

LEGACY NEWS

Estate Planning & Financial News for Friends of Guide Dogs for the Blind

SPRING 2022

A LIFE CHANGING PARTNERSHIP

Serendipity frequents our Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) community more than one might imagine.

This magic happened to Legacy Society members Bill and Joan Truncali of Portland, Oregon, and guide dog alum, Bill Faulkner of Calgary, Alberta, in the summer of 2009. The Truncalis were having dinner in Seattle with Theda, their beloved GDB career change and ambassador dog, when they were approached by Bill Faulkner, his wife Martha, and daughter Paige.

The Faulkners were immediately taken by Theda and inquired about Guide Dogs for the Blind's services and Theda's prior training as a guide dog.

At that chance encounter, Paige confided to the Truncalis that Bill was struggling with his vision and might need a guide dog in the future. Without hesitation, the Truncalis urged her to call should she need more information about GDB's services.

Three years later, when Bill lost his eyesight, he reached out to the Truncalis using the number on the restaurant card they had provided. Bill Truncali put the Faulkners in touch with staff at GDB's Oregon campus, and in early March 2012, Bill wrote to inform the Truncalis that he had been accepted into the guide dog training program.



A chance meeting of the Truncalis and Faulkners led to *Armstrong*

Poignantly, it was the same week Theda passed away while the Truncalis were living overseas. As Bill says, "Theda was well known for her pet therapy work, and this was her last good deed on earth. She was the catalyst that led the Faulkners to GDB's guide dog training program."

In June 2012, Bill graduated from GDB with his new partner, a beautiful yellow lab named *Armstrong*. Over the next few years, Bill and *Armstrong* crisscrossed Canada together, and the Truncalis received

"*Armstrong Reports*" about their adventures. The couples had a joyous gathering in Portland in 2019 while attending a GDB alumni reunion. At dinner, the Faulkners presented the restaurant card to Bill that he had given them all those years ago. The couples remain in close contact to this day.

For Bill, his new partnership with *Armstrong* has been life changing. "I will be forever grateful for that serendipitous meeting in 2009."

GDB is grateful for the chance encounter that brought these two amazing couples into the guide dog community. And special thanks to the Truncalis for being proud members of GDB's Legacy Society, which honors individuals who have named GDB in their estate plans to ensure more magic happens for years to come!

CREATE A LEGACY THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Through your estate plans, you can leave a legacy of love for your family and others you care deeply about, such as Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Here are a few ways to arrange meaningful gifts in your will or living trust:

- **Leave the residue.** This is a gift of remaining assets after others have been provided for or in the event others should predecease you.
- **Leave a percentage.** This is a flexible way to give because your gift adjusts with the size of your estate.
- **Give a fixed amount.** This is the most common type of bequest. The amount is certain and can be adjusted along with other terms of your will over time if desired.

If you already have a will or living trust, you can add charitable gifts through a codicil.



GDB client René Carrasco and his guide dog, *Snoopy*, have a bond that empowers independence, accessibility, and helps build social bridges.

If you are considering making a gift to Guide Dogs for the Blind through your estate...

...we sincerely thank you and would like to welcome you to the Legacy Society. You can share this information with your legal counsel:

Our Federal Tax ID Number:
94-1196195

Bequest Language:*

"I give \$_____ (or ___ % of the residue** of my estate [or trust]) to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. of San Rafael, California, for its general purposes."

* Canadian Residents: Please contact us for language and identification information specific to Canada.

**"Residue" refers to what remains after specific bequests, taxes, settlement costs, and debts are satisfied.

WITHOUT CHANGING YOUR WILL

While a will or living trust provides a way to create a legacy with Guide Dogs for the Blind, there are additional ways to include us in your plans:

Retirement plans. Since retirement plan assets can be heavily taxed if left to heirs, you may want to consider leaving all or a portion of these funds to Guide Dogs for the Blind while leaving other assets to loved ones. Be sure to complete a beneficiary form by contacting your plan administrator.

Bank or financial accounts. You can generally name a charity to receive all or a portion of a financial account. (Special rules apply to "pay on death" provisions in some states. Check with your advisor for specifics.)

Life insurance. When you complete the paperwork for a life insurance policy, you choose a beneficiary. The proceeds from your policy will be paid to the beneficiary recorded on your form regardless of the conditions listed in your will. After you have provided for your heirs, you can name GDB as a beneficiary of these funds.

Download our estate planning guide at [guidedogs.com/planned-giving](https://www.guidedogs.com/planned-giving).

EMPOWER INDEPENDENCE—RECEIVE INCOME

If you want to receive fixed, dependable payments for life while supporting exceptional guide dog teams, consider a charitable gift annuity (CGA). Establishing a gift annuity is quick and easy, and the benefits to you, your loved ones, and Guide Dogs for the Blind will last a lifetime.

Many people have experienced declining income in recent years, and some may have reduced retirement plans. Others may have stable income, but increased costs have impacted finances.

Charitable gift annuities provide payments that continue for as long as you and/or your spouse or another person live. Because a portion of the assets used to create your gift annuity will eventually benefit Guide Dogs for the Blind, you receive income tax savings now as well as income that may be taxed at more favorable rates.

Payment rates for gift annuities, **which will increase July 1**, are based on the age, number of people receiving payments, and other actuarial factors. Once set, your rate will never change.

With a charitable gift annuity, you will not only enhance your future economic security,

you may also be able to make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible. **Return the enclosed envelope to receive a personalized proposal outlining your specific benefits.**



Guide Dog puppies get lots of playtime and socialization in the new Puppy Center.

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE PLANNED GIVING TEAM



Erin Jones joined Tom Horton and Joan Scott on the planned giving team in March 2022, bringing 20 years of fundraising experience in animal welfare and education, most recently as leadership and legacy giving manager with Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation in Walnut Creek, California. She also served in leadership positions at De La Salle High School and UCSF, among others.

Erin looks forward to helping you explore gifts that meet your legacy, financial, and tax goals. Whether it's a gift that pays you income for life, reduces your taxes, or is part of your estate planning, we are here to assist you. Erin can be reached at ejones@guidedogs.com or 415.499.4456.



CELEBRATE GDB'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Canine Heroes Gala

**Saturday, October 29, 2022
5:30 p.m.**

The Ritz Carlton, San Francisco

Be inspired by actress Aria Mia Loberti and her guide dog Ingrid who star in *All The Light We Cannot See*, available on Netflix in the coming months. Together, they have traveled six countries and 23 states, hiked mountains, and overcome obstacles. Hear her story of resilience and hope. You may register at [guidedogs.com/events/canine-heroes](https://www.guidedogs.com/events/canine-heroes).

Contact us:

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USE YOUR IRA TO SUPPORT GUIDE DOG PROGRAMS

Giving careful thought to how you make your charitable gifts can be beneficial to you. In addition to the personal satisfaction that comes from giving, you might also enjoy tax benefits.

If you are age 70½ or older, you can make charitable gifts directly from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) up to a total of \$100,000 per individual per year; \$200,000 per couple with separate IRAs. This will reduce your taxable income while transforming lives and empowering people with visual impairment to live a life of independence and opportunity.

Advantages of giving through your IRA:

- You will not pay any tax on your gift, and you will satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- Some taxpayers are subject to limits on the amount of charitable gifts they can deduct. These limitations do not apply to IRA gifts.
- You won't increase your adjusted gross income and possibly subject your other income, like Social Security, to higher levels of taxation.

If you are interested in making an IRA gift, contact your plan administrator to request your gift be sent directly to GDB.