



GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA Partners

Winter 2012 volume 27 number 1

GDA Graduates Do Everything But “Sit Around All Day...”

Grads Andi Mills and Chris Sellman Lead Busy Lives



GDA graduate Andi Mills and Tibbs.

“I’m going to be sitting around all day.” That was the shared thought of GDA graduates Andi Mills and Chris Sellman when each of them learned that they would eventually lose all of their vision. Neither one is “sitting around.” In fact, it’s quite the opposite.

These two individuals had a clear idea of the path they were taking in their lives; however, blindness took each of them in a new direction. Despite their disability, Mills and Sellman both exude the confidence that nothing is beyond their reach. We are happy to share a glimpse into the worlds of two of our graduates who found new lives after receiving their guide dogs.

Andi Mills went from “blurry to blind in 18 days.” A diabetic, Mills had experienced blurry vision off and on over the years, but this was different she said, “It was only in my right eye.” When she called the doctor’s office on March 1, she scheduled the first available appointment, which was on March 21.

On March 18 Mills lost all vision in her right eye.

The doctor delivered more bad news, her blindness was caused by a hereditary risk factor, Active 5 Leiden. He told her that she would become totally blind.

Before losing her vision in 2008, Mills worked as a truck driver and ran the bus ministry for her church. She was a writer and a “long rider”- someone who makes trips of 1,000 miles or more on horseback. Six months before the onset of her blurry vision, she had returned from a grueling 1,500 mile ride that took her and a small group from California’s Mojave Desert to Magnolia, Arkansas, to raise money for stroke awareness; Mills’ sister had suffered a stroke several years earlier.

GDA Graduates Do Everything continued on page 2 »

Vet’s Corner

Dogs and Dental Care



Regular vet check-ups and maintaining the recommended immunization schedule are two important ways that dog owners can keep their dogs in good health. What many people don’t know is that their dog’s dental health can contribute to and signify changes in their overall health status.

You can perform regular checks of your dog’s mouth for signs of disease or deteriorating oral health. GDA’s Vet Department recommends the following:

Breath – Smell your dog’s breath periodically. Bad breath, accompanied by loss of appetite, vomiting or excessive drinking or urinating, may be indicative of disease. Consult your veterinarian.

Gums – Weekly, lift your dog’s lips and look at their gums and teeth.

Vet’s Corner continued on page 3 »

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.

Upon hearing the doctor's diagnosis, Mills's reaction was, "I am no longer a truck or bus driver. I am no longer a long rider. I won't be able to write. I thought all I would be able to do was sit. At the time, I thought I had lost who I was; I had lost my identity." Then she called another Andi. When she called Andi Krusoe, GDA's Admissions and Graduate Services Manager, the first question Krusoe asked her was if she had had mobility training. Mills said, "I don't even know what that is." What she did know, though, was that a guide dog would be her key to being independent.

Mills made her first call to Krusoe in March. Before she could be accepted into GDA's program as a student, she would need to complete Orientation & Mobility (O&M) training. Mills enrolled in a five-month program at the Commission for the Blind where she learned O&M, Braille, and skills to help her adapt to blindness. Within 10 months of losing her vision she was a student at GDA, where she was matched with Tibbs, a yellow Labrador Retriever. While in class, Mills lost half her vision in her left eye. "I can see light, motion and shadow, but it's like looking through a glass smeared with Vaseline."

In October 2009, Mills and Tibbs graduated from GDA; three months later, she enrolled at her local university as an English major with an emphasis in professional writing and a minor in history. She finished the semester with a 4.0 GPA and was inducted into the honor society. Mills entered college at 58 years old. "I went to school to get a life so I could figure out where I wanted my life to go," she said.

In addition to school, Mills volunteers at a shelter for abused women and children. She also continues to write. Mills recently completed her second book, *A Distant Drum*, chronicling the cross-country ride she took just before losing her vision. Currently, she is working on the 2nd edition of her first book, *Return from Stoney Lonesome* and, later this year, she will begin writing a book about the blind journey she has been on. "GDA has been a big part of my journey," she said. "I don't have enough words or time to tell you how GDA literally impacted my life, changed my life...they don't even know. GDA is one of the main reasons that I have a full life. With this dog I am truly blessed."



GDA graduate Chris Sellman and Obie.

Chris Sellman's vision loss was also rapid and without warning. Sellman and his wife were enjoying a night out when toward the end of the evening he began to experience stomach pains. They returned home, but soon left for the ER as the pain became unbearable. Within one day of the onset of his pain, Sellman went into full cardiac arrest, had emergency surgery, his kidneys and liver shut down, and at some point he suffered a stroke and went

into septic shock. He spent the next four days in a coma and the next month in a local hospital. When he awoke, Sellman had no vision in his right eye and 90% vision loss in his left.

"I woke up and I couldn't see well," recalled Sellman. "I knew there was a visual deficit, but I wasn't quite sure what it was. I was transferred to another hospital and spent a month in in-patient rehab." He had to relearn everything... to walk, talk, shower, shave.

"I couldn't see out of my right eye. What I could see with my left eye was the equivalent of looking through a cocktail straw," explained Sellman. "After an ophthalmologist's exam, the doctor gave me the bad news. I left his office and spent the next three weeks crying and saying, 'What in the heck am I going to do next?' I was very active in the community, in the church, and work. I was thinking that I was going to just be sitting around for the rest of my life."

Sellman had always lived an active lifestyle. He had retired from the Air Force as Assistant Chief, having served as a firefighter for 23 years. Post-retirement he worked in civilian positions as a safety manager. He was anxious to start doing

things for himself and not relying so heavily on his wife. He had started occupational and physical therapy at a low vision center when one of the therapists asked him if he had considered getting a guide dog.

With a trip to Southern California planned, Sellman and his wife

made an appointment to visit GDA, where he met with Licensed Instructor Dave Ponce and Apprentice Instructor Sean Chiles. "They walked me around campus and had me work with three guide dogs. I felt very comfortable." During his last week of therapy at the vision center, he was accepted into the GDA program and soon he was on his way to GDA where he was paired with Obie, a black Labrador Retriever.

"The biggest thing a guide dog provides is mobility and the independence that goes along with it. It's not the true independence that you think about, like when you jump in the car and drive yourself where you want, but Obie gets me where I need to go without the stress that goes with it," Sellman explained. "The first time I went down a set of stairs by myself was with him – my first major accomplishment. That solidified my understanding and confidence in him. It was just me and my dog. You've got to drop your manliness. You have to accept 100 percent what these guys do for you. In my past life, I had to have responsibility for myself. With a guide dog, you have to let them be totally responsible for you."

When students come to GDA, they arrive on Sunday and they receive their dogs on Wednesday. Sellman tells people, "You need to have a Wednesday. That is the day Obie and I found each other. Having a guide dog is such a wonderful thing. Today, he and I were bouncing around the house; when it comes time to work he's ready to work and when it's time to play he's ready to play."

Sellman attributes the success of the GDA program to the quality of dogs the school provides, but just as important he said, "It's that close interaction that GDA provides...it's the thing that sends it over the top."

Currently, Sellman is using his background in fire safety to create a curriculum for a new business he is starting that will work with companies to ensure they are ADA compliant. 🐾

"Having a guide dog is such a wonderful thing."

Vet's Corner continued from page 1

Healthy gums will be pink. White, red or swollen gums should be examined further by your veterinarian.

Teeth – Look at your dog's teeth. Your dog's teeth should be clean without any brownish buildup (tartar). The buildup of bacteria and food on the teeth may cause gingivitis, receding gums and tooth loss.

Other signs of oral disease or gastrointestinal problems include excessive drooling, inflamed gums, tooth pain or loss, nasal discharge and excessive sneezing.

What you can do:

- Clean your dog's teeth and gums regularly using a canine toothbrush or a clean piece of soft gauze wrapped around your finger. Your vet can recommend an appropriate toothpaste to use for your dog. Use the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle in small, circular motions.
- Your vet can recommend a diet that will inhibit the formation of plaque and tartar.
- Use specially formulated dog treats, bones and toys designed to decrease tartar buildup and improve bad breath.
- Take your dog for regular veterinarian visits that include oral check-ups and teeth cleaning.

Donor Spotlight

Partner in Trust Eleanor Hughes



Donor Eleanor Hughes.

Eleanor Hughes became involved with Guide Dogs of America more than three decades ago when her late husband Judge Charles Hughes was named to the Board of Directors for the school. The couple attended all the GDA events, and Eleanor became an active volunteer, giving tours of the school, serving as a receptionist, making cookies for the events...whatever needed to be done. In addition to giving generously of their time, Judge and Mrs. Hughes began making contributions to GDA as part of their charitable giving and became Partners in Trust. When Judge Hughes passed away, he left a significant donation to the school, and Mrs. Hughes has also named GDA her will to ensure their support of the school continues.

"We felt that GDA gave so much support to the confidence of the guide dog user," said Mrs. Hughes. "With their guide dogs, visually impaired people have a friend and a companion that is with them night and day. It's such a worthy cause to donate to GDA and be a part of providing this kind of assistance to those whom are blind."

Now in her 90s, Mrs. Hughes says that over the past several years the effects of macular degeneration and glaucoma that have gradually left her with limited vision has made giving to GDA even more personal. "I understand, to a certain extent, what the students that come to GDA are going through. I just feel it's so important for them to be mobile and active. Using a cane doesn't do it. A guide dog gives you the freedom to move about."

Partners in Trust



Make your gift to Guide Dogs of America last a lifetime and beyond. The Partners in Trust Society was established by GDA as a way to recognize and honor the generosity of those who have included the school in their planned giving. Providing Life Income Gifts and Bequests lets your gift continue working beyond your lifetime to help others achieve

their goals with increased mobility and independence through a partnership with a loyal and loving guide dog. Charitable organizations are not subject to gift or estate taxes so your gift continues to support the causes close to your heart, like Guide Dogs of America, without being diminished by the IRS.

You will receive our special "Partners In Trust" crystal jar, as a way of thanking you, that you can display it proudly, knowing the difference you are making in the lives of others through supporting Guide Dogs of America. Please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 for more information.

Open House – Save the Date

"Saddle Up for Western Day at GDA"

Giddy up lil' doggies...to GDA's annual Open House on Saturday, June 9. Save the date and join us for a great day of fun and festivities.

Watch as puppy raisers wrangle their puppies-in-training through the ever-popular obstacle course where they will navigate past food, animals and other distractions, as well as experience simulated vet and travel situations. Later in the day, our trainers will give a guide dog demonstration, and tickets will be available for a raffle to win "A Day With the Trainer." Be sure to stake your claim to one (or more) of the items in our Silent Auction. This year we are anticipating a large "Travel" section and the items will be available at an online auction site, called "Bidding for Good." Look for more details soon on our website and our Facebook page.

Admission to the Open House is free. There is food available for purchase. Gates open at 11 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Events begin at 11 a.m. and end at around 3 p.m. We do ask that you leave your personal pets at home.

GDA Las Vegas Charity Weekend

A Weekend to Remember Ends with “Evening in Paris”

GDA's Annual Las Vegas Charity Weekend is one of the most successful ways that GDA raises money in support of its mission to provide guide dogs, at no cost, to those without sight. In the spirit of the theme of the dinner, “Evening in Paris,” GDA extends a big “merci beaucoup,” to all those who participated in the events that took place during this special weekend.

“I am grateful to all of the sponsors, attendees and volunteers for their generosity of spirit that has made this event a huge success for more than three decades. This annual weekend is about fundraising, but it also gives me the opportunity to thank many of our supporters,” said Guide Dogs of America President Dale Harford. “GDA is a very special place. From a prospective student's first call to GDA, to long after they graduate with their first, second or fifth guide dog, each person is treated with respect and compassion.



“Our students appreciate the personalized attention and training they receive from our licensed instructors and staff and the fact that we breed, raise and train our own guide dogs. These are among the many things that make GDA a very special place in the lives and hearts of our students. I was able to personally express my appreciation to many of those in attendance, but there were many more that I did not have the opportunity to speak to. To everyone that supported the Charity Weekend, please know how greatly we appreciate your continued commitment.”

Throughout the weekend of events, graduates, puppy raisers and puppies-in-training greeted all those who had gathered and thanked them for their participation.

The weekend started on Thursday with the 11th-Annual Las Vegas Hawgs for Dogs motorcycle ride. The following morning, more than 200 golfers participated in the 31st-Annual Golf Tournament at Revere Golf Course.

The fundraising weekend culminated in the 31st-Annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet, which was held at the Paris Hotel. At the banquet, three outstanding members of our GDA family were recognized and presented with the prestigious Guide Dogs of America “Gift of Sight” Award.



Gift of Sight Honorees



Robert Martinez joined the IAM in 1980 as an Aircraft Assembler. In 1994, Martinez became the IAM's liaison to the Federal Consortium of Education. Martinez held various positions and served on several committees with his Local Lodge 776A, while working at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Fort Worth Division. He has served in the Safety and Health Department and as a project coordinator for the Re-Employment and Safety Training (IAM CREST) and the Center for Administering Rehabilitation and Employment Services (IAM CARES). In 1999, Martinez became the Education Representative of the Southern Territory. He then became the Special Representative in 2002, a role in which he served until becoming the General Vice President assigned to the Southern Territory (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, Panama and Virgin Islands) in 2003. Martinez is currently on the Board of Directors for Guide Dogs of America.



Brian Morton worked briefly for Merrill Lynch in New York City, before returning to the West Coast to work at the investment management firm, Morgan & Company. Morton currently is the President of Morgan & Company, where he has served the needs of various multi-employer trust funds and their beneficiaries for the last 23 years.

His involvement with GDA began in 1985 with his participation in the GDA golf tournament at Chuck Corica Golf Complex in Alameda, CA. The Morton Family has been a proud GDA donor for more than three decades. Brian Morton follows in the footsteps of his father, Tom, and brother, Paul, in service to GDA. Morton also serves as the Trustee on the Morton Foundation, a Director at the Bridge School and a Freshman Basketball Coach at Serra High School.



Adam Beasley joined IAM in 2001, after he was hired as an Apprentice Aircraft Mechanic at Ft. Rucker. He was appointed to the office of Vice President of his Local Lodge, where he served from 2005-2007. Beasley served as the Newsletter Editor for the Local Lodge from 2007-2010. He also served as a Shop Steward. Since 2003, he has served on the Organizing Committee for District Lodge 75 and Local Lodge 2003. Through the support of his Local and District Lodge, Adam has completed several courses at the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center. After joining the IAM, Beasley learned about Guide Dogs of America and began serving as the volunteer Guide Dogs of America representative for District Lodge 75 and Local Lodge 2003 in 2002. As a volunteer for GDA, Beasley has raised awareness, especially through his YouTube videos and Facebook postings, throughout the southeastern United States about the Guide Dogs of America program and its beneficial impact to the independence of the visually impaired.



Thank You to Our Sponsors

GDA wishes to thank the many sponsors who so generously supported the weekend's activities and helped make it an incredibly successful weekend.

GDA'S Wish List

For those of you who would like to help keep our puppies and dogs happy and healthy, below is a list of specific needs that we have compiled from some of our departments. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated.

Vet Department/Recovery Room Wishes

Kirkland Signature Pet Throw - \$39.99. Quantity needed: 10

Pet Dreams Sleep-Ezz Classic Crate Pads - \$39.99. Quantity needed: 10; Size: XL. www.petsmart.com

Proselect Deluxe Thermostatic Crate Fan (Item: ZW11034) - \$15.99. Quantity needed: 5. www.petedge.com

Slumber Pet Plush Mats - \$29.99. Quantity needed: 10. www.petedge.com

Zanies Burlly Berbers Dog Toys (Item: ZA734) - \$5.99. Quantity needed: 25. www.petedge.com

Wahl Trimmer Combo Kit (Item: WA9901) - \$22.49. Quantity needed: 1. www.petedge.com

Microwavable Dog Bed Warmer - \$49.99. Quantity needed: 5. www.drsfosterandsmith.com

Comfy Cone - \$12.99-24.99. Quantity needed: 3 of each size. www.drsfosterandsmith.com

Chubs Dog Toys (Item: 9N-74256) - \$10.99. Quantity needed: 10. www.drsfosterandsmith.com

Pro Collar Protective Collar - \$7.99-20.99. Quantity needed: 5 of each size. www.drsfosterandsmith.com

Soft E-Collar - \$21.99-34.99. Quantity needed: Small (3); Medium (5); Large (5); X-large (5). www.bellaspainrelief.com

Hot and Cold Packs - \$39.95. Quantity needed: 10. www.bellaspainrelief.com

Puppy Department

24" & 36" Exercise Pens - Quantity needed: 5

Dog Crates (Medium and Large) - Quantity needed: 5 of each

Step2Step Alert Kid Alert V.W.S. (Item: 787699) - \$27.99. Quantity needed: 10. www.Step2.com

15 foot Blue Lightweight Open Tunnel1 (Item: TT052) - \$219.99. Quantity needed: 1. www.jjdog.com

Pair of Steel Tunnel Cradles and Straps (Item: AG160) - \$139.00. Quantity needed: 1. www.jjdog.com

Fit Paws Giant Balance Disc 22 - \$50.95. Quantity needed: 1. www.jjdog.com

The Step Home Trainer Deck - \$32.69. Quantity needed: 5. Target or other stores that carry sports equipment.

The following items are used for assistance with puppy distraction training and available from www.robertham.com.

Girl Mannequins

KG-4 \$89.00. Quantity needed: 2

KG-8 \$89.00. Quantity needed: 2

Boy Mannequins

KB-6 \$89.00. Quantity needed: 2

KB-4 \$89.00. Quantity needed: 2

General Needs

Vacuum Cleaner

Sterilized Bones - Size: Large. Quantity needed: 10

Kong - Size: Large. Quantity needed:

Compress Rawhide Bones - Size: Large

All of these items are available at most pet supply stores.

Before filling any of our wishes, please call Lorri Bernson at (818) 833-6431. All items should be sent to her attention at GDA.

Congratulations Graduates

Class #371



Graduates (Puppy Raiser in parentheses):

left to right: Dave Bates & Jax (*The Pennala Family*); Ari Hughes & Monty (*Ashleigh Garrett*); Chris Soldan & Shellie (*Tom Fisher & Pax Tisdale*); Julie Morgan & Fenix (*Bob & Kathie Stegemann*); Ruth Goodwin & Bianca (*The Barger Family*); Bob Stricklin & Etch (*Cherry Teter*); Roberta Israel & Trevin (*Ashley & Sandy Hernandez*); Kim Pomatto & Tripp (*Christine Gallup*); Gene Rasberry & Sarge (*The Semeleng Family*)

Instructors: left to right: Dave Ponce, Mindy Romero, Sean Chiles

Class #371.5



Graduates (Puppy Raiser in parentheses):

left to right: Sharlene Ornelas and Riggs (*The Lusk Family*); Jennifer Riggins and Tessa (*The Delvasto Family*); Agustin Moreno and Hamilton (*The Miller Family*); Bobbi Bubier and Honora (*BobbiJo & Tiffany Dean*); Stan Stafford and Dudley (*The Applebaum Family*); CJ Daniel & Gibbs (*Lori Montigel*)

Instructors: left to right: Patty Elizondo, Linda Hawes

In-home Graduates (not pictured): Karen Edwards and Recco (*Gary and Stephanie Ruggerone*) Turalee Smith & Harley (*Ray and Terry Crawford*)

Instructor: Steve Burkman



2011 Harley-Davidson Raffle Winner

2011 "Trike" Raffle Winner

Dale Hartford (right), President of Guide Dogs of America, presents the keys to the winner of last year's Harley-Davidson winner Tim Tietz (left) from Huntington Beach, CA. Congratulations, Tim!

Quilt Raffle Winner



The winner of last year's beautiful quilt was Bob Rohrer. He graciously donated the quilt to his daughter, Audrey, who is a GDA puppy raiser.

Ride for Guides



It's time for the 9th-Annual Motorcycle "Ride for Guides" (Sunday, May 20, 2012). Riders registering before May 10th will receive a discount and a bonus – a raffle ticket for the 2012 Harley-Davidson Ultra Classic that we will be raffling off this year. All motorcycles are welcome. This poker run starts and finishes at GDA and includes lunch,

a pin, raffles and a full day of fun and puppies - come join our puppy-love ride!

For registration forms or sponsorship opportunities, please call Lorri Bernson at (818) 833-6431. Registration forms are available at our web site: www.guidedogsofamerica.org by clicking on the "Events Calendar."

2012 Raffles

2012 GDA Bike Raffle

This year, the GDA motorcycle raffle is for a 2012 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic. The winning ticket will be drawn on November 17 at the Guide Dogs of America Annual Banquet in Las Vegas. (Winner need not be present to win.) More details and photos will appear in the next newsletter.

"A Day with the Trainers" – The Experience Of A Lifetime

This extremely popular annual raffle prize 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 routes; observing daily training exercises; and, after being blindfolded by a trainer, taking harness in hand and being led on a route with a dog to experience how it feels to walk with a guide dog. Winners must be at least 18 years of age and able to walk 4 to 5 miles in one day near our campus.

Use the order form included in the newsletter or purchase tickets at GDA before or on June 9 (Open House). Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Winner will be notified on June 14. Training day date to be announced after the drawing.



2012 GDA Lapel Pin

The GDA logo over the backdrop of the flags of the United States of America and Canada represents GDA's mission to provide guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge to blind and visually impaired individuals from both countries. The pin measures 1" X 1". \$8.00 (includes shipping & handling).

WINTER 2012 Order Form

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429. ***All Shipping & Handling is included***

Mail this entire form with your payment.

Raffle Tickets — \$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5.

<input type="checkbox"/> A Day with the Trainers	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> 2012 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic	\$

GDA Lapel Pins — \$8 per pin (Previous years' pins available in limited quantity. Please call GDA for details.)

<input type="checkbox"/> 2012 GDA Lapel Pin	\$
---	----

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

3-4 digit code

☐ **Check** (make your check payable to **Guide Dogs of America**)

Mail to: Guide Dogs of America ATTN: Winter Merchandise Order Form, 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342 **Or use the enclosed envelope.**



Published by: Guide Dogs of America
13445 Glenoaks Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 362-5834 FAX: (818) 362-6870

E-MAIL
mail@guidedogsofamerica.org

WEBSITE
www.guidedogsofamerica.org

CONTRIBUTOR
Dale Hartford

EDITOR
Lorri Bernson



GUIDE DOGS
OF AMERICA

13445 Glenoaks Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

LOS ANGELES, CA
PERMIT NO. 2181

In Memory

With sadness we note the passing of GDA family member:

Randy Brooks – Class #355.5

We also note with sadness the passing of the following guide dogs:

Arlo – In-home	Fletch – Class #335
Batik – Class #325	Kodiak – Class #318
Bree – Class #325	Kramer – In-home
Ethan – Class #321	Leader – Class #327.5
Felicia – Class #342	Saxon – Class #351.5

“The Mentalist” Star Visits GDA



GDA recently hosted Amanda Righetti from the popular television show “The Mentalist” (CBS). After her tour, Yvonne Martin, one of our licensed instructors, showed Amanda a few of the proper techniques for walking with a guide

dog. We are so proud that Amanda chose GDA as her destination to learn more about guide dogs.

2012 Calendar of Events at GDA

Graduations

Sunday, January 29
Sunday, April 22
Sunday, July 8
Sunday, October 21
Saturday, December 15

Ride for Guides

Sunday, May 20

Open House

Saturday, June 9

2012 Holiday Card Contest – Deadline February 29

Last Year’s Holiday Memories Could be This Year’s GDA Holiday Card

You know your precious pup or adorable dog brings you comfort and joy year-round, but he or she could be sending holiday cheer to everyone next season if your photo is chosen in this very special GDA holiday card photo contest. Send us your favorite photo — only one entry per family, please. The winning photo will be used for the 2012 GDA holiday card. Submission details follow:

- All photos MUST be submitted via E-MAIL (as an attachment) by Feb. 29, 2012 to partners@guidedogsofamerica.org
- All photos MUST BE PHOTOGRAPHED AT HIGH-RESOLUTION (2,100 x 1,500 px or above)
- Winner will be notified on March 15, 2012 and will be posted on the website
- Please make sure that the e-mail includes your full name, address, phone and best e-mail address for contact
- All photo entries become the property of GDA
- Credit for the winning photo will be given