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**HOLIDAY 2024 GREETING TO GRADUATES - TRANSCRIPT**

[Thomas in a Santa voice] Ho Ho Ho! This is Thomas Panek, President and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, wishing everyone a happy holiday. And bringing you this song to all of those of you who graduated this year with your guide dog. Hold on while I take a breath here…

[🎶 Elf voice singing] 🎶You know Ada, Adele, Aladdin and Albert. Archer and Armstrong and Artie and Bankie. Barry and Betty, Biscotti and Blaze. Brandt, Brody, Bryna, and Carly. Casey and Catalina, Charlotte and Cobey. Crystal, Darby, Dash and Dayton. Dennison, Diego and Edamame and Elliott. Ellison, Elsie, Emerson and Ephraim. Eva and Ezra, Fay and Festiva. Flyer, Forbes, Frank and Gadget. Gage, Gait, Giada and Havana. Henna, Herb, Heron, and Hildy. Ian, and Idaho, Imus, and Ingalls. Izzie, and Jada, Journey, and Kate. Kay, and Kenji, Kismet, and Klondike. Kobe and Kona, Krissy, and Lacy. Laurel, and Layla, Lazz, and Licorice. Lindsey, and Loki, Macro, and Magnus. Maguire, and Maverick, and Max, and Maxwell. Millie, and Moira, Ned, and Neon. Nigel, and Nikolai, Norris, and Ohana. Ollie and Olmstead, Ophelia and Parfait. Patch and Penny and Pepsi and Petal. Quantum and Quarter, Quasi and Quidditch. Quill, Quinn, Rogue and Rory. Ruth, Sama, Sawyer and Scarlett. Sean, Sonic, Sophie and Star. Stitch, Tahoe, Tank and Ten. Tinsel, Token, Tootsie and Utica. Valise, Van, Vancouver and Vern. Vero and Videl, Visa and Volt. Wade, Walden, Wasabi and Watkins. Watson and Wegman, Wella and Winette. Winslow and Wyatt, Yolanda, and Yonder. Zach and Zane, Zeb and Zephyr… but do you know the very first guide dog of them all? 🎶

[Thomas] It was Ginger, the very first guiding eyes guide dog. For all of you who've received the gift of a guide dog, from all of us here at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Happy Holidays to the entire graduate family.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Jim] Yes, yes, it's almost here. It's that time again. Hard to believe. Hi, this is Jim Gardner aka Jimmy G and I'm one of the Guiding Eyes field reps or as we now refer to ourselves, Regional Guide Dog Mobility Instructors and I want to take a moment to wish all of our Guiding Eyes grads a Merry Christmas, Happy holidays, and remember, this Santa guy is making a list, and he's checking it twice. So if you've been good, you might find a little something under your tree this year. So be good, be safe, and maybe I'll see you around.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Melinda] Well, Happy Holidays, everyone. This is Melinda Angstrom, one of the Remote Guide Dog Mobility Instructors, and I'm sending you Season's Greetings from Southern Indiana. I hope everyone has a safe and merry holiday.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Dr. B.] Hello, this is Dr. Brenninkmeyer, and I just wanted to say Happy Holidays to you and your dogs. This year, the veterinary team has all been hard at work providing veterinary care to all of our future guides. The team includes Dr. Nance, Dr. Albert, Dr. Spatny, and myself. Our licensed veterinary technicians are Cheryl, Erin, Karolina, and Deirdre, and they all work together with us to provide amazing nursing care to all our dogs. Many of you are familiar with Kim, our Administrative Assistant who supports the team and is available for any questions regarding funding. For 2025, we will continue to provide $600 per calendar year to help cover veterinary expenses for your guide. If there's any way we can be of assistance to you and your dog, please reach out to us. We're wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holiday season and a bright 2025.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Kim] Hi everyone, this is Kim from the Vet Hospital. I am just wishing you a very Merry

Christmas and a Happy Holiday season. I hope everyone is able to enjoy with their loved ones, and we will talk to you in the New Year. Bye!

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Multiple voices] Happy holidays from Puppy Program staff and our nearly 1,000 wonderful volunteers. We're sending greetings from Maine, south to North Carolina, and west to Ohio.

And of course, from our small but mighty group in Colorado and our newest region, the Remote region, which includes volunteer puppy raisers in Michigan and Illinois. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Helen] Hello and greetings from Guiding Eyes Canine Development Center where we house our breeding dogs and young puppies. I'm Helen West and I'm the Director of Breeding programs and I oversee the general operations here at this facility. My colleagues and I are here to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

[G-Lee] Hi I'm G-Lee Bridges, and I'm the Puppy Socialization Manager, and I arrange for puppies to go out with wonderful, lucky families who get to keep them over the holidays. Happy Holidays!

[Veronica] Hi, it's Veronica Fisher the Manager of the Whelping Kennel. We will be celebrating the holiday season with four new litters. Wishing you a happy and healthy season.

[Maria] Hi, my name is Maria Lazzaro, and I'm the Breeding Kennel Manager and Brood/Stud Foster Program Manager. Wishing you a very happy, healthy holiday season

from the kennel staff, the breeding dogs, and all the puppies.

[Clover] Hi, I'm Clover Williams. I'm the Reproduction and Cryogenics Manager at Guiding Eyes, and I wanted to share the fun fact that the girls that we are currently breeding will produce puppies that will be raised, trained, and ready for graduates in the fall of 2026. Happy Holidays!

[Helen] Happy Holidays from all of us here at the Canine Development Center.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

{Multiple voices] Wishing you a festive holiday season and a very Happy New Year from Veronica, Melissa, Jenna, Kelly, Hannah, Tracy, Andi, and the rest of the Whelping Kennel.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Multiple voices] Hi, it's Cynthia, Irina, Theresa, and Rina from the Finance Department.

We wish you all a Happy Holidays and a safe and Happy New Year. See you next year!

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Stephanie] Hello to all of our wonderful Guiding Eyes for the Blind graduates. This is Stephanie Fedele, the Nurse Manager, and on behalf of myself and the rest of the nursing team here at Guiding Eyes, we would like to wish you a very happy, healthy, and joyous holiday season.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Paul] Hi, this is Paul with Facilities Maintenance up with the CDC. Just want to wish you and yours a happy and joyous holiday.

[Hernan] Hi, this is Hernan from Yorktown Maintenance Department. I want to wish you a happy holiday, every one of you.

[David] Hi, this is David Horvath, Chief Facilities Engineer for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. I want to wish you and yours a very happy holidays. May God bless you all.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Multiple voices] Hi, it's the HR and volunteer team here to bark up some good cheer. And I'm Janine. I'm Anne -Marie. I'm Barbara. And I'm Cynthia. I'm Madison. At this special time of year we wanted to express our sincere appreciation for you. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to do what we love. And that's making your holidays furry and bright. Happy Holidays!

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Megan] Hi this is Megan Davis. I am the Kennel manager at the Training School. The Kennel

staff has been working very hard on giving all of the dogs in training extra enrichment and the best care possible. We are hoping to make it their best holiday season yet. Thank you and Happy Holidays to everyone.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Laura] Hello Guiding Eyes Graduates, it's Laura Peterman, Chief of Staff. I've had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know many of you who have trained on our New York campus over the last year, and I look forward to meeting many more graduates. Because sharing conversation, enjoying a meal together, a quick hello while passing in the halls, and seeing you with your Guiding Eyes guide dogs is the highlight of my job. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and all the best for a wonderful new year.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Multiple voices] Hi everyone, this is Liz and Danielle and Debbie and Jamie, wishing you Happy Holidays from the Admissions and Client Experience teams.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Nikki} Hi, this is Nikki Wentz Admissions Manager. I just wanted to wish everyone a happy

holiday season. The Client Experience team has been hard at work on various projects

including an updated student application that we are looking forward to launching soon. I hope everyone has a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Meka] 🎶Oh, the weather, it could be frightful, but our dogs are so delightful. We got lots and lots of places to go. Forward go, forward go, forward go. 🎶 Well, hello everyone. I'm Meka with the Client Experience Team. I'm a Client Navigator here at Guiding Eyes and myself along with my sleeping guide dog, Treble, wish you all a very, very wonderful, rejuvenating, relaxing, and fun-filled holiday season for both you and your dogs. Take care, everyone, and we will see you in the next year.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Elena] Hi Graduates, it's Elena Consalvo from the Development Department. I hope that you are all enjoying this holiday season with your family, friends, and of course, your four-legged, furry best friend. As you may know, this time of year is the busiest time for us in development, where we receive a large portion of our annual donations. So while we're celebrating the holidays, we'll also be working to ensure everyone who wants and deserves one of our amazing guide dogs receives one, thanks in part to the generosity of our donors, many of you being among them. Thank you and have a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Kathleen] Hi, my name is Kathleen O'Reilly. I'm the Planned Giving Officer here at Guiding

Eyes for the Blind and I just want to wish all of our graduates a Happy Holiday season.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Multiple voices] Happy holidays from the Direct Mail Department from Robin, Delia, and Lynn. Happy Holidays!

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Rebekah] Hi friends, it's Rebecca Cross and Regal, your fellow graduates and friendly Guiding Eyes staff member at the Fundraising and Development Department. I just wanted to wish you and your amazing guide dogs a very Happy Holiday season and a fabulous new year. Here's hoping for the best year yet in 2025.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Gerald] Hi everyone this is Gerald Brenninkmeyer, Director of Training and I just wanted to

wish you all a wonderful holiday season. A Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. And let’s wish for an even better 2025. Here at Guiding Eyes, 2024 brought us many wonderful graduations, great webinars, fun training days, and informative conferences. They can't wait to see what 2025 brings us. Thank you for all you do for the school and for your dogs. Keep in touch with us and your puppy raisers. Stay safe and keep on moving forward.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Andrea] Ho Ho Ho, this is Specialized Training Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Andrea Martine. While we will not be together to rock around the Christmas tree, light the menorah, bake cookies, or share any holiday traditions, we will be together in my heart. I love imagining you and your guides enjoying the holidays. In your honor, I will be decking the halls and smooching lots of willing guide dogs-in-training, no mistletoe needed. I will be sure to raise a glass of champagne or a cup of cocoa to toast all of us into a new year filled with great health, joy, peace and new beginnings. Please make time to be really good to yourself and your guide. Give them lots of warm body rubs from me and a big hug to you.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Caroline] Hi everyone and Happy Holidays. This is Caroline, one of the Guide dog Mobility

Instructor trainees, wishing everybody happy holidays and the most magical year yet. This year has been super fun for me, training lots of our amazing guide dogs and also working on our Enrichment Program. Speaking of the Enrichment Program, I have a bunch of plans for the dogs for the holidays. They're going to be getting a lot of ice treats that have red and green coloring. They're going to be getting some Jello treats as well and we're just going to make sure that all of the dogs get a lot of holiday magic, too. Everybody enjoy your holidays and stay in touch.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Kelly] Hi everyone, Happy Holidays. This is Kelly and Jackie from the Training Department.

This is Kelly speaking and I am the Training Program Associate which means that I spend a lot of time getting to know everybody on the phone in our student and graduate community as well as our volunteers. And over the last year, one of the things that we've been working on is making our volunteers more familiar with what we do here and being able to serve our student and graduate community at large. And it's been really wonderful getting to share with them what exactly we do and being able to get people more involved. I'm going to pass the mic on over now to Jackie Petroro.

[Jackie] Hi this is Jackie Petroro and I support both the Training and the Facilities Departments, and we've been working on improving our residential class experience and making things more accessible for our clients, focusing on updates to our dorm rooms, as well as dining and we're excited to see what the new year brings. Happy Holidays!

[Kelly] Season’s Greetings!

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Multiple voices] Hi, it's Kat, Shannon, Shelly, and Dan.

[Dan] Happy holidays to all of our incredible guide dog teams. This season, we celebrate the dedication and partnership between each handler and their loyal canine. Your hard work and teamwork inspire us every day, and we're so proud of the progress you've made so far. May this holiday season bring you moments of joy, rest, and gratitude for the bond you share. Wishing you and your guide dogs a wonderful, safe, and joyful holiday season. [Multiple voices] Happy Holidays!

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Shanon] Hello, and Happy Holidays. This is Shanon Walsh, Senior Support Training Manager. I have been with Guiding Eyes, I think I'm in my 26th year, and have met many of you over the years in various positions I've held here. I'm happy to still be here working with our dogs and our instructors and our clients and look forward to a happy, healthy holiday year. I hope all is well with you and your families. Please feel free to reach out at swalsh@guidingeyes.org and say hello and catch me up on how you're doing. For now, Happy Holidays and enjoy the new year.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[multiple voices] Wishing you warm holiday greetings and the most magical year ever. Love the Guide Dog Mobility Instructor trainees Caroline, Mik, Jenna, Erin, Sam, Catherine, Olivia, and Izzy. Give your dogs a big kiss from us.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[Miranda & Lori] Hi everyone, it's Miranda Beckmann and Lori Busse. Lori and I just wanted to send warm holiday wishes from the equipment room. We hope to “harness” some good cheer. Oh, good one! Maybe we can “unleash” some festive spirit. May your dogs have visions of Charlie Bears dancing in their heads. [shaking treats] Do we have any jingle bells to ring in the New Year? No, but we do have some target bells. May your days be merry and your treat pouch is full. We hope you and your dogs have a happy and safe holiday season.

[🎶Music and panting dog]

🎶From the Grad Council and our guide dogs… We wish you a hairy Christmas, we wish you a yappy holiday, and a prosperous New Year. Hi graduate family, this is Pat and Hogan, Judy and Lyons, Alex and Ballou, Pam and Mary, Ashley and Lolly, Mariana and Einstein, Tina and Kahlua, Tim and Alisa, and Jose and Louis. Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, and Happy Holidays. We hope you get to spend lots of time with friends, family, and loved ones. And of course, your guide dogs of all breeds and sizes. Wishing you a tail-wagging holiday season.

[🎶Jingles & Music]

[dog barking]