

GUIDE DOG NEWS

The Quarterly Publication of
Guide Dogs for the Blind

2018 ISSUE 4



GUIDE DOG PUPPY MEG

K9 BUDDIES

Learn about GDB's K9 Buddy program that pairs children and young adults who are blind with specially-selected dogs to be their companions. **p5**

O&M IMMERSION

Meet Barry Simmons, a recent GDB grad who participated in our exciting new Orientation & Mobility Immersion program. **p6**

HAPPENINGS

Keep up with GDB's latest events, including our Canine Heroes Auction, a booth at Dreamforce, and a special guide dog retirement party. **p8**



Guide Dogs
for the Blind

PUPPY CENTER UPDATE

Our Puppies With a Purpose Campaign is in the home stretch, and as you can see from the photo—the end is in sight! The new Puppy Center construction is right on schedule; we expect a completion date of February 2019 and a grand opening sometime in the fall of next year. To date, with the help of 668 generous donors we have raised \$19 million toward our \$20 million goal! We are so grateful to all of our generous



donors who have invested in this project! Although the official campaign will close out December 31, 2018, we will continue fundraising past this date until we secure a naming gift for our Learning Lab, the part of the Center which will house educational displays and interactive learning opportunities for visitors and tour groups.

If you are still interested in donating and having your name appear on the Puppy Center donor recognition wall (\$1,000 minimum contribution), please make sure you make your gift prior to December 31, 2018. For more information about donating or existing naming opportunities, please contact Therese Reher at 415.499.4046 or treher@guidedogs.com.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

A NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION
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Guide Dogs for the Blind follows the guidelines recommended by the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools and the International Guide Dog Federation for the humane care and training of our dogs, and the instruction and services offered to our clients.



Please recycle this newsletter!

GREETINGS FROM THE CEO

Year-End Greetings!

2018 was a year of great accomplishment for Guide Dogs for the Blind! As we expand our ability to serve more people, I'm so proud of our K9 Buddies program, Camp GDB, and Guide Dog Lifestyle Workshops, all of which provide kids and their families an opportunity to begin exploring the guide dog lifestyle. Camp GDB has been such a success with youth; we are looking at growing the program to include their families too. Learn more about the K9 Buddy Program on page 5.

For adults interested in getting a guide dog or sharpening their mobility skills, the Orientation and Mobility (O&M) program teaches guide dog mobility and readiness. I'm thrilled to say, we met our goal of moving this pilot program into our overall service offering with over 54 clients served. You can learn more about one of these program participants, Barry Simmons, on page 6.

On behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind, our sincere thanks for your generous support of our organization, people, and life-changing mission.

It is contributions like yours that allow us to continue expanding our services to serve more broadly. We hope you'll consider us in your year-end giving plans and wish you the happiest of holidays.

With gratitude,



Christine Benninger, President and CEO



GDB DOWN UNDER: The bi-annual International Guide Dog Federation Conference, held in Sydney, Australia, in September, brings member organizations together to gather and share knowledge and expertise through formal presentations and informal gatherings. Eight of the 35 presentations this year were made by GDB staff. We're proud to share knowledge with our colleagues from around the world!

PICTURED: SEVERAL GDB STAFF MEMBERS ATOP THE SYDNEY HARBOR BRIDGE. CEO CHRISTINE BENNINGER IS IN THE BACK ROW, FAR RIGHT.

BOARD PROFILE

4



“We’re family, right?” This phrase pretty much sums up Roy Green’s approach to life. It reflects the positive and inclusive lens he brings to his professional and personal endeavors. Roy is a seasoned executive, who has over twenty-three years of experience in new business development leadership, recruitment and training, market analysis, forecasting, and key account sales. He recently launched his own staffing and consulting company: ROI Insight. Roy also has extensive non-profit board experience having served on multiple boards.

Roy’s belief in working with others who are committed to their community, helped pave his way to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Whenever he interviews potential employees, he always asks, “How do you give back to the community?” One woman answered by saying that she raises guide dog puppies. “She handed me a business card and that night at dinner I gave it to

my wife, Anina,” Roy said. “The next thing I knew we were at a GDB puppy club meeting.” The rest, as they say, is history. They have been volunteer puppy raisers for GDB since 2007 and became club leaders in 2013 when they moved to Austin, Texas.

Roy’s involvement with GDB and its wonderful canine heroes have been an incredibly important part of his family’s life. “They have helped me become more self-disciplined, a better communicator, and learn to be more patient.” He goes on to say that the rewards are vast, and include, “the ability to truly change someone’s life, whether it is a GDB client, their family, or a raiser who finds a purpose in raising pups. The process gives me goosebumps and warms my heart.”

Roy is honored to join the GDB board and is excited to use this role as a platform to help raise awareness and funds for GDB’s life-changing mission. He’s committed to helping potential volunteers and donors understand the immense effort that goes into creating a working team. “It takes everyone from the administrative staff, veterinarians, instructors, campus volunteers, kitchen staff, to the raisers, their families, and the communities that surround both raisers and campus staff,” he said. “If it takes a village to raise a pup, it takes a small city to produce a working team.”

Roy brings a natural talent for empowering others to everything he does. Whether he is helping volunteers grow as individuals or planning special experiences and trips for his six grandchildren who range from 1 to 11. Guide Dogs for the Blind is both fortunate and proud to have Roy as a member of our community!



K9 BUDDY PROGRAM

At GDB, we believe that a dog can make a remarkable difference in any child’s life by fostering a sense of caring, companionship, and responsibility through the human/animal bond. This is why we established our K9 Buddy Program, which matches specially-selected dogs to become wonderful pets and companions to children and young adults who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

This program also connects the K9 Buddy recipient and their family with our community of puppy raisers and other supporters, including agencies and organizations for the blind, which can provide a huge sense of comfort and inclusion for the family.

Some of our K9 Buddy recipients will even go on to have guide dogs of their own someday. Heather Atkinson, the mother of K9 Buddy recipient Emma, says of the program, “Emma is being set up for so much success in the future. One day she will grow up and be a self-sufficient, independent woman. She will have her guide dog with her and it will be a beautiful relationship.”

If you or someone you know can benefit from the K9 Buddy Program, please visit [guidedogs.com/k9buddy](https://www.guidedogs.com/k9buddy) to learn more or submit an application.

Congratulations to our newest Guide Dog Mobility Instructors: Chelsea Aydelott, Calone Nathaniel, and Adam Gilbert. They recently completed their three-year GDB instructor apprenticeships, and we’re so proud of their accomplishments!

TO READ THEIR COMPLETE BIOS, PLEASE VISIT OUR BLOG AT [GUIDEDOGS.COM/BLOG](https://www.guidedogs.com/blog).



Upon applying to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Barry Simmons was invited to participate in our Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Immersion program. In this exciting program, participants work with GDB-trained O&M specialists at one of our partner organizations over the course of six days to gain some of the critical O&M skills that are important for working with a guide dog including traveling with a long cane; establishing and safely navigating routes; the ability to read traffic, and more. Often, gaining those skills is difficult, due to a variety of reasons such as lack of O&M programs, or limited access to O&M training. GDB's O&M Immersion program is helping to fill those gaps. Our current partners include the Earle Baum Center in Santa Rosa, Calif., and the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco.



While Barry had access to O&M training locally, he was intrigued that, “GDB’s Immersion program is geared specifically toward mobility training with guide dog travel in mind.” Barry chose to enroll in the O&M Immersion program and says his time there made his training at GDB with his new guide dog so much easier. He would highly recommend that people who are applying for guide dogs take part in this program.

As soon as Barry had finished the Immersion program, he began counting down the days until he would start class and meet his new guide dog. He soon was paired with *Virgo*, who Barry says has a personality that perfectly matches his. “My experience at GDB was nothing short of amazing,” Barry said. “The whole operation was quite impressive with a great facility and staff. My time there was more enjoyable than many of my past vacations. Everyone was so nice and made sure the students were relaxed and stress free. I did not want to leave after being so spoiled.”

- Danelle Umstead of Park City, Utah, was chosen to compete on the 27th season of ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* (DWTS) this fall. Danelle, who is an Alpine skier and Paralympian with two Bronze medals to her name, was the first contestant who is blind or visually impaired to ever compete on the show. Throughout her time on DWTS she learned the foxtrot, cha cha, and the quickstep, and her guide dog, *Aziza*, eagerly cheered her on from the audience with Danelle's husband and son. We are so proud of Danelle for her performance and all that she was able to accomplish during her time on the show!
- *Raising Stanley/Life With Tulia* is a multidisciplinary performance piece that combines storytelling, painting, video, and theatre, and is performed by the show's co-creator, storyteller, and GDB alumna, Kim Kilpatrick, of Ottawa. With shows in both Montreal this past November, and Toronto in January, it shares stories of Kim's life with the four guide dogs she has been partnered with over the years: *Gia*, *Margaret*, *Gweny*, and her current guide dog, *Tulia*. Congratulations Kim!



WHILE ATTENDING CLASS AT OUR CALIFORNIA CAMPUS RECENTLY, KELLY WHITE AND HER NEW GUIDE DOG, TOBIAS, QUICKLY DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD A LOT IN COMMON, INCLUDING A LOVE FOR YOGA! DOWNWARD DOG, ANYONE?

- Hillary Oswald and her guide dog, *Alika*, were recently featured in an article on Texas A&M's Today website. Hillary is an alumna of the university, and the article highlights her educational, career, and athletic pursuits; she is now a 4th-grade math and science teacher, has run several half marathons, and plays beep ball in her spare time. The piece also shares how she and *Alika* work as a team to navigate the world. Her husband, Scott, shares: "*Alika* is extremely intelligent and sweet, and the capabilities she has to help Hillary are amazing. With the harness on, she knows she's working, but the minute it comes off, all the energy she was bottling up comes out."



TOP: GUIDE DOG PUPPY LYLE, DRESSED TO THE NINES. ABOVE: GDB SUPPORTER GILLIAN PRINTON CELEBRATING A WINNING BID AT THE CANINE HEROES AUCTION.

CANINE HEROES AUCTION

In October, nearly 300 supporters joined us at The Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco for our annual Canine Heroes Auction fundraising event. The soiree featured a reception and silent auction, followed by a gourmet meal and live auction. Auction lots included everything from travel packages for Europe, Hawaii, and beyond, to unique items such as the opportunity to be a GDB puppy socializer for a day. GDB's Vice President of Outreach, Admissions, and Alumni Theresa Stern, with her guide dog *Wills*, was the evening's emcee, and to round out the program, a touching video featuring Elizabeth Hurdman and her guide dog, *Jamison*, set the tone for the evening's fundraising focus of supporting the costs of veterinary care for our canine heroes.

Thank you to the event sponsors:

Presenting—Granite Solutions Groupe. Platinum—Blue Angel Vodka, Lathrop Construction Associates, Inc. Gold—Janice Berthold/Heffernan Insurance Brokers, Salesforce. Silver—BlackRock, Callan Associates, Captain Kirk's San Francisco Sailing, Dilan Consulting Group, Google, Grosvenor Capital Management. Bronze—Amergent, Inc., BNY Mellon Asset Management North America, Craford Benefit Consultants, Dodge & Cox Private Client Group, Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, Inc., First Republic Bank, Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC, Heller Consulting, Inc., J.P. Morgan Private Bank, Mesriow Financial Private Equity, U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management, Victor Medical Company. Media—KOIT.

SAVE THE DATE

- **CAPS & TAILS**

June 1, 2019 (Portland, OR)

For more information or to register, please visit guidedogs.com/events.



*DANELLE UMSTEAD
AND AZIZA*

RETIREMENT PAW-TY

As part of Guide Dog Month in September, GDB joined Natural Balance in Los Angeles to honor seven retired GDB guide dogs for their service. It was a celebration of their life-changing work as well as their well-deserved retirement. Natural Balance spokesperson and GDB alumna Danelle Umstead, with her guide dog *Aziza*, joined other GDB grads and staff, Natural Balance staff, and members of the media for the event. Each of the honorees was presented with a retirement package from Natural Balance premium pet food brand, including a certificate recognizing their years of service and awarding them with a 401-K9—a lifetime supply of Natural Balance pet food as a token of appreciation for their years of service.

SHOW OF FORCE AT DREAMFORCE

Guide Dogs for the Blind was thrilled to team up with Salesforce to participate in the company's annual Dreamforce conference. GDB staff, volunteers, clients, puppies in training, and guide dogs were all on hand through the four-day event to educate the thousands of Salesforce employees and conference attendees about guide dog access and etiquette. Visitors to the booth were able to donate to GDB on site, with Salesforce staff helping to promote the company's matching gifts program.



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PLEASE REMEMBER GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND IN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

The generosity of our donors in the last two months of the calendar year allows GDB to maintain our high-quality programs and services. This year we anticipate graduating more than 315 guide dog teams from across the U.S. and Canada—made possible in large part to the gifts we receive from supporters in these very important months of year-end giving.

So whether you decide to make a gift of cash or stock, a gift in tribute to a loved one, a gift online, a gift from your IRA, or a non-cash gift, please know how vital you are in creating these amazing partnerships that change lives each and every day.

For more information about making your year end gift please contact our Development Department at 800.295.4050, or visit us online at guidedogs.com/donate.



“Guide Dogs for the Blind changes people’s lives by providing them with enhanced mobility and social inclusion, and we are so grateful to be a part of that important work.”

—Sharon and Robert Bailey,
with Chris Yoon and Sadie



“My mother, Lanice Clark (left), was a GDB docent for 27 years. Her involvement meant the world to her. She and my father were the proud custodians to two GDB breeders, Nitelite (aka Nellie) and Catina. After my dear mother passed away in March of this year, Catina came to live with me and my husband, Jay, where she is enjoying a very active and happy life. There is so much of my mother’s love in this girl, it feels like she is still with me in spirit. Jay and I were honored to be able to make a donation in memory of David and Lanice Clark.” —Laura Reinbold

EXAMPLES OF PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE GIFTS

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Name a puppy in tribute or honor of someone special.

K9 Buddy Sponsor—\$10,000

Provide a companion dog for a child who is visually impaired by becoming a K9 Buddy Sponsor.

Team Sponsor—\$15,000

Become a Team Sponsor by supporting the two-week class training program that pairs a GDB client with a guide dog.

Lifetime Team

Sponsor—\$25,000

Make the ultimate difference in someone's life as a Lifetime Team Sponsor, which supports GDB's class training program plus post-graduation services for the life of the team.

Sponsor a Litter—\$35,000

Pick your passion! Choose a letter of the alphabet that will be used for the names of a litter of puppies, and then provide the names for several puppies in that litter.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND CONTINUED SUPPORTERS July 1-September 30, 2018

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Return to Joan Scott, Planned Giving Coordinator
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