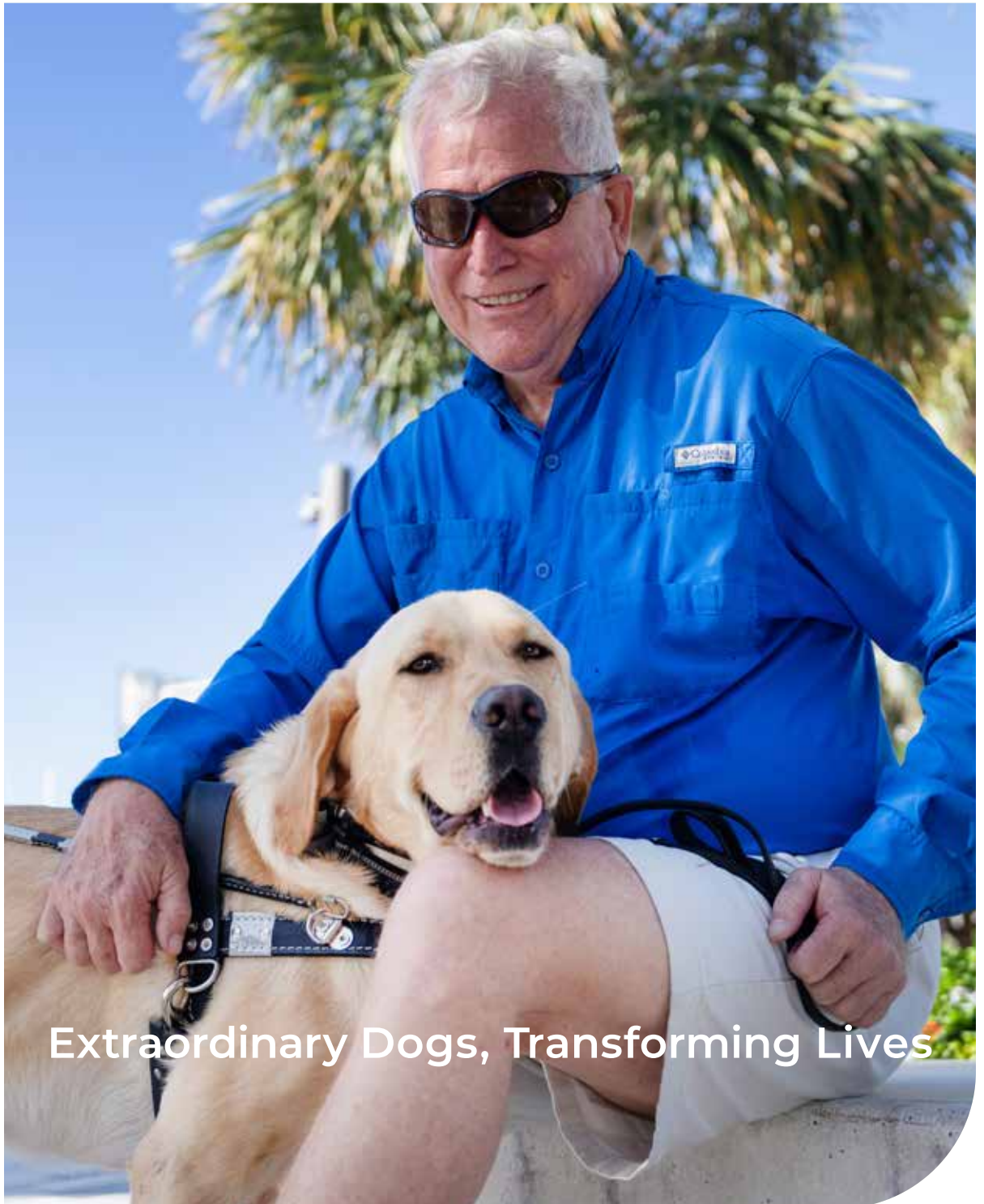


SIDE SIDE

dogsinc



Extraordinary Dogs, Transforming Lives

ISSUE TWELVE

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.



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

*In grateful
recognition of*
**Pet Super
market™**
*for their generous
support and
enduring partnership.*

Hello

Dear Friend,

A wagging tail stirs the air,
just a whisper of movement.
But make no mistake—that
little wag has the power to
change the world.

One dog. A thousand ripple
effects. A heart softens, a burden lifts. Whole families
heal. Communities change. And light spreads farther
than we'll ever know.

At the core of it all: you.

Your help turns a single tail wag into a mighty wave.
A hope that breaks barriers. A love that heals.

Thank you for being part of something big.

With gratitude,

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

Titus Herman
President and CEO



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.

Charlie Caswell | Service Dog Braulio

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Charlie Caswell's kitchen smells like sugar and second chances.

At the counter, Charlie helps his son press the cutter into the dough. Little fir trees line the tray like soldiers, waiting for the oven. Charlie smiles. The mess is worth it—in fact, he *welcomes* the mess, this proof of life lived. Because once, baking Christmas cookies with his kids felt beyond his reach.

This moment has been brought to you by Braulio, a voiceover would say. Braulio—the dog who knows how to hit the light switch—has turned the lights on in Charlie's life.

For years, Charlie didn't feel like himself. Wounds from combat, difficulties at home, and his first service dog's retirement left him hollow. Small tasks became impossible.

Depression and post-traumatic stress sent him adrift.

Now, when Braulio wedges himself as close as possible, he somehow stands between Charlie and his brokenness. *Don't sit too long*, Braulio says with old soul eyes. *Don't spiral too deep. We've got things to do.*

"Braulio gives me purpose," Charlie says. "Part of me was dead, but now I'm alive. And I'm showing up for life again."

Cookie trees, sugared stars, candy canes—and a wagging tail, keeping watch.

Charlie's journey back to himself has begun.

Braulio was raised by Robert Palmer.

Anessa Ford | Guide Dog Roc

RED OAK, TEXAS

*Roc was raised by Melissa Creter,
Jessica Trujillo, and Matthew Gruber.*



**"Roc is so sweet,
so loving."**

Tanga Moyle | Guide Dog Radar

SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA

*"Radar has filled that big hole in my life.
She isn't just a guide dog—she's a part of me.
And I honestly can't imagine doing this
without her."*

Radar was raised by Ruth Schoch.



Sharon Cribb | Guide Dog Gigi

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

Sharon recalls the day she fell while walking, her cane flying as she tripped over a curb she couldn't see. Fear kept her from venturing out much—until Gigi came into her life. "Gigi helps me find joy again," Sharon says. With her energetic guide by her side, Sharon now walks confidently, rediscovering freedom and happiness.

Gigi was raised by Kerry & Rick Kriseman.



Wesley Standifer | Guide Dog Furey

CLANTON, ALABAMA

*"She understands when it's time to work
and when it's time to relax. She's just like me.
We're two peas in a pod."*

Furey was raised by Tim & Sue Carney.





Mitchell Bridwell | Guide Dog Helios
PITTSBORO, INDIANA

“With Helios, I’m much more confident about where I’m going because he knows where we need to go.”

Helios was raised by Kylene Buley and Xander Russell.

Callie | Guide Dog River

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

“With my cane, people were afraid to approach me. With River, they ask questions—even about my vision. He bridges that gap.”

River was raised by Julie Klein.



Heather Littles | Service Dog Betsy

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 🇺🇸
HENDERSONVILLE, TENNESSEE

“Betsy’s my adventure buddy. Eager to kayak, hike, and explore—all the things I’d slowed down on.”

Betsy was raised by Kaitlin Gaston-Boyajian.



Nicole | Basil

SKILLED COMPANION DOG
U.S. ARMY VETERAN 🇺🇸
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA

“Basil reminds me to be present. To feel the sun on my face, study the flowers, look up at the trees. He helps me appreciate the little things, and I’m a better person because of Basil.”

Basil was raised by Susan Cogdill.



John | Kelce

SKILLED COMPANION DOG
U.S. NAVY VETERAN 🇺🇸
BRADENTON, FLORIDA

“Kelce is everything a dog could give you. And he gives me so much.”

Kelce was raised by Carl Griffis and James & Michele Nielsen.





Corporal Keys
Facility Therapy Dog Penelope

PASCO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Some cops struggle to talk about distressing experiences, but Penelope opens those lines of communication. Sometimes you just need to hug a dog."

Penelope was raised by Sue & Steve Queen.



Lucy | Gabriel

SKILLED COMPANION DOG
CATLETT, VIRGINIA

Sweet, loving, gentle Gabriel is a dream come true for nine-year-old Lucy, giving her the confidence to explore her world. Whether strolling or playing fetch in the yard, his patient demeanor helps Lucy feel safe. As they enjoy the present together, Gabriel lays the foundation for an independent, freedom-filled future for his best friend, Lucy.

Gabriel was raised by Karen Kuperberg.



Erik Christensen
Facility Therapy Dog Ebony

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

"Ebony brings puppy magic into sterile environments, gifting everyone her lovable, huggable self. And her relaxed nature keeps people grounded."

Ebony was raised by Mike & Jill Darr.

"I can't imagine life without her."



Heather Dugan | Guide Dog Corky

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Corky was raised by Edward & Jeanette Cole.

Reid | Skilled Companion Dog Jackson

BAYTOWN, TEXAS

The afternoons once felt overwhelming for Reid. After long days at school—where every step required extra focus because of his vision loss—he'd come home drained, still carrying the weight of the day.

But now, things have changed. Jackson, Reid's skilled companion dog, is always by his side—whether it's the daily drop-offs at school or curling up with him in the house. Jackson doesn't need words. His calm presence alone helps ease the strain Reid carries from navigating his world with a white cane, reading braille, and facing the challenges of each day.

As the sun dips low, Reid and Jackson head to their favorite spot on the porch. Reid, who dreams of having a guide dog one day, leans down and whispers, "I love you, Jackson." It's their quiet moment, where Reid can finally let go of the day.


"We were hoping Jackson would be a comfort to him, and he's been that and more," Reid's mom, Kellen, shares. "He helps Reid unwind and relax in a way we didn't expect."

With Jackson by his side, the tension melts away, replaced by the warmth of companionship. For the first time in a long time, Reid just breathes.

Jackson was raised by Shirley Hardee and Ilene Leggett.



Adriane Reese | Service Dog Esther

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 
TAMARAC, FLORIDA

*"Esther is a light in what sometimes seems like a dark world.
She is a stabilizing factor in my world."*

Esther was raised by Jocelyn & Carl Hargrove.



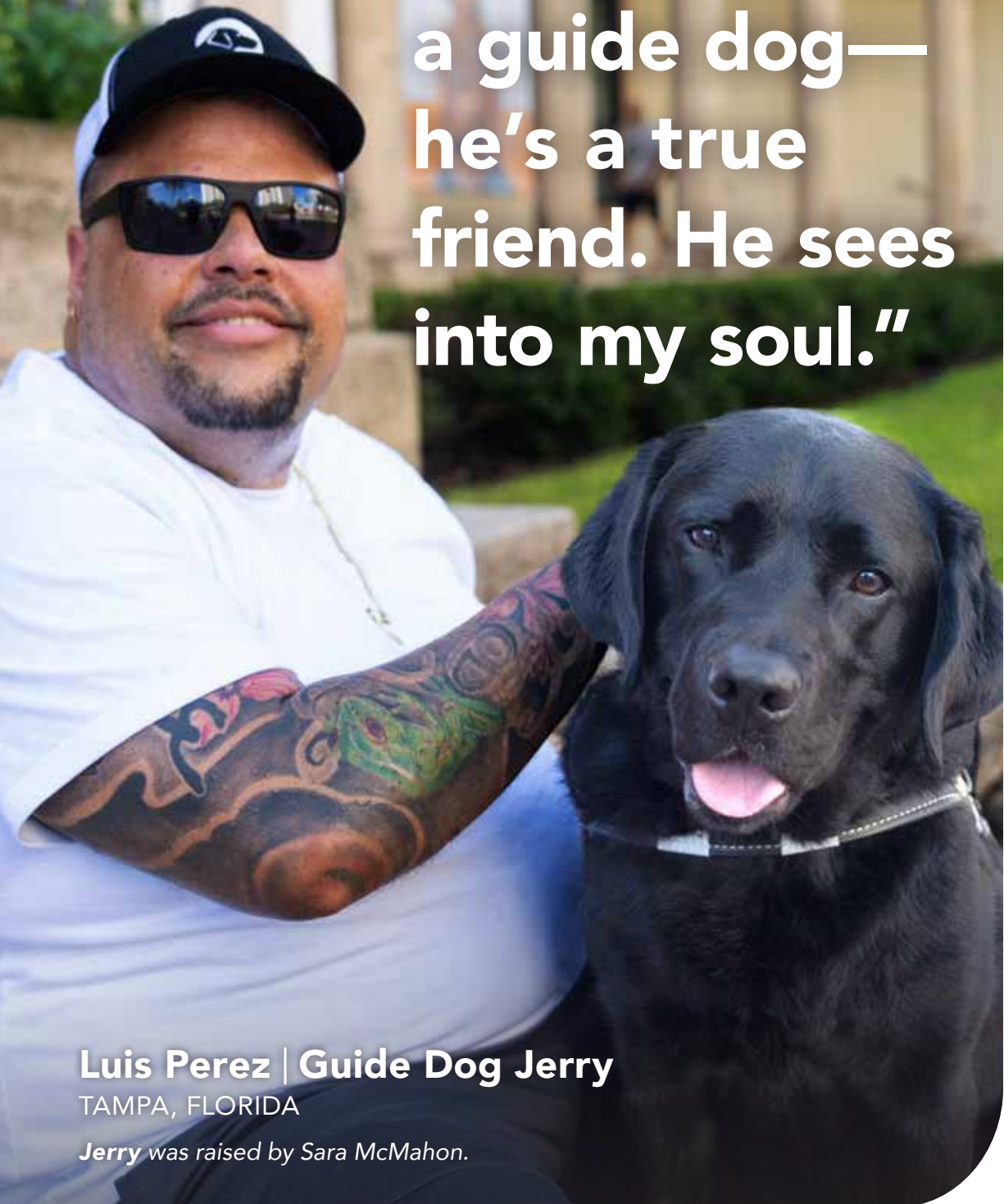
Katie McCoy Guide Dog Quincey

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

For nine years, Katie relied on her guide dog Bristol for independence and joy. But when Bristol retired, Katie's heart ached. Then Quincey came into her life. With a gentle nudge, Quincey assured Katie that everything would be okay. Now, this sweet guide dog leads her through life's challenges, offering not just guidance but healing.

Quincey was raised by Michael Kahre.

“He’s more than a guide dog—he’s a true friend. He sees into my soul.”



Luis Perez | Guide Dog Jerry

TAMPA, FLORIDA

Jerry was raised by Sara McMahon.

Carol Hoots | Guide Dog Dancer

LYNN HAVEN, FLORIDA

“I feel secure and safe with Dancer around.

She has filled the void in my life with companionship.”

Dancer was raised by Diane Hessler.



Joe Bogart | Guide Dog Pomp

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 

MERIDIAN, IDAHO

In an instant, Joe’s final mission in Iraq became the beginning of a darker battle—learning to live without eyesight, haunted by the trauma of war. His second guide dog, Pomp, is his anchor: “When the demons of war rise, Pomp is there. He knows when I need him,” Joe says.

Pomp was raised by Alex Hool, Vania Deal, and Malcolm Miller.



**Corporal Ortiz
Facility Therapy Dog DiGi**

PASCO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

“DiGi knows where he’s needed.

Everywhere we go, he breaks the ice, steals the show—and steals hearts.”

DiGi was raised by Jenny Senko.



**“At the end of the day,
Hogan and my retired
guide dog, Nick, curl up
at my feet, and in those
moments, I feel a deep
sense of serenity.”**

Larry Newman | Guide Dog Hogan

U.S. NAVY VETERAN 
FT. MYERS, FLORIDA

Hogan was raised by Rebecca Whyte.



Maureen Hayden Guide Dog Fern

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Twilight had always been Maureen's least favorite time of day. The soft glow of streetlights mixed with the fading daylight, casting shadows that blurred the edges of her world. She gripped her white cane tightly, feeling for the edges of curbs, dodging obstacles only when they were inches away. One evening, her foot caught on a concrete bench she hadn't seen. The fall was hard—her confidence shattered.

Then, one day, everything changed. Fern trotted into her life, all focus and steady grace. With Fern by her side, those shadowed streets transformed. Maureen no longer hesitated at crosswalks or feared unseen obstacles. "Fern works hard, but she's a complete goof when she's off-duty," Maureen smiles, her voice filled with warmth.

Soon, they'll take on Washington, D.C., where Maureen is starting a new fellowship. Together, they'll navigate a new city—each step a testament to the freedom and adventure that Fern brings into Maureen's life. Independence, once distant, now feels like home.

Fern was raised by Andrea Dziwulski & Jacob Marcotte

A photograph of Jessi Williams, a woman with long brown hair wearing a red and white plaid shirt, sitting on a wooden bench. A white Labrador Retriever wearing a harness is sitting on the ground in front of her. The background shows trees and a brick walkway.

**"Buck is my
motivation.
She's not
just helping
me see the
world—
she's helping
me live in
it again."**


Jessi Williams | Guide Dog Buck
BAXLEY, GEORGIA

Buck was raised by David & Harmony Thompson.



“I wanted to be free—free to leave my house, live my life. Captain Mac has made that possible.”

James Wood | Service Dog Captain Mac

U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN 
SEBRING, FLORIDA

Captain Mac was raised by Maura Casorio.




**Claudia Sucre
Guide Dog Ponch**

RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA

“Ponch definitely helps me feel more confident, more ready to get out in the world and achieve my goals. We just understand each other.”

Ponch was raised by David Brimlow and Jan Leaf.

**Richard Dykstra
Service Dog Penny**

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 
YUKON, OKLAHOMA

“Penny makes me feel loved, cared about, needed. She’s been able to keep my mind off of those dark places.”

Penny was raised by Alex Song.





Tarra Hilde | Guide Dog Ebby

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

“I hadn’t walked outside alone in close to two years because I didn’t feel confident. That first day we were home, I was ready to go. Ebby made me feel so safe, which was the best feeling.”

Ebby was raised by Miranda West.



**Dr. Stephanie Canada | Quentin
Facility Therapy Dog**

JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS’ HOSPITAL
TAMPA, FLORIDA

“He’s a perfect match for our unit. He can switch from calm to energetic, whatever the moment calls for. And he brings so much joy.”

Quentin was raised by Jennifer Ehrhart and Mike Kasper.



**Aaron | Summers
Gold Star Family Dog**

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

“I got his report card last week, and his teacher wrote in the comments about the happiness and smile on Aaron’s face when he talks about his new dog, Summers.”


—Aaron’s mom, Mary Margaret

Summers was raised by Carole Adamczyk.



**“Each day I’m
with Deedle,
I feel better.”**

Zach Brown | Service Dog Deedle

U.S. NAVY VETERAN 
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Deedle was raised by Lew Eads & Patricia Burke.



Mia | Bear
Skilled Companion Dog


SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

*“With Bear, she’s getting used to
having a buddy.”*

—Mia’s dad, Chris

Bear was raised by Meisha Wilson.

Jim Holthaus | Eden
Skilled Companion Dog

U.S. NAVY AND U.S. ARMY VETERAN 
SARASOTA, FLORIDA


“I’m just amazed at how quickly she learns things.

*The other day on our walk, Eden stopped when a car came up
behind us. It was like she sensed my anxiety.”*

Eden was raised by Candace Holthaus.



RC Stenberg | Guide Dog Kevin

U.S. ARMY VETERAN 
COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

*“Kevin is a sweetheart. If I’m feeling bad, he’s
right there trying to make me feel better.”*

Kevin was raised by Laurel McDevitt.



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.



Class Supporters

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.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Anonymous | Richard P. & Faye Nespola Charitable Foundation |
| American Legion Michael J. Cicero, Post 173 | Rick & Jane Lewis |
| Bob Minthorn | Robert & Linda Macomson |
| Carl & Phyllis Dalton Family Foundation, Inc. | South Shore Puppy Club |
| Delta Gamma Foundation | Stoneybrook Walk N Talk |
| Family of James W. Colvin | Schmidt Family Foundation |
| Garth Family Foundation | Tito's Handmade Vodka |
| Harold E. Niles & Ruth M. Niles Fund | The Marilyn Lichtman Foundation |
| Integrity Home Companions | The Kouns Family Foundation |
| Janet & Tony Zaloga | The Good Sparrow Foundation |
| John Classic | Vets Helping Heroes |
| Kathy H. Montello | Walter Francis & Phyllis Sloat |
| Knights of Columbus Council 10498 | Conniff Memorial Fund |
| Mike & Suzanne Monte | Wilson-Wood Foundation, Inc. |
| Military Family Support | Wendover Art Group |
| Ohio Cigar Mafia | |

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

- The James Clarkson Endowed Dog Scholarship
- The Joseph Ferguson Endowed Dog Scholarship
- The Pam Nuss & Guide Dog Roman Endowed Scholarship
- Margaret & Isaac Barpal Endowed Scholarship

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**.

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.



Marie Kouthoofd & Guide Dog Mango

MATCHED 2024

"Mango gives constant nose nudges and literal hugs. Plus, we took a long walk at Green Lakes Park along the beach, on the trails, and under canopies of trees. It was a stunning day with a beautiful dog! This was a walk I would not have otherwise managed alone."

Where are They Now? ALUMNI UPDATE



Sean Brown & Service Dog Nick

MATCHED 2021

"Nick is everything I could have ever asked for. He's simply the perfect service dog!"

Fabian & Guide Dog Tyler

MATCHED 2017

"He's very loyal, and all the staff and students at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind love Tyler. We even went to New York together."





Talibah Adisa & Guide Dog Kirt

MATCHED 2021

“He has given me more confidence within myself to expand my horizons beyond my expectation. And most importantly, I know that I can trust him in my uncertainty. Kirt and I are a great team—this summer we were away from home for almost two months vacationing, and everywhere we went he was a STAR!”



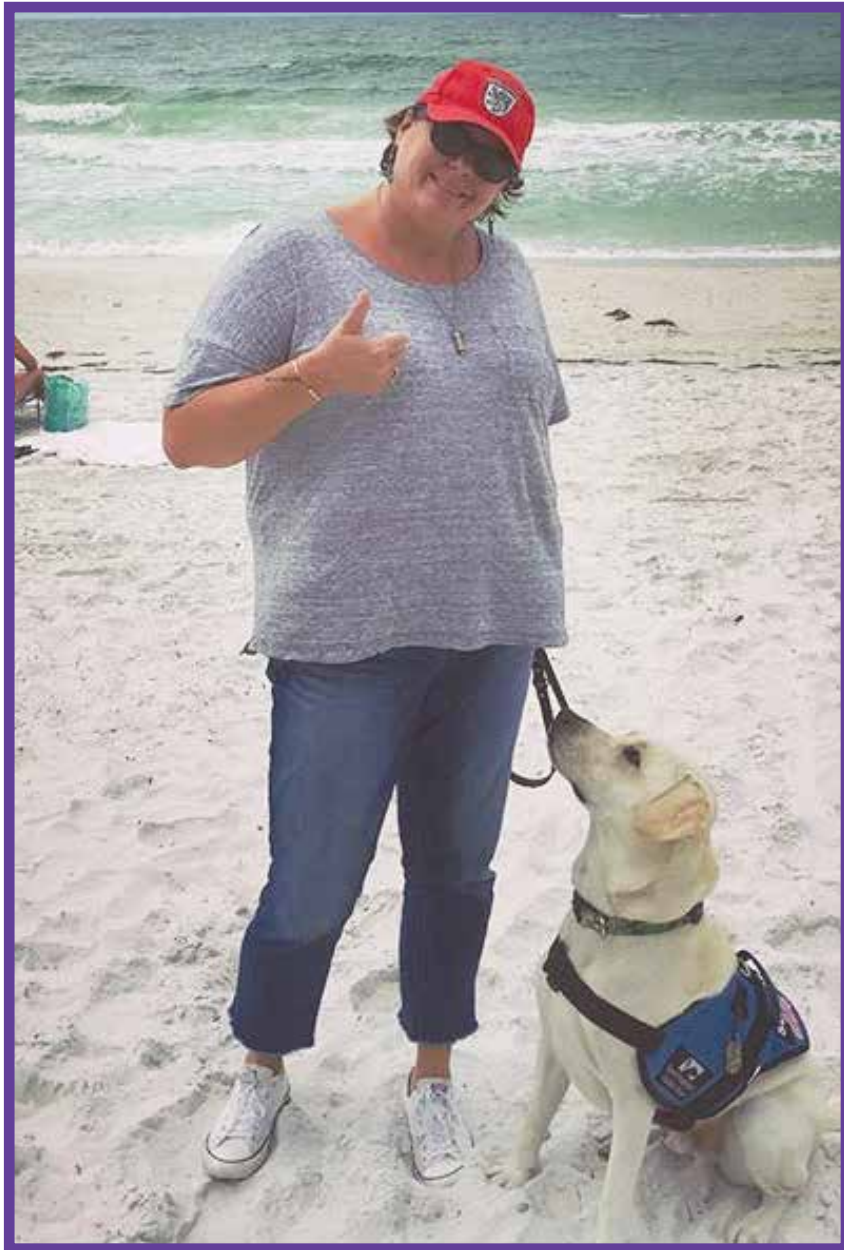
JeanAnn Miller & Guide Dog Sarge

MATCHED 2016

“Sarge has enabled me to enjoy traveling and going places. He loves finding ladies restrooms and has done this in over 35 airports. We just returned from a trip to the Canadian Rockies which was 8 days long and included 2 plane trips, 2 days on a train, 5 hotels, walking on a glacier, and getting on and off a tour bus many times. My joy in traveling again would not be the same without him.”



Cheryl Kreutter & Gold Star Family Dog Steve
MATCHED 2022
“Steve senses my mood and is quick to offer a hug.”



Karin Chapin Whitley & Service Dog Michael

MATCHED 2017

"I can now go places I was afraid to before being matched with Mikey. We went with friends on a pontoon boat to Crystal River—Mikey loves to swim."



Hope & Guide Dog Traveler

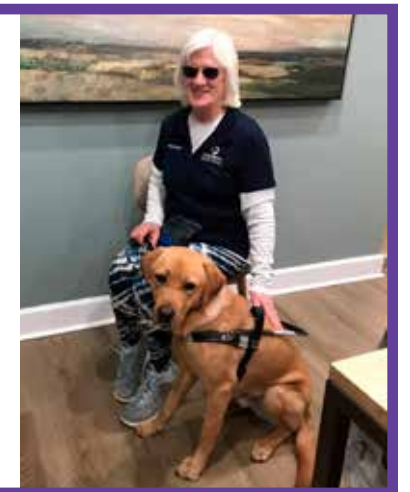
MATCHED 2018

"Traveler has given me so much freedom and confidence. Because of him I go new places and try new things. He helped me ride the city bus for the first time. He's my first guide and he has opened life so much! He's changed my life in ways I can't even explain."

Dee Henderson & Guide Dog Paddington

MATCHED 2024

"Paddington brings me peace and joy every day. He wants to be with me all the time, and he loves to lay across me in the mornings while we're waking up."





We are grateful for Pet Supermarket's generous support. More than a store, they're your trusted neighborhood partner for all things pet care. Their partnership with Dogs Inc brings people and their dogs closer together. Thank you, Pet Supermarket.