Get to know GDB’s Canine Welfare Neonatal Department, the team responsible for the early/initial care and socialization of our baby puppies. p7

Plan now to join GDB this fall for our Alumni Reunion, with the theme “Celebrating Community Partnerships.” It’s open to GDB alumni, raisers, volunteers, and friends!  p9
SHARING OUR GRATITUDE

Guide Dogs for the Blind is blessed to have a very talented board of directors. This group is comprised of dedicated individuals, who bring insights on non-profit management, finance, law, blindness and so much more to their stewardship of our organization.

We are very grateful for the many significant and lasting contributions of the members who will be rolling off the board in June. Our sincere thanks go to Bob Burke, Sigrid Button, Ruth Ann Dodson, Jay Harris, and Stuart Odell for all they have done to bolster GDB’s efforts over the years. This group has helped GDB grow and evolve by advocating for new programs and capital campaigns, enhancing our presence in key regions, supporting GDB’s leadership team, and so much more.

Thank you for everything you have done to advance our life-changing mission!
Greetings,

It is hard to believe we are nearly half way through 2017! As we noted in our last issue, this is a momentous year for Guide Dogs for the Blind: it is our 75th anniversary! It has been so wonderful to celebrate this milestone with our community through special events, commemorative artwork, social media, and more. We have also created a special 75th anniversary video that speaks to our past, present, and future, which you can find on our YouTube channel and at graduations. The video is narrated by alum Craig Heaps and I invite you to check it out. I think you’ll be amazed by the archival footage in the video—while many things hold true today about GDB, our wardrobes certainly have changed!

We continue to be thankful for everyone who supports Guide Dogs for the Blind’s efforts and in this issue we highlight some more of our wonderful community members. We are thrilled to introduce you to some of the folks making a difference in the great state of Texas. You’ll meet GDB alum Faith Snapp and the Adams and Roberts families who are generous donors as well as fantastic puppy raisers. We make a stop on our California Campus to visit with the amazing staff that make up our Neonatal team. These dedicated folks ensure our breeders get world-class care and that their pups have the absolute best start in this world. Finally, check out page 9 for a preview of some of the great activities that will await participants in our Alumni Reunion and Retreat taking place in San Francisco this fall.

Happy reading and we hope to see you soon for a tour, a graduation, or at one of our wonderful events!

Sincerely,

Christine Benninger
President and CEO
Freedom is the word that comes to mind when GDB graduate Faith Snapp thinks of her guide dog Prim. Faith and her twin brother Caleb were born prematurely at 27 weeks and were both diagnosed with Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). Today, 15-year-old Faith is a very active and involved freshman at Lubbock-Cooper High School in Lubbock, Texas. The FFA organization plays a huge part in Faith’s life. She shows goats, sheep, mini herefords and horses with the help of a spotter. She recently took 3rd place showing her goat at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo!

Her passion for FFA is actually how she first learned about GDB. She attended the Texas State FFA convention in 2015 and GDB had a booth there promoting puppy raising as an approved Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project for FFA members. It was from that point, that she started researching and convinced her mom to let her apply for a guide dog at the age of 14. She felt that she had reached a point in her life where walking with a cane just wasn’t providing her with enough assistance anymore. She was looking for the independence that she knew could be possible with something as life-changing as a guide dog.

Faith received in-home training, and talks about meeting Prim for the first time: “The instructors came to my house with the most beautiful black Lab I have ever seen. I was filled with so much joy and my heart grew. As soon as I held Prim’s leash, I knew she was the one for me. I could not have been happier.”

Faith recently attended our GDB Texas Fun Day in Austin and had one of the best experiences of her life because she was able to meet current puppy raisers, fellow guide dog users, and GDB staff members. “Every person that I have met that is involved with GDB has just amazed me. They are all kind-hearted and awesome. I couldn’t ask to be part of a better organization,” she said.

When asked what she enjoys most about the guide dog lifestyle, Faith says, “I like that my family and I have reassurance that I can travel independently and safely. I also love that I have my very best friend go everywhere with me.”
• International Guide Dog Day is recognized during the month of April, and this year, a couple of GDB grads were in the media spotlight to help spread awareness of GDB’s mission. Susie Long and her guide, Joan, appeared on the morning show of KRXI FOX 11 News in Reno. Joining her were puppy club leader Vicki Moss with guide dog puppy Nicasio, and raiser Denise O’Donnell with baby puppy Julia. Meanwhile in Oregon, Tracy Boyd with her guide dog Chiffon represented GDB on KGW-TV’s morning news program, along with several GDB staff members and puppy raisers. Tracy said, “I can’t imagine my life without Chiffon, she brings me so much independence, flexibility, courage and so much more… Chiffon is my third guide dog from GDB and I am forever grateful for my life-changing partners.”

• Congratulations to Yolanda Avila who was recently elected to the City Council in Colorado Springs, Colo. where she is a great advocate for diversity and transit in the community. Yolanda’s guide dog is Golden Retriever Puma.

• Happy birthday to Judy Davis-Perry’s retired guide, yellow Lab Doria, who turned 16 in April—a milestone to be sure! Judy’s current guide dog is yellow Labrador Retriever Sharla.

• Craig Heaps is the voiceover artist featured on GDB’s new 75th Anniversary video, which you can view on our YouTube channel, guidedogsaregreat. Craig was a San Francisco Bay Area television journalist at KTVU for nearly 30 years before going into voiceover work. We’re so grateful for his expertise and talent! Craig’s guide is black Lab Chase, who he lovingly refers to as his high-speed Chase!

• Melba Vélez Ortiz, an associate professor of communications at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., along with her guide dog, Chad (aka Professor Chad), were recently profiled in the school’s publication, GV Magazine. “Students say that they feel very inspired by me because I’m always happy and love what I do, and that was weird to hear at first,” she said in the article. “To me, I’m not doing some amazing feat; I’m just trying to live and keep my joy. I’m glad that they can see that life will sometimes throw you curveballs, but you can get through life joyfully.”
Cathy Martin brings a wealth of professional experience in for-profit and non-profit sectors to her roles as Treasurer and CFO for Guide Dogs for the Blind. She has over 25 years of experience with financial management, business planning, corporate development, and equity and debt financing for Humane Society Silicon Valley as well as many rapidly growing technology-based companies and venture capital firms in Silicon Valley. She also has 13 years of public accounting experience, culminating in partnership status at Coopers & Lybrand (now Pricewaterhouse Coopers), an international accounting firm.

In addition to her deep professional experience, Cathy also has an impressive academic background, having earned an MBA in Finance from the NYU Stern School of Business as well as a BS in accounting and quantitative methods from the University of Oregon. Cathy enjoys the opportunity to draw on both her academic and professional experiences to help GDB capitalize on opportunities as well as mitigate challenges. Cathy shares, “The mission is very inspiring and gives me a reason to come to work every day. I am a CPA with a lifetime of experience and my skills help me navigate the organization around icebergs to keep it safe.”

Cathy’s hobbies and interests have also shaped her world view. Her love of art history and great religions of the world have broadened her knowledge and perspectives through travel and study. Cathy recently traveled to Russia to spend a week exploring the endlessly interesting collections of The Hermitage, and The Louvre is definitely on her bucket list. Cathy is also an avid participant in Parliaments of the World’s Religions, an organization dedicated to cultivating harmony among the world’s religious and spiritual communities. She has traveled to Australia and within the U.S. to participate in their conferences, and looks forward to the next conference in 2020.

Not surprisingly, Cathy’s answer to the question, “what would you do if you weren’t a CFO?” reveals her love of dogs as well as her intellectual curiosity. She shares, “My grandfather was a veterinarian and I worked in a veterinary hospital in college. Yes, I was doing the accounting for the hospital, but I worked at night and often found myself assisting with emergency surgeries. But my secret real love has always been particle physics. If I had to do it all over again, it would be theoretical particle physics.” GDB is very fortunate to have such a well-rounded and dedicated professional contributing to our mission!
When it comes to the mental and physical care of our puppies, we rely on our amazing Canine Welfare Neonatal (CWN) Department. Our CWN team is made up of 26 staff members that bring GDB experience that ranges from five months to 35 years! Our team is not only responsible for our puppies and their early life experiences, but they are also responsible for the moms that are giving birth and act as “midwives” during the entire birthing process.

In support of GDB’s efforts to increase the percentage of puppies who become guides, the CWN team is expanding their focus to include more mental stimulation and environmental enrichment ranging from feeding via puzzle toys, to interactive toys, and taking advantage of the latest scientific advancements to update our auditory enrichment. Their goal is to expose our neonates and young puppies to as many new experiences as possible so they are confident to interact with novel situations later as guides. The department recently began a new potty training process with our pups at 3 weeks of age to great success, which has helped the pups get a head start prior to being placed with their volunteer puppy raisers.

“I enjoy supporting our worthwhile mission and working with the amazing dogs, staff, and volunteers who give their energy so generously,” said CWN Manager Jill Cooney, who brings an extensive background in animal welfare to GDB. She is a certified animal welfare administrator and has worked for many reputable organizations such as the San Francisco SPCA and Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation.

With an average of 900 puppies in the department’s care each year, the team is thrilled about our future Puppy Center, which will be designed to reflect the medical and psychological needs of our dogs and provide our staff with a state of the art facility. The Puppy Center is designed with functionality and biosecurity in mind, and will include features such as integrated workstations to easily record information about our dog’s health; exam stations in proximity to the kennel stalls; and space for mothers to have more natural interactions with their young puppies and peace needed when recovering from their whelp. For more info on our new Puppy Center please visit guidedogs.com/puppycenter.
BAY AREA LEGACY SOCIETY LUNCHEON

Guide Dogs for the Blind’s Legacy Society honors the generosity of those who have chosen to include GDB in their estate plans.

In April, we held our annual Bay Area Legacy Society Luncheon at The City Club in San Francisco to recognize our local Legacy Society members and their commitment to our mission. Guests enjoyed a program that featured remarks from CEO Christine Benninger, Vice President of Philanthropy Tom Horton, and Planned Giving Officer Sue Dishart, as well as a keynote address by GDB alum Robert Moreno with his guide dog Geyser. To learn more about the Legacy Society or become a member, please visit guidedogs.com/plannedgiving.

SAVE THE DATE

• CANINE HEROES AUCTION DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION
  October 14, 2017 (San Francisco, CA)

• FESTIVE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
  December 1, 2017 (San Francisco, CA)

For more information, visit guidedogs.com/events.

IN APRIL, THE LONE STAR PUPPY RAISING CLUBS HELD A STATEWIDE TEXAS FUN DAY IN AUSTIN, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 350 VOLUNTEER RAISERS AND NEARLY 130 GDB PUPPIES. ORGANIZED BY PUPPY RAISING LEADERS ANINA AND ROY GREEN, ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES (PICTURED ABOVE) WAS AN ATTEMPT TO SET A WORLD RECORD FOR THE MOST PEOPLE/DOGS PLAYING A GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS. WE KNOW THEY SET A WORLD RECORD FOR CUTENESS! SEE MORE PICTURES ONLINE AT flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind.

CHRISTINE AND ROBERT MORENO, WITH THEIR GUIDE DOGS HAYWARD (L) AND GEYSER (R).
YOU’RE INVITED!

Attention all GDB alumni, puppy raisers, and friends! Plan now to join us for our

2017 GDB Alumni Reunion and Retreat:
“Celebrating Community Partnerships”

When: Friday, November 17–Sunday, November 19, 2017
Where: Sir Francis Drake Hotel, San Francisco

It’s GDB’s Diamond Anniversary, our 75th year of helping to create amazing partnerships, so it’s the perfect time to come together and celebrate. Join us for this very special GDB Alumni Reunion and Retreat, in the place where it all started: San Francisco!

The theme for the Reunion/Retreat is “Celebrating Community Partnerships.” Topics for seminars and activities will relate to the power of partnership, between our dogs and our friends and families, as well as in our communities. We will also reflect on our past 75 years and look ahead to our bright future! There will also be optional tours offered to explore the sights, including a walking and tasting tour of San Francisco’s world-famous Chinatown; a “Big Bus” tour featuring San Francisco’s most iconic attractions, including a stop at the Golden Gate Bridge; a picnic and tour of GDB’s California campus in San Rafael; and a private wine tasting and picnic in the beautiful Sonoma Valley (additional fees apply).

Please help us spread the word to all GDB alumni and puppy raisers, and make plans to connect in the City by the Bay. We can’t wait to see you there!

For more information or to register, please visit guidedogs.com/reunion.
In 2006, Beth and David Adams moved from Orange County, Calif. to Dallas, Texas for a job promotion. While they were excited about this opportunity, they were sad to leave behind their involvement with Guide Dogs for the Blind as puppy raising volunteers. At that time, GDB didn’t have a puppy raising program in Texas. But Beth and Dave saw the potential for GDB to expand, and by 2010 they had successfully recruited other volunteers and supporters, and together were able to raise the money to start a pilot program. They established the first Texas puppy club in Dallas, the Lone Star Guide Dog Raisers, with six volunteer families and six puppies. Since then, the state has become a puppy raising powerhouse: 10 percent of GDB’s puppies are now being raised throughout Texas and there are more than 250 volunteer families. One of those families is the Roberts.

When Katherine and William Roberts’ 15-year-old son, Henry, had a chance meeting with GDB alumna Jessica Naert and her guide dog Makiko, he learned that there were opportunities in Texas for him to raise a guide dog puppy. He was hooked and convinced his family to join him on his adventure. “It takes a village and a family to raise a future guide dog,” said Katherine. “As a family, we have been so fortunate to have participated in the incredible community that raises guide dog puppies. We firmly believe that if you want success for the causes you support, you need to invest both time and resources. We were pleased to be able to join the Puppies with a Purpose Campaign and believe that the new Puppy Center on the California campus, with its focus on building early confidence in these canine heroes, is going to provide newborn puppies with the greatest chance for success.”
THANK YOU TO OUR NEW & CONTINUED SUPPORTERS

January 1-March 31, 2017

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

SOUL MATES: $100,000+
Don Bloyer
The Allergan Foundation

HEROES: $50,000-$99,999
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Subaru of America, Inc.

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COMPANIONS: $10,000-$24,999
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NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS
Recognizing the vision of those who have included GDB in their estate plans.

Lori and Austen Anderson
Pam and Bob Arthur
Mary Ann Bradbury
Mary Clark and Joanne Hemingway
Dorothy Conte Finnegan
Pat Forsberg
Zora Gibson
Kari Hebble and Bob Condie
Mary Holloran
Eri and Eric Minoura
Tina Moore
Phyllis and Ralph Seifert
Catherine H. Smith
Diane and Phil Theophilou
Bonnie B. Torres
Linda Von Rhine

PUPPIES WITH A PURPOSE

We are making great progress on our new Puppy Center, but we still need your help!
To learn more about our Puppies with a Purpose Campaign, please visit our website at guidedogs.com/puppycenter.

Gifts of $1,000 or more will be recognized on the Puppy Center donor wall.
HAVE INTEREST RATES GOT YOU DOWN?

If you are like many people wondering about their economic future, consider the security of a GDB Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). By creating a CGA, you not only provide fixed payments for yourself, but also benefit from a charitable tax deduction this year. Benefits of a CGA include:

- Eliminating investment worries
- Safe and secure investment
- Guaranteed fixed income for life
- Favorable income tax deductions

GIFT ANNUITY PROPOSAL

- How would a charitable gift annuity work for me?
  (Minimums: age 50, $5,000 gift)

  My birthdate: ___________ Two-life birthdate: ___________

  Sample gift amount:  $5,000 $10,000 $25,000 Other: $ ___________

  Name: __________________________________________________________

  Address: __________________________________________________________

  Phone: _______________________ Email: ______________________________

  To learn more, please return this coupon to the address below, call Joan Scott at 800.295.4050, ext. 4073, or visit guidedogs.com/plannedgiving.

Mailing address: Guide Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 151200, San Rafael, CA 94915-1200

GIFT ANNUITY ONE-LIFE RATES

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CALL FOR TWO-LIFE RATES

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.