



# UPDATE

LEADERDOG.ORG | ISSUE 1 | 2024

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND



## Adaptive Services

Training to Every Client's Needs

Chief Financial Surpasses \$500,000 in Giving



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**W**hat an honor to write to you as the new President and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind, an organization that I have been privileged to serve for over two decades.

I am committed to advancing equity and access for people who are blind or visually impaired through philanthropy, advocacy, inclusion and collaboration. For the past 20 years I have raised funds for our mission and advocated for our services alongside our clients and supporters. I am proud to be a member of Lions Club International, to serve nationally on the board of the American Foundation for the Blind and to have been a Leader Dog puppy raiser.

I am fortunate to work with a talented team of experts and to serve alongside

volunteers, donors, Lions and partners who share a collective passion and commitment to our mission. Together, we will continue to expand our reach and impact to meet the growing and evolving needs of people who are blind or visually impaired.

We know there is a shortage of services in communities nationwide for people who are blind or have low vision. We are currently in discussion with our clients around the country to identify additions to our services that would more holistically support them in achieving greater access and help to break down more barriers.

The need is critical and urgent, and we must respond to it by positioning this organization for the future.

I look forward to working with you, and hearing from you, as we embark on this exciting journey together. Thank you for being a part of the Leader Dog community, and for your continued support and friendship.

Forward!

Melissa Weisse  
President & CEO

LeaderDog.org  
FOLLOW THE LEADER







**A**t just four years of age, Jana began losing her hearing; at 10, she received cochlear implants that took her from being totally deaf to hearing well. During this time, Jana's vision began deteriorating from optic atrophy.

Now 19, Jana only sees things that are right in front of her face, and she reads using braille.

Though Jana received orientation and mobility (O&M) services weekly in school, she relied heavily on being aided through human guide by her mother or father.

After high school, Jana applied for a guide dog. Upon Leader's suggestion, she came for O&M training first. During O&M, she realized how much she disliked using human guide because it made her feel dependent. After O&M, she realized she could navigate the world on her own.

Currently, Jana navigates her college campus with LD Mika as she studies to be a mental health therapist. "I use both verbal and hand signals with Mika," said Jana. "I still give her the directions—forward with hand motion—but she seems to know where I want to go."

Recent campus construction challenged Mika to guide Jana through a long series of obstacles—and she did without fail. Mika is also skilled at moving through crowded hallways which helps Jana get to class on time.

***"My mother noticed that I'm a lot more independent with Mika, more confident, have higher self-esteem and also that my mental health has improved," said Jana. "I feel that in myself."***

"I don't think I would have been able to do the training just verbally, I need both ASL (American Sign Language) and verbal communication. The ASL improved my understanding of the training. It helped me to better communicate my thoughts and questions."



INSTRUCTOR SARAH DUYCK  
SIGNS TO JANA (TOP). JANA AND  
LEADER DOG MIKA (BOTTOM).





I finished my second series of O&M training. I was very fortunate to have Barry\* come to my city and train me in my own surroundings, teaching me how to cross a very busy intersection and also how to use the bus system. For me, this is a huge life changer.

Leader Dog changes our lives in so many ways. Developing this program where an instructor can come train you in your environment is truly lifesaving.

Leader Dog has the most incredible staff I have ever worked with in my life. I am a retired registered nurse and have worked many different jobs in many different settings. And I know how supportive and kind one person is to another can change a life. Leader Dog does that every day. God bless you for being there.

Pamela

\*Barry Stafford is a Leader Dog certified orientation & mobility specialist (COMS)

Leader Dog Gracie turned five years old last November. She works hard every day to keep me safe when we are walking. She alerts me to cars backing out of driveways, she takes me around objects in our path, she watches out for potholes and dips in the sidewalk, and she will freeze solid and not obey my command to go forward if there is danger. I ask her to figure it out and she almost always finds a way to get around the danger. I can't imagine life without her.

John and LD Gracie





Ruth's poem to her Leader Dog, Bear

*Sunrise of my life*

My dear angel,

I want to tell everybody that everytime I walk with you I smile, thinking of the kind people, who gave me the chance to recover the happiness of being led by your eyes. They light up the path of freedom.

In every step I take, I feel secure and I dream of a world full of wisdom, where good conquers prejudice.

Everytime you wag your tail and when we play together, I laugh like a child, I forget the sadness, everything and everybody dance in my mind.

Now I can sing in the darkness, because your company fills all the corners of my soul.

In every space of the silence, I listen to an unknown song, it covers my being sweetly.



Christian and his brother (pictured in tan shorts) came to Leader Dog for our Teen Orientation & Mobility (O&M). Teen O&M provides training for teens and education for a supporter (typically a family member) to learn more about blindness, the skills their loved one uses and how to help in O&M goals. Instruction can cover basic to advanced cane skills.

This week has been really helpful. Mainly like the big surge area, like crossing big streets like Main Street. We barely touched on these areas when I got O&M training through school. At home we mainly just did O&M in the parking lot outside my school.

Christian



If you are enjoying this issue and would like to support Leader Dog, you can make an online donation and make even more people unstoppable TODAY by clicking below.

**DONATE NOW**





# Adapting Training to Every Client's Needs



At Leader Dogs for the Blind, our top priority is ensuring each client receives customized training that allows them to develop exceptional skills to travel independently with a white cane or a guide dog. Though all our guide dog mobility instructors (GDMLs) and certified orientation & mobility specialists (COMS) are skilled at adapting the training process to accommodate a wide range of personalities and individual needs, the GDMLs on our adaptive services team also individualize client and dog training for additional client needs or disabilities that may be physical or intellectual.



## Tailoring Training for Physical Disabilities

For clients with balance concerns or an uneven gait due to conditions like cerebral palsy or a stroke, our adaptive services GDMLs carefully select a dog that can provide “counterbalance” when the client loses their balance. They look for dogs that can maintain a straight line as the person’s gait wavers, thus offsetting the movement. “When training the dog,” said Kate Roberts, GDML, adaptive services team supervisor, “we will practice techniques like stumbling and wavering while walking to prepare the dog for the client’s particular gait patterns.”

Another adaptation is training the dog to work on the client’s right side instead of the standard left side. This need may arise for a variety of reasons such as loss of a limb, multiple sclerosis or stroke. For individuals with arthritis, GDMLs may build up the harness handle with foam to make it more comfortable for the client to grip.

***“We focus on every client as an individual, no matter their level of hearing loss, language usage, physical or cognitive limitations. We match the dog and the training to their specific needs because no one client is exactly like the next.”***

***- Sarah Duyck, GDML/COMS***

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KATE ROBERTS, GDML, ADAPTIVE SERVICES TEAM SUPERVISOR, AND MAYA TAKE A MINUTE TO REFLECT ON THE MORNING’S TRAINING AT A LOCAL BAKERY.





### Training for people who are DeafBlind

People who are both deaf and blind can find navigating the world to be challenging. After working closely with DeafBlind clients, we began offering guide dog training in 1992 using American Sign Language (ASL) as the main method of communication. Today, Leader Dog is one of only two guide dog organizations in the United States to offer ASL as an instructional communication method.

In addition to the standard of matching a dog to a client based on the client's pace, typical travel environment (e.g., big city, rural) and personality, when selecting a dog for a DeafBlind client, our GDMIs look for a dog who is easily engaged in learning. In addition, they look for a dog who enjoys physical contact such as petting or playing. Dogs with these traits are highly motivated to work with their handler, and are less distracted by their surrounding environment.

"We really prioritize dogs that are open to physical praise," said Mara Renny, apprentice GDMI. "For our clients who do not use their voices, that physical connection becomes a primary method of communicating with and rewarding their guide dogs."

During training, the dogs start learning how to work without vocal cues, instead responding to hand signals and physical cues like leg pats and other physical methods of maintaining the dog's attention. Positive reinforcement through petting plays a key role, creating a powerful bond between dog and handler.

One graduate who has benefited immensely from this program is Maya, a young professional with Usher's syndrome which causes dual sensory loss. Her Leader Dog, Paul, has given her the freedom to navigate the world with confidence and has become an invaluable companion.

"Paul has opened up activities like hiking that I thought were lost to me," Maya shared. "Having that trust in him to keep me safe on the trails has been very emotional and freeing."

Leader Dog Paul's presence also provides Maya with a sense of security, putting her family's minds at ease when she travels independently. From work conferences to vacations across the U.S., Maya and LD Paul maneuver through airports, public transit and bustling city streets.



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MARA RENNY, LDB APPRENTICE GDMI,  
USES ASL TO EXPLAIN TO CLIENTS MAYA  
AND ENRIQUE HOW TO BEST SITUATE  
THEIR DOG WHEN TRAVELING BY PLANE.





*"We really prioritize dogs that are open to physical praise. For our clients who do not use their voices, that physical connection becomes a primary method of communicating with and rewarding their guide dogs."*  
 – Mara Renny, apprentice GDMI

## Addressing Intellectual Disabilities

For clients with intellectual disabilities, our adaptive services team provides small class sizes with more individualized attention. "We may have a lower instructor ratio and choose quieter training environments to reduce distractions," explained Kate. "But we never sacrifice the quality of instruction - just adapt the delivery method."

When identifying dogs that would make the ideal match for someone in this program, the GDMIs look for a mature dog that can handle task repetition, such as stopping at a curb for a longer period of time without frustration or boredom. Though it is a prime learning method for all clients and guide dogs, repetition can be increased when working with a person with an intellectual disability in order to successfully achieve travel goals.

The success of our clients who train with our adaptive services team is a testament to the power of inclusivity and our unwavering commitment, combined with the motivation and desire to succeed on our client's part. With each guide dog partnership formed, another life is transformed, another barrier is overcome, and another step is taken towards a world of greater independence.



SARAH DUYCK, GDMI, COMS, EXPLAINS TO CLIENT ANGELA HOW TO USE THE VIBROTACTILE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS IN DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER.



As far back as 1970 we were adapting equipment for clients like Bill W. who lost his forearms during the Vietnam War.





All members of the adaptive services team started at Leader Dog as apprentice guide dog mobility instructors (GDMI). Each brings a unique set of strengths and education to the team.

### Kate Roberts, GDMI

is the adaptive services team supervisor. She has been with Leader Dog for 12 years. With a master's degree in mental health and rehabilitation counseling, Kate uses her understanding of varying disabilities and needs to customize training. She works with a variety of individuals who may need adaptations in instructional methods, a support cane for balance, or are hard of hearing. She is currently co-raising her fifth Future Leader Dog with two other Leader Dog GDMIs.



### Sarah Duyck, GDMI, COMS\*

has worked at Leader Dog for 11 years. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in American Sign Language Interpreting Studies and a master's degree in Orientation and Mobility. She is a certified American Sign Language interpreter. She hosts LDB Ambassador Dog Vader and has helped raise five Leader Dog puppies with her family.



\*COMS – Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist

### Mara Renny, apprentice GDMI

has been with Leader Dog for two years. With a passion for nonprofit work and a bachelor's degree in American Sign Language Interpreting Studies, she found her fit at Leader Dog. Mara and her family have hosted two Leader Dog breeding moms which was her initial connection to LDB. She often volunteers as an ASL interpreter at various local churches.



This team works hard to stay on top of advancements in the DeafBlind community. Most recently, they all completed a certification in Protactile Language Theory. Developed by DeafBlind people, Protactile language allows people who are DeafBlind to communicate with each other in group settings without the use of interpreters.

To learn more about Protactile, go to [tactilecommunications.org](https://tactilecommunications.org) or [protactilelanguageinterpreting.org](https://protactilelanguageinterpreting.org).



## FIGHT FLEAS AND TICKS WITH TEVRA BRANDS

As the official flea and tick sponsor of Leader Dogs for the Blind, Tevra Brands reminds you that warm weather is back bringing summer pests, fleas, ticks and mosquitoes with it!

Vetality® Avantect®II for Dogs is a vet-quality flea and tick solution used by Leader Dog clients and pet parents throughout the United States. This formula contains the same active ingredients found in

K9 Advantix II, but costs much less! Vetality® Avantect®II kills bugs on contact, which means fleas don't need to bite your dog to die. This is especially important for working dogs!

Tevra Brands believes in offering innovative, high quality, affordable products that will keep your pet happy and healthy.

As a member of the Leader Dog community, you're entitled to a **25% discount** at [tevrapiet.com](http://tevrapiet.com)! Just enter the code '**leader25**' at checkout.

If you have questions about Tevra Brands products or if you have accessibility issues with their website, please call them at 844.276.3290.



*Article submitted by Tevra Brands*

## 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 personal and planned giving, at 248.650.7109 or [lora.cabarios@LeaderDog.org](mailto:lora.cabarios@LeaderDog.org).

### NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Ann Carbary

Walter and Ginny Dimsa

Carl Webster





## CHIEF FINANCIAL SURPASSES \$500,000 IN GIVING!

In 2015, Tom Dluzen, Chief Financial Credit Unions' President and CEO, promised to be a true corporate neighbor to Leader Dog, and they have more than fulfilled that promise. Since then, Chief Financial has contributed more than \$500,000 to Leader Dog and supported Leader Dog events like Dinner in the Dark and Bark & Brew (pictured right) through attendance and sponsorship.

Their support comes in a multitude of unique ways:

- Providing a \$54,000 donor match for our Spring giving campaign
- Offering a Leader Dog credit card with no annual fee, 0% interest for the first six months, cardholder Rewards! points, and automatic donations to Leader Dog through their Share the Rewards program. They are the only financial institution offering a giving program like this with Leader Dog.
- Advocating for people who are visually impaired in their advertising with Captain Clever, who along with his guide dog Chief, is the leader of their financial crusaders.

"We are honored to have Chief Financial Credit Union as a longstanding champion, advocate and ally for the mission. Chief is a significant donor and we are grateful to the entire Chief team for this meaningful partnership and generous support" said Melissa Weisse, Leader Dog's president & CEO.

"Our cherished partnership with Leader Dogs for the Blind is a direct result of our commitment to reinvesting local deposits and resources directly back into our community. When you bank with Chief Financial Credit Union, you're contributing to a cycle of local investment that enriches the lives of everyone around us," said Tom Dluzen, president & CEO, Chief Financial Credit Union. "This partnership is just one example of the powerful impact of banking locally, where every transaction contributes to transformative community projects and initiatives."

At the heart of Chief Financial are their beliefs:

- Worth is not only measured with a dollar sign
- Value has little to do with a bottom line
- We can change the world one person at a time

For more information about Chief Financial Credit Union and the Share the Rewards products that support Leader Dogs for the Blind, visit [www.chiefonline.com](http://www.chiefonline.com).





### Jill Gaus

(pictured with her husband at Bark & Brew in 2022)



Leader Dogs for the Blind has fortunately had Jill Gaus on our board of trustees and governance committee since 2018. As a Leader Dog client who is DeafBlind, Jill brings immense knowledge and a personal perspective to her roles.

Jill's variety of support of Leader Dog includes hosting a Haptics\* Workshop and American Sign Language classes. She has "put herself way out there" by participating in our Double Dog Dare fundraiser that had her repelling down a 15-story building!



Many DeafBlind organizations benefit from Jill's involvement. She works for D.E.A.F. CAN!., a Michigan nonprofit, as the Coordinator for Service Support Providers for the State of Michigan.

She is also a consultant for DB Central which provides services to youth and young adults who are DeafBlind. A member of the Division of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council since 2000, Jill was appointed its chair by Governor Whitmer in 2021, with her term expiring this past January.

Wait, there is more! Jill teaches in the Sign Language Interpreter Program at Oakland Community College and instructed at Lansing Community College teaching nursing students, EMT\*\* staff and EMT students how to medically assist someone who is DeafBlind.

Jill recently spent two weeks in Burundi, Africa collaborating with deaf leaders, teachers, parents and students (including DeafBlind) on Orientation & Mobility, braille and haptics.

This is not an exhaustive list of everything Jill has done to advance the understanding of people who are DeafBlind; but it surely explains why Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services referred to her as an "expert on the DeafBlind."

\* Haptics is the use of touch to convey visual and environmental information to people who are DeafBlind (e.g., that someone has entered or exited the room).

\*\* Emergency Medical Technician

*"I continue to support Leader Dog because when I received my first Leader Dog, my whole world changed! I was able to be independent, and my self-esteem and security of being me grew stronger every day. I truly believe that Leader Dog is all about the clients, and always willing to learn no matter the situation."*



## MISSION MOMENT

*"I've been a cane user forever and I like to move fast and get stuff done. LD Beulah and I are going to get everywhere safer, faster and more efficiently. Socially, how I interact with people—she will make it easier."*

*~Emily and LD Beulah*





# Your IRA has the Power to Change Lives



## DONOR HIGHLIGHT

*brought to you by*



**I**n elementary school, Susan Anderson first heard about Leader Dogs for the Blind. She learned about the free services Leader Dog provides and how they impact the lives of people who are blind. The memory of this experience has stayed with her for over 50 years.

Through her philanthropy, Susan passionately supports nonprofits like Leader Dog that help individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and those that support veterans.

As she approached retirement, Susan began planning her IRA withdrawal strategy. One part of her strategy included making a meaningful impact on organizations close to her heart through annual Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), also known as IRA Charitable Rollovers.

Susan is committed to helping Leader Dog and is passionate about encouraging others to donate through their IRAs. "It can be a win-win for Leader Dog and for the donor who may be eligible for certain tax advantages," explained Susan.

Making a QCD from your retirement account is a great option for you to lower your income taxes while supporting organizations that matter to you. A QCD can also help satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and may lower your adjusted gross income resulting in favorable tax benefits.

Your IRA gift can transform lives, ensuring that Leader Dog services, like the adaptive services program, continue to provide individualized training for clients with vision loss and additional needs. By directing a portion of your IRA to Leader Dog, you are not just giving a gift, you are offering a lifetime of freedom.

We recommend consulting a licensed tax professional for personalized financial guidance. If you're considering a gift to Leader Dog from your IRA, please contact Missy Aupperle, director of personal giving, at [melissa.aupperle@LeaderDog.org](mailto:melissa.aupperle@LeaderDog.org) or 248.218.6221.



## ACQUIRING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) SKILLS

**A**t Leader Dog, we are committed to ensuring all our clients feel welcomed and included during their time on campus.

Desiring to be a part of this inclusiveness, members of our kitchen and residence departments, along with several volunteers, have begun to learn some basic ASL so they can communicate with our DeafBlind clients, even in the absence of an interpreter.

Taught by DeafBlind individuals, the lessons also include an opportunity to communicate using Tactile ASL.

By acquiring these skills, these team members aim to better converse with our clients, making them feel at home, and demonstrating our deep regard for their communication style. This initiative underscores our commitment to creating an environment where every individual feels valued and understood.





# A Decade of Thrivent Charitable Foundation Support

For the tenth year in a row, Leader Dog has been selected to participate in the Thrivent Choice® Dollars grant program. This program empowers Thrivent's financial, insurance and planning solutions members to direct dollars received from the organization to Leader Dog.

Thrivent's donations, combined with donations from other supporters, allow us to better serve the needs of our adaptive services clients with in-room, cloud-based voice services, and sonic alert alarms and beds.

Future donations will help support enhanced emotional and physical health services provided by in-house, medical professionals in the form of registered nurses and licensed counselors/social workers. While these professionals will be available to all clients, they are often required to ensure a veteran with PTSD or a client with a cognitive impairment has the support needed to enhance their training.

This year, in addition to Thrivent Choice® Dollars grants, we are working with trusts and donor-advised funds (DAFs) through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing®. To date, Leader Dog has received over 3,900 grants and gifts through Thrivent Charitable. Last year alone, we received almost \$14,000 in member-directed Thrivent Choice® Dollar grants. These grants can be directed all year long by members at: [www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice](http://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice).

If you are a Thrivent member who has questions about how to maximize your charitable impact to Leader Dog or would like to form a Thrivent Action Team® for a day of volunteering, please contact Kathryn Tuck, director of foundation giving, at [ktuck@LeaderDog.org](mailto:ktuck@LeaderDog.org) or 248.218.6431.



## EMPOWERING CHANGE: PEER-TO-PEER FUNDRAISING

Leader Dogs for the Blind has a phenomenal community of donors, volunteers and clients supporting our mission; many of whom ask us, "How can I do more?" Think peer-to-peer fundraising. You can use email, Facebook, Instagram and more to make a tangible difference in the lives of our clients.

A great way to start is by creating a fundraising page at [myLeaderDog.Org](http://myLeaderDog.Org) to share with your community. It takes just minutes to set up a fundraiser. Here are some ideas:

- Run a match campaign. Specify the amount you are donating to Leader Dog and ask others to match you. If \$25, then ask others to donate \$25; if \$50, then ask for \$50.
- Do you like a challenge? Pick one that fits you (baking 200 dog treats for a local shelter or plunging in an ice water bathtub), then when a specified amount is reached, you complete the challenge.
- Forgo a luxury for a week or month. Give up coffee shop drinks and donate the money you save to Leader Dog. Challenge others to do the same and share photos of the drinks you create at home.

Your single effort can grow into a united movement as friends rally behind you and Leader Dog, create their own fundraising pages and spread news about Leader Dog to their networks.

Start your fundraiser today at [myLeaderDog.org](http://myLeaderDog.org) or contact Stephen Moran, special events manager, at [stephen.moran@LeaderDog.org](mailto:stephen.moran@LeaderDog.org) for more information.



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

**G**enerosity comes in many forms; three commonly recognized are time, talent and treasure. The 1.4 million members of Lions International, the largest service club organization in the world, embody the spirit of generosity in everything they do.

Not a day goes by without a Lions' member spending time serving others in the areas of vision, the environment, diabetes awareness, pediatric cancer and hunger. They take time away from family and work to address the needs of both local and distant communities. Lions are well-known for collecting glasses and hearing aids or helping to cover the cost of such equipment for those in need, but they do so much more. They help potential Leader Dog clients by videotaping them in their environment to submit with their application for training, they drive Leader Dog clients to the airport to catch flights to and from Michigan for training, or help local clients get their guide dog to their veterinarian for its annual exam. Lions give their time.

Many talented Lions members work or volunteer across many Leader Dog departments, they even serve on our board of trustees. They raise our puppies and take them to conventions, club meetings and service projects. Lions give their talent.

In large part because of support from Lions, we can continue to charge our clients \$0 for the services we provide. From the Lions in Broadway, Virginia who raise money by selling their famous grilled chicken dinners to long lines of hungry people to Colorado Lions selling cotton candy at a rodeo, you can find a Lion using their talents to raise money for Leader Dog. They are often the conduit that connects members of their local community to Leader Dog. Like two recent estate gifts given to the New Bern, North Carolina and Tullahoma, Tennessee clubs which were destined for giving to Leader Dog. Lions give their treasure.

Through the collective efforts and generous spirit of Lions worldwide, Leader Dog has grown from humble beginnings to become an internationally recognized entity that leaves an indelible mark on communities across the globe. This underscores the transformative power of collective philanthropy in addressing societal needs and fostering a culture of empathy and support. Together we serve.



LEADER DOG CLIENT TRISHA K. WITH  
LD LIBERTY, RAISED BY LOIS BARB OF  
SILVER HILLS LIONS (MARYLAND) 2ND VDG





**LEADER DOGS**  
FOR THE BLIND®

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# BECOME A LEADER DOG VOLUNTEER

## EXPLORE ALL OUR NEW OPTIONS!

### **PUPPY RAISING** now includes these exciting options:

- Not into commitment? Raise for just six months (age 2-7 months or 7-13 months).
- Busy life? Co-raise with a friend or family member.
- Work at an engaged company? Raise with up to three corporate team members.

### **Hosting a BREEDING mom** now includes these exciting options:

- TEMPORARY HOST - commitment of less than one year.
- BREEDING MOM HOST (NON-WHELP) - host the mom, but no need to whelp or care for the puppies (mom and puppies go to Breeding Host (WHELP)).
- BREEDING MOM HOST (WHELP) - host a mom in your home only for birth (whelp) of her litter and care for the mom and litter until puppies are seven weeks of age.

For additional information on all LDB volunteer opportunities, please visit [LeaderDog.org/volunteer](http://LeaderDog.org/volunteer) or scan the QR code.

