8th Annual Parade of Partners Recognizes Generosity of Donors And Volunteers

It is with great pride and sincere gratitude that we present our eighth-annual Parade of Partners to express how thankful we are to our many friends. In this issue, we have listed the individuals, families and organizations whose support during this past fiscal year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) has helped make it possible for GDA to carry out its mission. Volunteers and supporters of GDA — through their considerable commitment of time, talent and resources — make it possible to bring safety, independence, mobility and companionship to people who are visually impaired.

"Without your generous donations of time, sharing of resources, and decisions to choose GDA as the recipient of your financial contributions, the school could not exist,” said GDA President Dale Hartford. “It is this generosity that allows us to graduate at least 50 guide dog teams every year without government support and at absolutely no cost to our graduates. The $42,000 needed to graduate a guide dog team comes solely from the commitments to GDA made by everyone and every organization on these lists.”

In this, the eighth-annual Parade of Partners, we are honoring several new “Partners,” as well as many returning honorees. We extend our deepest thanks and heartfelt gratitude to each of them. In addition to the names listed here, we would also like to thank the numerous families, individuals and organizations who have volunteered their time, made monetary donations or designated GDA in charitable giving programs.

For many of you, this newsletter may be the only regular contact you have with GDA. Therefore, with each issue, it is our goal to bring the spirit of the school to you through feature articles, profiles and updates we hope you find informative, educational and interesting. In preparing this issue, we invited the GDA staff to share their appreciation in their own words. Their heartfelt words appear throughout this newsletter.

If we have inadvertently left off your name on any of the lists or you would like to find out how to be included in next year’s Parade of Partners, contact Lorri Bernson at lbernson@guidedogsofamerica.org or call (818) 833-6431.

8th Annual Parade listings begin on page 4 »

Newly Published Guide Dogs of America, A History Now Available

We are thrilled to announce that Guide Dogs of America, A History is now available for purchase. This insightful book reveals unknown facts about the history of the guide dog movement in America and GDA’s contribution.

GDA History Book continued on back cover »

Mission Statement

Guide Dogs of America is dedicated to its mission to provide guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge, to blind and visually impaired men and women from the United States and Canada so that they may continue to pursue their goals with increased mobility and independence.
3rd Annual Holiday Card Contest

This Year’s Holiday Memories; Next Year’s GDA Holiday Card

It’s not too early to start thinking about staging a holiday-themed photo of your dog to submit for our third-annual Holiday Card Contest. Say, “Puppy treats!”

Submission Guidelines:

- All photos MUST BE TAKEN IN HIGH RESOLUTION (300+ dpi) and submitted via EMAIL as an attachment) by June 1, 2012 to partners@guidedogsofamerica.org
- Winner will be notified on June 15, 2012 and will be posted on our website
- Please make sure that the email includes your full name, address and phone number
- All photo entries become the property of GDA
- Credit for the winning photo will be given

In Memory

With great sadness, we note the passing of the following guide dogs and honor them for their dedication to ensuring the safety and independence of their partners:

Panache – Class #330
Richter – Class #346
Walt – Class #339

Violet – Class #355
Yani – Class #328

FALL 2012 Order Form

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429 - Mail this entire form with your payment.

Raffle Tickets — $2 per ticket or $10 for 6 - includes shipping & handling
☐ Quilt Raffle

Holiday Cards — $18 per pack (15 cards) - includes shipping & handling
☐ 2012 Holiday Cards

TOTAL ENCLOSED $

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP ______
Phone __________________

Credit Card (check one) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card Number: ___________________________ Expiration Date: ______/____
Signature: ____________________________ CVC: _________
(required for credit card purchase)

☐ Check (make your check payable to Guide Dogs of America)
Mail to: Guide Dogs of America  ATTN: Fall Merchandise Order Form, 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342  Or use the enclosed envelope.

2012 Quilt Raffle

This year’s quilt, “Knick Knack Paddy Whack,” was made and donated by the Orange County Quilt Guild. Each panel features an adorable bone-bearing pooch in a dog house. The quilt measures a generous 99” by 110” and will fit a king- or queen-size bed.

Purchase tickets using the order form on this page and mail it to GDA postmarked by Dec. 2, 2012. Tickets are $2 each or six for $10. The drawing will be held at the GDA December puppy raiser meeting on Dec. 8, 2012. Winner does not need to be present.

New Employees

Lisa Peterson – Receptionist  Haley Luciani – Kennel Tech
GDA Staff Extends Its Thanks To Volunteers And Breeders

For this special issue we asked the staff at GDA to express – in their own words – the gratitude they feel towards our donors, sponsors, raisers and breeder families. We had a tremendous and enthusiastic response... so many, in fact, that we could not include all of them in this issue. The heartfelt words from many of our staff appear below. We will feature the rest of the quotes in our next issue.

To the puppy raisers, breeder families, sponsors, donors, volunteers and everyone who donates their time and efforts to GDA, I would like to say thank you and express my sincere appreciation for everything that you do. It never ceases to amaze me the amount of dedication you put forth to such a worthy cause. Without your help, we would not be able to provide the services that we do.

It amazes me to see the generosity of so many who are willing to help others they don’t know, simply because they would hope someone would help them if the situation were reversed.

I would like to send a special thank you to all of our wonderful puppy raisers. Your countless hours of volunteering to help not only with your puppy, but helping to spread the word about GDA. You are the best!

I have an attitude of gratitude. Without our donors, sponsors, puppy raisers and breeder families, GDA could not achieve its goals. And, without GDA, I could not have my dream job, working with amazing people who help others pursue their dreams. In addition, I also work with some amazing dogs.

Many times people thank us (trainers) for doing such an amazing job providing such a gift to those who have lost their sight. I simply tell them, “thank you,” but stress that we at GDA could not accomplish our mission without the selfless dedication of puppy raisers and donors who enable us to do what we do every day.

Gifts come to GDA in so many ways. Puppy raisers and breeder families work tirelessly to get puppies ready for guide dog training; while sponsors and donors of all ages make donations that ultimately fund our programs. Thank you to all who make GDA so very successful!

The generosity of our donors, sponsors, puppy raisers, and countless other volunteers is truly astounding. The amount of time, money and effort they put into this organization is truly a testament to their character. This organization would not be what it is today without their unwavering dedication.

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We love all of our volunteer families; they are good friends and some are even like family. Volunteers, staff and donors all have a place in their hearts for the dogs. It makes it extra rewarding that we can help someone every day.

With our final goal of creating a dependable confidant guide dog, there are many ingredients that go into that mix early in life. These positive experiences and exposures for the dogs are so important and necessary for their early development, and these experiences all lead to better success. The only way that our young guide prospects can gain these positive experiences is with the help and cooperation of all of our puppy raisers and area leaders. For this endeavor, there are never thanks enough.

There can never be enough praise for the volunteers and puppy raisers we are so fortunate to have at Guide Dogs of America. Their generosity, love and devotion are infectious and are what help keep our school providing the very best guide dogs.

Thank you to all of the donors, sponsors, raisers and breeder families for your hard work and helping GDA continue to put out working guide dog teams.

On behalf of the IT department of Guide Dogs of America, we would like to take this moment and thank you for helping to make Guide Dogs of America the wonderful place that it is today. We could not provide the much-needed service that allows the blind to become active, functional members of society without your help.

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Breeding Dog Families

GDA’s breeding dogs directly contribute to the future of our school by continuing bloodlines that breed the physical and mental characteristics best suited to the work of a guide dog. We thank our breeding dog families, whose commitment to our program and dedication to keeping our breeder dogs healthy, happy and safe ensures future generations of guides.


For information about our Breeding Program, please contact Meri Forman at (818) 833-6461.

Please note: The names that appear on this list indicate those families with newly designated breeding dogs during this past GDA fiscal year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012).

Puppy Raisers

Bringing up a puppy from an eight-week-old bundle of paws and jaws into a well-socialized and trainable dog of 16 to 18 months requires time, energy, patience, dedication and love. Our puppy raisers do all this with the knowledge they will give up the dog they have been committed to and grown to love to GDA to begin formal training for the job it was born to do.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our puppy raisers and extend our most sincere gratitude to the many individuals and families who take our puppies into their homes and their hearts.


Partners in Trust

By thoughtfully naming GDA in their wills, trusts and life insurance policies, the members of the Partners in Trust Society ensure that their support of GDA will continue for years to come. We are forever grateful to them for remembering GDA in their estate plans — in any amount — and we are honored to be a part of their legacy.

Anonymous (2)
Cathleen Bartley
Kurt & Kellie Brimberry
J. Hafner
Dan & Rosalyn Hudock
Jacquelyn Jacobs
James Jatras

Tom & Judy Kovaric
Dee Dee Mann
Sally Morton
Karen Yatto

The following friends have left us, but long into the future their intentions will be at work helping GDA to breed, raise and train dogs:

Kathleen S. Andrews
Imelda L. Aron
Michele Burk
Sandra T. Calta
Rick Darrel
Dorothy S. Gamiere
Myrtle Glendening
Ellsworth & Hilda Hazzard
Sylvia Hoffman
Marjorie Hull
Pearl Jones
Marjorie Kurkov
Ruth L. LeBoy
Merrill B. Lett
Emily M. Lindell
Paul Margetan
Martha C. Masiello
Beverly Newton
Mary Pavich
Geraldine Weiss Shaw
Philip A. Singer
Christine Szilva
H. Geoffrey Tyrrash
Mary V. Wackerhagen
Julie M. Walker
Dr. Jonathan L. Wilson

For additional information about how you can leave a future gift to GDA, go to www.guidedogsafamerica.org and click on “How to Help,” then click on “Gift Planning.” Or call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432.

Please note: The names that appear on this list indicate those individuals who have included GDA in their estate plans during this past GDA fiscal year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012).
GDA Sponsors

We would like to “paws” to express our gratitude to all of the families, individuals, businesses, schools and private organizations that have generously donated to the GDA Sponsor fund.

Guide Dog Team Sponsor ($42,000) — Covers all expenses associated with successfully matching a student with a guide dog companion.

Student Sponsor ($21,000) — This sponsorship covers all the expenses of a student during their 28 day in-residence training program as well as their transportation to and from the school.

Guide Dog Training Sponsor ($10,000) — Covers all costs while a future guide dog is in training for four to six months, including all evaluations, medical care and food.

Puppy Sponsor ($5,000) — Supports the breeding and care of one puppy until approximately 18 months of age. Puppy sponsors receive quarterly updates and photos from the puppy raisers.

Student Accommodation Sponsor ($3,000) — Covers the student’s room and board expenses for 28 days in the dormitory, travel expenses and a guide dog gradation kit.

Newborn Litter Sponsor ($2,500) — Covers the cost of breeding, delivery and additional expenses for one litter up to seven weeks of age.

Newborn Puppy Sponsor ($1,000) — Funds the cost of the breeding and delivery of one puppy.

Student Accommodation Sponsors - $3,000
Shirley Donoho
Roy Johnson
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation (two students)

Newborn Litter Sponsors - $2,500
Alfred B. Nobel Middle School
Crane Fund for Widows and Children
Daughters of Penelope El Camino Real, District 20
IAM&AW Local Lodge 2297
Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Employees’ Reaching Out (LM AERO)
Muskin Family Foundation
Victor J. Roberts

Newborn Puppy Sponsors - $1,000
Keith & Cynthia Anderson
Sharon L. Buck
Capital Z Services, LLC
Major Kim Davey
Mark E. Dickinson
Bruce Dietrich
The Gibney Family Foundation
Earl B. Gilmore Foundation
Lori K. Jennings
Beverly J. Johnson
Palmer Langdon
Andrew and Lydia Mays in memory of Sullivan
Ernest Meadows
Robert Ruby
Carol George-Stewart

All our sponsors are presented with photos of their puppies. If you would like to become a GDA Sponsor, please call Daryl Lasky at (818) 833-6427 or email him at dlasky@guidedogsamerica.org.

Please note: The names that appear on this list indicate those individuals, families and organizations who became Sponsors during this past GDA fiscal year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012).

*Waiting For Puppy.
Everyday and Easy Ways to Make a Donation to GDA

Grocery Store Rewards Cards
We thank all of you who choose to contribute to GDA by shopping at participating grocery stores with your club cards. By registering your cards (details follow) and designating GDA, a percentage of your total grocery bill is donated to the school every time you shop. The following provides important instructions about how to register your club card to begin or renew your support of GDA.

Register or renew your Ralphs Rewards Card through the Ralphs website (www.ralphs.com) to designate Guide Dogs of America as your charity of choice. To register your card for the first time, click on “Services,” then “Community Contributions,” then “Enroll.” In the “Find Your Organization” field, type Guide Dogs of America. If you have registered your card previously, Ralphs requires that you renew your registration each September in order to continue to contribute to GDA. Log in to your account, confirm your information is correct, click on “Edit Community Contributions Information” and, once again, designate Guide Dogs of America. Click on “Save Changes” and log out.

A percentage of your purchases will begin accruing within 72 hours of your online registration/renewal. Within seven to 10 business days, you will see at the bottom of your Ralphs receipt: “At your request, Ralphs is donating to Guide Dogs of America.”

If you have questions or need assistance, please call (818) 833-6438.

Online Shopping
Every time you search or shop on the Internet, you can make a donation to Guide Dogs of America... and it’s so easy.

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall that donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause. Hundreds of well-known retail stores — including Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy’s and Barnes & Noble — have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you’ll be supporting your favorite cause.

And if you use GoodSearch as your computer’s default search engine and enter Guide Dogs of America when asked for your charity, our cause will earn money when you shop or even just search online.

We hope that you will share this helpful information with your friends and family.

Food4Less Card
If you have a Food 4 Less Card, you do not need to register or renew the card. If you don’t have a card, please call (818) 833-6438 and we will send you a pre-registered card that will ensure a percentage of every purchase you make is donated to GDA.

Give to GDA as Your Gift to Family, Friends and Loved Ones this Holiday Season
A great gift idea and a very special way to support GDA during the holidays is to make a contribution in the name of your family, loved ones and friends. Your contribution lets those important people on your list know how much you care about the work we do. It also lets them know they are remembered by you in a thoughtful way that makes them a part of giving the gift of companionship and mobility to those who are visually impaired. A handwritten card, with a special message, will be sent to those you designate with your donation. For more information, call (818) 833-6429.

CFC Pledge Card
You know what your pet means to you; now imagine what this future guide dog will mean to a blind person. Please designate #11873 on your CFC pledge card.

Your CFC contribution helps us breed, raise and train extraordinary guide dogs. These intelligent dogs are provided free of charge and offer trustworthy assistance and companionship to visually impaired men and women as they strive to live their lives to the fullest.

Matching Gifts
Many companies offer a matching gift program to their employees. These programs match, dollar-for-dollar, charitable contributions made by an employee, doubling the donation made to Guide Dogs of America!

If you are thinking of making a donation to Guide Dogs of America, ask your employer if it offers a matching gift program.

Year-Round Giving One Month at a Time
Many of our supporters make monthly donations to GDA using our convenient automatic donation program. At the beginning of each month, we automatically charge your credit card in the amount you specify. Call (818) 833-6429 with questions or to participate.
If You Would Like to Lend a Paw...

In this issue of the GDA newsletter, we are committed to recognizing our “Partners” for the time, energy and resources they contribute to support GDA and its mission: To provide loyal and loving guide dogs, free of charge, to blind and visually impaired individuals. GDA does not receive any government funding and could not continue to fulfill its mission without your generous support.

For more information about how you can become involved in our mission, please visit the “How to Help” section of the Guide Dogs of America website at www.guidedogsofamerica.org. You can also email us at mail@guidedogsofamerica.org or by phone at (818) 362-5834.

GDA History book continued from front cover

Author Patrick S. Halley spent nearly a year researching and writing the 200-page, photo-rich story about the school, including new historical information. The book recounts the heroic efforts of GDA founder Joseph W. Jones, Sr., who — when denied a guide dog because he was deemed “too old” at age 57 — founded his own guide dog school. Also detailed in the book are GDA’s program and how the school produces successful guide dogs, as well as how the support from donors, puppy raisers, volunteers and the IAM&AW make it all possible.

The hardcover and paperback versions of the book are now available. An audio version will be available soon (please check the GDA website at www.guidedogsofamerica.org for additional information). Hardcover: $61.50 (includes shipping & handling). Each additional hardcover copy in the same order will be $50. Any orders containing more than six books, please call 818-833-6429. Paperback: $51.50 (include shipping & handling). Each additional book will be $40.

Congratulations Graduates

Class #374

Graduates (Puppy Raiser in parentheses): Students left to right: Dan Weiner & Parker (Lily Lo), Eric Horvath & Usher (The Mehl Family), Joanie Delzer & Jeanie (Kirsten Halesworth), Katrina Stanley & Reesha (Phil & Cathy Lichtenberger), Curtis Tucker & Keno (The Behringer Family), Marty Cartwright & Jewel (Dick & Joan Freiheit), Celeste Williams & Saffie (The Ryan Family), Dawn Carello & Moxie (The Edwards Family), Ahmad Bdeiw & Julep (Paul & Cynidi Obest)

Instructors: left to right: Dave Ponce, Sean Chiles, Bryan Young

In Home Graduates: Kristi Kovach & Paige (Susie Shapiro), Ron Bodey & Westin (The Wette Family), Sharon Hutton & Pearl (The Guske Family), Mari Dole & Waylon (Laura Daley)

Instructor: Steve Burkman