

## For over 70 years, Guide Dogs of America (GDA) and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) have worked together as a team.

GDA and the IAMAW collaborate, inspire and fundraise to provide expertly-matched guide dogs to legally blind individuals from the USA and Canada so they may live their lives with greater confidence, mobility and independence. These extraordinary dogs and personalized instruction in their care and use, are provided by GDA at no cost. In addition to breeding and training highly qualified dogs, GDA determines each client's individual situation in order to create the ideal match that cultivates true companionship.



## **The Dream Becomes A Reality**

The partnership between GDA and IAMAW began in 1948 because Joseph Jones, a retired IAMAW member who lost his vision, was rejected by then existing guide dog schools because of his age. Joseph decided to start his own school and turned to his union brethren. The IAMAW felt it was wrong to discriminate against a person because of his age and supported Joseph in the founding of a new guide dog school without an upper age limit policy

GDA continues to expand its nondiscrimination policy and determines recipients without regard for age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or economic means.

Although GDA is an independent organization, historically the GDA President is a former IAMAW employee.GDA is appreciative of the IAMAW's continued support and excited about the boundless potential of the GDA/IAMAW collaboration.



