

Theresa Stern: Welcome to Central Bark, a podcast from Guide Dogs for the Blind. I'm your host Theresa Stern. And I'm looking forward to sharing the stories and conversations that make our life changing mission so unique. Guide Dogs for the Blind is the largest guide dog program in North America. We are a passionate community that prepares highly qualified guide dogs for people who are blind or visually impaired to help them move through the world with greater confidence and safety. This year, we're celebrating our 80th anniversary and our 16,000 plus guide dog teams that have graduated from our program since 1942. GDB not only improves mobility for its clients, but it also furthers inclusion and advocates for policy reform that changes the way the world views blindness. GDB services are always offered free of charge and we receive no government funding.

Each episode I'll be joined by a special guest and we'll discuss the ways in which lives are changed every day through these special partnerships between people, dogs, and communities. You're going to learn everything you ever wanted to know about our pups from guide dog DNA, to special training techniques. I'll introduce you to the amazing people in our community, from our clients to our staff, to our volunteers and supporters.

I've been lucky enough to be partnered with 4 amazing guide dogs over the last 25 years. And I'm honored to be the Vice President of Interdisciplinary Client Services and Engagement here at GDB. I've had a long career in the field of blindness and visual impairment, and I'm committed to making sure that everyone gets the opportunity to live the life they want to live. For me, that meant partnering with a guide dog. Join me every other week for news stories and amazing guests. Whether you're out on a walk with your dog, at your desk, or in your car, we have something for everyone. For more information about Guide Dogs for the Blind, please visit guidedogs.com. Central Bark, Central Bark, Central Bark. Woof.