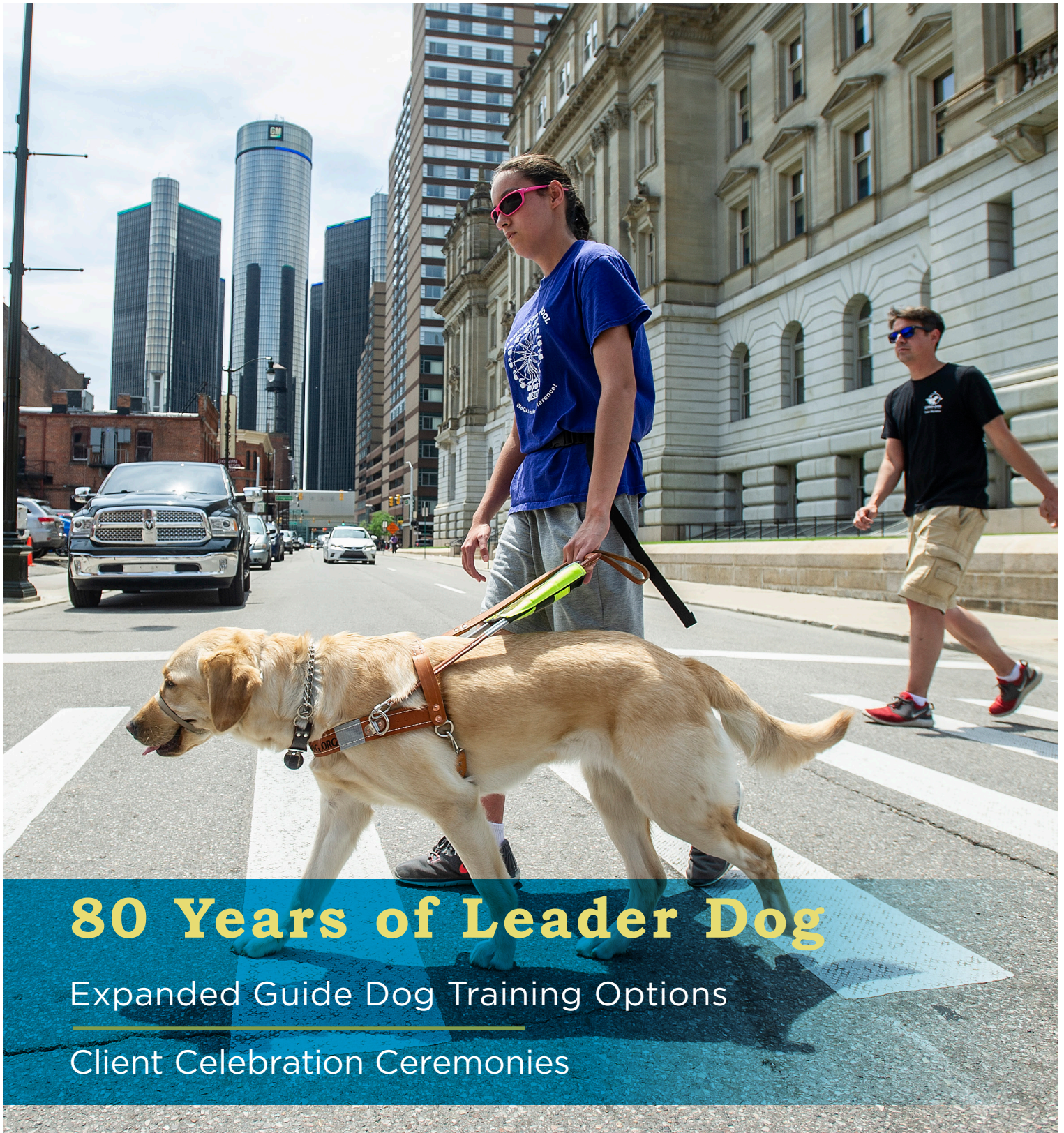




UPDATE

LEADERDOG.ORG | ISSUE 3 | 2019

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND



80 Years of Leader Dog

Expanded Guide Dog Training Options

Client Celebration Ceremonies

A New Direction

Daniel Mancina



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Dan Mancina was very active growing up, not letting a diagnosis of retinitis pigmentosa (RP) at age 13 slow him down. Then in his 20s his diminishing vision led him to rely on others to guide him around and he quit his favorite pastime, skateboarding.

In 2015 he was working as a certified massage therapist when he came to Leader Dog for Orientation and Mobility (white cane) Training. He was ready to get back to a more active and independent life, but he didn't realize the change that would happen. "The week I spent at Leader Dog definitely changed my whole outlook on life, my career and everything," said Dan. "It was my first time in an environment that was inclusive and understanding of visual impairment. It led me into the rehabilitation field."

Over the past four years, Dan received an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's degree in vision rehabilitation therapy (VRT). "I received my VRT certification in September. Now I'll be teaching others who are blind daily living skills, helping them adjust to their vision loss, be independent, seek employment," said Dan. As a CVRT, he'll be working alongside certified O&M specialists like Leslie Hoskins, who was his instructor at Leader Dog.

No story about Dan is complete until you mention his skateboarding. Just prior to coming to LDB in 2015, he began skating again. "I was using my cane a little bit with my skating, but now it's my #1 tool that I use," explained Dan. "I adapted my cane techniques to skating, from judging where objects are to sweeping and making sure my environment is clear. I can't skate without it."

Red Bull Skateboarding produced a video of Dan skating. Visit bit.ly/dan-mancina to watch it. And please, do not try this at home.



LDB CLIENT DAN MANCINA
ENJOYS SOME R&R AFTER A
SKATEBOARD SESSION.

DAN POSES WITH HIS WHITE
CANE IN DETROIT.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings.

As we continue celebrating 80 years of service, it is remarkable to reflect on all that we have accomplished as an organization. One of our founders, Donald P. Schuur said "It all started with \$400 and a hat full of ideas." Now we have world-class programs in guide dog and white cane (O&M) training, a state-of-the-art canine development center and a thriving summer camp for teenagers who are blind. We've grown a lot since our humble beginnings, but our mission remains the same—empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

As time goes on, we must continue to evolve to best meet the changing needs of our clients. What worked

for our clients 80 years ago will not work today, and the incidence of blindness has not diminished over the past eight decades. This year alone, 75,000 people in the United States will become blind or visually impaired. It is our firm belief that all of them deserve equal opportunity for independence in travel, and that includes ensuring that our services remain financially accessible to them.

In this issue of Update, you'll learn about our new, expanded options for Guide Dog Training, including flex, urban and warm weather offerings. And, because of your generosity and support, all our programs continue to be completely free of charge to every client.

It has been our honor to serve more than 16,000 clients over the last 80 years. We look forward to your partnership and support in serving the next 16,000.

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



LETTERS TO LEADER DOG



I've been fond of cartoons and superheroes and I enjoy telling stories. Once upon a time there was a woman who traveled across the ocean to a beautiful town called Rochester Hills. There she found a bunch of superheroes. They don't wear capes, but some use canes—others walk with a dog like Robin and Batman. They face many challenges every day. They are brave.

In any case, I want to say thank you all for this opportunity. The superheroes who raise puppies at home and leave their hearts here with their dogs. Now I see the world from another point a view. I now understand what Helen Keller said, "What is worse than being blind, having sight but no vision."

Maria Del Mar Suarez, Spanish interpreter
10.04.19 Celebration Ceremony speech
(back row on left)

I want to thank Leader Dog for O&M Training. I was here 46 years ago to get my Leader Dog. She was a wonderful leader and a wonderful dog. I couldn't have done without her. Now, I came back for O&M Training. I can't believe how many changes have taken place in all those years. I've had a wonderful week. I didn't think time could go by so fast. I'd like to thank my instructors for increasing my skills and for giving me a chance to practice them now, and when I am at home. I'd like to thank everyone here for making me welcomed and the whole staff for being friendly and very helpful.

Laura Pappas, O&M client
10.04.19 Celebration Ceremony speech

Laura with O&M Intern Thomas Strasz



Hi Team,

Wow—can you believe Emily and I have now been a working Leader Dog team for one year!

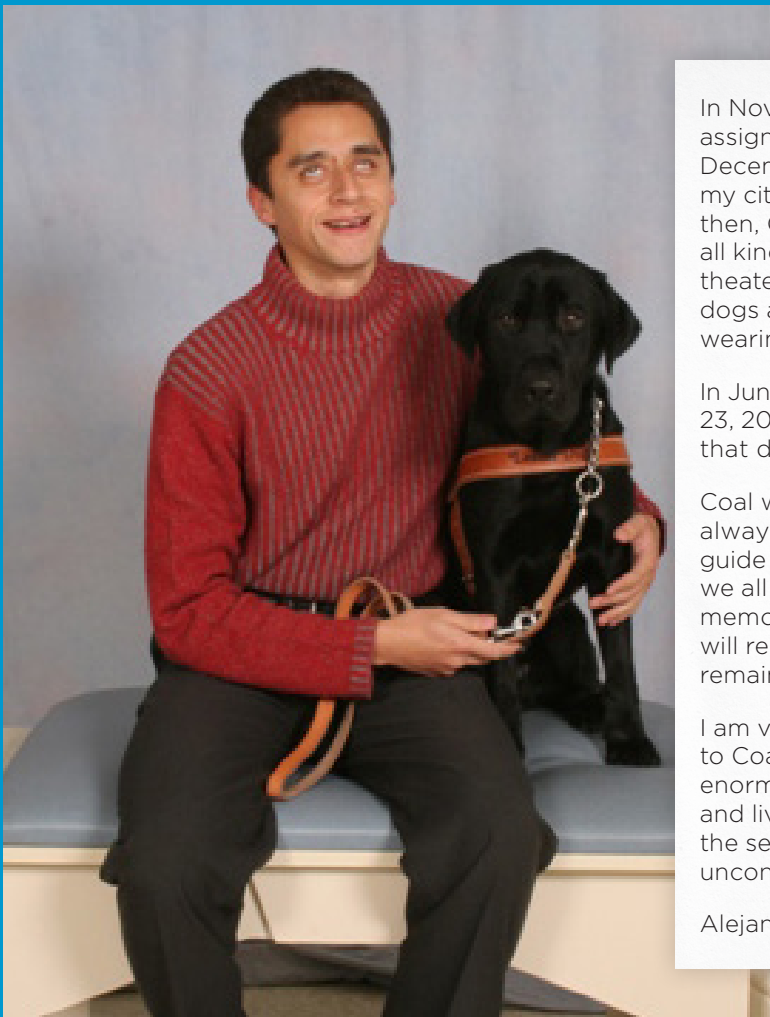
I wish to thank each of you for your role in making our team work. Everyone at work brags about how attentive Emily is (what a difference it makes when an action plan for introducing the guide dog and her rules to the work force makes!) and she is always a perfect angel during meetings, etc.

I wish you could all see us smoothly navigating the city. Her follow skills are superb, which is sure a handy thing at work and in the airports. My vision is nearing the end of its usefulness, so I rely much more on Emily than I did on my first Leader Dog, Gemma, and she seems to be up to the task.

I continue to be a powerful advocate at work and changes are underway at the helm of my company with new roles specifically to serve employees with disabilities. I said that Gemma led me to employment and that Emily will lead me into becoming a stronger advocate and ambassador. How can anyone put a value on the countless ways a Leader Dog can empower the future of people with vision loss?

You are all amazing—thanks for a fantastic first year with Emily!

Kim Paulk



In November 2007 I came to Leader Dog where I was assigned a beautiful black Labrador named Coal. In December 2007 I started using my Leader Dog in my city of residence, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. Since then, Coal walked by my side every day. We went to all kinds of places (work, schools, museums, parks, theaters, shops, etc.) and demonstrated that guide dogs are polite, obedient, clean, and do not bark while wearing their harness.

In June 2018, Coal began to show problems. On August 23, 2019, Coal is no longer physically with me, and since that day, I was blind again, my second eyes died.

Coal was an exceptional Leader Dog, always obedient, always loyal, always well behaved. His mission, as a guide dog, he accomplished 100% and in my family we all regret his departure. But we remain with his memories, and as long as he is in our memories, he will remain among us, he will continue with us, he will remain alive in our mind and heart.

I am very grateful to Leader Dog for assigning me to Coal. I just want to express to Leader Dog my enormous gratitude for having been able to meet and live next to Coal, who taught me many things, the sense of surrender, gratitude, fidelity, and unconditional loyalty.

Alejandro Iván Castro Orozco

Expanded Training Options

At Leader Dog, we understand that everyone's abilities, circumstances and the way they learn are different. In July, we introduced expanded Guide Dog Training options so that our life-changing programs better meet each client's needs at every stage of life.

ON-CAMPUS TRAINING

This three-week residential training takes place at Leader Dog's campus. We take advantage of time away from home distractions to help clients solidify their skills, bond with their new Leader Dog and reach a strong understanding of the working team concept. On-campus training also allows our clients the opportunity to spend time with fellow trainees sharing support, stories and lifestyle tips.

"I was really impressed by the well-structured training, there is no discouragement. I could feel myself improving. You trust the instructors, you can follow their guidance because you trust their expertise."
- Birgitta Herrmann

IN-HOME DELIVERY

Our in-home delivery training has a guide dog mobility instructor going to the client's home environment to provide one-on-one instruction. Lasting up to 10 days, this structure allows clients to continue to care for their families and/or fulfill work commitments during evening hours. Another benefit is that clients can work on their standard routes to work, school, doctor's appointments and more. We understand that some clients have health concerns that keep them



from traveling to our campus, but not from daily travel with a Leader Dog. Our in-home delivery training allows them to maintain their independence.

“In-home training went terrific. Since I don’t usually have sighted help to find landmarks, it was particularly helpful to have someone show me exactly where the bus stop sign was in relation to the cross street.”
– Anna Byrne

FLEX

Flex training combines the benefits of on-campus training and in-home delivery for maximum flexibility. In this training option, clients begin class on the Leader Dog campus where they develop a solid foundation of training, and then return home with a guide dog mobility instructor for the third week to train in their living and work environments. This option gives clients the opportunity to train alongside other clients, as well as in personal, family and work situations. Some might call it the best of both worlds!

“Flex allows us to help the client transition to their home environment and develop routes using the skills they learned and developed during on-campus training.”
– Team Supervisor
Dan Rollings, GDMI

URBAN

Our urban training is perfect for individuals who live in or frequently travel to heavily populated urban areas. Similar to flex training, clients spend the first two weeks on campus at Leader Dog and then head to Chicago, Illinois for the third week of training. In Chicago our clients receive intensive exposure to



GUIDE DOG TRAINING *(continued)*

mass transit, crowds, heavy traffic, complex intersections and more. Training in the Windy City prepares our teams for any urban environment ahead!

“An urban environment can be difficult for someone who is blind. Being able to face these challenges for the first time with an instructor at their side gets them off to a strong, safe start.”

– Jamie Togonal, guide dog mobility instructor

WARM WEATHER

While cold weather training is extremely important for individuals who live in regions that experience snowy winters, our warm weather training is a great choice for clients who don't or those with health conditions that limit their ability to train in cold weather. This 10-day training takes place in Naples, Florida. This is a small class setting allowing for a two-to-one client/instructor ratio. Word on the street is that our instructors don't mind heading to Florida in February or March for a few weeks!

“Training in Florida was a shorter timeline, so it was less time off work. There were fewer clients in class, so I got plenty of attention.”

– Tom Simmons

DEAF-BLIND

This three-week training takes place at Leader Dog's campus and is specifically for clients who are Deaf-Blind. Instructors and clients communicate through American Sign Language (ASL), either visual or tactile, depending on each individual's needs. Clients in this training may receive a Leader Dog that is dual-trained to guide and respond to sounds such as door knocks and doorbells. Leader Dog is proud to be the only guide dog organization in the United States with a dedicated Deaf-Blind training program.

“If someone's riding a bicycle near me and I have a cane, people might veer very close and startle me, but when I have a dog, the dog will actually navigate me to go in the opposite direction and I'm not caught off guard.”

– Jason Corning

Your support allows us to provide every one of our training programs free of charge, including travel to and from campus.



Keeping Your Eyes Healthy— *Dry Eye*

PRESENTED BY **Midwest**
EYE CONSULTANTS

I've been practicing optometry a quarter century and I have a confession: I have a love/hate relationship with Dry Eye. Here's why. Some people have classic symptoms of dry eye: gritty, watery eyes, but they have no signs of dry eye when examined. Others have no symptoms but have eyes that look parched upon examination. Still others have symptoms that may or may not be dry eye including redness, fluctuations, fatigue and contact lens intolerance.

Yep. The struggle is real.

Here's the reality of dry eye. It's common and, due to digital devices, it's increasing. I was trained to think of dry eye as the ocular disease of perimenopausal women. Perhaps because I have become a member of that group, I now recognize that any person of any age or gender is susceptible to dry eye.

Dry eye statistics are changing in part because new tests help us recognize dry eye even when the patient isn't displaying any symptoms. We can measure tear chemistry with simple in-office tests and scan the tear glands for structural changes. We can detect risk factors like inflammation or gland atrophy before ocular surface disease starts. Now,

we can work to detect risk of dry eye BEFORE the changes are irreversible.

It's not unusual to hear teens complain of dryness, fluctuating vision, contact lens intolerance and redness. What's surprising is the number of young children who have dry eye symptoms. "Susie's eyes seem to be red and watery but also dry feeling when she plays video games," is a common complaint these days.

Is this something we must accept as a side effect of the digital age? I don't think so. We need to recognize environments and behaviors that contribute to dry eye issues such as fans, vents, low humidity, lighting, diet and some medications. Then we can practice better "visual hygiene" to prevent it: visual breaks, blink exercises and removing environmental triggers. Also helpful are digital device eyeglasses with filters, materials and prescriptions individualized for your eyes.



For more information visit:
<https://www.midwesteyeconsultants.com>

by Dr. Jodi Kessinger

TAKE *Care*
of your
EYES!





This year, to mark the 80th anniversary of Leader Dogs for the Blind, we are excited to have launched monthly client celebration ceremonies to honor each of our clients who come for service provision in our Guide Dog Training and Orientation & Mobility Training (white cane) programs.

Celebration ceremonies focus on acknowledging and appreciating each client's unique path and significant accomplishment in completing Leader Dog training. Over a festive lunch, clients enjoy time with Leader Dog instructors, family, friends and each other. A spirit of camaraderie, triumph and support fills the room as clients have the opportunity to talk about their experiences and express gratitude to significant people in their lives and in their journey. Celebration afternoons are full of music, laughter, memories and the recognition of achievement for each of our clients.

Sue Daniels, president & CEO, addresses clients at each celebration and acknowledges the fact that new paths are being forged and that the Leader Dog community is here to support clients every step of the way. Each client serves as a Leader Dog ambassador and we work together to advocate and champion making people unstoppable.

We would like to express our gratitude to client celebration sponsors: the Jasper Lions Club of Texas, Volkswagen, Audi, Aria Energy, Deloitte and Trinity Health. Together, they make these celebrations possible.

If you are considering a celebration sponsorship or would like to learn more, please contact Melissa Weisse, CFRE, at 248.659.5029.

"[My Leader Dog, Sylvan] filled a huge void. I don't know if words can explain. A dream come true." - Client William Baer



WILLIAM BAER
AND LD SYLVAN
(FRONT LEFT)
ENJOY THE
CEREMONY WITH
FELLOW CLIENTS.

Building Foundation Support in the Upper Midwest



FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHT

As part of our strategic plan, over the past two years Leader Dog has increased our reach into the Upper Midwest region of the U.S. This includes expanded service delivery, developing Prison Puppies resources and procuring foundation support in the region.

Foundation support, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, included grantors with a variety of program focuses.

Foundations were interested in increasing the number of clients served in their area, ensuring a continued supply of puppy raisers (both traditional and inmate raisers) and maintaining our flex (on campus/in-home hybrid) Guide Dog Training option. In heat maps developed with outside vendors, we realized the potential for strong support across volunteers, donors and client alumni in the region. Also, we discovered a growing need for Leader Dog's services in an area expanding outward from the Twin Cities. Using this information, we began appealing to grantors who supported client-centered human services delivered by nonprofits that are individualized and responsive in their approach but may not be physically located in the region.

Leader Dog is pleased to have collaborated with the following grantors to help people who are blind and visually impaired in this part of the United States: Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Fund of the Minnesota Community Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Thrivent Foundation for Lutherans' Choice Dollars Grant Program and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

To learn more about how you can help, contact Kathryn Tuck, director of foundation giving, at kathryn.tuck@leaderdog.org or 248.218.6431.



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 or 248.650.7109.

NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Rick & Cindy Tobin
Marv & Karen Roehlke
Carole Jean Higgins



Leader Dog is very deliberate when recruiting and appointing new board trustees. These efforts paid off triple-fold when John Hebert joined our board in 2007!

John's credentials include 30+ years as a CPA, retiring as a partner at Plante Moran. Having a CPA on the board is always a benefit, but one with 20+ years of community service with organizations such as the American Red Cross, Rotary International and Friends of Detroit Public Library, just to name a few, is even more beneficial.

John has served on multiple LDB committees including executive,

finance, audit, governance and philanthropy, which he currently chairs. He was vice chair from 2012-2014 and then board chair from 2014-2016. John has mentored several new board members, including Jill Gaus, a LDB client who is Deaf-Blind.



John Hebert

(pictured with Sue Daniels at the 2016 canine development center ribbon cutting)



As board chair, John was instrumental in helping us complete our largest fundraising campaign to date, the \$14.5 million renovation of our canine development center. He rallied board members to collectively donate over \$1 million to the campaign and he supported LDB staff throughout the more than two-year process.

John and his wife, Margo, are especially supportive of our Guide Dog Training for people who are Deaf-Blind. This drives their strong desire to introduce new people to our organization. They regularly attend LDB events like Bark & Brew, Dinner in the Dark and Double Dog Dare, bringing friends, family and business associates with them.

We would like to thank John for being an inspiration, friend, supporter of our mission and an amazing ambassador for Leader Dog!

"As a volunteer, Leader Dog has allowed me to continue learning in areas where I have limited experience. I have been exposed to virtually every part of our mission. I feel sure that we affect our clients every day with a better, more independent lifestyle."



MISSION MOMENT

"Now that I have a dog, I don't have to explain that I have a vision impairment. Where was the dog when I was single? He is a chick magnet."

~Robert Doeseckle and his second Leader Dog, Stratford



Purina Pro Plan—The Official Food of Leader Dog



CORPORATE HIGHLIGHT

When out in the community training our dogs, one of the questions our guide dog mobility instructors get most often is, “What do you feed your dogs?” Their answer: Purina Pro Plan.

In fact, Purina brand food has been our food of choice for decades. Our earliest historic records show our veterinarian recommended and fed Purina Dog Chow to our dogs. Nutrition has advanced over the years, but our veterinarians’ opinions have not. Simply put, we trust Purina, and Purina Pro Plan is the best nutrition available for the work our canines do day in and day out.

Purina Pro Plan’s goal is to make every dog’s best life possible through the power of nutrition. They strive to help dogs be energetic and resilient, while maintaining an ideal body condition, healthy skin and a stunning coat at every stage of life. This is a goal, and a brand, that Leader Dog stands behind.

Fortunately for Leader Dog, not only is Purina passionate about pets, they are generous as well. Since 2008, Purina has been donating Pro Plan for all our dogs in training. In 2014, Purina expanded their support by donating Pro Plan Veterinary Diets to our veterinary clinic. In 2017, Purina went even further by donating Pro Plan to all Future Leader Dogs being raised in correctional facilities. In total, Purina donates more than 60,000 pounds of food to Leader Dog each year!

We are very grateful for Purina’s support and proud to call Pro Plan the Official Performance Food of Leader Dogs for the Blind.





Did you know that more than half of American adults do not have a will or trust? That means they don't have a legal plan to take care of the people they love and the causes they care about.

Donating through your will or trust is a great way to support the work we do and ensure the future of our mission. That's why Leader Dogs for the Blind is partnering with FreeWill to give you the opportunity to write a free, legal will online.

It's simple! Just visit **Freewill.com/Leaderdog** and follow the prompts. Most people complete this process in 20 minutes or less. Then print out your will, sign and store in a safe location. Over 75,000 people have completed their free, legal wills using this service. If you choose to include Leader Dog in your plan, you will play a crucial role in empowering people who are blind or visually impaired to enjoy full, independent lives long into the future.

If you prefer to work with an attorney and you choose to include a gift to Leader Dog in your plans, please be sure to provide them with our legal name, address and federal tax ID. We also ask that you let us know about your gift and consider joining our Legacy Society (*see page 11 for more details*).

Gifts of all sizes make a difference in the lives of our clients. You may choose to designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or part of what remains after you have remembered family and friends. Making a gift through your will or trust helps to ensure a successful future for Leader Dogs for the Blind.


Hi there! We've updated our Terms of Service. You can read them [here](#).

FREEWILL
For lawyers For nonprofits Log in [Sign up](#)

Leader Dogs for the Blind is funded 100% through donations and all services are provided free of charge. Making a donation through your will is a great way to support the work we do and ensure the future of our mission.


A gift for you and your future

Create or update your will today – fast and 100% free


[Get started now](#)


Forbes AARP Real Possibilities The New York Times GOOD HOUSEKEEPING marie claire YAHOO! FINANCE


Why use FreeWill?



To be thoughtful
Make important decisions where they belong – at home.



To be kind
Support the people and causes that mean the most to you



To be savvy
Save time, money, and stress for you and your loved ones

For more information about leaving Leader Dog in your will or as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance, please contact Lora Cabarios, director of personal and planned giving, at 248.650.7109.

Lions & Leader Dog 80 Years



LIONS CLUB CONNECTION

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

During their international convention in 1925, the members of Lions Clubs International were challenged by Helen Keller to be the “knights of the blind.” Thirteen years later, Lions Charles A. Nutting, Donald P. Schurr and S.A. Dodge led their Detroit-area Lions club in establishing a school to train guide dogs for people who are blind. Their motivation was another club member who was turned away from the only guide dog organization in the U.S. at the time.

In May 1939, the three men leased a small farm in Rochester Hills, Michigan to house their new venture. Fifty dollars per month rented a farmhouse for the clients and staff, a barn for the dogs and a garage.

On October 8, 1939, the first class of the official Lions Leader Dog Foundation graduated. The cost to graduate a client/dog team was \$600.

Fast forward 74 years to 2013 when LION Magazine listed Leader Dogs for the Blind as one of the “10 Brilliant Breakthroughs in Service.”

Over the past 80 years, Lions clubs throughout the world have continued to support Leader Dog financially and have brought thousands of people who needed assistance through our doors. Lions are on our board of trustees, they are puppy raisers, volunteers, breeding hosts and so much more. After experiencing the support and mission of Lions firsthand, many Leader Dog clients have become Lions themselves.

To this day, the mission of the Lions, “We serve,” perfectly complements the Leader Dog mission of empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

Today at Leader Dog, a dedicated staff of four (all Lions themselves) steward Lions, Lionesses and Leos across the United States, Canada, Mexico and Spain. From donor recognition to speaking at conventions, our Lions team connects Lions with their mission program.



A CLIENT IN THE 1940s
WALKS WITH HIS FIRST
LEADER DOG. ▲

LDB LIONS TEAM (L TO R):
LIONS BETH SLADE, KATHLEEN
BREEN, KATHY GILCHRIST
AND MIKE DENGATE ▼





LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

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DINNER IN THE DARK

Please **JOIN US** on **Friday, March 6, 2020!**

Not only will you dine under blindfold, but this year we've added a Motown Revue featuring the Contours, the Miracles and the Vandellas at our 3rd annual Dinner in the Dark at MGM Grand Detroit (in the Grand Ballroom).

Ticket Prices:

- \$125 SUPPORTER TICKET
- \$225 VIP

VIP Ticket includes: Two drink tickets, passed hors d'oeuvres, wine flight and more!

Dress: Snappy casual

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

