

ISSUE 12
Life
UNLEASHED

dogsinc

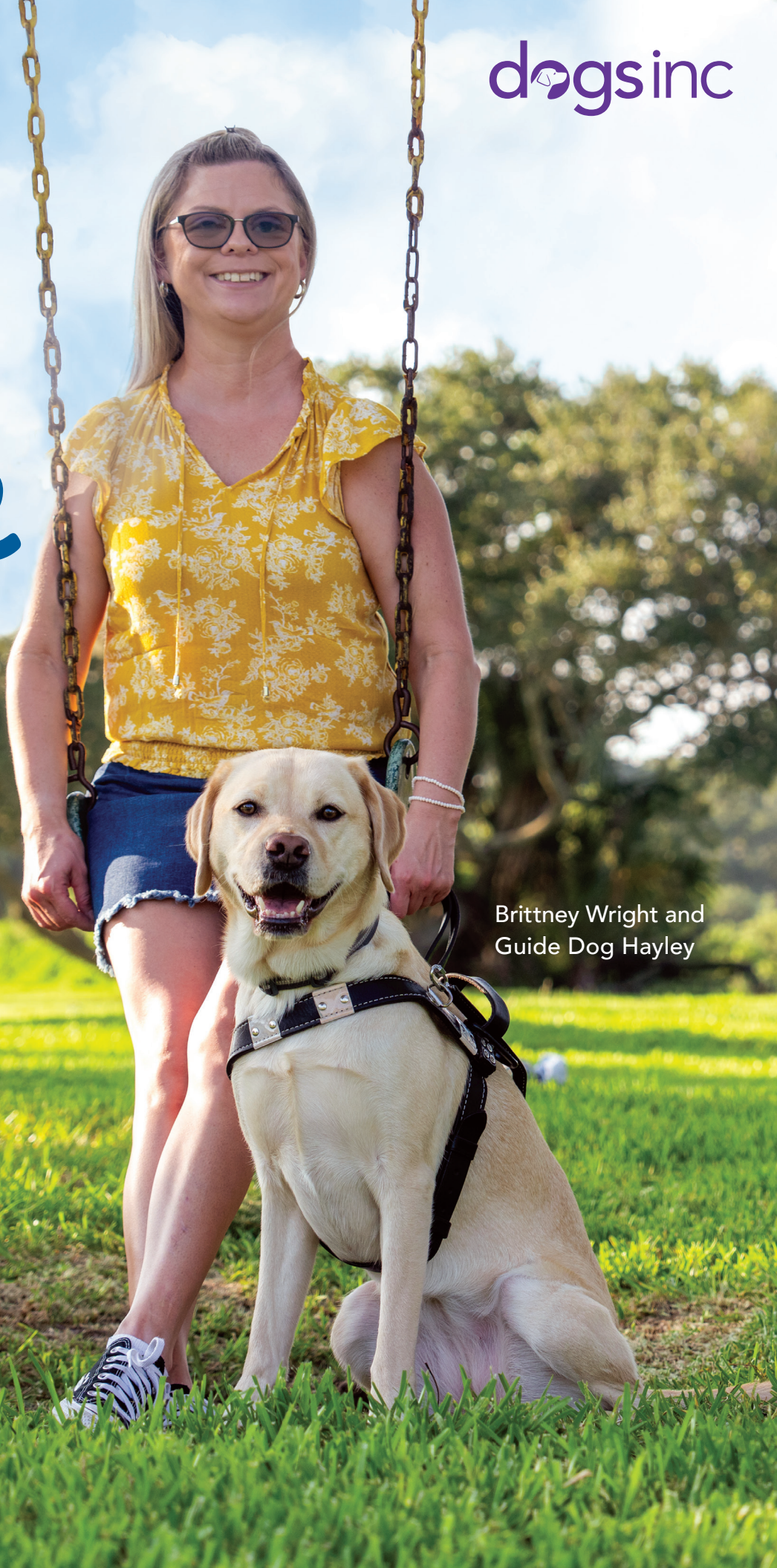
THE KEY TO
Hope

Opening a
New Chapter
of Hope

Brittney Wright and
Guide Dog Hayley

A Little Girl
Finds Bravery

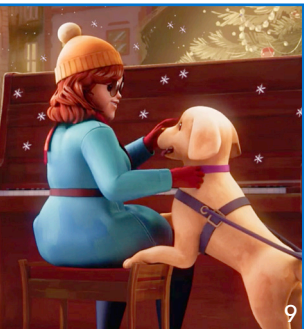
How One Dog
Saves a
Veteran's Life



contents



3 From our CEO



5 From our Board Chair



6 Brave Spirit. Gentle Paws.

9 Melody

10 A New Chapter

12 Friends of Dogs Inc



14 A Dream Companion

18 Unlock the Wonder Giving Challenge



from our CEO

Dear Friend,

Even after 16 years with this remarkable organization, I still have to pinch myself each time we change—or save—another life.

I'm constantly in awe—not just of what our dogs can do for the people they love but of the profound changes these furry miracles bring about in them.

As our clients take hold of the leash, they find it easier to let go of fear. Anxiety gives way to courage, and joy replaces sadness. With a loyal four-legged friend by their side, they step confidently into freedom, embracing a new beginning and discovering a renewed sense of self.

What we do here fills the world with wonder, doesn't it? Our collective impact drives us all forward, and I'm deeply grateful you are part of our journey. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Titus Herman

Titus Herman
Chief Executive Officer



MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

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.

You're invited to join the Cornerstone Society today.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Partner | \$1,200–\$4,999 per year

Benefactor | \$5,000–\$9,999 per year

Visionary | \$10,000–\$49,999 per year

Guardian | \$50,000–\$99,999 per year

Founder | \$100,000+ per year



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

Life UNLEASHED ISSUE 12

A publication of Dogs Inc

Our extraordinary dogs transform lives throughout the country—at no cost to recipients. What makes our pups so special? Top-notch pedigrees and countless hours of training and love. Guide dogs turn darkness into light for people with vision loss. Service dogs restore freedom for veterans. Skilled companion dogs heal the broken hearts of those struggling with loss. And they never ask for anything in return. Neither do we. We offer our clients their loyal friends, expert instruction, and lifetime support free of charge—thanks to big-hearted donors and volunteers.



Charity Navigator 100% Rating

We enjoy a rare 100% rating on Charity Navigator, placing us among the top one tenth of one percent of the 1.5 million charities in the U.S.



4210 77th St E. | Palmetto, FL 34221
dogsinc.org | 941.729.5665

from our board chair

Dear Supporter,

When we come together, we can drive meaningful, impactful change. We can lift heavier burdens, overcome bigger obstacles, and transform more lives.

As we approach the end of the year, Missy and I encourage you to join us by giving to the Unlock the Wonder Challenge. By joining forces, we can open more doors to hope for those who need these extraordinary dogs.

We can be the key to change. And best of all, we can double our impact thanks to the Wonder Workers who will match our gifts dollar-for-dollar up to \$2 million.

With 100% campaign participation from the Dogs Inc board, it's now time we gather our friends, family, and community and link arms for greater impact.

To amplify this impact even further, we can invite the people in our lives to spread the word through their very own Friends of Dogs Inc peer-to-peer fundraising platform.

Together, we can be a megaphone for hope and healing. Will you join us?

Warmest regards,

Tim Griffy
Board Chair, Dogs Inc



Board of Directors

Members of our prestigious board of directors are dedicated to governance, strategic planning, financial management, advocacy, and resource development. This group of leaders brings passion and commitment to the organization and plays a pivotal role in our work of providing extraordinary dogs and life-changing services to the people who need them. **Members include:**

Tim Griffy Chair, Richardson, TX
Robert Meade Vice Chair, Sarasota, FL
Andy Taylor Treasurer, Lakeland, FL
Katharine Saunders Secretary, St. Petersburg, FL
Drew Asher Tampa, FL
Colleen Flaherty Parrish, FL
Ken Folkman Tampa, FL
Gary Johnson St. Petersburg, FL
Vice Admiral Joe Maguire, USN (Ret.) Austin, TX
Bobby Newman Tampa, FL
Carol Sanders Bradenton, FL
Dr. Harris Silverman Sarasota, FL

Mission Advancement Council

Our dedicated Mission Advancement Council works tirelessly to create and implement our "friendraising" strategy—forming and cultivating relationships with individuals who share our values and vision to secure the long-term success of our organization.

Members include:

Carol Sanders Chair, Bradenton, FL
Colleen Flaherty Vice Chair, Parrish, FL
Philip & Carol Beauchamp Belleair, FL
Paula Cummings St. Petersburg, FL
& Sturgeon Bay, WI
Leo & Trish Eineker Bradenton, FL
Dan Galnick Lutz, FL
George & Mary Graner Placida, FL
Jennifer Baltic Osgood Tampa, FL
Kathy Pou Lakeland, FL
Susan & John Rapp Lakewood Ranch, FL
Brian & Sherry Soucy Canton, GA
John Whitcomb Tampa, FL

Brave Spirit. Gentle Paws.

A beautiful bond
in the heart
of brokenness.



“He makes me feel brave,” Riley says.

Brave—a word that should only live in a child’s life through whimsical play. Scooping up squirmy insects in the cool dirt of the backyard. Dressing in a frilly princess dress and sparkly crown while protecting a cardboard-box castle. Jumping into the swimming pool on a warm summer day.

But for nine-year-old Riley, the need for bravery stomped into her little world at the innocent age of five.

The vibrant green leaves in the playground faded, and the tip of her paintbrush came up dull as she dipped it into the bright puddles of paint. Color blindness rapidly set in, confusing her parents. Such a smart, creative girl—she had known her colors for years.

After weeks of eye exams and genetic testing, one phone call ripped into young Riley’s carefree imaginary days, yanking the rug underneath two parents’ hopeful feet.

“We got the call on a Tuesday with the Batten disease diagnosis,” Riley’s mom, Jessica, says.

A quick-progressing, fatal disease instantly had Riley’s parents white-knuckling courage, grasping for hope beyond imagination. Their

happy-go-lucky little girl, bursting with a love for princesses, painting, and befriending anyone she met, faced the darkness of vision loss . . . and a future of symptoms no child should bear.

“It’s just scary, the thought of living in darkness,” Jessica says. “For your baby to have to go through that . . . and she was already afraid of the dark.”

With time being of the essence, the perfect companion found his way into the breaking hearts of this family: skilled companion dog Banks.

His tenderness tucks in next to Riley every night—his soft head finding a spot on her pillow. Heads resting closely, Riley finds peace in the night.

“He makes me feel brave,” Riley says.



Riley and Skilled Companion Dog Banks



She pulls her courage from each embrace around his soft neck, and her small fingers find comfort in his fur.

While Riley may grow slower than her peers due to Batten disease's neurological effects, Banks remains a constant in her life. Her best friend, never leading too far ahead and never walking too slowly behind. Right next to his person.

"Banks brings a lot of joy and comfort in our sadness," Jessica says. "He's given us something happy to look forward to."

Banks pours out love on the entire family. As Riley's mom and dad witness her brave fight, they often cuddle into Banks' softness, holding onto him for a slice of light amidst their darkness.

With Banks at Riley's side, the family is determined to create beautiful memories together.

From vacationing in the mountains, swimming in the pool, and simple trips to get ice cream on a Friday night, bravery beats in the heart of one little girl because of the four paws of an extraordinary dog. ●

Seeing the interactions they have together is very sweet. It's nice to see a little happiness amidst the dark we have.

—Riley's mom, Jessica

Your generosity creates light in the darkest moments.



INTRODUCING

Melody

Let a dog's love fill your heart with harmony.

Melody brings music to your ears and warmth to your heart, brightening the season and drawing us closer together.

When the piercing silence of vision loss, hidden disabilities, and grief ring out, our dogs set a tone of love. A hope that echoes louder than life's challenges. A companionship that soothes the soul.

Sing along to the sounds of hope and feel the warmth of the season in our new animated short, *Melody*.



Coming this holiday season to a screen near you.



A chill swirls in the air as a soft tune of hope rings through a quaint town. As a community comes together in song, guide dog Melody brightens spirits through her magical touch.

Feel the heartbeat of love in this holiday animated short, *Melody*.



A heartfelt thank you to Gary and Melody Johnson for making *Melody* possible.

dogsinc.org/melody



A NEW CHAPTER

A story of hope.

Life stories often flow like mysteries. Chapters that have yet to be discovered. Sentences that end in question marks.

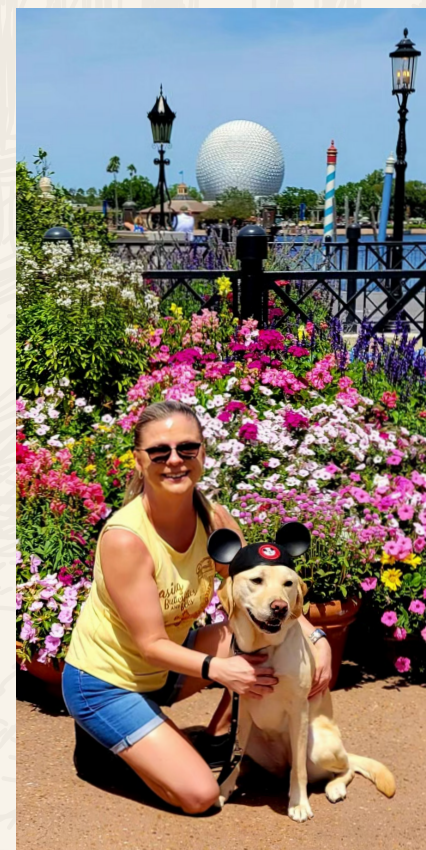
The pages of Brittney's story turned with trepidation. Milestones marked with pain. At three, the sudden loss of vision in her left eye. Then, a string of surgeries. Finally, something good: the first year of high school.

She marched on the field with the school band, feeling the grass beneath her feet and viewing a blurry image of the cheering crowd—until that day in tenth grade when the curtain on her performance closed.

Sudden darkness.

Independence lost.

"I struggled with not having independence and being alone," Brittney says. "I was feeling really alone in the world. People didn't understand what I was going through."



The plot twist arrived in four confident paws. A new chapter brimming with hope: guide dog Hayley.

Best friend. Comforter. Guide.

"When Hayley walked through that door, all my fears faded away," Brittney says. "I told myself, 'Your life, a new chapter starts today.' But not just a chapter—a whole new book."

Brittney and Hayley venture into a new career at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Hayley strolls the hallways with her own special badge, greeting everyone and accompanying Brittney throughout the day.

Brittney's chin lifts as she clings to the harness, her fairytale in the palm of her hand.



"I now know that I'm worthy of the independence," she says.

A story that began with terror now flows into magical moments. Monthly Disney World adventures send Hayley's tail wagging as she hops on her favorite rides with her forever person. Streets of possibility and wonder come to life with each enchanting visit.

The pages of Brittney's journey now turn with confidence and a thrill for what comes next. ●

Your support writes new stories of hope and healing.

Step into the heart of our mission with our new peer-to-peer fundraiser.

FRIENDS OF dogs inc

Feel the magic of making a difference!

Your friendship creates hope and brightens the future for people with visual impairments, veterans battling trauma, and children struggling with loss. And when you invite your friends, colleagues, and others in your sphere of influence to join our mission, you expand the circle of friendship and impact of Dogs Inc.



Create your own fundraising webpage today!

Create a fundraising page online. Raise as a team or on your own.

Customize your fundraising with our easy-to-use flyers and templates.

Share heartwarming puppy photos and videos to inspire others to donate.

Harness fundraising tool kits, activities, and pro tips to maximize your impact.

Enjoy brand-new incentive items as you reach your goals. 

Take your friendship to the next level!

Find the perfect way to partner with us and our pups to create brighter futures.

New fundraising rewards!



Stanley Tumbler



Wireless charger



Insulated sling bag



Ball cap

Mega beach towel



Hooded sweatshirt



Trunk organizer



Igloo backpack cooler

Make the Honor Roll

Watch your name move up on our brand new Fundraising Honor Roll on the Dogs Inc website as you reach each level.



You share our mission.
You inspire others to support it.
You help our dogs help more people.
You make the world brighter.
It all starts with you.

JOIN TODAY

and all donations made through the end of the year will be doubled through our Unlock the Wonder matching campaign.

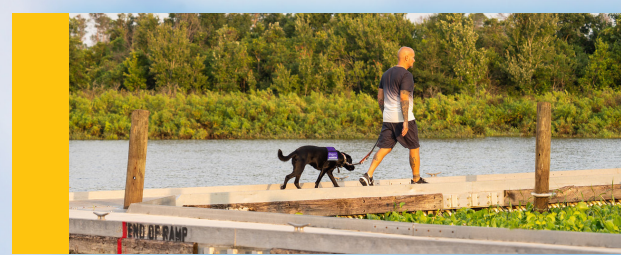
Become a friend of Dogs Inc today at friendsofdogsinc.org





AWAKENING FROM THE NIGHTMARE OF TRAUMA

A DREAM COMPANION



In the dim morning light, before the sun creeps over the clouds, Charlie awakens to a horrific scene. A vivid memory plays like a nightmare through wide-open eyes and a racing heartbeat.

The barrage of artillery, the screams of terror, and the sight of blood-soaked streets in the war-torn zones of Iraq—Charlie wrestles to pull his mind from the flashbacks. But it won't budge, stuck on the 70 soldiers he lost during his 24 years of active-duty Army service.

"Sometimes I felt like throwing in the towel," he says. "That's it for me."

The scar on his shoulder, a visible reminder of the gunshot wound that sent him spiraling from a helicopter.

The metal plates throughout his body, relentless sources of pain from 15 surgeries.

The anxiety, paralyzing him like a zombie wandering through the present while trapped in the fog of the past.

He sought peace through civilian life, but only service dog Lois could make that possible. "Lois saved my life," Charlie says. "If I didn't have her, I don't know where I'd be."

SOMETIMES

I FELT LIKE

THROWING IN

THE TOWEL

ois stares steadily into Charlie's eyes, offering a connection he never thought possible. A bond too powerful to believe.

As Charlie navigates a world full of people who simply cannot grasp the horrors of his five deployments, he finds peace in a set of soulful eyes and gentle paws that truly get it. Lois senses

when something is wrong even before the dread hits the pit of Charlie's stomach.

"She motivates me to keep going. She reminds me to never give up," he says.

Lois propels Charlie forward as he prepares for triathlons,

steadfastly watching over him as he trains on his indoor bike, inspiring him to step outside, hike, and find peace in nature.

She's also there on the days when the anguish comes roaring back . . . like the one that he awoke to only weeks after welcoming Lois into his life.

The roar of gunfire. Haunting visions of the day in Iraq in 2009 when he lost three soldiers. Suddenly, he felt a gaze softly pulling his mind out of the terror: Lois.

As the sun illuminates the sky each morning, Charlie finds solace, and Lois finds purpose. ●



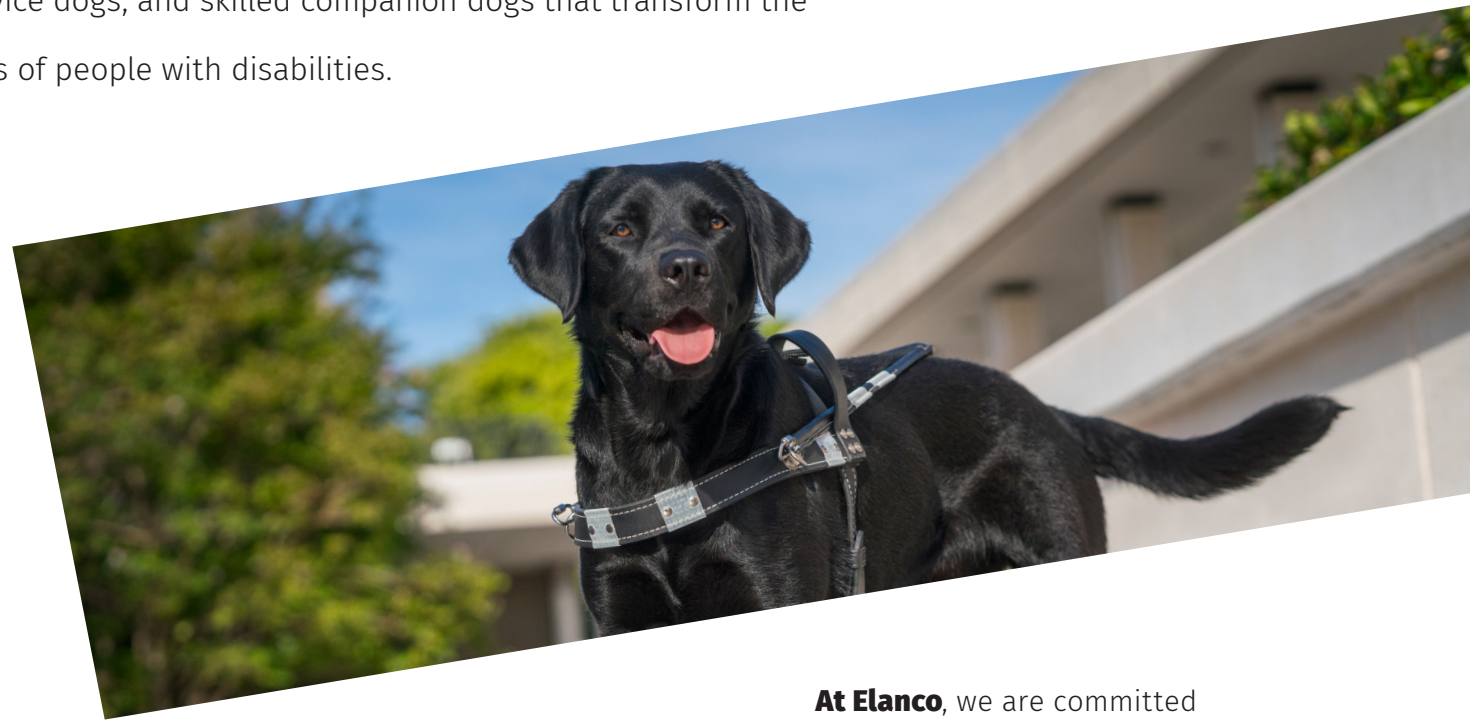
LOIS MOTIVATES ME TO KEEP GOING. TO NEVER GIVE UP.

THANKS TO YOU, NEW DREAMS BECOME REALITY.

Elanco's
HEALTHY PURPOSE™
ANIMALS. PEOPLE. PLANET.

Elanco is proud to be the Official Sponsor of Preventative Health Products for Dogs Inc.

We support long and healthy lives for the incredible guide dogs, service dogs, and skilled companion dogs that transform the lives of people with disabilities.



- 
Healthier Animals
- 
Healthier People
- 
Healthier Planet
- 
Healthier Enterprise

At Elanco, we are committed to creating a healthier life for animals everywhere. That means a more comprehensive portfolio of products along with unparalleled service and support for the health of animals, and for the good of people and the planet. **Elanco Healthy Purpose™**



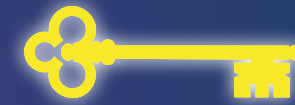
UNLOCK THE

Wonder Challenge



Double Your Donation!

From November 1 to December 31, all eligible donations will be met with a wonderful embrace—**a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$2 million!**



Unlock the Wonder. Double your gift today.

Wonder makes your heart flutter.

It's that indescribable feeling when you come across the extraordinary. When you get lost in the magic.

A soft embrace that warms your heart. A gentle paw that melts away your pain. The nudge of a cold nose or the weight of a furry chin—tender reminders you're no longer alone.

For someone navigating life with vision loss, a veteran battling trauma, or a child feeling isolated in the world—our dogs bring a sense of wonder that makes hope bloom.

You hold the key to this enchanted place where dreams become reality, where independence, love, and freedom shine.

Unlock the wonder by supporting our dogs. Because your kindness makes the impossible possible.

Meet our Wonder Workers

The team that brings the magic of generosity to life by doubling your donation. With their special touch, every contribution you make is instantly transformed, creating twice the impact. Together, we can unlock the power of giving and make a difference.

- Drew and Joey Asher
- Rob and Patty Balmut
- The Maxwell Thomas Bras Foundation
- G. S. Brooks
- The Dogs Inc Board of Directors
- George and Mary Graner
- Gary and Melody Johnson
- Estate of Ann G Kearns
- McKnight Family Foundation



Scan QR Code to Double Your Gift



Or visit dogsinc.org/wonder



We're proud to support Dogs Inc

At Fromm Family Foods, we pride ourselves on offering a wide variety of premium dog and cat foods produced using the finest ingredients. Countless families across the country trust us with feeding their four-legged family members. We are honored to be selected as the Official Dog Food of Dogs Inc, providing nutritional excellence to their extraordinary dogs throughout the United States.



To find a retailer near you, visit frommfamily.com/retailers