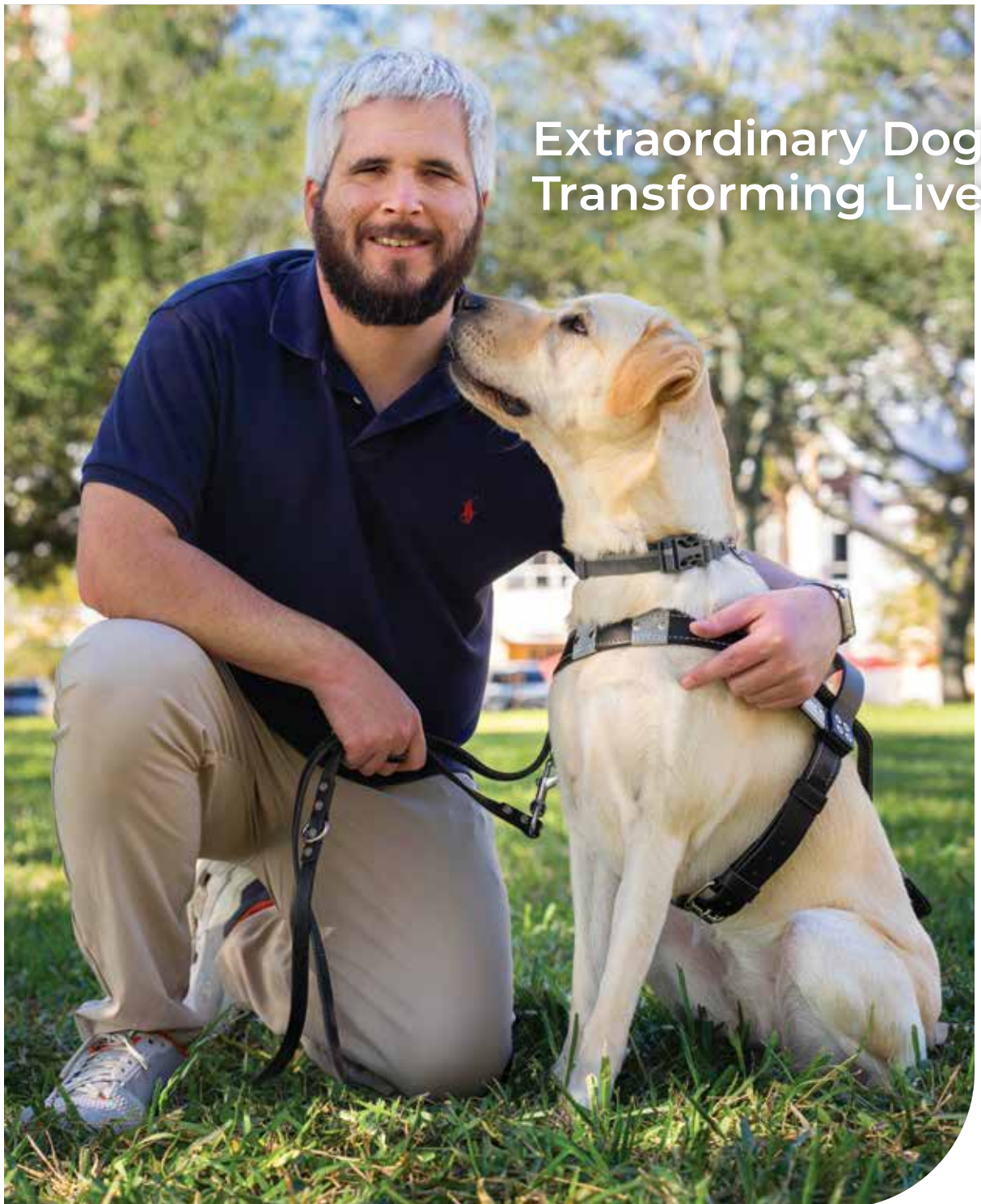


# SIDE SIDE


dogsinc



Extraordinary Dogs,  
Transforming Lives

ISSUE TEN

# About Us

**SIDE**  **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

# Hello

Dear Friend,

While our graduates bring unique stories of triumph, they each walk a similar path: across a bridge to newfound hope, restored freedom, and rediscovered connection with the world around them. And here, that bridge holds something special.

Pawprints.

It's amazing how four paws can transform a life's four walls into bright, broad horizons.

Thank you for making their journeys possible. Your support creates new pawprints that lead to a world of possibilities for our dogs and the people who need them most.

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.



#### Delaney | Guide Dog Beasley

CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA

The pages of life turn like a story, and for this 17-year-old student journalist—the plot twist appears in four powerful paws.

Delaney spent years feeling exhaustion grow heavier from fielding constant questions and comments from classmates, tripping over unseen hazards, and facing night blindness. Her white cane only slowed her down. As an active high school junior, she had the morning news to deliver at school, sources to interview, and articles to write. She needed the perfect correspondent: guide dog, Beasley.

"Beasley's the kind of dog that does everything at 1,000%," Delaney says. "I think she's very similar to me in that way."

The pair zips up and down the school stairs, confidently maneuvering through crowds and navigating everyday life. An aspiring journalist writes the next exciting chapter of her life with a trustworthy guide to investigate everything that comes their way.

"I put that harness on, and she prances," Delaney says. "She takes pride in her work and *knows* she's good."

**Beasley** was raised by Lindsey Amos.





“Tim leads me perfectly. I feel independent and free.”

**Alex Hawkins | Guide Dog Tim**  
CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA  
*Tim was raised by Mary Lynne McInnis.*

*“I feel so happy and calm with Paddington.”*

**Dee Henderson**  
**Guide Dog Paddington**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
*Paddington was raised by Kai Gallops.*



**Jeff Jamison | Jeremy**  
**Skilled Companion Dog**

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

When Air Force veteran Jeff retired and moved to a new place, loneliness and isolation set in. Now, skilled companion dog Jeremy helps Jeff get out and enjoy life. Others just see Jeremy as a beautiful black Lab; Jeff sees a lifeline with four paws, connecting him to the world around him.

*Jeremy was raised by Sandra, Josie & Eric Liederman.*



*“Johnnie makes me smile every morning.  
Before he came, I only had my own energy  
to feed off. But now we’ve got some  
good vibes going.”*

**Chasity Coons | Guide Dog Johnnie**  
GREENCASTLE, INDIANA  
*Johnnie was raised by Annie & Anthony Camacho.*





Travis Zellman | Service Dog Champ

U.S. ARMY VETERAN   
CHAPMANSBORO, TENNESSEE

After Travis Zellman retired his Army Special Forces uniform, anxiety plagued his every waking moment. He needed something—or someone—to fill the gap left by military service. He feared he’d never find it.

But now, a laid-back, fun-loving Lab named Champ eases this veteran’s turmoil. “We’re really close,” Travis says, “and it’s like he has a sixth sense. He calms me down at least three times a day.”

Champ initially served as a skilled companion dog, but Travis wanted Champ to have the public access rights of a service dog so they could travel together. After further training, Champ stepped right into the job.

This intuitive pup reads Travis, always anticipating when his guardian needs a quick hug. Champ’s love and loyalty is not just for Travis, though; he’s best buds with his canine sibling, a Mastiff named Heimdal. As Travis watches them play, he can’t help but smile.

“At this point, I don’t know what I would do without Champ.”

**Champ** was raised by Kathleen C. Arnold.



Donna Zuschlag | Guide Dog Oscar

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

With guide dog Oscar at her side, Donna can hold her head up and take life in. And with her chin raised, she can move forward—leaving depression, isolation, and insecurity far behind.

“I trust this dog,” Donna says, “and he’s a bundle of joy. I’m smiling all day long.”

**Oscar** was raised by April Quintin and Anita Miller.



Austin Marshall  
Guide Dog Bruxie

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

As Austin tackles triathlons, navigates big cities, and faces the difficulties of everyday life, he can do so with confidence and his head held high.


“With Bruxie beside me, I don’t have to explain myself to others,” Austin says. “And I don’t have to look at the ground anymore. I can look up.”

**Bruxie** was raised by Marianne Chan.





# Dave and Family | Nyad Skilled Companion Dog

U.S. COAST GUARD VETERAN   
FLORIDA

Coast Guard veteran Dave helps other veterans find stability, but his family needed a stability of their own. Now, skilled companion dog, Nyad, helps them navigate house moves and heartache with joy and strength. “She brings us all smiles,” Dave says.

**Nyad** was raised by Nick DiNisio.



*“Wilco helps me be bold and stand with my shoulders back. She lets me know it’s okay to be me. And I’m pleasantly—surprisingly—excited about life again.”*

# Diana | Guide Dog Wilco

FLORIDA

**Wilco** was raised by Jackie & Stanley Douglas.



# Toni Snyder | Service Dog Kelley

U.S. ARMY VETERAN   
OVIEDO, FLORIDA

Toni’s Army career left her with physical and emotional injuries, but service dog Kelley offers healing. She senses Toni’s moods and swoops in for cuddles, grounding Toni in the present.

**Kelley** was raised by Brenda Holfinger.



# Janet Morgan | Guide Dog Pyper

NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

As the mom of two little ones, Janet needed to be quick on her feet. From school drop-offs to playdates and a variety of activities, life continued racing forward as her vision loss progressed. How could she give up driving? Her job, her family—so many people depended on her.

Now, many years later—and after experiencing the frustrations of using a cane—Janet finds she needs a way to live without hesitation. She needs Pyper.

“Pyper’s funny. She’s lovable. But then you put that harness on,” Janet says, “and she is very intelligent.”


Pyper guides confidently, acting as if no place is new. Where Janet once had to investigate every inch of her surroundings, Pyper now smoothly leads her without a second thought.

“When I walk with Pyper, I feel proud that I have her rather than that ‘please just let me blend into the background’ feeling I used to have.”

**Pyper** was raised by Linda & Jeff Pyper.







“He loves to lie  
right on me. He  
makes me feel  
whole—like  
myself again.”

**Robbie Esper | Guide Dog Ted**  
AVENTURA, FLORIDA

*Ted was raised by Joe Forrester.*





*“RJ strikes the right balance between playful, cuddly, and willing to work. He’s my friend, my live-in buddy who goes with me everywhere. I cannot tell you how in love I am with this dog.”*

## Casey Yarbrough | Guide Dog RJ

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

**RJ** was raised by Kerri & Rick Swift.

## Shawn & Jessica Fitchko | Danny Skilled Companion Dog

U.S. COAST GUARD 🇺🇸  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

For Shawn and Jessica Fitchko, sweet pup Danny helps ease the stress of life in the Coast Guard. He lifts the spirits of Shawn’s crew, helps Jessica combat winter blues, and opens the door to new friends. Danny’s steadfast presence is an anchor when life feels chaotic and unpredictable.

**Danny** was raised by Jessica Hunt.



## Britt LeBlanc-Simard Guide Dog Eddy

ELLENTON, FLORIDA

“For so long, it was like my kids had to take care of me,” Britt says. “Getting a guide dog meant I could take care of them. And Eddy helps me do that again.”

**Eddy** was raised by Christie Bane & Will Henry, and Eric & Lisa Dickey.



*“Anytime I need Carter, he’s here. Having no vision is like a gift—a gift to show people that even if you can’t see, you can continue with a good life.”*

## Barbara Reeves | Guide Dog Carter

GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA

**Carter** was raised by Erin Hays.



## Gold Star Family Dog Prairie



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

When this military family lost their eldest son in combat, grief hit them hard. But Gold Star family dog, Prairie, brings much-needed comfort.

“Since Prairie came along, I find it easier to face the day,” her guardian says. Prairie’s gentle presence reminds them that joy can flourish amidst the pain.

**Prairie** was raised by Beverly Kramer.







## Kevin O'Malley Guide Dog Nicholas

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

"There's a confidence and comfort factor you have when you're no longer hyper-focused on avoiding obstacles," says Kevin. "And Nicholas is just a great dog."

**Nicholas** was raised by Kayla Northcutt and Steven Fallon.



*"She's cuddly and affectionate—  
attentive, too. My husband describes how  
whenever we're walking, Grace often  
looks back to check I'm okay."*

## Beth Barrett | Guide Dog Grace

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

**Grace** was raised by Wendy Royal.



## Guide Dog Josh

In a cafe parking lot on day two of training, guide dog Josh hears the cue: Forward. He understands, yet he doesn't move. "Forward," his guardian repeats, but Josh stays put. Suddenly, a truck zooms past. In that parking lot, life forever changed for Josh's guardian. Now, his best friend has courage to face the world.

**Josh** was raised by Sterling & Liz Stephens.



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](mailto:heritagesociety@dogsinc.org), and find out more at [dogsinc.org/HS](https://dogsinc.org/HS).



**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.



**Lynn Puckett & Guide Dog AJ**  
MATCHED 2021

“AJ is my beating heart, my everything, my lifeline. I cannot remember life before him.”

**Where are They Now?**  
ALUMNI UPDATE



**Mike Moaba & Guide Dog AJ**  
MATCHED 2023

“AJ has filled that part of my life that had become empty.”

**Beatriz & Guide Dog Darius**  
MATCHED 2022

“Darius is my perfect match. She’s companionship, love, and freedom. I’m okay going somewhere alone because Darius is always there.”



**John Pangborn & Service Dog Ruth**  
MATCHED 2021

“No matter how bad the day is, Ruth is always there by my side, comforting me and helping me be present. Ruth is not just my service dog; she’s my best friend in the world.”



**Terry Greenfeder & Service Dog Sasha**

MATCHED 2019

“With Sasha, I’m able to do things I never thought I would do again. She made it possible to take a new job driving a school bus, and she lies right beside me on the bus. Her presence even calms the kids.”



**McKenzie Hanlon & Guide Dog CJ**

MATCHED 2020

“CJ is my whole world. She helps guide me and loves me wholeheartedly!”

**Donna Palm & Guide Dog Clemente**

MATCHED 2021

“Having Clemente by my side means I can travel safely. I always start our day with a good morning kiss from Clemente, and as we walk out the door, I say ‘let’s start our adventure.’”





**Edward Jordan Jr. & Guide Dog Trudy**

MATCHED 2022

"Trudy has become a great companion for me. She's with me through my good days and my bad ones. She knows how to cheer me up with lots of love. Trudy is my eyes, and I no longer have to worry about slowly going into darkness, because she has proven she will be there to guide me. She is truly changing my life."

**Russell & Service Dog Ponce**

MATCHED 2018

"Ponce has saved my life. When I was at my lowest point, she was there for me."

**Cathy Morris & Guide Dog Lulu**

MATCHED 2017

"Lulu has given me freedom, confidence, independence, and happiness. But most of all, she has given me my life back."



# 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

- Garth Family Foundation
- Laura J. Niles Foundation
- Estate of James Northern
- The Raymond George and Ruth Bitner Fisher Foundation

# 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](https://dogsinc.org/CS) or call **941.729.5665**.



# More than Pros. Hope Givers.

