

GUIDE DOG NEWS

The Quarterly Publication of
Guide Dogs for the Blind

2019 ISSUE 1



PUPPY RAISER KRISTINA COON WITH GUIDE DOG PUPPY STARDUST

CEO LETTER

Get an update from CEO Christine Benninger, including our position on the rise of fraudulent service and emotional support animals. **p3**

STAFF PROFILE

Get to know our new veterinary Medical Director Dr. Kate Kuzminski, and her role in keeping our dogs and puppies healthy on both campuses. **p5**

THE GDB FAMILY

Meet the Janowsky family, dedicated GDB volunteers and donors, who are proud members of both our President's Circle and Legacy Society. **p10**



**Guide Dogs
for the Blind**



SHOP TIL YOU DROP!

From apparel and dog supplies, to GDB-branded accessories, we've got something for everyone in our online gift shop. Check it out at guidedogs.com/shop.

NEW INSTRUCTORS



KATELYN ALMON



AMANDA JONES

Congratulations to our newest Guide Dog Mobility Instructors: Katelyn Almon and Amanda Jones. They recently completed their three-year GDB instructor apprenticeships, and we're so proud of their accomplishments!

TO READ THEIR COMPLETE BIOS, PLEASE VISIT OUR BLOG AT GUIDEDOGS.COM/BLOG.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

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

National Office/California Campus:

350 Los Ranchitos Road
San Rafael, CA 94903

Oregon Campus:

32901 S.E. Kelso Road
Boring, OR 97009

In Canada:

GDB International
P.O. Box 1275 STN K
Toronto, ON M4P 9Z9
866.797.6603
gdbinternational.ca

Canadian registration number:
83061 8682 RR0001

Officers

Christine Benninger—President & CEO
Tom Kowalski—Chair
Von Summers—Vice Chair
Len Almalech—Vice Chair, Finance
Greg Rice—Secretary
M. Cathy Martin—Treasurer & CFO

Directors

Claudia Barkmeier
Roy Green
Melissa Hudson
Deborah Kendrick
Andrew Mathieson
Diana McQuarrie

Photo Credits

Morry Anne Angell - p1, p2 (right), p3,
p5, p6, p8, p9, p12
Karen Woon - p2 (left)
Ed Smith - p10
Submitted photos - p4, p7 (top, left)
Texas Pictures - p7 (bottom)

Guide Dog News is published for the information of GDB supporters. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without permission from Guide Dogs for the Blind.

© Guide Dogs for the Blind



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

Happy New Year to you!

As we look toward another exciting year, I'd like to first thank you for giving so generously last year. Because all our services are free of charge and we receive no government funding, your generous support is so crucial to our mission. With this support, we look forward to graduating even more teams in 2019!

I thought I would take this opportunity to make you aware of an issue that currently threatens our client's safety and independence on a daily basis: fraudulent service and emotional support animals. Fraudulent service and emotional animals pose a threat to legitimate service dogs because they have not had the extensive training of a service dog and can become uncomfortable and even fearful in public situations. Recently, incidents of aggression involving fraudulent service and emotional support animals have jumped alarmingly. Even one dangerous encounter between a working team and an untrained animal could have catastrophic consequences and result in the permanent retirement of the guide dog. Confusion between legitimate service dogs and pets is fueled by how easy is it to obtain fake service or emotional support animal certification online.



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.” Guide Dogs for the Blind is firmly committed to advocating for solutions to crack down on fraudulent service and emotional support animals to ensure the safety and independence of our clients. In the future, we look forward to sharing more about our advocacy work and ways that you can help.

Thank you to the entire GDB community for all you do to support and advocate for our life-changing mission. We couldn't do it without your support. We look forward to a year of wonderful things!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine'.

Christine Benninger, President and CEO

CAREER CHANGE CORNER

KEEPING UP WITH THE ADVENTURES OF GDB CAREER CHANGE DOGS



OWEN BULGER
AND THEO



BRENT MERSHON
AND FLOYD

TOP: Owen Bulger and his Golden Retriever K9 Buddy, *Theo*, live in Vancouver, Wash. One of Owen's favorite things about *Theo* is how he wakes him up every morning, giving them time to play before Owen starts getting ready for his day. GDB's K9 Buddy Program matches specially selected dogs to become pets and companions to children and young adults who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

ABOVE: Brent Mershon of Kentucky is enjoying life with *Floyd*, a black Labrador hearing dog that was trained by GDB community partner, Dogs for Better Lives. *Floyd* helps Brent by alerting Brent to noises like doorbells, ringing phones, or smoke alarms.

RIGHT: *Vancouver* is a very special dog, who was trained by our community partner, Service Dogs, Inc., to serve as a mental health and therapy canine. His job is to provide comfort to first responders and medical personnel, including police officers, fire fighters, doctors, and nurses. *Vancouver* is an official member of the Atascocita Fire Department in Humble, Texas. When he is off duty, he enjoys living with Battalion Chief Edward Roth and his family.



BATTALION CHIEF
EDWARD ROTH AND
VANCOUVER

STAFF PROFILE

Guide Dogs for the Blind is excited to welcome Dr. Kate Kuzminski as the new Medical Director overseeing veterinary operations on both of our campuses. Kate was born to Canadian parents in Massachusetts but moved back to Canada when she was eight. She attended the University of Guelph for her B.S. and MBA degrees, before earning her veterinary degree from Ontario Veterinary College.

Through a bit of serendipity, fortunate timing, and a little courage she eventually landed in non-profit veterinary medicine. She was the Director of Shelter Medicine at the San Francisco SPCA and most recently served as the Field Medical Director for Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS).

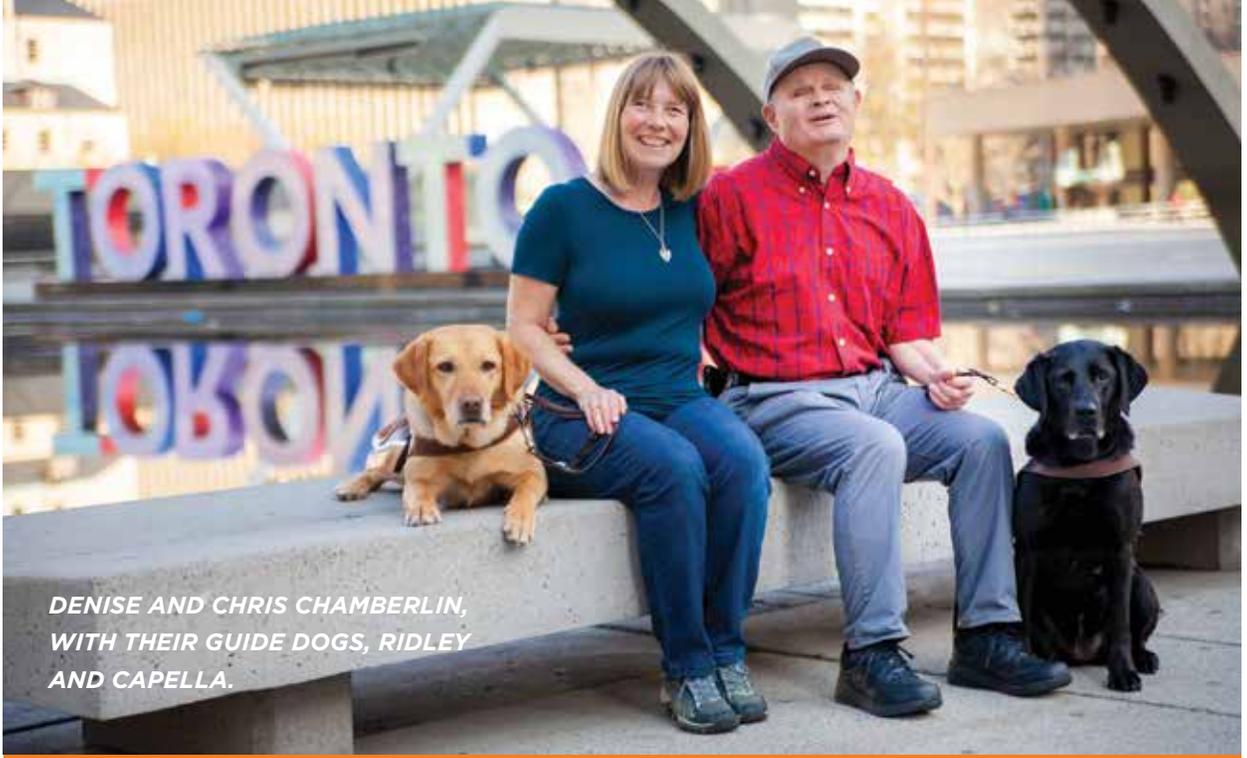
About GDB, “I am excited about this role! I see it leveraging my experience in direct veterinary care and shelter medicine. Part of my job is to provide leadership to our veterinary teams, supporting both

campuses so that we continue to operate as an awesome, collaborative, and unified team. This includes ensuring our clinics continue to provide exceptional care to our patients and our clients in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner.” Another aspect of her job is collaborating with many other departments to develop and



deliver industry best practices in population health and infectious disease control. “I think the entire veterinary clinic team is amazing and I feel very grateful to be a part of it. Every single person is committed to our dogs and GDB in a way that is inspiring and motivating every single day.”

Outside of work, she loves to spend time with family and dogs along the Sonoma County coast. She also loves road trips, hiking, and camping. “I am excited to find out why the stars aligned and brought me to GDB and how I will contribute to this incredible organization and the complex life-changing work that it does,” Kate said. “Everyone on both campuses, including the volunteers, has been incredibly welcoming and stellar examples of the commitment that happens when a team truly believes in the mission of an organization.”



*DENISE AND CHRIS CHAMBERLIN,
WITH THEIR GUIDE DOGS, RIDLEY
AND CAPELLA.*

If one guide dog partnership is good, it makes sense that two are better. That’s certainly the case for married couple Denise and Chris Chamberlin of Toronto, Canada. Chris owns an assistive technology company where Denise was a customer. They made a connection and a subsequent coffee date led to romance then marriage!

Between them, they’ve had eight guide dogs. Denise’s current guide is yellow Lab *Ridley*; Chris has black Lab *Capella*. The dogs have established a good balance of respect and order between them. “They play well together with no jealousy and even seem a bit sad when they are apart!” said Denise.

As anyone with children or dogs knows, even controlled chaos that comes with a full house can lead to a mishap from time to time. When Denise noticed her dog was acting oddly, she put her hand on the dog’s head to feel it. When the telling identifying spots didn’t add up, she quickly realized she and her husband had each left home with the other’s dog! Both enjoyed a day with coworkers and friends commenting that their dog was in fact the wrong color!

When asked about living the guide dog lifestyle together Denise notes her husband “gives me my freedom to be an individual as well as being a partner in our marriage” and Chris is appreciative of their ease traveling together as a team, using the same method of mobility. “Chris and I like to be busy and like to travel together so it works out very well. It is also very nice for our dogs because they also enjoy the company of a four-footed friend to travel and play with. When we travel on buses together, the dogs sit side by side and one or the other rests their head on the other and people are always commenting on how cute they are!”

Read more of Chris and Denise’s story on our blog: [guidedogs.com/blog](https://www.guidedogs.com/blog).

ALUMNI UPDATES

George Kerscher was recently honored by the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco with the Dr. Isabelle Grant Award for individual initiatives that benefit people who are blind worldwide. George is the inventor of DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System), a groundbreaking means of creating digital talking books for people who wish to hear and navigate written material presented in an audible format. Through his work with The DAISY Consortium, which consists of membership organizations around the world, George's career is committed to developing equitable access to information for people who have a print disability, including blindness, impaired vision, dyslexia, or other issues. George's guide dog is yellow Lab *Kroner*.



ABOVE: ARIA LOBERTI AND HER BLACK LAB GUIDE DOG, INGRID, RECENTLY SPENT SOME TIME IN ITALY. ARIA WAS TRAVELING AS PART OF A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, AND VISITED ROME, NAPLES, AND TIVOLI. THE DUO IS PICTURED AT ROME'S FAMOUS TREVI FOUNTAIN.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Plan now to join us for GDB's 7th Alumni Reunion: Tails Unleashed!

- **When:** Friday, October 18-Sunday, October 20th, 2019
- **Where:** The Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

Celebrate and share tales of the trails with fellow alumni, puppy raisers, volunteers, GDB staff, family, and friends. Workshops and activities will highlight inspiring and informative stories shared by the GDB community. All tall tales and wagging tails are welcome!

Stay tuned for updates, including registration and excursion information, on our website at guidedogs.com/reunion.

BOARD PROFILE

08



CLAUDIA BARKMEIER

Guide Dogs for the Blind is fortunate to have such a talented and compassionate board! This description fits board member, Claudia Barkmeier, to a T! Elected to the Board of Directors in 2018, Claudia is a seasoned financial professional with over three decades of experience, and an active leader in the non-profit world. In 2016, she and her husband John opened their own wealth management firm, Gainline Financial Partners, in Boulder Colorado where they live and raised their three children.

Dogs have played an important role throughout her life. Claudia shares, “I have always had a dog my whole life and I love dogs. I can’t imagine a time when I won’t have one.” She says with a

laugh, “I told my husband when we got married that I would always have a dog and that he could always play rugby.” They each got their wish: John still plays rugby and Claudia fulfilled a life-long dream when she began raising puppies for GDB in 2011. She shares that she aspired to be a raiser for GDB since she was in 5th grade and read the book “Follow my Leader.” Raising puppies has brought much joy to Claudia, who notes, “Being a puppy raiser has changed my life. I am certain that each dog has taught me more than I taught it. People don’t understand how I can give them up, but seeing the puppy at graduation all grown up alongside his or her partner, you know that puppy was meant for that person. It is so rewarding.”

Claudia also finds her role on GDB’s board fulfilling. “With my board role I wanted to give back to GDB and I am honored beyond belief that GDB wants to work with me. All the staff is so great and like-minded in their commitment to creating exceptional partnerships. After my first board meeting I thought I had seldom been in a group where people are so competent, respectful, and successful. I am so thrilled to be a part of it.” When asked what she wishes people knew about GDB, Claudia jokes, “We give our dogs away for free and we provide free maintenance and tune ups. Seriously, I would like people to know that all of our services are free and we go to great lengths to ensure the partnerships we create are successful.”

In her free time, Claudia enjoys hiking, traveling, and is a voracious reader. All three of these interests come together on past trips to wonderful places like Africa and the Northern Coast of Spain. Claudia is particularly looking forward to a trip to New Zealand next year. We are thankful to have Claudia as part of the GDB community!



LEFT: PUPPY RAISER ABBY WALKER WITH GUIDE DOG PUPPY, ARMANI. RIGHT: A TABLE OF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ATTENDEES RAISE A GLASS FOR A TOAST.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

In a tradition spanning 42 years, GDB held our annual Holiday Luncheon in December at the Westin St. Francis Hotel on Union Square in San Francisco. Nearly 600 friends, supporters, and guests joined us for a mid-day celebration that featured a reception complete with a GDB Gift Shop, a three-course lunch, and an impactful program that shared highlights from GDB's past year, including an update on our K9 Buddy Program that pairs GDB specially selected dogs to become pets and companions with youth who are blind and visually impaired and their families. The featured speaker was GDB alumna Camille Jassny with her guide dog *Egan*, and a highlight of the program was a puppy delivery in which six baby puppies were delivered to the arms of their new volunteer puppy raisers. The festivity was capped off with a puppy and dog parade, a fitting way to lift spirits and spread holiday cheer!

Thank you to the event sponsors:

- Presenting—Natural Balance Pet Foods, Inc.
- Silver—Dodge & Cox Private Client Group, Pamela & John Story
- Bronze—Julie Burnet, Gainline Financial Partners, Elizabeth A. Gard, Harbor Point Charitable Foundation, Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, Valero Benicia Refinery

SAVE THE DATE

• **CAPS & TAILS GRADUATION**
June 1, 2019 (Portland, OR)

• **CANINE HEROES AUCTION**
September 21, 2019 (San Francisco)

• **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**
December 6, 2019 (San Francisco)

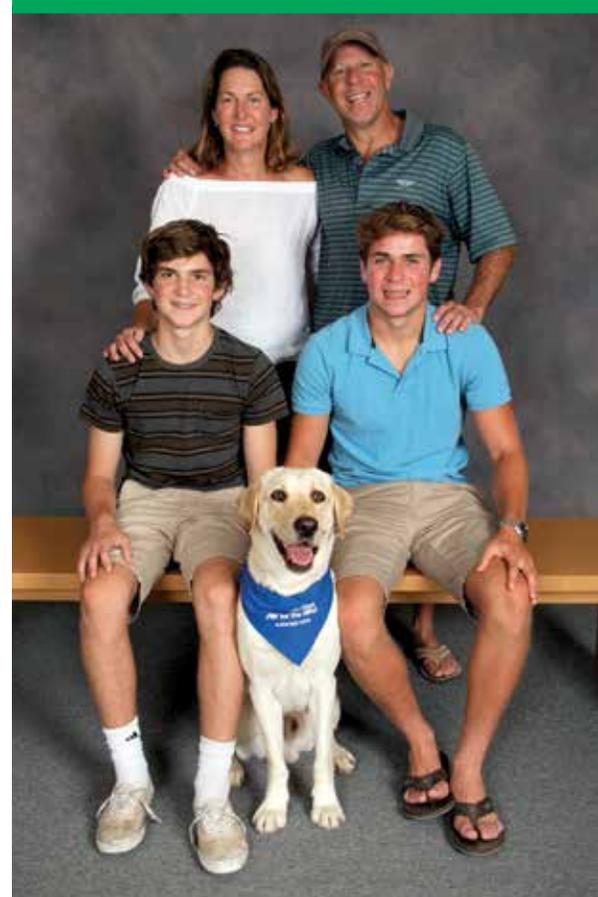
For more information or to register, please visit guidedogs.com/events.

President's Circle members Emily and Steve Janowsky of Corte Madera, Calif., got involved with Guide Dogs for the Blind thanks to a personal relationship. "We had a close family friend who was a GDB breeder custodian," Emily said. "Through her and her beautiful dog, we learned about the programs at Guide Dogs for the Blind and the how these four-legged companions offer enhanced mobility, independence, and inclusion for those who are visually impaired. In 2014, we decided as a family that we too wanted to volunteer at GDB by becoming breeder custodians. Little did we know that this decision would forever change our lives."

In 2015, the Janowsys received *Lucio*, a black Lab. "*Lucio* introduced our family to the GDB world. We started attending GDB events like Fun Day, the annual Holiday Luncheon, and breeder custodian receptions. We also were able to have *Lucio* approved to be a therapy dog. He worked every week helping patients at Marin General Hospital and students at Hall Middle School," Emily said. "Through *Lucio*, we learned so much and became personally connected to the network of dedicated and inspiring GDB staff and volunteers. We now consider them our GDB family."

Their involvement over the years has grown beyond that of their initial volunteer capacity. "With any family, you learn the value of taking care of those you love," Emily said. "This includes financially supporting them as well—not because you have to, but because you want to. We have been delighted to be able to be a part of the President's Circle by naming puppies and sponsoring teams at graduation. We are extremely excited about the role of the new Puppy Center and we were honored to support it. When we recently revised our wills, we made sure GDB became a part of our estate plans, so we are now proud Legacy Society members as well."

In 2018, *Lucio* unexpectedly passed away. "We received tremendous support from our GDB family during that difficult time," Emily said. "We continued to volunteer through the foster care program and eventually we found room in our hearts for a new breeder, yellow Lab *Sprocket* —aka *Sprocket the Rocket!*—who is opening new doors in our world." Thank you, Janowsky family, for your support!



THE JANOWSKY FAMILY WITH BREEDER DOG SPROCKET: EMILY AND STEVE WITH SONS SAM AND NICK.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW & CONTINUED SUPPORTERS October 1-December 31, 2018

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

SOUL MATES: \$100,000+

Thelma B. & Thomas P. Hart Foundation
Jim and Betty Huhn
PetSmart Charities, Inc.
The ROMA Foundation

HEROES: \$50,000-\$99,999

Carl E. Wynn Foundation
Foglia Family Foundation
Granite Solutions Groupe
Catherine M. Kruttschnitt
Ann and Andy Mathieson
The Meadows Foundation
Natural Balance Pet Foods, Inc.
Joe T. Shikami

PARTNERS: \$25,000-\$49,999

2020 Vision Quest
Martha Boccalini
Carol Moss Foundation
Crabtree Foundation*
The Danford Foundation
Dmarlou Foundation
Edward M. Dowd Donor Advised Fund through
the Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Elizabeth A. Gard & Thomas J. Furlong
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Hammack Family Foundation
McLarney Family
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
David E. & Leah D. Robinson Fund
Ruth and Warren Clark Legacy Foundation
Sharon D. Lund Foundation
Betty White Ludden

COMPANIONS: \$10,000-\$24,999

Evo and Martina G. Alexandre
Kimberly and Leonard Almalech
Erika and John Ammirati
Anonymous (3)
Margaret and Robert Barbour
Mrs. Roland Barthelemy
David A. Belshaw M.D.
Bergen Foundation
Joan Boyd
Eva K. Breyer
Josephine Brownback
Ms. Rebecca Burad
Ann Burchill and Dennis Kundsinn
Robert Butler
Ms. Rose L. Butler
Clark-Janis Foundation
Mrs. Marion Cope
Andres Cortez
Croul Family Foundation
The Darlene & Harry Lambert Foundation
Dodge & Cox
The Eugene C. and Florence Armstrong
Family Foundation
Fairchild Martindale Foundation
The Ann Jackson Family Foundation
Chana and Jim Jackson
James J. Santiago Trust

Monica Krick
Susan and Warren Lortie
The Marini Family Trust
Linda and Rick Martellaro
The McDonald Family Foundation
MedVet
Debra and Andrew Nielsen
Mr. James E. Oliver Jr.
Akiko Onofusa and Paul Danny
Margaret H. Peters
Patricia Peterson
David Pickard and Mary Clarke
Laura and Jay Reinbold
Linda and Gregory Rice
Richter Farms
Mr. Kent Rickabaugh
Elaine Sarkaria
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Nari and Allan Scholl
Ruth Skaar
William Smith
Pam and John Story
Carol Stuhr
E. D. and Margaret Thorne
Gene A. Underwood
Linda Von Rhine and Thomas Von Rhine
Dr. Robert Waller
Ted J. Warne
Edward and Patricia Whitehead
William Dean Charitable Foundation
Margaret Zivelonghi

FRIENDS: \$5,000-\$9,999

AJA Charitable Fund
Mary Z. Ancell
Anonymous
Richard Arnold
Sharon and Robert Bailey
Joan and Fred Baker
Claudia Barkmeier
Steven Barry
Yvonne and Ron Barton
Janice Berthold
Don Bloyer
Susan Bronczyk
Carolyn R. Buehner
Warren Butt
Blake Cadwell
Clark Enterprises, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Alan Cole
Community Foundation of Acadiana
Buffy Cooney
Mr. Robert J. Cresta
Mrs. Patti Crisafi
Delta Gamma - Beta Upsilon Chapter
Delta Gamma - Delta Phi Chapter
Karol Denniston
Amy and Michael Dreyer
Sally Dungan
Edwin H. McDonald Revocable Living Trust
The Eleanor Hutchinson Parker Foundation, Inc.
Michelle Enus
Sarah Fitzhugh

Dianne Geiger
Susan and David Gerke
The Gidaro Family Philanthropic Fund
Mr. Randy Gottfried
Louis Greenblat
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce W. Herriges
Kristin Hite
Mary Hooke
Camille and David Jassny
JCJT Foundation/M&T Kennedy
The Julia Stearns Dockweiler Charitable
Foundation
Lynn and Camille Kerby
Joanne Kok and Jeremy Nightingale
Maja Kristin
Thomas W. Little
The Mary Jayne Baker Foundation Inc.
Mary Grace McCaffrey*
Sandra Mehrwein and Alan Mehrwein
Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Michelbacher
Megan and Alex Minkiewicz
Kelley and Andy Mitchell
James and Ann Morrissey
Mr. Edward Noha
OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation
Pacific Union Int'l, Inc.
Paws on Pavement
Elaine and Paul Pennington
Marti and Gregg Peterson
Phoenix Guide Dog Raisers Inc.
Gillian Printon and Dave Rose
Janice and Donald Provan
Quentin & Virginia Peterson Charitable
Foundation
RC Ornametal LLC
The Roberts Brothers Foundation
The Rodoni Family
Kenneth Ruby
Mrs. Beth Russell
Charlene Savage
Brook and Jack Scott
Rachel Sherwood
Stolbun Investments, Ltd.
SurveyMonkey
Porter E. & Helenmae Thompson Foundation
Clem H. Underhill
Mr. Rufus P. Van Zandt
Terry Virtz
Weldon and Marilyn Wankier
Nanako and Mitsutoshi Watanabe
Marianne Wheeler
Wood-Claeysens Foundation
Roger Woodgate*
Betsy Zern

**Canadian donor to Guide Dogs
for the Blind International*

NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

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

Cheryl Anderson
Donn Burch
Sussan Coley
Linda and Gary Grice
Emily and Steve Janowsky
Vikki Littleman
Loretta Metz
Nigel Muir

Mary Parks
Phyllis Primus
Laura and Jay Reinbold
Mark L. Ruefenacht
Lizbeth Seckler
Louise Yale



Guide Dogs for the Blind

P.O. Box 151200
San Rafael, California
94915-1200

NONPROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TGC

YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR FUTURE!

Become a Legacy Society member by leaving a gift to Guide Dogs for the Blind in your estate plan and know that your support will make a difference in years to come.

In honor of your commitment you will receive:

- A certificate of enrollment
- Distinctive membership lapel pin
- Invitations to regional Legacy events
- Recognition on our Legacy Society wall*



**You can also choose to be anonymous.*

Please join by returning the coupon below or call us at 800.295.4050, ext. 2289 (Sue) or ext. 4073 (Joan) or visit [guidedogs.com/planned giving](http://guidedogs.com/planned_giving).

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

Canadian donations

Mailing address (donations only):
GDB International
P.O. Box 1275 STN K
Toronto, ON M4P 9Z9
Online: gdbinternational.ca

• ELIMINATE CHECKS/POSTAGE

Direct your bank to automatically transfer your donation.

• MAKE AN HONOR OR MEMORIAL GIFT

Cards of celebration or sympathy will be sent in your name.

• 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.