

# GUIDE DOG NEWS

The Quarterly Publication of  
Guide Dogs for the Blind

2019 ISSUE 3



*PUPPY RAISERS  
BRANDI, CHIZUKO,  
AND ALICIA HEYER  
WITH GUIDE DOG  
PUPPY, FLO.*

## TEAMING UP

Meet GDB alumna and licensed therapist, Ann Ulibarri, and her guide dog, Woon, who is a key team member of Ann's therapy practice. **p4**

## WARM WELCOME

Meet our new Vice President of Community Programs, Cami Kahl, and learn more about her passion for supporting our mission. **p5**

## SHIP SHAPE

Ahoy Mateys! Check out a recap and photos from our annual Fun Day events on both of our campuses. This year's theme was "Bone Voyage"! **p6**



**Guide Dogs  
for the Blind**

 **Point of Pride****NEW INSTRUCTORS**

Congratulations to our newest Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (pictured clockwise from top left): Lauren Piperno, Jack England, Jamie Mattison, and Melanie Bell.

They all recently completed their three-year GDB instructor apprenticeships, which require a combination of hands-on experience, as well as a comprehensive course of academic study. We are very proud of their achievements and excited for what's to come.

To read their complete bios, please visit [guidedogs.com/blog](http://guidedogs.com/blog).



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

A NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION  
800.295.4050 | GUIDEDOGS.COM

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Submitted photos - p12

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Full Member

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

Welcome!

We've had a busy several months on both of our campuses and in our neighboring communities with events that showcased the impact that you, our generous supporters, volunteers, and friends, have on our mission. From our annual puppy raising Fun Days and Camp GDB for youth who are blind or visually impaired, to a Legacy Luncheon that gave us the opportunity to thank those who have included GDB in their estate plans, and a brand new K9 Buddy Picnic event for families with children who are visually impaired, these events have allowed thousands of people to experience our mission firsthand. I'm especially excited about our Caps & Tails event that was held in June in Portland, Ore. The event included a moving GDB graduation ceremony that really spoke to the heart of what you help make possible in your support of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

At the conclusion of Camp GDB, I received a wonderful letter from a camper's mother. It read: "Thank you for providing my daughter with the opportunity to attend Camp GDB. I was eager for her to experience the guide dog lifestyle, but very hesitant for her to be away. Camp GDB gave me the gift of confidence in her abilities—and the ability of others to help her learn and grow. She had so many positive stories and learning opportunities! My favorite story she told: when offered the opportunity to ride a tandem bicycle, she initially declined because she thought another student who is blind would be driving! It gave us all a good giggle."

It's been a wonderful summer celebrating all of you who are directly and positively impacting our life-changing mission. Thank you to the entire GDB community.

Sincerely,



Christine Benninger, President and CEO



**CHRIS BENNINGER (R) WITH  
LEGACY LUNCHEON GUESTS BOB  
SCHRAMKE AND BETTY CARTER.**

***WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE ADDITION OF THREE NEW MEMBERS TO GDB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JOAN BOYD, LEANNE BREMNER, AND KATHY RIGGINS. TO READ THEIR COMPLETE BIOS, PLEASE VISIT [GUIDEDOGS.COM/BOARD](https://www.guidedogs.com/board).***



ANN ULIBARRI AND WOON

Meet Ann Ulibarri, a licensed marriage and family therapist who lives in Fairfield, Calif., with her husband of 45 years and her guide dog, *Woon*. She specializes in helping people deal with life-altering illnesses, anxiety and depression, and relationship issues. Her choice of profession was the direct result of her Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) diagnosis and journey to acceptance of her blindness. The experience shaped her life plans and at 40 she returned to school and ultimately obtained her degrees and license.

## GRAD PROFILE

Hard at work too, is *Woon*. “She is a people magnet and a very special partner in my work as a therapist. She goes to work with me every day and has a huge fan club. This is a great connection to the world and my clients! So often people say that her eyes are soulful and her kind and compassionate spirit are great therapy.”

Ann first learned about GDB from her sister and initially applied for and adopted a career change dog. Twelve years later, *Bobbiejo* remains an integral part of the family. The transition to a guide dog was a natural one. “The day I was introduced to *Woon*, I was full of emotions!” she said. “Time seemed to slow down. There were so many hopes riding on the dog and my own ability to handle her and be the kind of partner she deserved, as well as my future independence. When *Woon* was brought into my dorm room, all of the unknowns vanished. In those first moments of meeting her, I sensed she was a loving and eager girl who was solid in her training and could support me as I embark on a new phase in my life.”

Along with their busy practice, that new phase includes keeping up with her two adult children and their families, including four granddaughters ranging in age from 5 to 23. Time might have slowed down when she first met *Woon* but together they are certainly keeping a busy, active pace together!

*Continue reading more about Ann on our website: [guidedogs.com/blog](https://www.guidedogs.com/blog).*

# STAFF PROFILE

Welcome to our new Vice President of Community Programs, Cami Kahl, who joined the organization in July. In her role, she is responsible for the following departments: Breeding, Puppy Raising, Dog Placement, Campus Volunteers, and Canine Community Programs. If it sounds like a big job, it is! She oversees all things related to puppies prior to their formal training and our extensive community of volunteers.

Cami earned a B.A. degree in liberal studies from Sonoma State University in 1991, and has held multiple leadership roles in nonprofit organizations servicing Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties. Her expertise is focused on volunteer management and working with people with disabilities.

Cami hit the ground running when she spoke to our wonderful volunteer puppy raisers at our California campus Fun Day. Recognizing and thanking participants, she said, “I believe in the power of people, human services, and volunteer services. What excited me about GDB was how seriously volunteerism is taken and the acknowledgement that it’s critical to the mission.”

Looking forward in her new role, her goal is “to be a strong support for the leadership of the departments and to work to ensure Guide Dogs for the Blind continues to have a diverse and inspired volunteer force for the future,” she said. “I also plan on bringing a fun and positive approach to work, laughter, and plenty of extra veggies and fresh eggs to share from my urban farm. The freedom and independence that GDB helps create embodies much of what motivates how I spend my time both personally and professionally.”

Welcome Cami! We are thrilled you’ve joined the organization.





# AHOY!

## FUN DAY 2019: BONE VOYAGE!

It was all dogs on deck for GDB's annual Fun Day events on both of our campuses in July. Puppy raisers, GDB alumni, volunteers, and supporters set sail for a day of activities, educational presentations, and just plain fun! Raisers and pups got to board the "Good Ship Lollipop" to practice the pups' goal behaviors; check out "The Love Boat" to learn more about their pups' pedigrees; play a nautical ring toss game for prizes and bragging rights, and much, much, more!

Fun Days are not only an opportunity for our puppy raisers to gather for a day of camaraderie, but they also give us the chance to thank them for all they do to support our mission. Thank you to everyone who attended! To see more photos from Fun Day, visit [flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind](https://www.flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind/).









# K9 BUDDY PICNIC



*CJ WITH HIS K9 BUDDY DOG, BENTON*

This Spring, GDB hosted our first-ever K9 Buddy Picnics on each of our campuses. The events brought together current K9 Buddy families and families interested in learning more about the program. Guests enjoyed lawn games, tactile arts and crafts, and of course, plenty of time to cuddle with dogs! Despite a little drizzle in Oregon that moved the event inside, spirits were as sunny as the skies in California, and a great time was had by all. We look forward to hosting these picnics again in the future!

Our free K9 Buddy program pairs specially-selected career change dogs to be placed as pets with families that have children who are blind or visually impaired. To learn more about the program, visit [guidedogs.com/k9buddy](https://guidedogs.com/k9buddy).

# CAMP GDB

Once a year we host Camp GDB, a free camp for youth who are blind or visually impaired. This year's camp was the biggest ever with nearly 20 kids ages 14-17 from all over the U.S. and beyond. The camp was held in June at the Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind's facility in Sandy, Ore.—very near our campus in Boring. Campers got to participate in hands-on guide dog experiences during a

day spent at our campus, including walks with *Juno* (a simulated guide dog), as well as with working guide dogs. They also visited our veterinary clinic and dog kennels, where they had lots of quality dog-snuggling time! Other camp activities included pool parties, campfires, hiking, and more! To learn more about GDB's youth programs, please visit [guidedogs.com/youthprograms](https://guidedogs.com/youthprograms).







**MICHAEL AND  
SUSAN FRANKLIN;  
VICKY AND MARSHALL BEROL**



**ED BLAKEMORE WITH  
CEO CHRISTINE BENNINGER**



**CHERYL BIRNIE, LAURIE  
RUSSO, AND CYNTHIA MONEY**

# LEAVING A LEGACY

On a beautiful spring day in June, nearly 300 Legacy Society members and their guests joined us for an al fresco luncheon on the grounds of our California campus. It was a day for us to honor and thank those donors who have chosen to include Guide Dogs for the Blind in their estate plans. In addition to a delicious meal, our honored guests also got to have quite the VIP experience. Divided into groups, attendees made their way to six locations on a tour of the campus, each with a different interactive presentation or demonstration, where they learned about everything from guide dog training and puppy socializing, to what our clients experience while they are on campus training with their new guide dogs. The highlight of the tour was a stop at our Puppy Center (which is still under construction and slated for a Fall completion), to learn about all of the exciting developments that are in store. Many thanks to all of the Legacy members and their guests who joined us that day, and thank you for your generous support of our mission!



## Did You Know?

***Joining our Legacy Society is easy! You just need to let us know that you've included GDB in your estate plans. To learn more, visit [guidedogs.com/legacy](http://guidedogs.com/legacy).***



**TOP: A SCENE FROM THE CAPS & TAILS GRADUATION CEREMONY. BOTTOM (L TO R): DALE AND LINDA GLASSER; MICHELLE LESNIAK; PUPPY RAISERS WITH THEIR NEW PUPPIES.**

## CAPS & TAILS

In June, GDB held our annual Caps & Tails event in Portland, Ore. The festivities included a GDB graduation where six new GDB alumni were recognized for completing their class training with their new guide dogs. The dogs’ puppy raisers were in attendance as well, and the ceremony was a heart-warming way for our nearly 300 guests to experience GDB’s mission first hand. The graduation was followed up by a luncheon, with a program that included a paddle raise in which more than \$230,000 was donated to help support our life-changing mission. The entire affair culminated in a puppy delivery, with Portland’s own Michelle Lesniak, winner of hit tv show *Project Runway’s* Season 11, on hand to deliver four pups to the eager arms of their volunteer puppy raisers.

Thank you to the event sponsors: Four Lifetime Team Sponsorships—Georgia F. Marsh. Guide Dog Team Sponsors—Cashew; Terry & Kelly Uhling. Name a Puppy Sponsors—Grady Britton; NW Natural; The Pesznecker Family in memory of Richard Pesznecker; U.S. Bank Charitable Services Group. Guide Dog Harness Sponsors—Charles Schwab and Company, Inc.; Enviser; OnPoint Community Credit Union; The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation/Arlene Schnitzer & Jordan Schnitzer.



## SAVE THE DATE

- **CANINE HEROES GALA** September 21, 2019 (San Francisco)
- **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** December 6, 2019 (San Francisco)
- **CAPS & TAILS** May 9, 2020 (Portland, OR)

**For more info or to register for these fundraising events, visit [guidedogs.com/events](http://guidedogs.com/events).**

- **GDB ALUMNI REUNION**  
October 18-20, 2019  
(Portland, OR)

**For Reunion info and registration, visit [guidedogs.com/reunion](http://guidedogs.com/reunion).**

## THANK YOU TO OUR NEW & CONTINUED SUPPORTERS April 1-June 30, 2019

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS Honoring the generous donors who contribute \$5,000+ annually.

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### NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

April 1-June 30, 2019

**Recognizing the vision of those who have included GDB in their estate plans.**

Anonymous  
Sherri Anderson  
Antionietta Avery  
Jack Benner  
Susan H. Blomberg  
Margaret (Meg) Gould Burke  
Lilaine H. Freeman  
Marcia Gibbs  
Virginia Karloff  
Amy Kittiver  
Ellen Klein-South

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Bruce Weintraub and Lynn S. Brunner  
Nancy and John Wise  
Alexandra Zell



**SUPPORT GDB BY SHOPPING AT OUR ONLINE  
GIFT SHOP! [GUIDEDOGS.COM/SHOP](http://GUIDEDOGS.COM/SHOP)**

## CREATE A GIFT OF A LIFETIME

“As puppy raisers, we are so in love with the amazing dogs we have the chance to raise in our home. Every time we meet a person who gets to spend their life with one of our puppies as their guide dog or anyone who has a guide dog, we are reminded of how important this life-changing mission is. We are so honored to be Legacy Society members.” —Lora and Brad Harrison (pictured)



Please join Lora and Brad and let us know if you have included Guide Dogs for the Blind in your estate plans or if you need any additional information. We would love to welcome you to our Legacy Society.

### GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ESTATE PLANNING

- I have already included Guide Dogs for the Blind in my estate plan. I accept the invitation to be recognized as a member of the Legacy Society.
- Please send me suggested language to use in my will or trust.
- I would like to receive the *Planning Your Legacy* guide for preparing wills and trusts.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Sue Dishart - Planned Giving Officer / Joan Scott - Planned Giving Coordinator  
Guide Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 151200, San Rafael, CA 94915-1200

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- **SEND A DONATION TODAY**  
**U.S. donations**  
Mailing address (donations only):  
Guide Dogs for the Blind  
P.O. Box 3950  
San Rafael, CA 94912-3950  
Online: [guidedogs.com](http://guidedogs.com)  
**Canadian donations**  
Mailing address (donations only):  
GDB International  
P.O. Box 1275 STN K  
Toronto, ON M4P 9Z9  
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- **ELIMINATE CHECKS/POSTAGE**  
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- **DOUBLE YOUR DONATION**  
Find out if your employer has a matching gifts program.
- **DONATE YOUR VEHICLE**  
Call 877.364.2271 OR 877.DOG.CAR1.
- **CREATE A LEGACY**  
Name GDB in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of an annuity, life insurance policy, IRA, or retirement plan.

Guide Dogs for the Blind will, on occasion, share donor information with like-minded non-profit organizations in an effort to better fulfill our mission and serve our clients. If you do not wish to have your information shared, please contact us at 800.295.4050 ext. 4160 or email us at [donations@guidedogs.com](mailto:donations@guidedogs.com).