GUIDE DOGS GIVE OUR GRADUATES COMFORT AND JOY AT THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Amidst the Wrapping and Ribbons, the Kids and the Cooking. Our GDA Grads Are Making the Holidays Happy for Their Families

The holiday season is a wonderful and festive time of year, but there is extra effort involved in making them special. Sometimes it’s difficult not to wonder how it all will possibly get done — gifts to buy, meals to make, cards to send. Yet, it all seems to come together in time for everyone to stop and be thankful. Every day presents our graduates with opportunities for new experiences and achievements, but like everyone, the holidays require a little more thought and planning.

In this holiday issue, we wanted to give you a glimpse into how several of our graduates, that are parents, enjoy the holiday season with their guide at their side.

Graduate Christie Moon and her husband John have three children — twin daughters Jamie and Jessica, 17, and son Paul, 11. She has been legally blind since birth, but like many of our graduates, has some residual vision. While Christie enjoys wrapping the presents, she says the shopping can be involved in making them special. Sometimes it’s difficult not to wonder how it all will possibly get done — gifts to buy, meals to make, cards to send. Yet, it all seems to come together in time for everyone to stop and be thankful. Every day presents our graduates with opportunities for new experiences and achievements, but like everyone, the holidays require a little more thought and planning.

In this holiday issue, we wanted to give you a glimpse into how several of our graduates, that are parents, enjoy the holiday season with their guide at their side.

Graduate Christie Moon and her husband John have three children — twin daughters Jamie and Jessica, 17, and son Paul, 11. She has been legally blind since birth, but like many of our graduates, has some residual vision. While Christie enjoys wrapping the presents, she says the shopping can
IN MEMORY

We note with sadness the passing of the following member of the GDA family:

**Vince Bazzachini**
Founding Member
Minnesota “Hawgs for Dogs”

A 23-year member of IAM Local Lodge 1833 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Vince also served as the Local’s President from 1994-1999. Vince was one of the original founders of the Minnesota Chapter of Hawgs for Dogs and was deeply dedicated to Guide Dogs of America. He will be fondly remembered by GDA for all his efforts to further the school’s mission and will be sadly missed.

We also note with sadness the passing of the following GDA guide dogs that dedicated their lives to ensuring the safety and independence of their partners:

- **Raymond** — Class #305
- **Troy (aka Terry)** — Class #308

EVERYONE WINS AT 2ND ANNUAL “PARTNER’S” AWARD DINNER AND CASINO NIGHT!

At the 2nd Annual “Partner’s” Awards Dinner and Casino Night held Saturday, August 12th everyone went home a winner – especially GDA. During an evening filled with dining, dealers, and dogs, a total of $70,000 was raised for the school.

More than 300 guests, 40 exceptionally well-behaved puppies-in-training, and many graduates were in attendance at the annual event, which was held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Air Force One Pavilion. Honored at the dinner were Jacque & Jack Butler and Teri & Jerry Dillingham, who were presented with the prestigious “Partner’s” Award in recognition of their many years of volunteering and puppy raising. The couples were further honored for their continued commitment to service by Larry Grooms, District Director for Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, and State Senator George Runer, who presented them with State Resolutions.

We wish to thank our many sponsors for their support and for making our event a tremendous success: Tennenbaum Capital Partners, LLC, The Morton Family, Mrs. Macki & Mark New for designing and donating the table décor, and Judy Reilly and her team for coordinating the silent auction.

For additional pictures, please visit www.guidedogsAmerica.org, and click on “Fundraiser Photos.”

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Class #355.5

GRADUATES from LEFT to RIGHT (Puppy Raiser in parentheses):
Jeff Jenkins & Buster (Joe & Janet Scavo), Chris Sirna & Katie (Tom & Judy Reilly), Vernice Norris & Jonah (Tami & Sami Semler), Debbie Jackson & Felix (The Behringer Family), Randy Brooks & Franco (The Polson Family), Bill Dailey & Farley (Allen & Beverly Adams)

IN-HOME GRADUATE (not pictured):
Patty Sarchi & Othello (Judy Kovaric)

INSTRUCTORS standing LEFT to RIGHT:
Chuck Jordan, Steve Burkman

“**My Christmas will be very special this year. Last year I did not have a dog guide. This year I have enjoyed traveling and visiting with friends and I am looking forward to a special time with my guide’s puppy raiser the day after the Guide Dog Users of Oregon Conference.**”

SHARON ELY & SEBASTIAN

**MY CHRISTMAS WILL BE VERY SPECIAL THIS YEAR.**

Partner’s award recipient Jacque Butler wrote “**Byron.**” She was inspired to write the poem, which is about the first puppy-in-training she and her husband Jack raised for GDA. She wrote it on the day she turned him in for formal training. Byron came to live with the Butlers in February 1986, and became a guide dog in 1987. Including Byron, the couple has raised 13 dogs.

**FUN AND FEASTING WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS**

One of the most popular raffles every year at the Open House Silent Auction is “Dinner with the Firemen.” This year, several puppy raisers put their money in the “kitty” and were the successful bidders of the evening, which was hosted by the Pacific Palisades Fire Station. Fireman Dennis Haines, who also happens to be a GDA puppy raiser, is pictured here with puppy-in-training, Tori. Following dinner, the group toured the firehouse where several of the puppies-in-training made themselves quite at home as evidenced by the photo of the lucky dogs looking relaxed on and near one of the station’s fire trucks. Pictured are: (top) Oceana, (from left) Tori, Rincon, and Yasmin.

**EVERYONE WINS AT 2ND ANNUAL “PARTNER’S” AWARD DINNER AND CASINO NIGHT!**

At the 2nd Annual “Partner’s” Awards Dinner and Casino Night held Saturday, August 12th everyone went home a winner – especially GDA. During an evening filled with dining, dealers, and dogs, a total of $70,000 was raised for the school.

More than 300 guests, 40 exceptionally well-behaved puppies-in-training, and many graduates were in attendance at the annual event, which was held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Air Force One Pavilion. Honored at the dinner were Jacque & Jack Butler and Teri & Jerry Dillingham, who were presented with the prestigious “Partner’s” Award in recognition of their many years of volunteering and puppy raising. The couples were further honored for their continued commitment to service by Larry Grooms, District Director for Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, and State Senator George Runer, who presented them with State Resolutions.

We wish to thank our many sponsors for their support and for making our event a tremendous success: Tennenbaum Capital Partners, LLC, The Morton Family, Mrs. Macki Singer, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Kidushim, Mrs. Eleanor Hughes, Scott Wealth Management Group of Wachovia Securities, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Eliott, Sepulveda Building Materials, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cottleman, and Animal Specialty Group, Inc. Additional thanks go to Tammy & Mark New for designing and donating the table décor, and Judy Reilly and her team for coordinating the silent auction.

For additional pictures, please visit www.guidedogsAmerica.org, and click on “Fundraiser Photos.”
GUIDE DOGS GIVE COMFORT continued from page 1...

Have a Ball! – When purchasing a ball or toy for a dog, make sure it’s large enough that it won’t lodge in its throat. A dog’s primary designs on a toy are carrying it in his mouth, chewing it, tossing it, and catching it, so it’s important that the toy is too big to swallow.

Give Your Dog a Bone – Choose a bone that matches your dog’s chewing rate and chewing habits. If your dog chews for short periods of time with a soft chew stick, a smaller rawhide bone that softens easily will be enjoyable. For more aggressive chewers harder bones will last longer and be more satisfying. Supervise chew time, and throw away bones that have become small enough to be swallowed.

Fashion with Function – A monogrammed leash and collar or a fancy new name tag that includes your home telephone number will ensure your dog’s safe return if you become separated.

What a Treat – Treat dispensing toys in ball or other shapes make ideal gifts. Designed with hollow areas that can be filled with your dog’s favorite (and healthy) treats or natural peanut butter (provided your pet is not allergic), these toys are great for keeping your dog occupied for long periods of time.

Holiday Cookies – Your dog shouldn’t be fed any of your homemade holiday treats except those made from recipes specially-formulated for dogs and/or your dog’s dietary restrictions. You can find wonderful recipes online or in doggie cookbooks.

Paws with a Cause – If every day is a holiday for your pampered pooch, consider giving a gift in your dog’s name to Guide Dogs of America. Check out our “Holiday Wish List” in this newsletter, or make a donation in any amount to help support our program.

A good dog gift is one that does not cause harm to your dog. With just a little forethought, you and your dog will enjoy a safe holiday season!...
JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE BEGINS WITH A ROUND-TRIP TICKET

Our GDA students come from all over the United States and Canada, which means for many of them their 28-day training at the school begins and ends on an airplane. GDA is able to cover 100% of all our students’ travel expenses, including airline tickets, by “purchasing” their tickets using frequent flyer miles that have been donated to the school. Two airlines participate in the program: United Airlines and Northwest Airlines (see separate sidebar story about Northwest Airlines’ matching miles program on page 6). If you or someone you know have unused miles with either of these airlines’ programs, the miles can be donated directly to GDA. To donate your miles, have your account number ready and contact:

• Northwest WorldPerks
  (800) 327-2881 or www.nwa.com/worldperks

• United Airlines Mileage Plus
  (800) 412-4655 (Customer Service)

Call GDA at (818) 833-6432 for more information.

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY DONATION: JUST ONE CALL ENSURES A YEAR OF GIVING

Many of our supporters donate on a regular basis to our guide dog program. For those who would like to make a monthly donation to Guide Dogs of America, we have a plan that automatically charges your credit card at the beginning of each month. At year’s end you will receive a thank you letter with a donation total for your tax records. Call (818) 833-6432 with questions or to participate.

TRUST-ING IN GDA

By thoughtfully naming GDA in their wills, trusts, and life insurance policies, the members of the Partners in Trust Society ensure 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.

Become a member of the Partners in Trust Society

Just as blind men and women partner with GDA’s remarkable dogs for more independence and mobility, generous friends and supporters partner with GDA to help us carry out our work. Become a member of the Partners in Trust Society by naming GDA in your will or trust and receive this beautiful crystal biscuit jar. Call Rhonda Bissell for more information at (818) 833-6432.

As you are making your list and checking it twice this holiday season, please remember all the GDA puppies that have been extra nice! Donating items from the GDA “Holiday Wish List” will bring comfort and joy to our puppies during the holiday season and beyond.

General Holiday and Year-Round Kennel Wishes:
• Super-thick orthopedic dog beds
• Large sterilized bones
• Large heavy duty rubber toys
• Large compressed rawhide bones and large compressed rawhide chews
• Blankets/fluffy comforters
• Gift cards from any mass market pet store, i.e., PetCo, PetSmart

The following items are available at www.petedge.com:
• Tug Toys – Size: medium and large ($1.99-$4.99); Item: ZAA48
• Nylabone Double Action Chews – Item: T9813

Tough by Nature Holme Rollers – Size: 5 and 6.5 ($4.99-$6.99); Item: ZX33S

Nursery Wishes:
• “Main Stay” print blankets; Size: twin/full

Vet Department/Recovery Room Wishes:
• Elevated dog beds: “Pipe Dreams Pet Beds” (available at www.dog.com) – Size: large; Item: D28001
• Relion Ultima Glucose Meter and Strips – Quantity needed: 1
• Slumber Pet Fleece Beds (available at www.petedge.com) – Quantity needed: 6; Size: extra large; Item: ZW92508

The following items are available at Costco:
• Kirkland Pet Throws – One side fabric/one side fabric
• Kirkland Pet Beds – Quantity needed: 5; Size: large

The following items are available from www.jbpet.com:
• Cordless Dremel – Quantity needed: 2; Item: 686-0101-2
• Sanding Drum – Quantity needed: 2; Item: 686-0101-3
• Sanding Bands – Quantity needed: 10-20; Item: 686-0101-4
• Canine Cooler Beds – Quantity needed: 4; Size: 2XCh; Item: 701-0101
• Medi-Paw – Size: Quantity needed: large/4; medium/4, Item: 105-0100
• Walk-a-Belly – Quantity needed: 2; Size: med/medium (107,39); Item: 127-0112
• Thermal Aid Treatment Packs – Quantity needed: 2; Size: small; Item: 151-0101

GDA GREATLY “APPRECIATES” DONATIONS OF STOCKS OR SECURITIES

Donating appreciated stocks or securities is another way you can give to GDA. This can benefit you in two ways: you will receive a deduction based on the average price of the security on the date you give the gift; and you avoid paying capital gains tax by gifting the security directly to GDA. This double benefit can work for appreciated real estate as well as appreciated securities. You also can sell a security that carry out our work, and donate the proceeds to Guide Dogs of America. That loss could be used to offset other capital gains you may have, or if you have no other capital gains, up to $3,000 can be used to offset ordinary income. Please consult a tax professional to verify your own particular situation. It’s a great way to give a gift and minimize your taxes! Call (818) 833-6432 for details.

FEATURED MERCHANDISE

GDA’s Holiday Wish List

There are many ways to celebrate GDA and continue to fulfill the hopes and dreams of our students – past, present, and future – at the holidays and all year round. Please take a moment to read about the many ways you can create holiday memories for years to come!

GDA’s Holiday Wish List

As you are making your list and checking it twice this holiday season, please remember all the GDA puppies that have been extra nice! Donating items from the GDA “Holiday Wish List” will bring comfort and joy to our puppies during the holiday season and beyond.

General Holiday and Year-Round Kennel Wishes:
• Super-thick orthopedic dog beds
• Large sterilized bones
• Large heavy duty rubber toys
• Large compressed rawhide bones and large compressed rawhide chews
• Blankets/fluffy comforters
• Gift cards from any mass market pet store, i.e., PetCo, PetSmart

The following items are available at www.petedge.com:
• Tug Toys – Size: medium and large ($1.99-$4.99); Item: ZAA48
• Nylabone Double Action Chews – Item: T9813

Tough by Nature Holme Rollers – Size: 5 and 6.5 ($4.99-$6.99); Item: ZX33S

Nursery Wishes:
• “Main Stay” print blankets; Size: twin/full

Vet Department/Recovery Room Wishes:
• Elevated dog beds: “Pipe Dreams Pet Beds” (available at www.dog.com) – Size: large; Item: D28001
• Relion Ultima Glucose Meter and Strips – Quantity needed: 1
• Slumber Pet Fleece Beds (available at www.petedge.com) – Quantity needed: 6; Size: extra large; Item: ZW92508

The following items are available at Costco:
• Kirkland Pet Throws – One side fabric/one side fabric
• Kirkland Pet Beds – Quantity needed: 5; Size: large

The following items are available from www.jbpet.com:
• Cordless Dremel – Quantity needed: 2; Item: 686-0101-2
• Sanding Drum – Quantity needed: 2; Item: 686-0101-3
• Sanding Bands – Quantity needed: 10-20; Item: 686-0101-4
• Canine Cooler Beds – Quantity needed: 4; Size: 2XCh; Item: 701-0101
• Medi-Paw – Size: Quantity needed: large/4; medium/4, Item: 105-0100
• Walk-a-Belly – Quantity needed: 2; Size: med/medium (107,39); Item: 127-0112
• Thermal Aid Treatment Packs – Quantity needed: 2; Size: small; Item: 151-0101

“Please call (818) 833-6431 before ordering, to make sure these “wishes” have not been filled yet, as we only need a limited number of each.

GDA Winter ORDER FORM

“Wishing” is included in price listed

GDA Fanny Pack $19 each $1

South Bay “Jolly” Raiser Calendar $15 each $1

TOTAL ENCLOSED $1

Name Address City State Zip Phone

Credit Card check box: VISA MasterCard Discover
Expiration Date
Card Number
Signature: (sign to authorize credit card)

Mail to: Guide Dogs of America
47101 Winter Order Form
13945 Giamпрессi Blvd. Sunnyvale CA 94082
Or use the enclosed envelope.

GDA Answers “Wish” Requested by Many – Fanny-Packs Available for the First Time!

So many of you asked how you can get one of the navy blue canvas fanny-packs with the GDA logo you see our grads wearing. GDA has just made your wish come true! The fanny-packs, which also feature three zippered compartments, are now available for purchase. Price for each fanny-pack is $13. Shipping is included!

Don’t Miss a Dog-gone Date – Purchase the South Bay Puppy Raiser Group Calendar

This full-color calendar measures 8½” x 11” and features puppies from the nursery, puppies in-training, and breeders. The price of the calendar, which was produced by the South Bay Pupper Raisers Group, is $15 (price includes shipping and handling).

GDA LOGO MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE

For more information, please visit www.guidedogsofamerica.org

For easy ordering, GDA has made many of its logo items available on our web site. Please visit www.guidedogsofamerica.org.