

# GUIDE DOG NEWS

The Quarterly Publication of  
Guide Dogs for the Blind

2018 ISSUE 3



**ELIZABETH HURDMAN  
OF TORONTO WITH HER  
BLACK LAB GUIDE DOG,  
JAMISON.**

**MOVIE NIGHT** *Pick of the Litter*, a documentary film featuring Guide Dogs for the Blind, is coming to theaters and on demand in September. **p2**

**SPACE ROVERS** Mission accomplished! Our space-themed Fun Day events were a blast this summer. Thank you to everyone who attended! **p6**

**HAPPY CAMPERS** GDB's summer tradition, Camp GDB, was held in Oregon in July. Campers learned about the guide dog lifestyle over five days of nonstop fun. **p8**



**Guide Dogs  
for the Blind**



**Pick of the Litter will be in theaters and on demand beginning in September. Check out [guidedogs.com/pickofthelitter](http://guidedogs.com/pickofthelitter) for more information!**

## FOND FAREWELLS

Recently, several long-time GDB staff members have retired from organization. They will be greatly missed, but please help us in celebrating all that these folks have accomplished and contributed during their time at GDB: Field Service Manager Keith Tomlinson, Community Field Representative Rick Wilcox, Nursing Manager Belva Hopkins, Vice President of Canine Community Programs Brent Ruppel, and National Major Gifts Officer Janet Benjamin.



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

**A NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION**  
800.295.4050 | [GUIDEDOGS.COM](http://GUIDEDOGS.COM)

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Canadian registration number:  
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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!

This may seem like an unusual greeting in September, but our fiscal year kicked off in early July and I couldn't be more excited for what's in store! I am thrilled to report that the Puppies with a Purpose Campaign is making great strides. We've raised \$18.8 million of our \$20 million goal and construction is moving along nicely as the building is framed and the future home of our guide dog puppies takes shape.

Speaking of puppies...*Pick of the Litter*, the documentary film that follows a litter of GDB puppies from the moment they are born and begin their quest to become guides, is hitting theaters across the nation. The film will also be available on demand through your local cable provider. We encourage everyone to check out this heartwarming documentary and recommend it to your friends and family.

I continue to be very proud of GDB's role as a leader in the global guide dog industry and have the honor of joining a number of GDB staff at the International Guide Dog Federation Conference in Australia in mid-September. Nine of our talented staff were chosen to share their knowledge and insights at this prestigious event. I am also proud of our efforts closer to home to ensure we adopt best practices for knowledge sharing and look forward to concluding the first phase of our Next Generation in-house systems technology project this Fall.

We love celebrating both sides of the harness, so we are happy to share that we are going to have another offsite graduation in downtown Portland this coming June. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate our amazing guide dog teams with our GDB community as well as introduce new folks to our life-changing mission. We hope you'll join us. Check [guidedogs.com](http://guidedogs.com) in the coming months to learn more.

Warm regards,



Christine Benninger, President and CEO



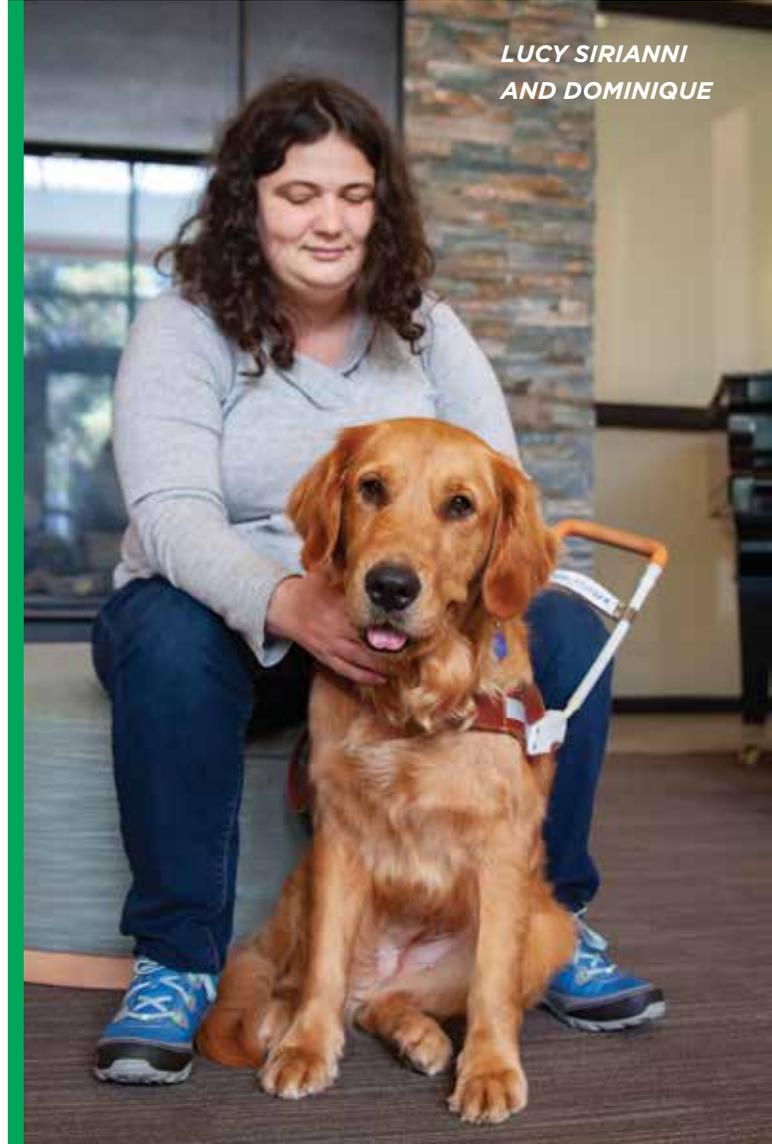
**CEO CHRISTINE  
BENNINGER**

Lucy Sirianni is a first-time guide dog user who currently resides in Berkeley, Calif. where she is a Ph.D. candidate and a graduate student instructor in the English department at the University of California, Berkeley. She has been blind since birth, receiving her first tiny cane at the age of 2. Lucy was hesitant to let go of the cane she had relied on since childhood, but her close-knit bond with her adopted senior cats, *Edith* and *Opal*, taught her that animals are in fact tremendously trustworthy beings.

As Lucy warmed to the idea of getting a guide dog, she decided to attend one of our Lifestyle Workshops at the recommendation of her orientation and mobility instructor. “I got so much valuable practical information as well as a lovely glimpse of GDB’s welcoming atmosphere,” she said. If it wasn’t for attending the Lifestyle Workshop, Lucy doesn’t think she would have had the confidence to apply for a guide dog. “Once I finally decided to go ahead and apply for a dog, GDB’s proximity to my home and community, the shorter-than-usual length of its training program, and the exceptional assistance it offers to graduates, including assisting with the cost of veterinary care, made it the very clear that GDB was the right fit for me.”

As soon as Lucy met her new guide dog, Golden Retriever *Dominique*, all of her anxiety surrounding her decision to get a guide dog melted away. She says, “From the start, it felt both wholly logical and utterly magical that the GDB staff had chosen to bring us together, and I’m so very grateful they did.”

Of her class experience she says, “As a Bay Area resident, I was able to spend three full days working with *Dominique* in my home community on the routes we now travel every day, and that made transitioning to post-training life so much easier.” Congratulations and Happy Tails to Lucy and *Dominique*!



LUCY SIRIANNI  
AND DOMINIQUE



**DIANA MCQUARRIE**

Dogs have played a very important role throughout Diana McQuarrie’s life. In fact, she shares, “they have served the role of trusted confidant, devoted friend, loyal companion, and dedicated partner.” As a young girl, her interest in dogs was sparked by the book *Dogs Against Darkness*. “It was the true story of the beginning of how dogs were trained to be guides, and the independence this extraordinary partnership provided,” she said. “I was amazed and inspired at how dogs could be trained to help people and I vowed to myself that, someday, I would work with dogs and help people. It was a defining moment for me and changed the trajectory of my life.”

This dream came true, first through her efforts as a puppy raiser for another guide dog organization and eventually through her involvement with GDB. In 2004, Diana adopted a wonderful black Lab career change dog from GDB named *Rigo*. Together, this dynamic duo volunteered as a therapy team for over 10 years, working in a variety of settings. Diana is currently raising her 6th GDB puppy in training—an adorable yellow Lab male, *Gaius*. This is particularly meaningful for Diana as she also raised *Gaius’* mother, *Sitka*.

In addition to her experience as a GDB volunteer, Diana brings a wealth of professional skills and insights to her role as a board member. Diana is on the faculty at the University of Denver, where she teaches in the Organizational Leadership graduate degree program and helps people unlock their leadership potential. “My job has many elements of a dream job—an inclusive, collaborative environment where diversity is celebrated and all beings are valued, treated with respect and empowered to reach their full potential!” She does add with a smile that “All things being equal though, traveling the world as a writer for *National Geographic Adventure* magazine is something I would find very appealing!”

When not working or volunteering, Diana can often be found cycling on the scenic paths around Denver, reading, or enjoying time in the mountains. As suggested above, travel is high on her list of favorite activities: “I enjoy planning adventures with my husband, which revolve around exploring Frank Lloyd Wright architecture and annual sojourns to revisit my former home in Victoria on beautiful Vancouver Island, Canada. A very special trip is anticipated to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary next year!”

# BOARD PROFILE

**GDB IS ALSO PLEASED TO WELCOME ROY GREEN AND CLAUDIA BARKMEIER TO THE BOARD!**



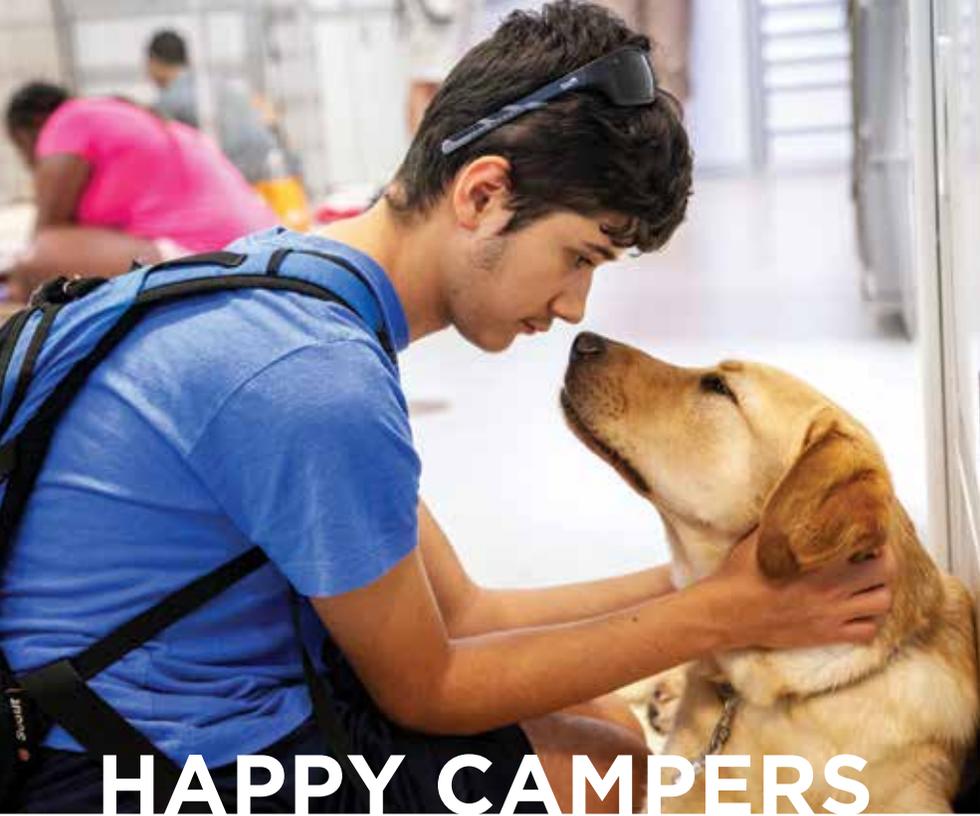
# FUN DAY 2018: SPACE ROVERS!

GDB's annual Fun Day events on both of our campuses were out of this world! With "Space Rovers" as the theme, the activities of the day were intergalactic in scope: raisers and pups got to practice their travel skills at "Mission Control"; visit "The Mothership" to learn about the pups' genealogy; play interactive games such as "Saturn Ring Toss" and "Paws in Space"; and much, much, more!

Fun Days are an opportunity for our puppy raisers and their pups to gather for a day of education and camaraderie, but they also give us the opportunity to thank them for all they do to support our mission. To see more photos from Fun Day, visit [flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind](https://www.flickr.com/photos/guidedogsfortheblind/).







# HAPPY CAMPER

Guide Dogs for the Blind recognizes that the human-animal bond is unique; we want to give teens with visual impairments the opportunity to experience its life-changing potential. One of the ways in which we do that is through our annual Camp GDB, a free, four-day program that gives teens the opportunity to explore the companionship, independence, and responsibility of having a guide dog, while also having lots of fun!

This year's camp was held in July at the Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind's facility in Sandy, Ore.—

very near our campus in Boring. Campers got to participate in hands-on guide dog experiences during a day spent at our campus, including walks with *Juno* (a simulated guide dog), as well as with working guide dogs. They also visited our veterinary clinic and dog kennels, where they had lots of quality dog-snuggling time! Other camp activities included archery, whitewater rafting, pool parties, campfires, and more!

For more information, or to learn more about GDB's youth programs, please visit [guidedogs.com](http://guidedogs.com).



## PINOT & PUPS



***NOI HALL AND LINDA GLASSER HAVING A BLAST DURING THE LIVE AUCTION AT PINOT & PUPS.***

# HAPPENINGS

In May, more than 350 people joined us at the Portland Art Museum for our Pinot & Pups fundraising auction. Spirits were high, and the event was abuzz with activity. A silent auction and reception kicked off the festivities, followed by a gourmet meal, an inspirational program, and a rousing live auction.

Plenty of dogs mingled with partygoers throughout, and the keynote address by GDB's Field Service Support Specialist

Toby Contreras, and his mom, GDB alumna Linda Grice with her guide dog, *Yukari*, was an emotional highlight of the evening. In all, \$275,000 was raised to support veterinary care for our canine heroes.

Thank you to our generous corporate sponsors: Companion—NW Natural. Buddies—OnPoint Community Credit Union, Suburban Auto Group, The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, U.S. Bank Charitable Services Group.

### SAVE THE DATE

• **CANINE HEROES AUCTION**  
October 13, 2018 (San Francisco, CA)

• **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**  
December 5, 2018 (San Francisco, CA)

**For more information or to register, please visit [guidedogs.com/events](http://guidedogs.com/events).**

# PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

The President's Circle is comprised of loyal and compassionate GDB donors who contribute \$5,000 or more on an annual basis. President's Circle members fuel our mission and help provide the priceless gifts of independence, safety and companionship to so many of those we serve.

In addition, members are listed on our President's Circle donor recognition wall on both of our campuses, have special listing in our annual report, and receive members-only invitations to special events. Meet a few of our members:



*"We love the Name a Puppy opportunity as it allows us to honor or pay tribute to a loved one or a family member and follow that puppy through GDB's training program."*

—The Dryer Family

*"As a Team Sponsor I was invited to tour the campus and attend a graduation where I got to meet the team that I helped sponsor. I saw firsthand how my gift was used. I met the dedicated Training staff and learned about what it takes for these dogs to become guide dogs. It all makes for a win-win situation. Thank you GDB!"*

—Valerie Nagel (right),  
with Janni Lehrer Stein  
and Shalom



*"As puppy raisers and donors, we were excited and happy to support the Puppies with a Purpose Campaign to build a new Puppy Center and to be a part of GDB's efforts to ensure that a greater percentage of puppies become guide dogs."*

—Eileen and Mark Gore, with Jamar



# EXAMPLES OF PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE GIFTS

## \$5,000

Name a puppy in tribute or honor of someone special.

## \$10,000

Provide a companion dog for a child who is visually impaired by becoming a K9 Buddy Sponsor.

## \$15,000

Become a Team Sponsor by supporting the two-week class training program that pairs a GDB client with a guide dog—the beginning of a magical bond!

## \$25,000

Make the ultimate difference in someone's life as a Lifetime Team Sponsor, which supports GDB's class training program plus post-graduation services for the life of the team.

## \$35,000

Pick your passion! Choose a letter of the alphabet that will be used for the names of a litter of puppies, and then provide the names for three puppies in that litter.

## THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND CONTINUED SUPPORTERS April 1-June 30, 2018

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

Honoring the generous donors who contribute \$5,000+ annually.

#### SOUL MATES: \$100,000+

Hind Foundation

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

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Wes and Marianne Wheeler

### NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Recognizing those who have included GDB in their estate plans.

Mary Ann Bagan  
Anne Winter Cubley  
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Ineka and Manny Perez  
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Heather and Jim Power  
Sandy and Richard Raschke  
Philip Thorp  
Dorothy Winkey  
Riko Yamada



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

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



## SIGN ME UP!

Are you considering making a gift to Guide Dogs for the Blind through your estate? We sincerely thank you and would like to welcome you to the Legacy Society.

You can become a Legacy Society member by leaving a gift to GDB in your estate plan. Please return the coupon below, visit [guidedogs.com/plannedgiving](http://guidedogs.com/plannedgiving), or call us at 800.295.4050, ext. 2289 (Sue) or ext. 4073 (Joan).



## 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](http://guidedogs.com)  
**Canadian donations**  
Mailing address (donations only):  
GDB International  
P.O. Box 1275 STN K  
Toronto, ON M4P 9Z9  
Online: [gdbinternational.ca](http://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](mailto:donations@guidedogs.com).

### 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