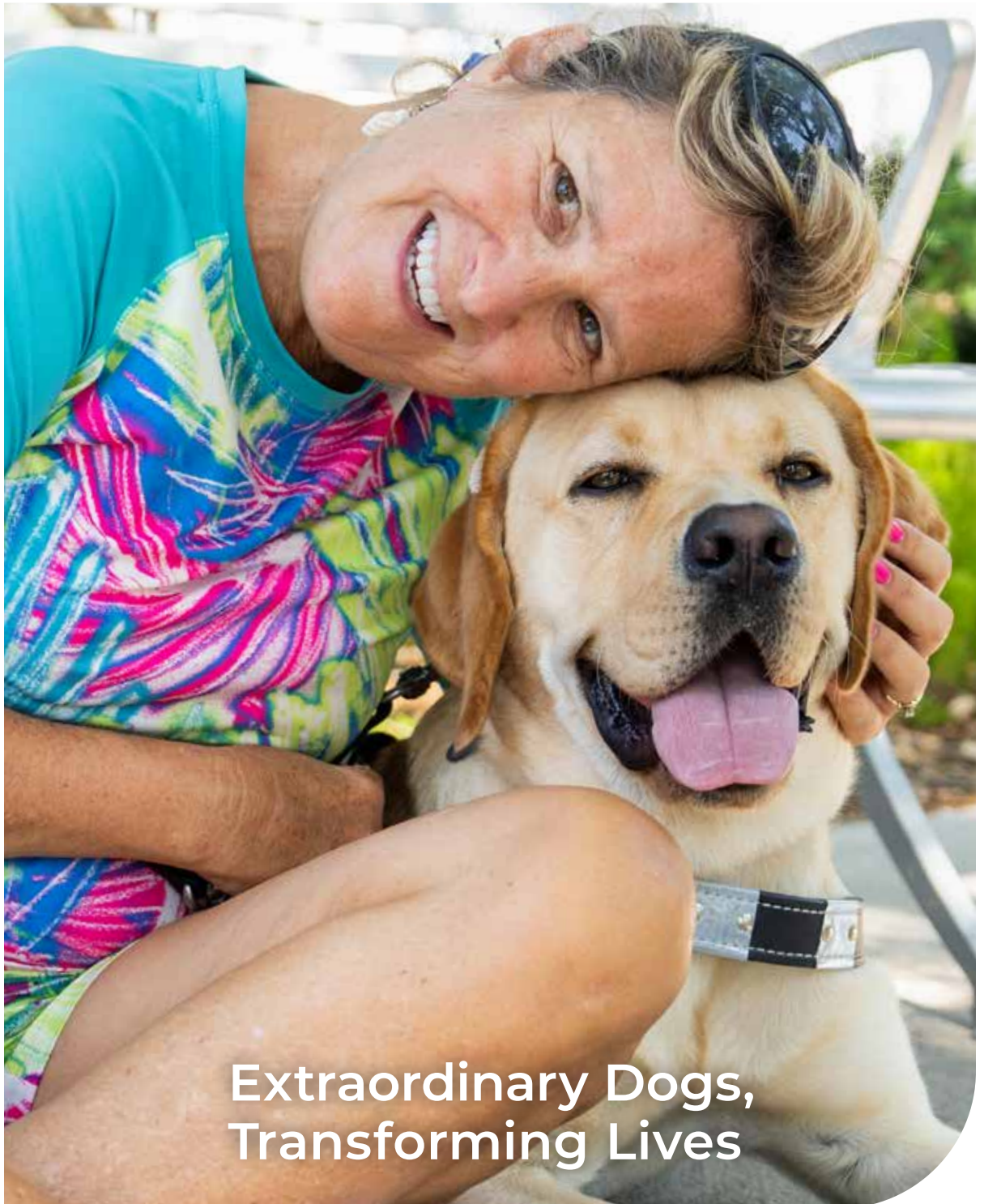


SIDE SIDE

dogsinc



Extraordinary Dogs,
Transforming Lives

ISSUE ELEVEN

About Us

SIDE by SIDE is a publication of Dogs Inc.

Our extraordinary dogs transform lives throughout the United States—at no cost to the recipients—thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers.

EXTRAORDINARY DOGS

What makes our dogs so special? Top-notch pedigrees, perfected over decades of selective breeding. And thousands of hours of training, care, and love. The heartwarming results? Highly skilled four-legged friends who shine as true examples of loyalty.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Our dogs form unbreakable bonds with their human partners. Guide dogs turn darkness into light for people with vision loss. Service dogs restore freedom for veterans who have sacrificed for ours. And skilled companion dogs heal the broken hearts of those struggling with loss.

AT NO COST TO RECIPIENTS

And here's the best part. Our dogs offer an invaluable service and give their love unconditionally, never asking for anything in return—and we follow their lead. We offer our clients their loyal friends, expert instruction, and lifetime support completely free of charge.



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With you through every moment—
big or small.

Hello

Dear Friend,

When a dog bounds into someone's life, the incredible happens. Courage rises. Hope dawns. And love blooms.

These magnificent pups lead their guardians to discover a world of possibilities. A place where dreams become reality and the once-unattainable falls within reach.

When a dog bounds into someone's life, everything changes—but you open the door. Thank you for your kindness.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Titus Herman".

Titus Herman
Chief Executive Officer



Our Dogs

WE PROVIDE OUR DOGS

& SERVICES AT NO COST

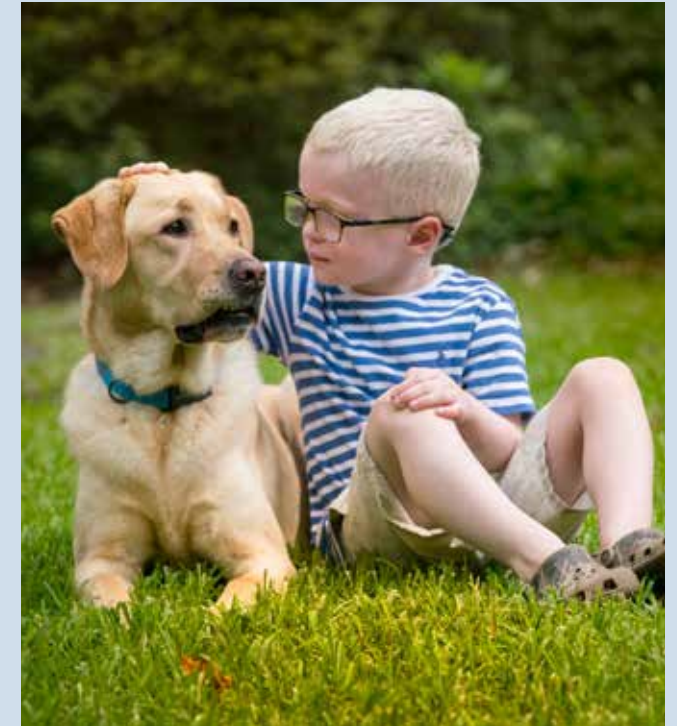


GUIDE DOGS offer freedom and confidence to teens, adults, and veterans with vision loss.



SERVICE DOGS offer help, healing, and hope to veterans.

- ▶ *Service dogs help veterans heal from physical and invisible wounds.*
- ▶ *Therapy dogs help patients and healthcare workers at military facilities recover from pain and distress.*



SKILLED COMPANION DOGS

offer comfort and companionship to their human partners. They give:

- ▶ *Friendship to children, teens, and adults with vision loss.*
- ▶ *Hope to veterans battling with despair.*
- ▶ *Relief to military families grappling with stress.*
- ▶ *Love to Gold Star families coping with grief.*



Celebrate New Beginnings

OUR NEWEST GRADUATES



How New Companions Bring New Hope

A moment that changes everything—that’s what our newest graduates experience when they first embrace their extraordinary dogs. And we know that this is only the beginning. Because every day, they’ll find peace in their companions’ presence, steadfast love in their eyes, and newfound freedom in their service.

Julianna Abbruzzese | Guide Dog Sky

COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK

The curtains part as the spotlight beams onto center stage. Julianna Abbruzzese stands beneath the glow, feeling the audience’s presence. Her heart flutters in excitement. Performing—her lifelong passion.

As she steps off the stage, reality hits the pit of her stomach. The whispers from classmates and comments from peers.

“It didn’t matter what I did or how successful I was in performing,” Julianna says. “All these things didn’t really matter because I was still the girl who couldn’t see.”

The memories of the school bullies lingered as Julianna ventured to college to chase her dream of being a performer

in New York City. She gripped the white cane, tapping it along the bustling city streets, alone, vulnerable.

Then, guide dog Sky swept in like a peaceful breeze, engulfing Julianna in comfort...and an odd twinge of confusion.

“When I got Sky, I called my mom and said I was confused,” Julianna says. “She asked me why, and I said because I’ve never had an experience or felt this way ever in my entire life.”

Peace. Comfort. Freedom.

Sky takes Julianna to new heights as her biggest fan, and Julianna claims her rightful role as the star of her new life.

Sky was raised by Jeff & Pamm Dugan.

“Blair brings so much joy to my life. She’s a pro when working and a cuddly Velcro dog, too. She’s the perfect battle buddy.”

Nathan Boeger | Service Dog Blair

U.S. NAVY VETERAN 🇺🇸
GROVELAND, FLORIDA

Blair was raised by Karen Vesey.



Tanner | Guide Dog Stevie

STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Tanner, an active high school junior, is no stranger to crowds. Since his vision began to deteriorate around eight years old due to retinal dystrophy, he’s relied on the sweep and thwack of a white cane to navigate. This upcoming school year, however, he’ll be strolling the hallways with determination and confidence thanks to a yellow Labrador named Stevie.

Stevie was raised by Sierra McKinnis.



Lynn | Guide Dog Barbara P

CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA

“Barbara P is everything I could’ve ever wanted in a dog, and more. My perfect match. And I’m not alone anymore.”

Barbara P was raised by Karen Murrell.



Richard Nelson | Service Dog Dolly

U.S. MARINES VETERAN 🇺🇸
VALPARAISO, FLORIDA

After decades of overseas military service, dark memories followed Richard home. Culture shock and hypervigilance shrank his world to four walls. But change appeared in service dog Dolly, a peaceful pup who leads Richard out of introspection and back into life. “She’s so much more than I expected,” Richard says.

Dolly was raised by Brenda Caylor.





Bob McKenna | Guide Dog Stanley

PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

“Stanley makes me so happy. The love that’s possible between humans and dogs, and the unconditional love he gives—I have no words.”

Stanley was raised by Pam Schilling.



Liz Hilton | Guide Dog Kay

ROCKLEDGE, FLORIDA

“Kay has given me the freedom to be me again. A burden of fear has been lifted; life is good again. She transforms every day from darkness to light.”

Kay was raised by Diane & Roger Lincoln.



Brian Batdorf | Service Dog Novak

U.S. COAST GUARD VETERAN 🇺🇸
NORTHPORT, FLORIDA

“When you’re alone in your thoughts, it’s easy to drift into a different world, but Novak nudges me back to the here and now. A chin, a hug—simply feeling his fur calms me down.”

Novak was raised by Debra Donnelly.



“I didn’t trust myself to walk anywhere alone. But with Pete, I have my freedom back.”

Zack Morris | Guide Dog Pete

EVANS, GEORGIA

Pete was raised by Laura BeVillie.

Madison | Skilled Companion Dog Carol

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Tucked up in the quiet haven of her bedroom, 12-year-old Madison places a hat on her yellow Lab's head. There, outfit complete. This sweet (and cooperative) dog, Carol, may let Madison dress her up, but Carol gives her favorite girl so much more than patience.

She gives her a friend.

Madison navigates life with ocular albinism. When another recent health challenge forced her to be homeschooled, she often spent lonely days inside, far from busy school hallways full of chatter. But now Carol offers Madison a listening ear and the ever-present loyalty only found in four paws.

"Madison was the baby of the family," her mom, Florence, says, "but now, Carol is. And her calmness helps keep Madison calm. She also gives Madison responsibility and an awareness beyond herself and her own needs."

This sweet pair has more in common than they first knew. Florence has worked for the University of Miami for over 22 years, but Carol's puppy raiser spent time there, too. "Madison and Carol basically grew up in the same place," Florence says.

A creative girl and her faithful, dressed-up pup: a perfect match, meant to be.

Carol was raised by Joy Beverly.



Todd and Family | Pepper Skilled Companion Dog for Military Families

U.S. NAVY VETERAN 🇺🇸
TAMPA, FLORIDA

"Pepper is such a sweet dog. She fits into our family so well. And we feel whole again."

Pepper was raised by Morgan McCree.

Bryan McPherson | Service Dog Century

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 🇺🇸
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

After 25 years in the military police, Army veteran Bryan McPherson felt safest within the walls of his home. Seeking isolation, he only left to go to work—until he met service dog, Century. She brings an air of professionalism and a heart of compassion to Bryan's life, opening his world up to a place of independence and joy.

Century was raised by Grace Johnson and Samantha Koschmerl.





Cecilia | Kent Skilled Companion Dog

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

“Cecilia’s always wanted a sister or brother,” Cecilia’s mom, Andrea, reflects. “And I think she just really needed Kent’s company.”

These days, Cecilia is exploring the world with newfound courage alongside her new “brother.”

Kent was raised by Stephanie Farber.



Jim DeBruhl | Guide Dog Lilly

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

“I can’t describe how great it feels to be able to do things or go places by myself. Helping me makes Lilly so happy.”

Lilly was raised by Kathleen C. Arnold.



Karen Tinnin | Guide Dog Hero

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

A life of limitations greeted Karen each morning for as long as she can remember. “I didn’t know how in the world I was going to get around,” Karen says. With laid-back and loving Hero, Karen’s days overflow with a sense of adventure, and her future brims with possibilities.

Hero was raised by Elaine New.



Darren Godwin | Service Dog Coach

U.S. ARMY AND CIA SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP VETERAN 🇺🇸
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

The sun blazes over gunfire and helicopters churning up a dust-filled sky. Sand chokes the throat, a gritty reminder.

This is war in the Middle East.

Amid this cacophony of chaos, Darren Godwin instructed CIA Special Operations Group officers to move with calculated precision and razor-sharp awareness. For 28 years, he never stopped moving. His distinguished U.S. Army and CIA service included months-long deployments, interspersed with brief returns home.

Eventually, Darren’s spinal injuries forced a reluctant retirement—and two years in a wheelchair. “It’s just depressing,” he remembers. “You’re constantly reminded that you’re not capable of doing something.

You constantly feel like people are staring.”

Service dog Coach bounded into his life, her high energy and unstoppable spirit instilling a new sense of capability and confidence. “Coach helps me walk; she keeps me balanced,” Darren marvels. “She’s go, go, go. She is so stinking smart. She always wants to work. Anything I ask her to do, she does.”

Darren’s renewed passion for life and training has led him and Coach to shine at dog training events and even receive an invitation to CIA Alumni Day.


Coach’s impact is immeasurable. “I can’t imagine not having her,” he says with a smile.

Coach was raised by Darren & Renee Godwin.



“Remy is my perfect match. I could not have asked for a better partner.”

Stu Gray | Service Dog Remy

AIR FORCE RESERVE 
RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA

Remy was raised by Carol Hendrix.

Matt | Service Dog Knox


MARINE CORPS VETERAN 

“Freedom—if I could sum it up in one word, Knox has given me back my freedom.”

Knox was raised by Sally & Kim Schoeffel.



Dan Dunn | Chip
Skilled Companion Dog for Military Families

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 
SEMINOLE, FLORIDA

“I’ll wake up and realize I didn’t dream all night like I used to. Then I’ll look over at Chip and see he’s already looking at me.”

Chip was raised by Colleen Flaherty and Maria Abelleira.



Carol Kitchen | Guide Dog Peyton

THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA

“After a couple of falls, I knew this might be the right time to have a second set of eyes looking out for me. Peyton’s the confirmation that allows me to keep going.”

Peyton was raised by Mazie Anderson and Angela Gomez.





“Shadow’s always making sure I’m safe. I used to avoid unfamiliar places, but now I don’t care where we go because Shadow’s always there. I trust this dog one hundred percent.”

Liz Prince | Guide Dog Shadow

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

Shadow was raised by Nancy Simons and Candace Miller.

"I felt invisible with a cane. People were hesitant to talk to me. But LaRue opens the door to connection. And I don't have to focus on not bumping into people. I can just enjoy the journey."



Jill Rossiter | Guide Dog LaRue

FLORENCE, ALABAMA

LaRue was raised by Eileen "Annie" Westermann and Erin Hays.



**Officer Mark Lickenfelt
Facility Therapy Dog Snowbird**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE DEPT.
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Officer Mark Lickenfelt helps USF students through stressful experiences, and his new partner, Snowbird, sweetens every encounter. Snowbird builds bridges, restores calm, and wins hearts with one wag of his tail. "Wow, I needed this today," students will say after meeting this loving pup.

Snowbird was raised by Jessica Smith.

Sue Kendinger | Guide Dog Charger

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Every day, the cobblestone Savannah streets stretched out before Sue like an obstacle course. Each uneven brick taunted her with the risk of falling. Now, loving Charger smooths the bumpy roads of life, replacing fear with companionship. Sue sums up her life with Charger in two words: confident and independent.

Charger was raised by Teresa Werner.





Marie Kouthoofd | Guide Dog Mango

OSWEGO, NEW YORK

“Retinitis pigmentosa makes me feel like I’m locked in a cage, but Mango unlocks that cage. He’s everything I could have asked for in a dog.”

Mango was raised by Richard & Jackie Cowart.



Lee Forbes | Levy

Skilled Companion Dog for Military Families

U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN 
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

“Levy lowers our stress level. The amount of joy my family has experienced in only one month of having her, compared to previous months, speaks volumes about this incredible dog.”

Levy was raised by Diane & Randy Jones.



John Novosel | Guide Dog Jasper

U.S. ARMY AND U.S. NAVY VETERAN 
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND

“Jasper shows me I can leave my comfort zone. Anyone looking for a reason to exist: get a dog. He’ll entertain you, yes, but he’ll challenge you. He’ll say, ‘Hey, we’re here for both of us.’”

Jasper was raised by Kim Chowning.

**“With my cane,
someone
would always
need to be there
just in case.
But now I can
walk places alone
with Tony.”**



Jake Schied | Guide Dog Tony

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Tony was raised by Carolyn Baugh and Patty Watts.



“Lois has saved my life.”

Charlie Pepinrivera | Service Dog Lois

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 
BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Lois was raised by Lori & Troy Antalek.



Carrie Austin | Tina
Skilled Companion Dog for Adults with Vision Loss

OCALA, FLORIDA

Difficult health issues stole Carrie’s job, confidence, and desire to leave the house, but skilled companion dog Tina steals her heart—and gives her unconditional love. This gentle pup banishes sadness so well that she brings Carrie happy tears. “Because of Tina, my life has turned 180 degrees,” Carrie says.

Tina was raised by Jeff & Sheryl Schafer.

Clare Westlund | Guide Dog Julin

MAPLE SHADE, NEW JERSEY

“Julin boosts my confidence, but she’s also a safe place to land emotionally. One walk together, and I knew: she’s meant for me.”

Julin was raised by Jo Wiseman.





Fred Jenkins | Guide Dog Banks

LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

For Fred, fly fishing was a passion—until glaucoma took it away from him. Housebound and uncertain, Fred was left with questions. But when Banks arrived, so did the answers. “Banks gives me more confidence,” Fred says. Fred and Banks find shared joy in a new hobby: a homemade agility course. Running towards a new future, Fred’s confidence flies high in new ways.

Banks was raised by Cailin Winokur.



Anonymous | Triumph Skilled Companion Dog for Adults with Vision Loss


PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

“I didn’t anticipate how he’d help me emotionally, but he makes me feel calm, happy. He helps ease the anxiety and post-traumatic stress I’ve carried since working in New York City at Ground Zero.”

Triumph was raised by Amy Dunn.



Brian Honett | Service Dog Dee

U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN 
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

Thirteen years as an Air Force chaplain took its toll on Brian’s mental health, but service dog Dee pulls him out of his anxiety—and into a teaching career. In a room full of eight-year-olds with a loyal companion at his side, Brian rediscovers the joy of serving others. “Normal life’s not so daunting anymore,” he says.

Dee was raised by Aaron & Chris Eagan.



Generosity
can live
forever.



HERITAGE
SOCIETY

Join the Dogs Inc Heritage Society today
and leave a legacy that lasts.

The Heritage Society is a group of caring individuals committed to ensuring the long-term stability of our school through wills and bequests.

Remembering Dogs Inc in your will creates a legacy of kindness, and gifts of any size impact our extraordinary dogs.

Simply notify us that you have included Dogs Inc in your will by emailing heritagesociety@dogsinc.org, and find out more at dogsinc.org/HS.



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Thank you for your thoughtful and compassionate gift. We recognize your desire to make a difference and your ability to create a lasting impact through meaningful giving.

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The Dogs Inc **Cornerstone Society** is an exceptional community of like minded friends. Members make a profound impact on our mission through a multi year commitment.

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Enjoy exclusive events and other benefits. Join at dogsinc.org/CS or call **941.729.5665**.

Can one dog change a life?

Just ask our alumni. New adventures, days of hope, nights of peace—the change these exceptional dogs make doesn't end when they meet their soulmates. It grows. With every smile, act of love, and moment of freedom, these special bonds reach greater depths and soar to new heights.



James Kidd & Guide Dog Toby

MATCHED 2022

"Toby has provided me more mobility freedom as well as being an outlet and inlet for the free flow of love and feelings. Our first summer together, we went to New England and chased each other all around the grassy back yard of a late billionaire's summer cottage overlooking a beautiful bay. Then we sat down in the aisle of a quaint antique bookstore where I read to him while he slept."

Where are They Now? ALUMNI UPDATE



Renee Andrysiak & Guide Dog Taylor

MATCHED 2023

"Taylor and I have been to Disney quite a few times. Those trips have been some of my favorite. I know I'm going to get where I'm going safely and navigate the crowds without a problem. She gives me the self-confidence I lost when I had to start using a white cane."

Teagan Russ & Guide Dog Stanley

MATCHED 2018

"Stanley is my best friend. We've traveled to Kentucky, and he can now add to his resume: visiting the Kentucky Horse Park, riding on a horse-drawn trolley, boating on an underground river, and walking more than two miles through Mammoth Cave."





Jeff Jamison & Skilled Companion Dog Jeremy
MATCHED 2024

"Jeremy is a great companion and helps me get out and enjoy life. He always finds a way to put a smile on my face. Jeremy's funny, lovable and very intelligent. I'm very blessed to have him in my life."

Mark Beasley & Service Dog Cruiser
MATCHED 2018

"I still work full time on the space program, and Cruiser has accompanied me to our Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Johnson Space Center in Houston, and Kennedy Space Center in Florida. He also has accompanied me to multiple Mississippi State University football games."



Rob Chapman & Guide Dog Oscar
MATCHED 2019

"Oscar has given me more independence and freedom. I can now go more places with more confidence. He is my buddy who gives me unconditional love and support. He's gone on planes, trains, buses, boats and subways. He is a well-traveled dog! Oscar was even the ring bearer in my daughter's wedding. He did a terrific job!"



Jackie Schiemann & Guide Dog Tyrus
MATCHED 2023
"Tyrus truly is my best friend. He lifts me up when I am feeling down. He and I have traveled all over together. My favorite trip has to be the All Paws on Deck cruise where there were 40 guide dog teams on board a Celebrity cruise. We went to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and St. Thomas."



Thomas Murray & Service Dog Hadley
MATCHED 2018

"Hadley shows me affection every day. If she sees me struggling, she immediately comes to me to try to distract me. Hadley goes everywhere with me, even to FSU a dozen times a year."



Stefanie Marvin-Miller & Service Dog Leland
MATCHED 2018

"Leland and I have gone everywhere and met so many people together. We've been on the Drew Barrymore Show, Nantucket Island, Kentucky, California, and have now landed in Michigan, just minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan where he loves to pick out sticks of driftwood on our walks! We've even graduated college with a bachelor's degree and are now going for our master's degree."



Casey Yarbrough & Guide Dog RJ
MATCHED 2023
"RJ has changed my life. Most of all, he guides my heart. He is my constant companion and makes me laugh every single day. I honestly never knew I could love a dog so very much. When we went to Tallahassee to check out the FSU campus, you'd have thought he was the new student!"





Stay ahead of the sniffles



Celebrating 100 Years