### Cover

# Guiding Eyes for the Blind

# 2023 Annual Report

*Image description: Melchion sits on the stone bench at the plaza outside the United States Supreme Court in Washington DC. Larson, a male yellow Labrador retriever, lies in a down position on the bench beside him. Larson has a happy expression as he looks toward the camera, and rests a paw on Melchion's leg. The Supreme Court building in the background has tall columns with steps leading up to the entrance.*

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### Inside Front Cover

*Image description: John Donnelly, Board Chair, and Thomas Panek, President & CEO, stand smiling in the main hall at Grand Central Terminal in New York City. John holds future guide dog JP, a male black Labrador retriever puppy, and Thomas is accompanied by guide dog Ten, a male yellow Labrador retriever. Busy commuters bustle around them and lighted holiday wreaths are visible on the terminal walls.*

*Image caption: John with future guide dog pup JP and Thomas with guide dog Ten. These pups were special named in honor of corporate partner JPMorgan Chase, and Board Member and supporter Eli Manning. Learn more about special naming opportunities on page 25.*

### Page 1

# Dear Friends,

At Guiding Eyes for the Blind, demand for our exceptional guide dogs is increasing. We are working hard to grow in order to meet this need. Some of the exciting plans we enacted in Fiscal Year 2023 make a difference immediately, and some take time to develop – like our new kennel facility expansion. Throughout our 70-year history, one important thing remains the same: our dedication to connecting exceptional guide dogs with individuals for greater independence.

In these ever-changing times, our talented and enthusiastic staff, volunteers and donors are working together to service more people who are blind or have vision loss without compromising what we do best: breeding, raising, training, and pairing our world-class dogs with people who need them most.

In this Annual Report, you’ll learn how Guiding Eyes brought commitment and innovation to our tasks. With your help, we succeeded in pairing more of our beautiful dogs as life-changing gifts with individuals who are blind or have vision loss.

Our current kennel is almost 60 years old and operates at nearly maximum capacity, so we are currently developing an expansion to accommodate even more guide dogs in training. This two-story, 30,000-square-foot Wellness & Training Center, scheduled to open in 2026, will eventually house up to 220 guide dogs in training in a state-of-the-art space designed to promote optimal canine health and wellness.

While we grow, and as demand increases, we continue to focus on providing a full range of programs and services. We redesigned our campus dorm rooms, bringing additional comfort and safety to our On-Campus Training students. We refined the important connection between training teams and placement teams, to ensure the perfect match. Our classes became smaller yet more frequent, enabling us to provide more customized training and meet the scheduling needs of our handlers. And we increased the pace of graduations from monthly to every two weeks, so that we can continue to build the strong sense of community that defines us.

As a leading guide dog school both nationally and internationally, it is our responsibility to set new standards as we grow. This has been our mission since 1954: connecting exceptional dogs with individuals for greater independence. We succeed thanks to the dedication of our vast family of donors, volunteers, and puppy raisers. We fund 100% of what we do without any money from the government, and continue to provide our dogs and training at no cost to our students. We are very thankful for your support.

We’re always learning together. Guiding Eyes continually strives to grow and evolve, and collaboration makes us successful. Every person’s role in a guide dog’s journey — every hand that touches the leash — supports the next phase of that journey. As a community, we all work towards our ultimate goal: independence, confidence, companionship and freedom for people with vision loss.

Thank you for coming on this walk with us.

Sincerely,

John L. Donnelly, Board Chair

Thomas A. Panek, President & CEO

### Page 2

# Our Mission

Guiding Eyes for the Blind provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. We are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals for greater independence.

We believe in the powerful, meaningful change that our beautiful dogs bring to the lives of people facing the daily challenges that blindness and vision loss present.

*Image description: At the Headquarters and Training School, the main building, a charming white house, is surrounded by green shrubbery and a green lawn. A driveway leads past it to the kennel building, visible in the background.*

We work out of our Headquarters and Training School in Yorktown Heights, New York; our Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York; and our Urban Training Center in White Plains, New York.

Our Puppy Raisers are located along the Eastern Seaboard, stretching from Maine to North Carolina, and west to Ohio and Colorado. Regional Guide Dog Mobility Instructors are located throughout the United States.

*Image description: Logo for International Guide Dog Federation*

Guiding Eyes is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF), the organization that establishes worldwide standards for the breeding and training of guide dogs.

## On The Cover

First-time guide dog user Melchion and his Running Guide, Larson, at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, DC. Hear from Melchion and other Fiscal Year 2023 graduates in our Graduate Spotlights on pages 14-21.

*Image description: Melchion sits on the stone bench at the plaza outside the United States Supreme Court in Washington DC. Larson, a male yellow Labrador retriever, lies in a down position on the bench beside him. Larson has a happy expression as he looks toward the camera, and rests a paw on Melchion's leg. The Supreme Court building in the background has tall columns with steps leading up to the entrance.*

### Page 3

*Image description: A black Labrador retriever puppy, standing on green turf, puts their big paws in a volunteer’s hand and looks at the camera with big eyes and a loving expression.*

*Image caption: Nearly 500 pups are born annually. Approximately 90 percent are Labrador Retrievers, and 10 percent are German Shepherds.*

### Page 4

# Guiding Eyes for the Blind

# By The Numbers

## 70+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Guiding Eyes has 70+ years of experience in providing guide dogs to people with vision loss.

## 10,000+ SERVICE DOG TEAMS

We estimate that more than 10,000 service dog teams have graduated since our founding in 1954.

*Images description:*

*Three images are arranged in a horizontal row inside circular frames. The three images depict:*

*Cassie Houghton, Regional Puppy Instructor, kneels in a hallway with arms around Rogue, a female black and tan German Shepherd wearing a blue puppy program vest.*

*Stephanie, a Guiding Eyes puppy raiser volunteer, sits on a black staircase in New York City. She has a big smile as she holds a leash in one hand, with the other arm wrapped around Adele, a female yellow Labrador retriever in her blue puppy program vest. Adele is seated on the steps beside her raiser and looks attentively toward the camera.*

*At the Yorktown campus, Jessica Walsh, Regional Puppy Specialist, kneels and holds the leash of Gerry, a male black Labrador retriever in his blue puppy program vest. Gerry leans into Jess, as he looks attentively at the camera.*

## 1,700+ COMPASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS

More than 1,700 compassionate and dedicated volunteers are an essential part of the Guiding Eyes community.

## $50,000 FOR TRAINING & CARE OF ONE DOG

It can cost up to $50,000 annually to train and care for a guide dog throughout its working lifetime with a person who is blind.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Guiding Eyes provides all services completely free of charge. Our support comes almost entirely from generous individuals and philanthropic organizations. We do not rely on government funding.

### Page 5

# Our Impact — Fiscal Year 2023

Note: Training cycles may straddle two fiscal years.

## Approximately 900 Guiding Eyes dogs actively worked as service animals for people with vision loss over the past year.

461 puppies were born: 424 Labrador Retrievers and 37 German Shepherds.

325 puppies were selected to be placed in homes with puppy raiser families.

271 dogs entered guide dog training, including 251 Labrador Retrievers and 20 German Shepherds.

150 dogs graduated from guide dog training and were paired with people with vision loss, including 145 Labrador Retrievers and five German Shepherds. 61 dogs went on to careers in law enforcement or other service organizations.

Of our 150 graduate teams, 24 teams were Running Guides, and 17 of the teams received Specialized Training. 47% of graduates were new to our school, and 87% of those graduates, new to our school, have never had a guide dog before. 53% of graduates returned to Guiding Eyes for successor dogs.

*Image description: Silhouetted against a blue background, Cowboy, a male yellow Labrador retriever puppy wearing a bright red flat collar, sits and looks attentively toward the camera with his head cocked.*

### Page 6

# 2023 Highlights

## Image number 1

*Image description: Thomas Panek, President & CEO, stands at a white podium on set at the NASDAQ MarketSite Studio. He stands in front of a large blue screen that has the white Guiding Eyes logo with the stock exchange ticker situated above.*

*Image Caption: Guiding Eyes rang the opening bell at NASDAQ in New York City.*

## Image number 2

*Image description: Guide dogs in-training Amaya, a female yellow Labrador retriever; Fame, a female black and tan German Shepherd; and Loki, a male yellow Labrador retriever, lay together in a down position on a golf course green at the Mount Kisco Country Club during the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Golf Classic.*

*Image Caption: Board Member Eli Manning hosted the 46th Annual Guiding Eyes for the Blind Golf Classic.*

## Image number 3

*Image description: Guiding Eyes puppy raiser volunteer Alexa smiles as she kneels on a sidewalk holding Bonnet, a female yellow Labrador retriever, who looks eagerly at the camera. Alexa wears a white WAGATHON t-shirt and Bonnet wears a matching WAGATHON bandanna. Outdoor steps to a house, decorated by yellow mums, are visible in the background.*

*Image Caption: Supporters and their dogs raised more than $100,000 in our Wagathon.*

## Image number 4

*Image description: Wearing matching black Mastercard t-shirts, Mastercard employees happily pose at the Yorktown campus for a group photo with Guiding Eyes Director of Donor Relations Rebekah Cross and Regal, her female black Labrador retriever guide dog, who stands at her side.*

*Image Caption: Corporate partner Mastercard held a Volunteer Day on campus.*

### Page 7

# 2023 Highlights (continued)

## Image number 5

*Image description: Wearing matching dark blue JP Morgan Chase & Company t-shirts, a large group of JP Morgan Chase & Company volunteers stand smiling together in the lobby of our Canine Development Center campus. Rebekah Cross, Guiding Eyes Director of Donor Relations, stands with the group with Regal, her female black Labrador retriever guide dog, at her side.*

*Image Caption: Corporate partner JPMorgan Chase & Co. held a Volunteer Day on campus.*

## Image number 6

*Image description: A large group of volunteer puppy raisers pose with their pups, all wearing blue puppy program vests, on the grey stone front steps of the AKC Museum of the Dog in New York City.*

*Image Caption: Raisers and pups visited the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog in New York City.*

## Image number 7

*Image description: Five volunteer puppy raisers smile in a group hug with an adorable yellow Labrador retriever pup, on a beautiful spring day, at our Raiser Celebration Day event outside the Training School in Yorktown Heights.*

*Image Caption: As part of National Volunteer Week, Guiding Eyes hosted a Raiser Celebration Day.*

## Image number 8

*Image description: On Giving Tuesday, President & CEO Thomas Panek, with male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog Blaze at the FOX5 studio, speaks to the FOX5 host with a yellow lab puppy and a black lab puppy on her lap.*

*Image Caption: Guiding Eyes appeared on FOX5 New York as part of Giving Tuesday.*

## Image number 9

*Image description: Liz, Regional Puppy Instructor, wears a grey winter hat and kneels in the snow at the Lake Waramaug Polar Bear Run. In one arm she holds a white stuffed polar bear, and in the other she cuddles a yellow Labrador retriever pup wearing a blue puppy program vest. Runners standing around a large white tent are visible in the background.*

*Image Caption: The 38th Annual Lake Waramaug Polar Bear Run raised over $7,000 for Guiding Eyes.*

### Page 8

# Our Programs

*Image description: Nova, an adorable female black Labrador retriever puppy, sits in the green grass while looking attentively toward the camera. The pup wears a blue Guiding Eyes Puppy Program bandana.*

Quotation: “I look at these puppies and they have been bred and raised for the work of helping others navigate life, and I think helping to fulfill that destiny is worth doing.“— Frances, Puppy Raiser

## Genetics & Breeding

As a global leader in genetics and breeding, Guiding Eyes employs industry best practices in our approach towards continually improving the health and temperament of our dogs. Our data-driven approach, together with our partnerships with other guide dog organizations, specialists, and universities, helps to promote genetic diversity and ensure that each generation of dogs is improving over time.

Our purposefully bred puppies are born at the Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York, where they are lovingly nurtured and socialized prior to entering their puppy raiser’s home.

## Socialization

Guiding Eyes runs an extensive pre-training program geared at developing each pup’s desire to connect with people, giving them a head start in understanding how to work with people in a positive, fun relationship.

From birth to 12 weeks, we acclimate our pups to the sights, sounds, social interactions, and early training that will maximize their potential to be a guide dog. Volunteers in our Early Socialization Program come in daily to massage our puppies from the time they are one week old, which begins building the vital relationship between the puppies and their human companions.

Volunteer Home Socializers build on early kennel socialization experiences by helping the puppies in a positive and supportive manner to become accustomed to a home environment and encouraging them to explore the sights and sounds of a busy household.

## Hockmeyer Puppy Pavilion

At age 6-9 weeks, our puppies transition to spacious kennels adjacent to the Hockmeyer Puppy Pavilion.

In this fun, stimulating, toy-filled indoor and outdoor environment, pups continue to build upon the progressive lessons taught by staff and volunteers such as self-control when getting fed or picked up, settling during crate-time, and how to problem-solve and develop skills such as climbing stairs and mastering underfootings.

### Page 9

# Journey of a Guiding Eyes for the Blind Guide Dog

*Background image description: Zephyr, a smiling female yellow Labrador retriever, head cocked attentively, stands on a rock formation surrounded by yellow flowers. Mountains are on the horizon, and cloud formations are visible in the sky.*

* **Birth:** Puppies are born at the Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York.
* **Birth to 8 Weeks:** Puppies receive early training and socialization.
* **8 Weeks to 16 Months:** Puppies learn key skills from volunteer puppy raisers.
* **16 Months to 22 Months:** Dogs join Guide Dog Mobility Instructors in Yorktown Heights, New York to learn guide work.
* **22 Months to 8-10 Years:** Dogs are matched with people who are blind, living with them as working guide dogs.
* **8-10 YEARS+:** Dogs retire from service, living with their handler or an approved adopter.

### Page 10

# Our Programs (continued)

*Image description: Elena, a volunteer puppy raiser stands barefoot in a grassy yard, smiles and holds the leash of Laredo, an attentive male yellow Labrador retriever puppy wearing a bright red flat collar. The two face each other as the puppy waits eagerly for a command.*

*Image description: In the Canine Development Center, Bonita, a female yellow Labrador retriever brood lying in down position on a carpet, looks proudly at the camera as a pile of newborn yellow Labrador retriever pups nurse.*

## Puppy Raising

Puppies selected as potential future Guiding Eyes guide dogs are placed in volunteer homes for 12 to 18 months.

These essential volunteers raise a Guiding Eyes puppy by providing the pup with the love, socialization, house manners, and basic obedience they will need to succeed in guide dog training. The pup’s journey later continues at our Headquarters & Training Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, as they realize their full potential and train to become a world-class Guiding Eyes guide dog.

## Brood & Stud Fostering

Guiding Eyes Breeding Dogs ensure the future of all our programs. They are vital to our work, and the people who provide them with homes are crucial members of the Guiding Eyes community.

Brood/Stud fosters and sitters take on the responsibility of the health, well-being, and happiness of our breeding dogs. Our foster/sitter volunteers are also our diplomats, showing off our wonderful dogs to their communities each time they leave home.

## Kennel Enrichment

Guiding Eyes’ extensive kennel enrichment program helps ensure that our dogs have a positive, enjoyable stay with us. We evoke our dogs’ interest by exposing them to a variety of new stimuli, including community playtime together, movement, natural and artificial objects, different textures and surfaces, and puzzles and food toys.

Our nurturing staff and volunteers provide a healthy combination of exercise and rest to stimulate our dogs’ minds, enhance their lives and prevent stress during this important training period.

## Caring for Our Guide Dogs

At Guiding Eyes, we are dedicated to providing excellence in veterinary care. We operate two state-of-the-art veterinary hospitals through our main campus in Yorktown Heights, New York and our Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York.

Our veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians, and administrative staff care for dogs in the Breeding, Puppy, and Training Programs. Our vet care extends to all working Guiding Eyes dogs through remote communication and referrals, and using our own facilities when proximity allows.

Our veterinary team performs routine surgical and dental procedures, X-rays, sonograms, endoscopy, laboratory work, vaccinations, and an array of wellness services. We also work with specialists in ophthalmology, cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, and radiology, many of whom donate services to help provide our dogs with the best care possible.

*Image description: Deirdre, a Guiding Eyes veterinary technician dressed in black and pink scrubs, carefully steadies a yellow Labrador retriever puppy who stands on an examination table, looking curiously at the camera.*

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# Our Programs (continued)

Quotation: “How amazing that we can take all the joy these dogs bring to us and then share it with someone for whom it can be life-changing!” — Mary, Region Coordinator & Puppy Raiser

*Image description: Jessica, a Guiding Eyes volunteer puppy raiser wearing a black graduation gown, kneels on a sidewalk on a college campus. She raises her graduation cap joyfully in the air. Facing her is Elliott, a male black Labrador retriever wearing a blue puppy program vest, in sit position, with a happy and relaxed expression.*

## Training Our Guide Dogs

Dogs sent to guide dog training learn the concepts of guiding in small steps, and build upon previous lessons with many repetitions in a great variety of environments.

Dogs in training are assigned to a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (GDMI), who will develop a relationship with the dog through play, obedience, work, and time together. Our instructors will work with each dog for a minimum of five months.

A guide dog is ready for placement with a partner when the dog responds reliably and safely to all work situations they will encounter while guiding, such as indicating a curb at street crossings, detecting and avoiding obstacles, and navigating all types of public transportation. We carefully match each guide dog with a person based on pace, pull, personality and
the person’s preferences.

## Career-Change Dogs

Each Guiding Eyes dog demonstrates their potential career path. Only dogs showing the self-confidence and composure necessary for guide work are assigned to undergo guide dog training and placement with a person who is blind or has vision loss.

Dogs who are not selected for guide dog work often go on to other important careers as working dogs. For example, a dog with a little too much energy to settle may enjoy an active career using their nose in law enforcement. Others may become service dogs in partner organizations.

Dogs who aren’t well-suited to guide work or other careers are placed in loving homes through public adoption.

*Image description: Katherine, a Guiding Eyes Guide Dog Mobility Instructor wearing a light blue Guiding Eyes polo shirt, kneels on a stone patio, facing Fame, a female black and tan German Shepherd wearing a leather guide dog harness, as the guide dog happily receives a treat. Behind the pair is a beautiful arbor of red and white roses.*

*Image description: During an In-For-Training evaluation at the Training School in Yorktown Heights, Helen West, Breeding Programs Director, holding a leather guide dog harness smiles proudly as she faces a black Labrador retriever in sit position, who watches her attentively.*

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Quote: “I’m so honored to see the relationships that are formed, not only between dogs and humans, but among classmates and instructors. It really is a community — these are connections that last a lifetime.” — Melissa, Community Outreach & Graduate Support Manager

## Student Training Programs

Guiding Eyes is not one-size-fits-all; we know that every guide dog is different from the next. We celebrate every match we make between a person and their guide dog — and support that partnership throughout their lives together.

We offer flexible options for someone interested in receiving a guide dog, including On-Campus Training at our headquarters in Yorktown Heights, New York and Home Training for those unable to travel. We also offer Specialized Training for people who have additional needs such as gait and balance issues, cognitive challenges, and hearing loss. And, our Running Guides program trains teams at a faster pace for enhanced physical fitness.

To further meet our students’ needs, training can be adjusted to accommodate work schedules, family life and more. Our instructors continue to refine their training during each program to meet each student’s needs — to ensure success.

*Image description: Darran poses for a photo with Merlin, his male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog, at his side, as the team takes a break from home training in Utah. Behind the pair is a beautiful vista of mountains against a clear blue sky.*

*Image description: Thomas Panek, Guiding Eyes President & CEO, runs in Central Park guided by O'Neil, a male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog. A white carriage pulled by a white horse is visible in the background.*

### Page 13

# Our Programs (continued)

*Image description: At the Training School in Yorktown Heights, a group of six seated graduates smile proudly, with their new guide dogs in down positions beneath their chairs. Left to right: Kimberly and Amaya (yellow lab), Latif and Sugar (yellow lab), Angela and Alyssa (yellow lab), Irene and Tex (black lab), Judy and Lyons (black lab), and Logen and Amari (black lab). Three Guiding Eyes staff members stand encouragingly behind them. From left to right: Kat Poallo, Dan Weesner, and Millie Lazo.*

## Graduation

Graduation ceremonies are the culmination of training for our guide dog teams. Happening every two weeks, these joyful events are an opportunity for puppy raisers to connect with their dogs’ new handlers and for our volunteers, donors, and supporters to share in the celebration.

Everyone is welcome to attend graduations in person or participate via livestream, and past ceremonies are viewable on our website anytime. Visit www.guidingeyes.org/graduation for details.

## Retirement

The age of retirement from guide work varies considerably for each dog and is dependent upon factors related to the dog’s health, age, and situation. The graduate has first option of adopting the retired guide dog or selecting an approved adopter who is a close friend or family member.

If the graduate cannot adopt, the dog is either returned to the care of their puppy raiser or placed in another wonderful home through public adoption.

## Caring for Our Students

As part of our personal approach, our nursing staff serves both Home Training and On-Campus Training students from the beginning of the application process. Our nurses communicate with students and their at-home practitioners in order to keep them connected, comfortable and safe during our program. While On-Campus Training is in session, nurses are on duty 24 hours a day, to assist with routine medical needs and administer first aid as needed.

Our on-campus dining program includes meals at Rosie’s Café, which are custom prepared with care to nourish our students while accommodating most dietary needs. The culinary experience is often named as a highlight of students’ Guiding Eyes experience.

Our beautiful Yorktown Heights campus is fully accessible, and we coordinate a wide range of activities to help students make the most of personal time.

*Image description: Four students, accompanied by their guide dogs in down position, and a Guiding Eyes staff member relax around a table in Rosie's Café. The space has high ceilings and hardwood floors, and pendant lamps hang over a counter, with stools visible in the background.*

### Page 14

## Graduate Team Spotlight:

## Ronnie + Flower

Quotation: “Having Flower encourages me to go outside and travel more. She provides me with so much more confidence… I am much more motivated.”

*Image description: Ronnie smiles for his official team portrait with his female black Labrador retriever guide dog Flower sitting at his side.*

*Image description: Wearing her leather guide dog harness, female black Labrador retriever guide dog Flower confidently leads Ronnie down a busy city sidewalk, followed closely by a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor.*

# Our Supporters

We are grateful to our donors who generously supported our mission during the 2023 fiscal year, October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. Your gifts make it all possible!

## Categories

[Donors $100,000 and Up](#_$100,000_and_Up)

[Donors $50,000 to $99,999](#_$50,000_to_$99,999)

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Linda Young

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Linda Atteberry

Marianne Baker

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Cathy Bernard

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Frank and Tracy Bisignano

Susan Bogin

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Boustead

Terence Brady

William J. Brand

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## Graduate Team Spotlight:

## Emma + Holly

*Image description: Emma smiles for her official team portrait with her female black Labrador retriever guide dog Holly sitting at her side.*

*Image description: Wearing her leather guide dog harness, female black Labrador retriever guide dog Holly confidently guides Emma across a crosswalk on a busy city street in New York City.*

Quotation: “Guiding Eyes stood out to me as a place where everyone seemed kind and helpful... I felt strongly that Holly would give me a sense of independence, freedom, and confidence, and I feel like I was right.”

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## Graduate Team Spotlight:

**Richard + Presley**

*Image description: Richard poses for his official team portrait with his male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog Presley sitting at his side.*

*Image description: Wearing his leather guide dog harness, male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog Presley confidently leads Richard down a neighborhood sidewalk.*

Quotation: “After attending the Golf Classic, I knew Guiding Eyes was where I wanted to go for my own guide... With Presley, I can just be a guy who wants to walk to the grocery store. A guide dog allows you to enjoy that freedom.”

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## Graduate Team Spotlight:

**Marie + Charles**

*Image description: Marie poses for her official team portrait with her male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog Charles by her side.*

*Image description: Marie works Charles, a male yellow Labrador retriever, down the train platform toward the camera on a sunny day. Marie holds the harness handle in her left hand and a white and red support cane in her right hand.*

Quotation: “I applied to Guiding Eyes because I learned a guide can help you if you have balance issues… Walking is a lot better with Charles, and I’m faster, too.”

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## Graduate Team Spotlight:

**Avelash + O’Neil**

*Image description: Smiling proudly, Avelash poses for his official team portrait with his male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog O’Neil seated by his side.*

Quotation: “O’Neil is beyond anything I expected. The class I was in was diverse, both in age and in our time being blind. We developed a sense of community and still stay in touch. Friends forever.”

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Paul Payne

Karen Pederson

Carolyn Pedone

Georgia Peirce

Deborah Pepe

Perkins & Will

Sara Perry

## Graduate Team Spotlight:

**Kalia + Roswell**

*Image description: Kalia smiles happily with guide dog Roswell, a female black Labrador retriever, beside her. Roswell is wearing her leather guide dog harness and has her mouth open in an adorable doggy grin.*

Quotation: “From the initial home visit to my training with Roswell, Guiding Eyes has been professional and provided all the necessary support and follow-up… I am so happy
and enjoying my freedom. I feel like nothing can stop me!”

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## Graduate Team Spotlight:

**Melchion + Larson**

*Image description: Melchion poses for his official team portrait with his male yellow Labrador retriever guide dog Larson seated by his side.*

Quotation: “Since getting Larson, I am impressed at how quickly we walk together. It almost feels like we are gliding along or dancing! Although he is my first guide dog, the training experience was amazing, and it came very naturally to me.”

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Jeanette Peter

Pamela Peters

Imogene Peters

Marie Louise Peters

Shirley Petersen

Kai Petersen

Carol Petersen

Susan Petrick

Carol Petrillo

Cynthia Petrow

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Estate of Jeanne A. Barnett

Yoshiko S. Bauer Trust

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Josephine T. Carvill
Revocable Trust Agreement

Estate of Judith A. Cavanaugh

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Revocable Trust Agreement of Mary Spencer Watkins Ferchaud

Estate of Joan L. Ferry

Residuary Trust U/W Charles S. Fiske

Estate of Albert Formica

Sanford Fox Irrevocable Charitable Remainder Unitrusts

Estate of Margaret Fritze

The Sharon Fuqua Revocable Trust

Estate of Ronald F. Furman

Edward J. Gallagher and Josephine V. Gallagher Living Trust

Estate of Lawrence Gibstein

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Estate of Harry E. Herzek

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Estate of Joan E. Hohncke

Charlene Hurt IRA

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Norma L. Jaffe Revocable Living Trust

Helen Jane Harman Revocable
Living Trust

Mary Janvrin Revocable Trust

Gordon Jaques Trust

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Estate of Elizabeth J. Wolf,
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Estate of Lynne Fields Young

Estate of Joan Kershaw Young

Estate of Laura S. Yurkowski

Estate of Maryln Zahler

The Norma Jean Zaske Living Trust

Harold Zedler Declaration of Trust

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Quotation: “Because of Guiding Eyes, thousands of people who are blind will never walk alone.” – Marvin + Jude, Pathfinder Society Members

*Image Description: During training, students Jen, Phuong and James stand smiling on a train platform, accompanied by their female black Labrador retriever guide dogs Olive, Florie and Peony, who look curiously at the camera.*

# WAYS TO GIVE

Any donation is welcome! Special opportunities to support our mission include:

**$500 to $2,000:** Personalize a leaf or stone from our “Honor Tree” for a beloved pet or person.

**$1,000:** Sponsor a graduation ceremony.

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**$50,000:** Sponsor a Guiding Eyes handler-guide dog team, from breeding through training.

**Pathfinder Society:** Become a Pathfinder by including Guiding Eyes in your estate plans.

Visit [GuidingEyes.org/give-today](https://guidingeyes.org/give-today) for more information.

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*Image Description: With their backs to the camera, volunteer puppy raisers Jessica and Jenevieve sit on either side of Elliott, a male black Labrador retriever, watching a colorful sunset on the horizon.*

# MAKE A BIG IMPACT WITH A FUTURE GIFT

**By including Guiding Eyes in your estate plans, you can help us continue our life-changing work while also meeting your personal and financial goals.**

Options range from a simple bequest to a gift that provides you with income for life, such as a gift annuity or trust. Guiding Eyes can assist you with sample language and other information to discuss with your financial advisor.

Our Pathfinder Society exists to recognize friends who have remembered us in their estate plans. Becoming a member of the Pathfinders is a beautiful testament to your dedication and it comes with heartfelt tokens of our appreciation — including updates on a pup you help to support. You’ll also be invited to special events and gatherings in your area.

Visit [GuidingEyes.MyLegacyGift.org](https://guidingeyes.mylegacygift.org/) or contact Kathleen A. O’Reilly at (914) 243-4355 or KOReilly@guidingeyes.org.

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Timothy Peterson

Terri Pigue and Ralph Sole

Cheryl L. Pitz

Ruth E. Pollow

Anne Powell

Angelo J. and
Ellen Purcigliotti

Diana Quagliariello

Rosemary Rafter

File under Ann Davis Ramsey

Phyllis and Don Ranum

Rev. David B. Rapp

Karin and Lawrence Rappaport

Mr. Francis H. Rasmus, Jr.

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Robert Rollmann

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Ms. Edith Rosenfield

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Linda Slavin

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Anne C. Smith

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Suzanne Erin Murphy
& Brian Sowers

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J. Rachelle Walker

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Diane Karen Webster

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Welt

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Herb and Gayle White

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Anneke Williams

Michaelene D. Willy

Anita Wilton

Karen J. Wiltse, COT

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Ginny A. Wright

Ms. Louise B. Wulff

Lynne Young

Bonita R. Zaucha\*

Sharon Zenger

Eleanor M. Ziegler

Ms. Alice M. Ziittel

\* Deceased

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# Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2023

# GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND CONDENSED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



Our website, which contains the electronic financial statements, will advise the reader that such financial statements are presented for convenience and information purposes only, and while reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the integrity of such information, it should not be relied on. A copy of the printed fiscal year 2023 audited financial statements will be provided upon request.

The above condensed financials have been taken from the fiscal year 2023 financial audit performed by BDO, USA LLP.

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# Our Leaders

**Board of Directors**

John L. Donnelly, *Chair*

Holly Hess Groos, *Vice Chair*

Matthew E. Zames, *Treasurer*

Jane Adams, *Secretary*

Eduardo Andrade

Patricia David

Wendy S. David

David Fein

Sue Kelsey

Curt J. Landtroop

Eli Manning

Jane C. Parker

Andrea Redmond

Cory Shields

Thomas McC. Souther

Cynthia Sullivan

Dr. Gaurang Trivedi

*Image description: At the Yorktown campus, a large group of Guiding Eyes board members, instructors, client experience staff, and guide dogs pose together while smiling for the camera.*

*Image caption: Board members and instructors/staff, left to right: John Donnelly, Board Chair; Miranda Beckmann, Foundation Manager; Curt J. Landtroop with guide dog Quincy; Eduardo Andrade; Melissa Carney, Community Outreach & Graduate Support Manager with guide dog Aron; Thomas McC. Souther; Jane C. Parker; Andrea Redmond; Patricia David; Holly Hess Groos; Chelsea Nohan, GDMI Trainee; Caroline Walsh, GDMI Trainee; Allie Greenberg, Foundation GDMI; Cynthia Sullivan; Michelle Tang, Placement Specialist; Eli Manning.*

*Not pictured: Jane Adams, Wendy S. David, David Fein, Sue Kelsey, Cory Shields, Dr. Gaurang Trivedi, Matthew E. Zames.*

**Senior Management Team**

Thomas A. Panek, President & Chief Executive Officer

Beth Brenninkmeyer, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer

Gerald Brenninkmeyer, Director of Training

Elena Consalvo, Chief Development Officer

William Ma, Head of Technology Operations

Laura Peterman, Chief of Staff

Janine Petroro, Head of Human Resources

Danielle Roth, Chief Financial Officer

*Image description: Silhouetted against a blue background, Hazel, a female black and tan German Shepherd guide dog, is seated and wearing a leather guide dog harness. She looks at the camera with a relaxed, happy expression.*

### Back Cover

# Become a Volunteer

Volunteers are a vital part of the Guiding Eyes community. Ways to become involved include:

**Campus Volunteers:** Assist in kennels or in our offices, gather social media content, help with event planning, serve as a brand ambassador.

**Puppy Raising:** Provide a home for a pup, teach them basic skills, and attend training classes with them.

**Foster a Brood/Stud:** Provide a permanent home for a brood or stud dog.

**Early Training & Socialization:** Help our pups learn confidence and resilience on campus.

**Home Socialization:** Introduce pups to new sights, sounds, and people for 3-5 days in your own home.

**Home Litter Care:** Host a mom and litter of future guide dog puppies for up to 5 weeks in your own home.

**Visit** [**GuidingEyes.org/Volunteer**](https://guidingeyes.org/volunteer) **to learn more.**

*Image Description: Volunteer puppy raiser Elena kneels for a photo in a forest, accompanied by male yellow Labrador retriever Laredo, who sits beside her, both smiling and relaxed. Blue flowers and oak trees dot the landscape behind them.*

**Guiding Eyes for the Blind**

**611 Granite Springs Road**

**Yorktown Heights, NY 10598**

**(800) 942-0149**

[**Guidingeyes.org**](https://guidingeyes.org/)

**Follow us on Social Media:**

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* [**X**](https://twitter.com/guidingeyes)
* [**Instagram**](https://www.instagram.com/guidingeyes)
* [**YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/user/guidingeyesguidedogs)

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is a leading nonprofit guide dog school with 501(c)(3) status.