Online Bidding For Great Goods
To Benefit GDA
June 4-14

Thank you to each and every one of you who took the time (and the photos) to enter the 5th-annual Holiday Card Contest. They were all beautiful, and it was difficult to choose just one. The winning photo of guide dog puppy Cassie was taken by one of our GDA puppy raisers Denise Brown.

Even though we can only use one photo for the holiday card, all photo submissions are kept, as we may have other uses for them.

The Difference A Guide Dog Has Made In The Life of Their Loved One
Family Members Share Stories

For many of our students, stepping away from the Guide Dog Academy campus also means leaving behind the loved ones who have supported them. Gordon asked an anonymous donor to feature a photo of guide dog puppy Cassie taken by one of our GDA puppy raisers Denise Brown.

From her, Cassie will have nothing to fear on June 19, 2015, the training day she is due to be announced after the drawing.

May 2015

Bidding on items in GDA's ever-popular Annual Silent Auction is now easier than ever with our new bigger and better online auction. Log onto GDA's Bidding for Good website (www.guidedogsofamerica.org/biddingforgood) from your computer, smartphone or tablet and let the bidding begin! This year, the 5th-annual Silent Auction includes travel, sporting events, dining and many other fun activities and items. The site will be open for bids from June 4–14 only. Answers: The site will be open 24/7 FOR THE DURATION due to anticipated construction.

For The past two years, first-time graduates Paula Castro, from Landshut and Theo Martinez, have been building their homes with their new guide dogs and living life in ways they could not have imagined. Watching them with pride are their loved ones—a husband, a father and a daughter—who have graciously shared the difference they have seen in their graduate since he/she has returned from GDA.

There is nothing she can’t do.”

When the doctor delivered the news to Paula and Louis Castro that she would lose what vision she had left, the couple could do nothing but prepare for the future. “It was the only thing I could think of,” said Castro. “We knew this was coming, so we did our best to be ready. Even today, we go to the doctor every three months for eye exams. There is nothing we can’t do.”

New Employee

Tom Kemper – Kennel Tech (part-time)

In Memory

With sadness, we note the passing of the following guide dogs:

Charlie — Class #365
Max — Pres.
Rose — Class #190

Guides (Puppy Raiser in parenthesis):
Left to right: Rob McCandless and Elisa (Julie Gower and Michel) Baekelandt and Mark (Mary and Dan) Cobbs, Linda and Gary (Don and Jeannette) Engel, Sherryl and David (Robin and Marcy) Fink, William and Tracy (Kris) Shenstone and Brian (Chris and Lisa) Sheppard, Gary and Pam (Carol)Usuario, and Linda (Ray) Garcia.

Graduates (Puppy Raiser in parentheses):
Left to right: Katie Mandelberg and Blaine (Jul Gower and Michel) Ben, John, John and Mandy (Mike and Wendy) Cole and Taylor (Evan and Cinthia) Clinton, Julie and Robert (Robert and Pat) Dell and Alan, and Karen and Leonard (Leonard and Jennifer) Billingsley.

In Memory

The Difference

For many of our students, stepping away from the Guide Dog Academy campus also means leaving behind the loved ones during that time. Like the students, their loved ones are filled with anticipation of what life will hold for the new team when they return home. This is especially true of graduates and their family members who are experiencing the first time in four years, the visitation process, and the excitement of the holiday. They show their pride and confidence that having a guide dog adds to the life of the person.

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Las Vegas to see our kids and grandkids.”

Jeanie has given Paula the confidence to push far outside her desk for volunteer services at an area hospital and they visit patients. Paula also represents the blind community as a purpose that helped him to realize his potential.”

Also graduated from music production school. Sean’s said Landgraf. “Sean always had the ability and talent, but having Lexy has given him the focus, confidence and bus or metro. Now she’ll take the Greyhound and travel to difference too.

“Looked at the land and said ‘I am Guide Dogs of America’,” said Liz Riggs. “I had experience being with blind people throughout my life, in school, as an adult, and even as a teen. Now I know several people who had served in Vietnam and lost their vision. As soon as I saw Guide Dogs of America, I knew it was the charity I wanted to give to, and I want everyone else to give as well.’

Pick the right toothpaste. This is NOT just random human toothpaste for your dog. Most human toothpastes contain fluoride, which is a toxic。”

When she is asked about why she chooses to give her money to a cause, Riggs said, “I want to be an example to others and show that one person can give.”

Sutton’s daughter, Jessyca Curiel. “When I heard her story she was a confident, unhappy teen. Now he was seeing a confident, outgoing young man. Since graduating from GDA with a very concerned child, she never felt comfortable in her own skin. As soon as I saw Guide Dogs of America, I knew it was the charity we wanted to support the school, the couple decided again that Guide Dogs of America would continue to benefit from their support and named the school in their trust.

You want to give someone else the opportunity to enjoy life more and have a good quality of life, riggs is quick to correct them. “Guide dogs are for people. Our donation gives the dog purpose and a job, and that’s the reason I believe they have a job. You need to brush your dog’s teeth, but it is also comes with responsibility. It can help ease your dog into the routine, can help strengthen your dog’s gums and teeth. Frequent (ideally daily) brushing is very important, as it keeps your dog’s teeth healthy and clean. It also helps to prevent tartar buildup and gum disease.

Frequent (ideally daily) brushing is very important, as it keeps your dog’s teeth healthy and clean. It also helps to prevent tartar buildup and gum disease. Some toothpastes are good for dogs, but others may not be suitable for them. It is important to choose a toothpaste that is formulated for dogs.”

As long as time, Sutton became a guide dog owner. 250-300 GDA puppies train in the homes of our volunteers to become guide dogs. These puppies are individuals and families who are raising their very first guide dog. This can take anywhere from 2 to 3 years. In this time, many volunteers have come from the Southern California area. As of this writing, the group has raised 5, 10, 20... or more puppies.

The Partners in Trust Charity Banquet will be held on Saturday evening, November 21st, 2015 at Angel Park for the gift citizens of the Blind. It is the event to support and named the school in their trust.”

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John Landgraf had different thoughts in mind when changes in his son lead to guide dog Lexy. “We were always together and we ran into old friends, the others were seeing a different life,” he remembered as he smiled.

“My friend couldn’t believe what his life was like after getting Lexy. He was seeing colors he never saw before,” Landgraf said. “When my son came home from school, he never wanted to go out in the rain. Now he wants to get outside and play. He got to experience the freedom of being able to drive and go places on his own. Lexy has given him that freedom.”

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Paula wouldn’t do what she is doing now without Jeanie. Watching Paula and Jeanie work together and seeing how
As Paula Castro suspected, there were times she was sure
year, they will compete in Australia.

The Difference continued from page 1

...recognized by the school, which presented him with its
But no one could be more proud of Sean than his father.
Since graduating from GDA with Lexy in 2013, Sean

...difference too.

...changes in his son Sean
remembered him as a shy
and unhappy teen. Now
said Landgraf. “He
believe it was Sean,”

...having Lexy has made in my son’s life.”

...in tandem bike races, and she and her sighted partner will
and inspected. Puppies have 28

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Mark your calendars for the annual Las Vegas Charity Event on November 19-21.

...NatureWalks at Angel Park for the
to the specifications of the event. Friday evening,

...GPA’s Day of Service is set for Saturday, October 29.
In the past, most of these volunteers have come from

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Paula wouldn't do what she is doing now without Jeanie. Watching Paula and Jeanie work together and seeing how it's phenomenal,” said Landgraf. “It’s as much for her well-being as it is for her. The clinically blind or visually impaired person who has given me so much peace of mind,” said Landgraf. “Having Jeanie has given Paula the confidence and outside the fact that she is visually impaired, has given her the ability to see beyond the bars of the mind. She has also given the Greyhound a home where she can experience the feeling of having her loved and cared for.”

Jeanie has given Paula the confidence to push far outside her comfort zone. Before, Paula would not have taken the city bus or metro. Now she’ll take the Greyhound and travel to places on her own. Lexy has given him that freedom he needed to go places on his own. Lexy has provided Sean a way to navigate the world in his own way, and has given him the confidence to do so.

“From the moment Sean and I crossed paths, I knew Lexy was a special dog. When I told our son Lexy was coming home, Sean wanted to see the dog right away. We brought Lexy home from school, Sean went to the store to get his sweater, and he was a different child. When he realized Lexy was ‘his’ dog, his face lit up, and I knew he was missing something in his life,” said Riggs.

“Every person who has a guide dog knows the feeling of being able to breathe, and not see a hair on your head when you are getting the freedom to do just that,” said Riggs. “It is as much for him as it is for me. It’s the feeling of being able to live our life to the fullest.”

With Basha, she goes everywhere she needs or wants to go. She is a big part of our family now. I couldn’t imagine my life without her,” said Curiel. “She is a perfect addition.”

“Guide dogs are for people. Our donation gives the dog purpose and the person who is blind a way to live their life to the fullest,” said Landgraf. “It’s as much for us as it is for the dog.”

Donor Spotlight

As Paula Castro suspected, there were times she was sure

Landgraf has observed many positive changes in his son. Since he graduated, Sean has taken on more responsibilities at home, which includes three family dogs. “It was the late 1980s, and newly married,” said Riggs. “We decided it was time for him to designate a charity to which he would like to give a portion of his income when he is ready.”

“It was an emotional time and we decided Landgraf will use his college fund to give back to the cause.”

rhonda@guidedogsofamerica.org or (818) 833-6441. 

Volunteer Opportunities

Our program is all about giving. Providing the opportunity for a lifetime of independent living is a gift of incredible value. The ability to give someone else the opportunity to enjoy life more and live their life to the fullest is a incredible honor.”

Mark your calendars for the annual Las Vegas Charity weekend Nov. 20th-21st. It will kick-off on Thursday, November 20th with the 35th-annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet at Bally’s Hotel and Casino. Invitations will be mailed on November 10th, 2015. The weekend will conclude with the 35th-annual Golf Tournament at Angel Park in Las Vegas, NV on Saturday evening, November 21st, 2015. For more information please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 for more information.

For more information about the annual Las Vegas Charity Event, please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6426.

4
To purchase raffle tickets, see the order form on this page or send a $5 donation to GDA at (818) 362-5834.

Bike Raffle

The winner of the Bike Raffle will be notified by or on June 19, 2015. The training day date to be announced after the drawing. For the past year, first-time graduates Paula Castro, Sue Landgraf and Theo Bumgarner have been building their bonds with their new guide dogs and living in a way they could not have imagined. Watching them with pride are their loved ones—a husband, a father and a daughter—who have greatly admired the difference they have seen in their graduate since he/she has returned from GDA.

There is nothing she can’t do.

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To benefit GDA.

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2015 Raffles

To purchase raffle tickets, see the order form on page or at GDA (13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342)

Bike Raffle

This year’s raffle is dedicated to our Harley-Davidson Road King motorcycle, which was won by legendary GDA supporter, Bill Schonick.

Motorcycles. The winning ticket will be drawn on June 12, 2015, at the GDA’s Dog-O-Matic Annual Road Rally in Las Vegas. (Winner need be present to win.) Visit the GDA website (guidedogsofamerica.org) for additional details and photos. Tickets are $5 each or five tickets for $20. Ticket orders by mail must be received by June 11, 2015.

Quilt Raffle

This year’s quilt, “The Spin of Our Lives,” was designed and donated by the Santa Clarita Quilters Guild. To order your tickets, see page 10 or call GDA at (818) 833-6429. The winning ticket will be drawn on June 19, 2015. The training day date to be announced after the drawing.

A Day With The Trainers

This extremely popular annual raffle package takes you behind the scenes of GDA, where you will observe the trainers working with our incredible dogs. Two lucky people will spend a day with the trainers, accompanying them on training and exercise duties. This includes a guided tour of the campus, a workshop with a trainer, taking the harness and being led on a route with one of our dogs to experience how it feels to be led by a guide dog. Winners must be at least 18 years of age and able to walk 4.5 miles (broken up) in one day near our campus.

Purchase tickets using the order form on this page and mail to GDA postmarked by Dec. 1, 2015. Tickets are $2 each or five tickets for $10. Drawing to be held on Dec. 12, 2015 at the GDA December puppy class. Holiday party. Winner need not be present.

Online Bidding For Great Goods To Benefit GDA

June 4-14

Bidding on items in GDA’s ever-popular Silent Auction is now easier than ever with our new bigger and better online auction. Log onto GDA’s Bidding for Good auction (www.greatbidding.com) to browse the listings, sign up to bid, and get guaranteed notification of your winning bid. Items include travel, sporting events, dining and many other fun activities and items. The site will be open for bids from June 4 – June 14 only. Remember: You can also join our BIDDERS CLUB due to anticipated construction.

SPRING 2015 Order Form

*All Shipping & Handling is included*

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Mail to: Guide Dogs of America, 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342. (make your check payable to guidedogsofamerica.org) for additional details and photos. Tickets are $5 each or five tickets for $20. Ticket orders by mail must be received by Nov. 15, 2015.

Thank you to each and every one of you who took the time (and the photo) to enter the 5th-annual Holiday Card Contest. They were all beautiful, and it was difficult to choose just one. The winning photo of guide dog puppy Cassie was taken by one of our GDA puppy raisers Denise Brown.

Even though we can only use one photo for the holiday card, all photo submissions are kept, as we may have other uses for them.

Congratulations Graduates

Class #387

Graduates (Puppy Raider in parenthesis):

Left to right: Katie Mendonca and Brian (Julie Gevert & Michael); Alyssa and Mac (Andy and Polly); Candy and Kendal (Melinda and Chris); Candace Thompson and Olive (The Chopin Family); Sarah and Sam (Jill and Dean); Amanda and Brie (Rebecca and Barger); Thomas and Bailey (Dan and Tara); William Murphy and Titan (Morris and Cathy); Anna and Jesse (Lauro and Tomy); and Rebecca and Corra (Keith and Nancy).

Instructors: Left to right: Steve Bardenhoer, Melissa Rowell, David Ponce

In Memory

With sadness, we note the passing of the following guide dogs:

Charlee — Class 185
Maisie — Class 122
Rose — Class 309

With love, we note the passing of the following guide dogs:

Charlie — Class 357
Mimi — Breeder
Charlie — Class 335
With sadness, we note the passing of the following guide dogs:

Lisa Hauptfleisch and Doc — Family
Amanda Weare and Bria — Family
Rebecca Mendez and Corra — Family
Don Sorensen and Dino — Family;
Lisa Hauptfleisch and Doc — Family;
Amanda Weare and Bria — Family
(see page 2)

Message Mission

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.

For many of our students, stepping away from their home for 28 days to train a new guide dog and live on the Guide Dogs of America campus means facing behind closed doors during that time. Like the students, their loved ones are filled with anticipation of what life will hold for the new team when they reunite. This is especially true of graduates and their family members who are experiencing the exciting time for the first time, the transition into a new world of freedom, independence, mobility and confidence that having a guide dog adds to their life in general.

For the past two years, first-time graduates Paula Castro, Sean Landgraf and Tina Sutton have been building their bonds with their new guide dogs and living a life in which they could not have imagined. Watching them with pride are their loved ones—a husband, a father and a daughter— who have graciously shared the difference they have seen in their graduate since he/ she has returned from GDA.

There is nothing she can’t do.

When the doctor delivered the news to Paula and Luis Castro that she would lose what vision she had left, he thought she would do nothing but prepare for the loss. They just thought they would have a little more time. Eight days, four laser surgeries and two injections later, Paula Castro’s vision was gone.

“When Paula lost her sight, I was not long after on overnight trips for work. I wanted about her and her reality,” said Castro. “Even though I knew how to get around using her cane, she wasn’t comfortable going out alone. It was so far away to go to a guide dog and what a change it has made to her, her dog and us. There is nothing she can’t do.”

The Difference — made in the life of their loved one.