IT'S QUIZ TIME

GDB has partnered with Allergan and Academy Award-winning actress Marisa Tomei. Learn more about this exciting opportunity! p2

REACHING OUT

How do our clients learn about GDB? Often, it’s thanks to our amazing Outreach team. Get to know them in this staff profile. p5

GOLD STANDARD

NBA superstar Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors has teamed up with GDB, and he recently got to meet his namesake puppy, Klay! p7

KATHRYN MARXEN-SIMONSON WITH HER GUIDE DOG, NABISCO. KATHRYN WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT OUR OREGON FALL LUNCHEON; SEE PAGE 9.
SUPERSTAR SUPPORTERS

We are happy to announce that GDB has partnered with Allergan, a leader in the eye care industry, to help increase public awareness and treatment of Chronic Dry Eye Disease, while also supporting our mission. Allergan has been dedicated to developing innovative eye treatments for people and has been an expert in eye care for more than 65 years. For this partnership, Allergan has launched a national campaign to promote awareness and treatment of Chronic Dry Eye Disease and their product, Restasis®. Academy Award-winning actress Marisa Tomei is the spokesperson for the campaign, and she met guide-dog-in-training, Boris, in New York City in July to kick off the campaign. Marisa and Allergan are committed to supporting GDB as a charitable partner.

THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR, ALLERGAN WILL DONATE $1 TO GDB FOR EVERY DRY EYE QUIZ TAKEN ON THEIR WEBSITE, AS PART OF THEIR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE EYE CARE COMMUNITY. TAKE THE QUIZ AT RESTASIS.COM — IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE!
Greetings,

It is truly the most wonderful time of the year and Guide Dogs for the Blind has so very many reasons to celebrate. What stands out to me the most as I reflect back on 2016, is how blessed we are to have such a passionate and caring community: our alums, staff, donors, raisers, and other volunteers are amazing! We simply couldn’t fulfill our mission without them and we are so very grateful to be surrounded by so many amazing individuals!

In this issue, we are taking a moment to celebrate some of these GDB heroes. You’ll find profiles of Jane Flower and Marc Gillard, who are leading the charge in Outreach. Jane and Marc, along with their talented team of Outreach Alumni Representatives, cover a lot of territory educating people about the enhanced independence, confidence, and mobility our exceptional guide dogs can provide. We also introduce you to Jessica Naert, one of our amazing grads from the great state of Texas and Von Summers a brand new board member from the Pacific Northwest. In addition to recognizing our generous individual donors, we would also like to acknowledge the contributions of corporate partners Natural Balance and Allergan, whose cause-related marketing programs are helping GDB raise awareness of our life-changing mission across North America. I hope you enjoy looking back on some of these highlights and are as excited as I am about the future.

Have a joyous and safe holiday season!

Christine Benninger
President and CEO
Von Summers joined our board this past July and we are thrilled to draw on his expertise in philanthropy, marketing, and the Pacific Northwest. Von is the senior manager of community affairs at NW Natural of Portland, Oregon, which he describes as his dream job: “I get to positively interact with members of our communities throughout our service territory and donate money to hundreds of meaningful non-profits.”

There are many things Von appreciates about being affiliated with Guide Dogs for the Blind, but shares that attending a GDB graduation is the most rewarding part of all. “I love attending graduations and hearing clients talk about what having a guide dog means for their freedom, independence, and self-confidence. I have never made it through a graduation without shedding a tear or two of joy,” he said. Von has been a long-time supporter of GDB and is really excited about his new role noting, “I am amazed how truly dedicated the staff and the Board of Directors are to the Guide Dogs for the Blind mission. Everyone I have met with the organization has passion and unbridled enthusiasm for their work.”

Von shares GDB’s belief in the power of the human-canine partnership. He has had four Labs and a Golden Retriever (thus far!) and has learned a great deal from each of his dogs. “As a child they taught me the meaning of unconditional love; as a teen the meaning of responsibility; and as an adult the importance of play in one’s life, and the benefits of a good nap.” He has also picked up quite a few hobbies from his dogs along the way including running, swimming, and chasing balls. Von also enjoys reading about history and politics, cooking, and spending time with family. Von and his wife Barbara live in Portland and have three children.

Welcome to the board, Von!
Our Outreach Department is on the front lines of raising awareness about our life-changing mission among potential clients, as well as with professionals and agencies that work to support the blindness community. The department is led by Outreach Manager Jane Flower and Orientation and Mobility Services Specialist Marc Gillard, and is supported by a skilled team of Outreach Alumni Representatives.

“Our role is to reach out to the blindness community whether it be people who may be considering a guide dog for mobility, or blindness professionals such as orientation and mobility specialists, teachers of the visually impaired, or rehabilitation specialists, and educate them about what it is like to live and work with a guide dog, the eligibility criteria, and how to apply,” Jane said. “We also meet a lot of people who may not be quite ready for a guide dog, so we offer guidance and peer support as well on how to best prepare for guide dog mobility.” The Outreach Department loves helping potential guide dog handlers and educators experience the power of the human-canine partnership through workshops across North America, during which participants hear from guide dogs users and guide dog mobility experts, and experience walking with a guide dog.

Jane and Marc bring diverse perspectives and deep expertise to their efforts.

Jane hales from Southern California and draws on her experience as a guide dog user as well as her education in psychology and gerontology. Jane’s previous experience includes working at an independent living center where she managed a daily living skills program for senior citizens losing their eyesight. Marc also comes from a warm and sunny clime: Australia. Prior to coming to GDB, he worked at guide dog organizations in Melbourne and Sydney in various roles including instructor, apprentice program supervisor, and manager of guide dog services.

Marc and Jane both find great joy in their work and being associated with GDB. Marc shares, “I feel very fortunate the career I love has lead me to GDB and to be part of such a dedicated group of people. Everyone at GDB is a special person and inspiring in their own way.”

Jane adds, “What amazes me is the amount of dedication, compassion, and passion that everyone who works or volunteers for GDB possesses. It is quite humbling to know that the people that surround me on a daily basis are working to fulfill a mission where the end result is to help someone like me.”
Jessica Naert is a transition vocational rehabilitation counselor for Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services, where she is passionately dedicated to helping students with disabilities plan for their transition out of high school and helping them obtain and maintain competitive employment. She came to GDB after her vision started to decline as a result of Retinitis Pigments (RP) while she was in college.

“While attending the University of North Texas, my vision was degenerating pretty rapidly,” Jessica said. “A co-worker introduced me to GDB graduate, Misty Allen, who is now one of my best friends. I enjoyed seeing Misty work with her guide dog, Bijou, and loved the independence and freedom she had when they traveled together. I thought getting a guide dog might be just what I needed — and it was!” She was paired with black Lab Makiko at our Oregon campus in 2013.

One of the things that Jessica loves to share about her experience with GDB is the level of support we provide to our clients throughout the experience — from the application process and the class experience, to post-graduation follow-up care and beyond. “I couldn’t have asked for a better experience,” she said. “My amazing instructor, Jaymin Nowland, got me out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to learn as much as I could every day while I was in class. She customized our training to my personality and needs. We were trained in so many different environments: busy public transportation areas, malls (including escalators), various neighborhoods, heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic areas, airports, and night routes. It was great because when we went home, we had already experienced at least a little sample of pretty much every type of potential environment. I also met lifelong friends while in class, and I will never forget the cooking and absolutely delicious food that we had!”

Jessica said that her excellent partnership with Makiko is instrumental to her success at work and in life. “She loves to guide and is very dedicated to watching out for me. Makiko has found ways to help me at home, work, and out in the community, even in ways that she wasn’t trained to do,” she said. “The staff and volunteers — especially the puppy raisers who dedicate so much of their time, energy, and heart to raising these beautiful dogs — the community at GDB is unlike anywhere else. They all are truly dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with visual impairments and in my opinion, the guide dogs that graduate from GDB are the best of the best.”
WE ARE GOLDEN!

We’re excited to announce that Golden State Warriors basketball star Klay Thompson has agreed to team up with Guide Dogs for the Blind and support our life-changing mission! Klay now has an adorable guide dog puppy named after him and we’re excited to follow this future canine hero, Klay, as he grows up! #PuppyKlay

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• Blog, No Bones About It! guidedogs.com/blog

NEW LICENSEE

Congratulations to our newest licensed guide dog mobility instructor, Rachel Chamness. Rachel grew up in Banks, Ore. and was a GDB puppy raiser from 2004-2007. After completing a summer internship at our Oregon campus, she knew she wanted to pursue becoming an instructor as a long-term career. Rachel attended Pensacola Christian College in Florida and received a bachelor’s degree in public relations/advertising. Throughout college, she worked at a Labradoodle breeding kennel, where she socialized and trained the young pups to become future service dogs and family pets. Rachel said it’s hard for her to pick a favorite aspect of her job, however, “I particularly enjoy building relationships with our clients in class as well as out in the field,” she said. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys snowboarding and traveling with her husband, hiking, camping, photography, and spending quality snuggle time on the couch with her two Boston Terriers.

RACHEL CHAMNESS

We’re excited to announce that Golden State Warriors basketball star Klay Thompson has agreed to team up with Guide Dogs for the Blind and support our life-changing mission! Klay now has an adorable guide dog puppy named after him and we’re excited to follow this future canine hero, Klay, as he grows up! #PuppyKlay
HAPPENINGS

CANINE HEROES AUCTION

On a gorgeous October evening in San Francisco, hundreds of GDB supporters joined us at the “Pupper Club,” our annual Canine Heroes Auction fundraising event. The soiree featured a reception and silent auction, complete with delectable food, delicious libations, and live music, followed by a gourmet meal and live auction. Plenty of GDB puppies and guide dogs were in attendance, and spirits were high! To round it out, GDB alumna Joy Thomas with her guide dog, Roja (pictured, right), provided some inspiring words during her keynote address. Proceeds from the event will benefit the care and training of our canine heroes.

OREGON FALL LUNCHEON

In November, GDB celebrated our Oregon Fall Luncheon at The Nines hotel in downtown Portland. Attendees enjoyed a wine reception where they mingled with GDB puppies and guide dogs, followed by a delicious lunch that featured a moving and educational program. There was a demonstration of GDB’s positive reinforcement methods for guide dog training, and alumna Kathryn Marxen-Simonson, with her guide dog, Nabisco, provided the keynote address. In addition, GDB honored long-time supporter, Howard Hedinger, for his many years of dedication to our mission. As always, a presentation of young puppies to their new volunteer puppy raisers closed out the event to the oohs and ahhs of the guests.


PICTURED, TOP:
OREGON FALL LUNCHEON HONOREE HOWARD HEDINGER WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER KATHRYN MARXEN-SIMONSON AND HER GUIDE DOG, NABISCO.

PICTURED, BOTTOM:
MARK WRIGHT AND CLAIRE WIDMARK-WRIGHT MEETING THEIR NEW GUIDE DOG PUPPY, YELLOW LAB KONA.

SAVE THE DATE

• DOGS WITH HEARTS OF GOLD LUNCHEON
  Sunday, May 7, 2017 | Reno, NV

• PINOT & PUPS AUCTION
  Saturday, May 20, 2017 | Portland, OR

Visit guidedogs.com/events for more info.
Lyn and Don Klein are President’s Circle members and passionate volunteers who have no shortage of connections to Guide Dogs for the Blind and our mission. In the 1970s, Lyn was a GDB puppy raiser, and in the 1980s and 90s, she was a puppy socializer and office volunteer on our California campus. She took a break from volunteering after her third child was born so she could focus on raising her young family. However, when the kids were older, the entire family got involved. She and daughter Amanda volunteered as campus dog walkers, and the family enlisted as volunteer foster care providers and breeding stock custodians. Since 2013, they have fostered 18 different dogs of all ages and in all stages of training. The youngest was an adorable 10-week-old career change puppy, and the oldest was a sweet 12-year-old retired guide dog.

“Currently we are breeder custodians for a 4-year-old GDB stud dog, Anthem,” Lyn said.

“He was actually our seventh foster care dog and we fell in love immediately — he never left! He is an exceedingly calm dog and loves long hikes, playing with oversized toys and greeting any visitors to our home. He is happiest when everyone is home and he can sleep with his head resting on the feet of a willing family member.”

Lyn said that what their family appreciates most about GDB is the care and attention that we give to all dogs in the program through every stage of their lives.

“We love GDB’s dedication to tending to the well being of the lives of the dogs in their care from puppyhood, through their careers as guides, and beyond,” she said. “Our interactions with staff members are always positive and we observe a genuine commitment to GDB’s mission. All staff seem truly grateful for our involvement.”

Being GDB volunteers and donors aligns Lyn, Don, and their children with their philosophy about life. “We have been fortunate in our lives to have many wonderful experiences with the animals we have known and loved,” Lyn said. “We feel it is imperative to give back to our local community, and Guide Dogs for the Blind is a perfect vehicle for giving of time, talents, and treasure. GDB combines our love of animals with a mission to empower lives through connections with animals.”

Thank you, Klein family for your support and years of dedicated volunteerism!
THANK YOU TO OUR NEW SUPPORTERS  August 1-October 31, 2016

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE—Honoring the generous major donors who contribute $5,000 or more annually.

SOUL MATES: $100,000+
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LEGACY SOCIETY—Recognizing the vision of those who have included GDB in their estate plans.

Nancy S. Baumer
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JoAnn Corey
Melissa S. Harber
Heidy and Klif Knoles
Debra Mailman
Michael McClelland
Kathleen Meyer
Sheila and Bruce Pratt
Penny Steele
Lillyan Tremaroli
Nick Trunzo and David Bergquist
Deborah A. Willard and Dennis Shepard
Jim Zayac and Jim Schwarz

NATURAL PARTNERS

Our guide dog teams benefit from the power of partnerships. Since 2010, our dogs in training have been rewarded by our partners at Natural Balance, which has provided the preferred food and treats for our dogs on our campuses, and have passed along discounts to clients. September was National Guide Dog Month, which is a celebration of guide dogs throughout North America, and was first inspired by Natural Balance’s co-founder, Dick Van Patten. To celebrate National Guide Dog month this year, Natural Balance partnered with Guide Dogs for the Blind to create awareness and interest in our life-changing mission. They supported the effort with PR and social media, featuring the stories of nine of our guide dog teams and celebrating the power of human-canine relationships. We are also grateful for their generous donation of $61,000. Learn more at naturalbalanceinc.com/guidedogs.
CREATE A GIFT OF A LIFETIME

“We recently attended the graduation of our friend Holly Turri and her guide dog Pima. We are proud to be Legacy Society members, and by experiencing the inspiring ceremony we are even more dedicated to continuing our support.”
—Carla and Lyle Tiberghien (pictured)

Please consider becoming Legacy Society members like Carla and Lyle by leaving a gift to GDB in your estate plan. Please visit guidedogs.com/plannedgiving, return the coupon below, or call us at 800.295.4050, ext. 2289 (Sue) or ext. 4073 (Joan).

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ESTATE PLANNING

☐ GDB is included in my estate plan; please enroll me in the Legacy Society.
☐ I’d like to learn more about how to include GDB in my estate plan; please send info.
☐ Please send info on your graduation schedule.

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
  Please use our mailing address for donations only: Guide Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 3950, San Rafael, CA 94912-3950. You can also donate online: guidedogs.com.

• ELIMINATE CHECKS/POSTAGE
  Direct your bank to automatically transfer your donation.

• MAKE AN HONOR OR MEMORIAL GIFT
  Pay tribute to a friend, relative, or pet; cards of celebration or sympathy will be sent in your name.

• CREATE A LEGACY IN YOUR ESTATE
  Name GDB in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of your annuity, life insurance policy, IRA, or retirement plan. We honor such commitments with membership in our Legacy Society.

• DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT
  Designate your donation to go toward a specific GDB program. Contact us for more info.

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 call our Development Department at 800.295.4050 extension 4160 or email us at donations@guidedogs.com.