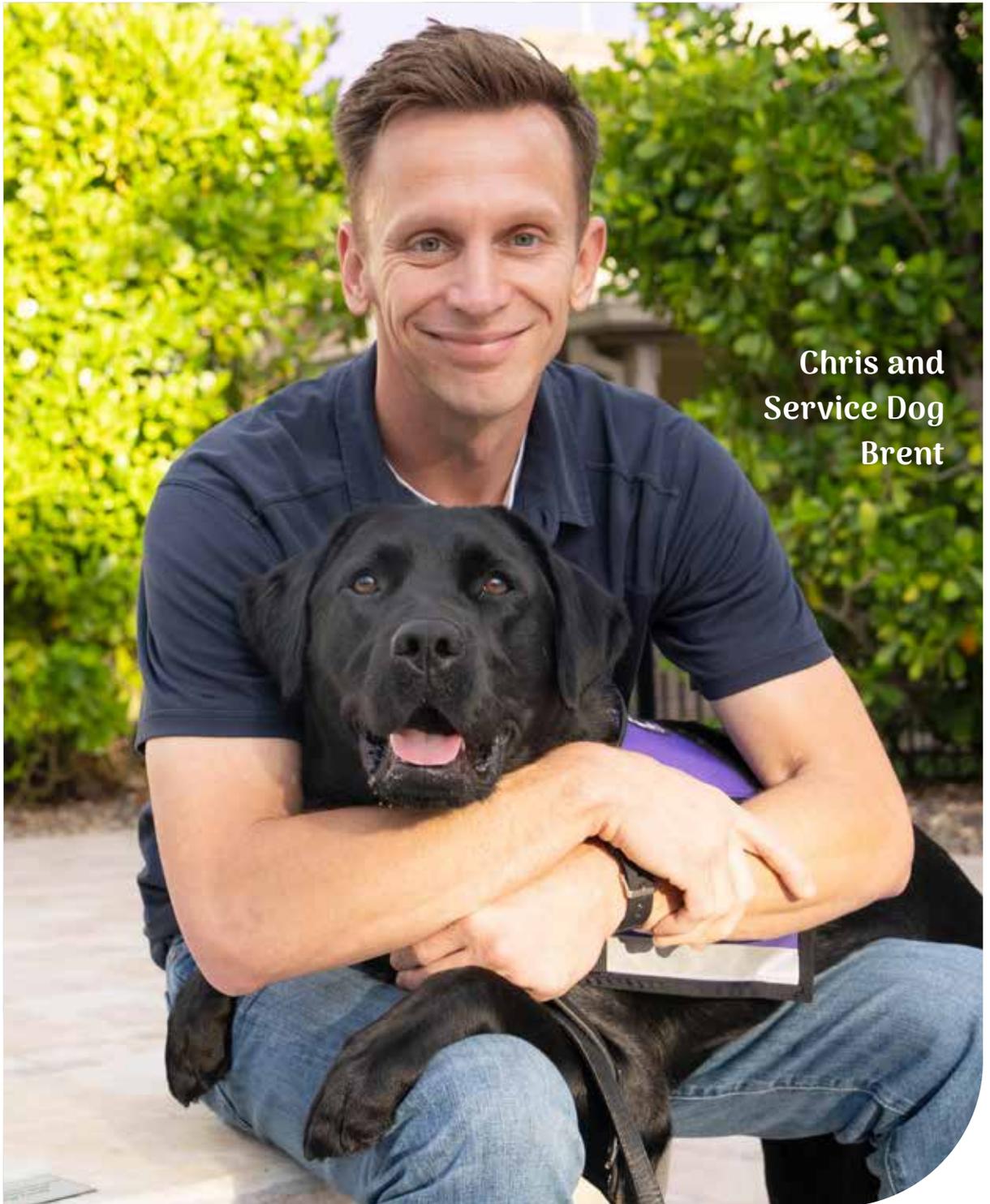


SIDE SIDE

dogsinc



Chris and
Service Dog
Brent

ISSUE FIFTEEN

About Us

SIDE  SIDE is a publication of Dogs Inc.

Our dogs transform lives across the United States—
at no cost to the recipients—thanks to the generosity
of our supporters.

EXTRAORDINARY DOGS

Top-tier pedigrees, decades of research, and thousands
of hours of training, care, and love prepare our dogs for
life-changing destinies.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Guide dogs light the way. Service dogs heal. Skilled
companion dogs comfort. And therapy dogs uplift.

AT NO COST TO RECIPIENTS

We provide our clients with their loyal companions, expert
training, and lifetime support, completely free of charge.



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

Hello

from the CEO

Dear Supporter,

The strongest bonds are
built on trust—earned
moment by moment, step
by step.

When a dog becomes
someone's lifeline, the
world begins to feel steadier. Movement comes
easier. The path ahead feels brighter.

Somewhere, right now, a young woman is smiling
as her new furry friend nudges her out the door—
because hope finally found its way to her.

This kind of magic doesn't happen by chance.

It happens because of you.

Thank you for opening the door to moments
like these—and for the quiet, powerful difference
you make.

With gratitude,

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

Titus Herman
President and CEO



Our Dogs



Service Dogs restore freedom.

- ▶ Hope for veterans healing from physical and invisible wounds
- ▶ Strength for Gold Star family members carrying the weight of sacrifice
- ▶ Lifesaving support for people living with diabetes



Guide Dogs turn darkness to light.

- ▶ Freedom and confidence for teens, adults, and veterans with vision loss



Therapy Dogs bring healing.

- ▶ Peace to patients and healthcare workers at military facilities across the U.S.
- ▶ Comfort to first responders at facilities in the Tampa Bay Area



Skilled Companion Dogs comfort in times of need.

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



We provide our dogs and services at no cost.



Our Latest Graduates

New companions. New hope.

Each year, Dogs Inc places about 150 superbly trained dogs into life changing roles throughout the country at no cost to the recipients.

Marcie McGinnis | Guide Dog Karla

Morganton, North Carolina

“I became literally afraid to walk out of my house. I was terrified of falling. Karla has changed my life. She has made it possible for me to feel like me again.”

Karla was raised by Lisa MacDonnell.

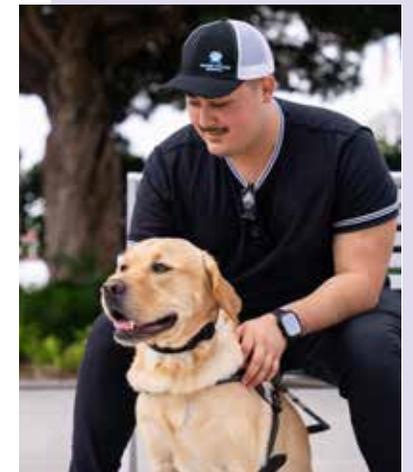


David Chinchilla | Guide Dog Griffin

St. Augustine, Florida

“I was self-conscious about using a cane because I felt like it made people see me as a blind person. Now, Griffin is my eyes, my partner, and my best friend. It’s just such a warming feeling.”

Griffin was raised by Allison Wetmore and Grace Skipper.

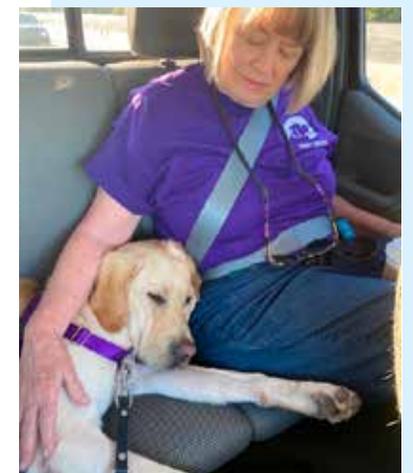


Marilee Haire | Skilled Companion Dog Scott

El Dorado Hills, California

“He just makes life better for me. It’s like having a soulmate by your side. I’m so grateful.”

Scott was raised by Cathy Garrett and Marilee Haire.





Kelsey | Service Dog Jet

U.S. Army Veteran 🇺🇸
Florida

“Jet helps put things back in perspective. He’s a positive light in my life, and it’s wild that a dog can connect with you on this level. He reminds me that there is good in the world.”

Jet was raised by Sheryl & Lindsay Scheer.

Jillian Hinton | Service Dog Kylo



Land O’Lakes, Florida

For years, Jillian held the world at arm’s length. After losing her husband, Terrence, while he was serving, fear kept her homebound. Skilled companion dog Taylor brought warmth home, but peace ended at the door. Then came Kylo, a service dog who walks beside her, turning fear into trust and helping her embrace life again. “Kylo is proof that healing doesn’t mean forgetting,” Jillian says.

Kylo was raised by Bob & Ann Kasperski.



Eric Hudson | Skilled Companion Dog Rosie

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran 🇺🇸
Palmetto, Florida

“There’s something special about Rosie. She can read a room instantly. She knows if someone’s not feeling well, if someone’s stressed, and she does everything in her power to try and help.”

Rosie was raised by Susan Scott.



Chris Craig | Guide Dog Coach

Springfield, Missouri

A good teacher never stops learning.

Chris, the founder and director of the only blind and low vision graduate program in Missouri, is a perfect example. His white cane had carried him through the years, until one of his own students taught him something new . . . that a guide dog just might change everything.

And when he finally made the decision to follow in his student’s footsteps and apply for a guide dog of his own, Coach proved that some lessons find their way to the heart.

“I’m not worried about walking on campus anymore,” Chris says. “It’s great to not feel tentative. She’s increased my confidence so much.”

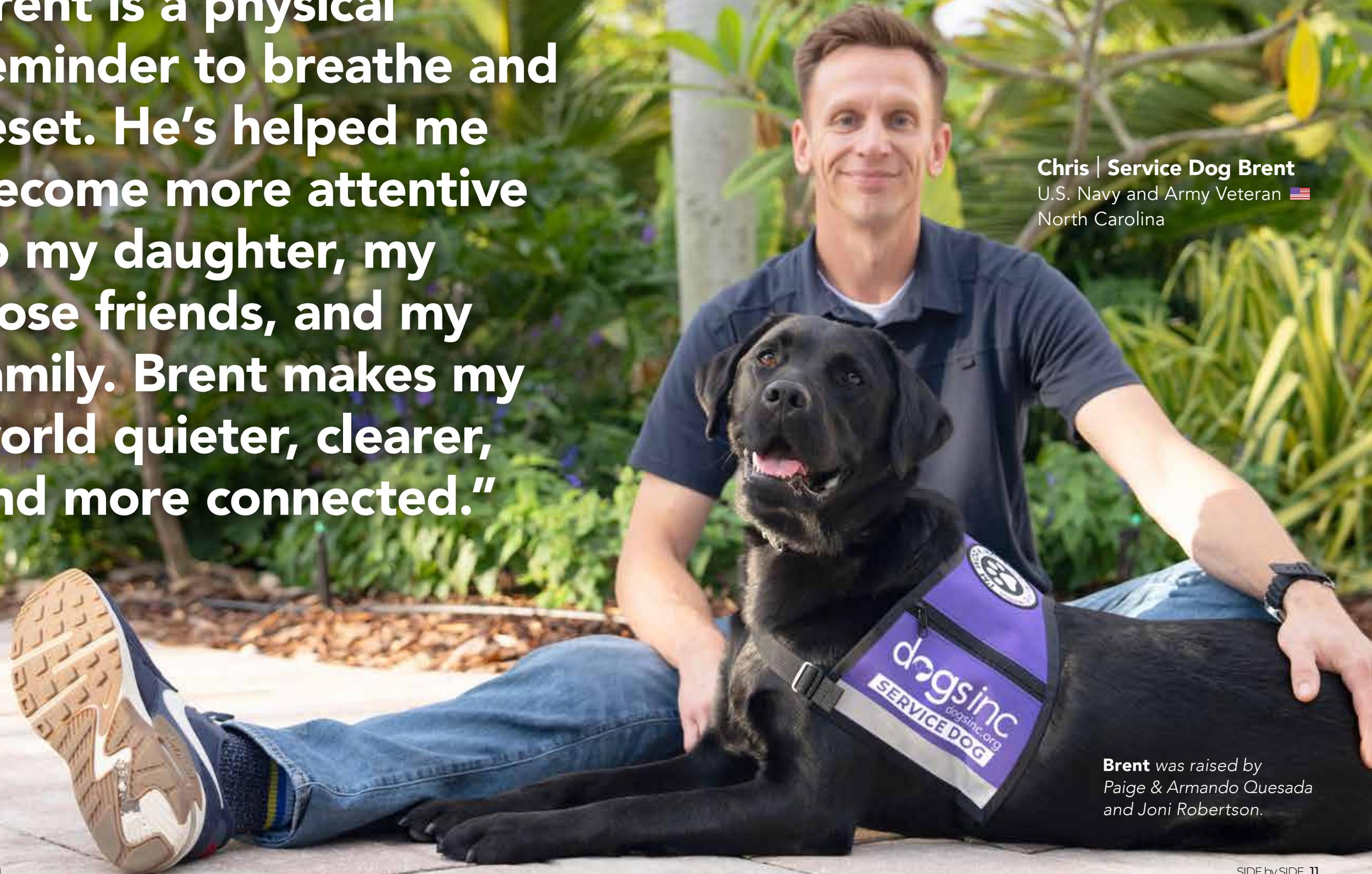
With Coach by his side, Chris is more comfortable navigating on his own. He’s looking forward to being more involved in campus life, as well as exploring his community at home.

“I’ve never been able to just take my dog to the park and walk around. Coach gives me that kind of independence,” Chris says. “I appreciate her so much. She’s part of the family now.”

Coach was raised by Ann Werner.

“Brent is a physical reminder to breathe and reset. He’s helped me become more attentive to my daughter, my close friends, and my family. Brent makes my world quieter, clearer, and more connected.”

Chris | Service Dog Brent
U.S. Navy and Army Veteran 🇺🇸
North Carolina



Brent was raised by
Paige & Armando Quesada
and Joni Robertson.



Rob Morgan | Guide Dog Bentley

Lincoln, Nebraska

“Bentley has given me comfort, independence, and confidence.”

Bentley was raised by Tammy Barnes.



Mark Jackson | Service Dog Jewel

U.S. Air Force Veteran 🇺🇸
Missouri

“When Jewel’s big, brown eyes look at me, I just feel complete again. I feel like the void I had in my life is no longer a void.”

Jewel was raised by Cindy Haralson.

Bethany | Guide Dog Ember

Florida

Bethany has always felt fearless in the sky—leaping from planes, soaring through clouds, dreaming of flying a plane herself. But the ground was harder. Vision loss made every step a challenge until Ember came along—steady, joyful, and sure. “I feel like I’ve tackled the sky a lot, but with Ember, I’m finally able to tackle the ground,” Bethany says.

Ember was raised by Amy & Rick Buchanan, Melinda & Ken Wellman, and Rosemary & Rick Malone.



Piper | Guide Dog Murray

North Port, Florida

“I can’t put into words how happy I am. Murray was exactly what I wanted in a dog. I couldn’t ask for a better outcome, they matched us perfectly.”

Murray was raised by Arnold Jin & Vanessa Nip.



Rebecca Pacter | Guide Dog Bear

Nevada, Missouri

“I’d freeze and cry in the dark. I was so scared. I had no trust in the cane. Now, I have a light: Bear. I’m no longer scared of the dark. It doesn’t stop me anymore. I can do anything with her by my side.”

Bear was raised by Anna & Brad Williams, Joan Karlson, and Jacqui Bernard.



“Saro makes me feel more secure. We’re like two peas in a pod. She’s really fun to have along on all my adventures.”



Kailey Couch | Guide Dog Saro
Sikeston, Missouri

Saro was raised by Mark Hollingsworth and Michele & Chris Koelsch.

Adam Craddock | Guide Dog Diamond
Vienna, Virginia

“Diamond not only opened my world back up, but she has also broadened it. I don’t feel limited with Diamond. My life is better with her in it.”

Diamond was raised by Christie & Will Henry and Kelly & Dale Youngs.



Morgan Ryan | Skilled Companion Dog Ceilie

U.S. Army Veteran 🇺🇸
Columbia, South Carolina

“Ceilie’s such a ball of joy. She’s my perfect girl and I love her to bits. Even though she can’t speak, we have this understanding . . . it’s really special.”

Ceilie was raised by Nickelle Johnson.



Anonymous | Guide Dog Dempsey

From the moment they met, Dempsey was ready to light the way for his new partner. With his calm, easygoing nature, he quickly became a guide and a best friend. And every day, Dempsey gets to do what he loves next to the person whose life he’s forever changing.

Dempsey was raised by Tracy Horrell.





Teresa Miller-Keck | Guide Dog Turner

The Villages, Florida

“I don’t have to look at the ground when I walk anymore. I’m able to look up and feel the sun on my face instead of the back of my neck. Turner gives me the freedom of feeling safe wherever I go.”

Turner was raised by Ellen & Greg Bloome.

Lue Richardson | Skilled Companion Dog Bree

Cape Coral, Florida

For nearly 30 years, Lue devoted herself to helping the homeless, offering resources, guidance, and a listening ear. When her vision loss left her in need of support, everything changed. Then she met Bree. With every playful paw and loving check-in, Bree helped Lue regain her confidence, rediscover joy, and feel cared for again. “Bree’s given me purpose,” Lue says.

Bree was raised by Sue Croley & Bob Minthorn.



Hope Clontz | Guide Dog Bandit

Matthews, North Carolina

“I know I can trust Bandit. I know that she’s going to keep me safe and we’re going to be okay. She makes me smile—when she’s happy, I’m happy.”

Bandit was raised by Jamie & Brice Bankard, Grace Johnson, Yihui Lee, and Susan Simmons.



Selah | Skilled Companion Dog Archie

Statesville, North Carolina

Selah didn’t look away.

Even when the unthinkable happened, she faced it head-on. At 11, after coming home from a sleepover, there was a blur she couldn’t blink away. A stumble she couldn’t explain. Within days, her family was sitting with surgeons, facing words they never expected to hear: aneurysms, radiation therapy, brain embolization, risk of complete vision loss.

A hidden threat had been found deep in her brain, and it took surgeries and months of treatment to make it safe. Selah met every step with quiet bravery, but when the danger passed, her sight wasn’t the same.

At 15, the edges of Selah’s world had changed. Without full vision, her confidence wavered and anxiety crept in.

“If you walk up next to her and touch her, she’ll jump,” Toney, Selah’s mom, says. “She just doesn’t see you coming.”

That’s when Archie came into her life.

Steady and gentle, he walks on her left—the side that she struggles to trust—matching

Archie was raised by Debra Donnelly.



her step for step. Archie is attuned to Selah’s every movement, always close to remind her she’s not alone. With him, her laughter comes easier. Selah’s painting, volunteering, and moving through life with growing ease.

The girl who once faced the unthinkable with courage now walks forward with joy, seeing her world differently, and never looking away.

“Archie is in tune to my emotions. He always comes and plops down on my lap at night,” Selah says. “He’s my buddy and I love him so much already.”



Zach Glasgow | Guide Dog Tater Tot

Albertville, Alabama

“With Tater Tot, I can look up and see how wonderful everything is. I can actually see the grass and the trees and the sky. She isn’t just a guide—when I’m having a bad day, she puts her head on my lap and reminds me it’s going to be okay. She makes me happy.”

Tater Tot was raised by Kim Hart and Lindsey Davenport.



Charlotte | Guide Dog Essie

Goshen, New York

“It’s really nice to have someone who’s looking out for me. I’m so lucky that I have her as my hero.”

Essie was raised by Mabelle Applegate.

Bartley Maxwell | Guide Dog Reid

Largo, Florida

“It’s so liberating. I feel so much more secure, and I can actually relax when I’m walking because I know Reid’s got me.”

Reid was raised by Whitney Thompson.



George Stahley | Skilled Companion Dog Rook

U.S. Army Veteran 🇺🇸

Lake City, Florida

“I’m happier. I look forward to things again. I just feel better. Rook has made my life easier and taken away my anxiety.”

Rook was raised by Dennis & Dortha Quinn.



Larry White | Skilled Companion Dog Anchor

U.S. Army Veteran 🇺🇸

Hudson, Florida

“Anchor is a fantastic companion, and I needed that. He’s always there for me, reminding me that life is worth living. He’s going to be my companion forever.”

Anchor was raised by Annabelle Cadence Rodriguez and Ray Aucoin.





Linda Utech | Guide Dog Jim

Weatherford, Texas

“Jim understands me and keeps me safe. He gives me the right path, and it feels so, so good. It feels like I finally have my independence back.”

Jim was raised by Terri Chadsey.



Officer Amanda Brake | Therapy Dog Star

University of South Florida Police Department
Tampa, Florida

College is a time of exploration. New levels of independence can mean personal discovery and unfamiliar stressors.

With therapy dog Star, USF campus police now have a light to share when students and faculty members need support.

“On a college campus, students go through stressful times. A lot of them are away from their families or have a tough exam coming up,” Officer Amanda Brake says. “But when they see Star, they always say, ‘I didn’t realize how much I needed this. He made my day so much better.’”

Star was raised by Christina Wang, Yian Huang, Manchen Wang, Erin Hays, and Zheyu Xue.

Star has a special ability to sense who needs his help without being told, and he takes his job seriously on campus with his steady calm and fun-loving personality. And when he’s “off the clock” at home, his goofy side comes out during playtime. Wherever Star goes, he shines.

“For the students and staff on campus, Star gives them a chance to decompress. For me, personally, I’m more excited about going to work,” Brake says. “I look forward to seeing the difference he makes in people’s lives.”

Ella | Skilled Companion Dog Simba V

Virginia

Ella learned early how quickly the world can change. By seven, fear began to follow her everywhere—into rooms that once felt familiar, into play, into bedtime. She stopped saying, “I can do it myself.” Then, Simba V arrived. With Simba V at her side, Ella began doing things independently again—getting ready in the morning, inventing games, moving through her days with less fear. “Since Simba, Ella has more of her confidence and independence back,” Ella’s mom, Lori, says. “Simba is amazing.”

Simba V was raised by Sally & Paul Forsberg.



Pam Bye | Guide Dog Ralph

Summerville, South Carolina

“I really trust him, and he makes it so much easier to get around on my own. It’s such a blessing to have Ralph in my life. He’s perfect for me.”

Ralph was raised by Judith Botham.



"Casey is my trusted companion. My right-hand man. With his support, everyday outings become adventures, and every step feels like a celebration of freedom. I don't ever want to be without him beside me."



Heather Smith | Guide Dog Casey
Lakeland, Florida
Casey was raised by Jessie Hethke.

“Talon has reopened the world to me. She loves with her whole heart, and that makes me want to be more like her.”



Sean Gaudet | Guide Dog Talon
Wesley Chapel, Florida
Talon was raised by Nick DiNisio.



Carolyn Vickers | Guide Dog Martha
Trenton, Florida

“I can’t even describe the freedom and confidence I feel with Martha. I hold my head high and get excited to go places and do things again. My life has been changed by my little girl.”

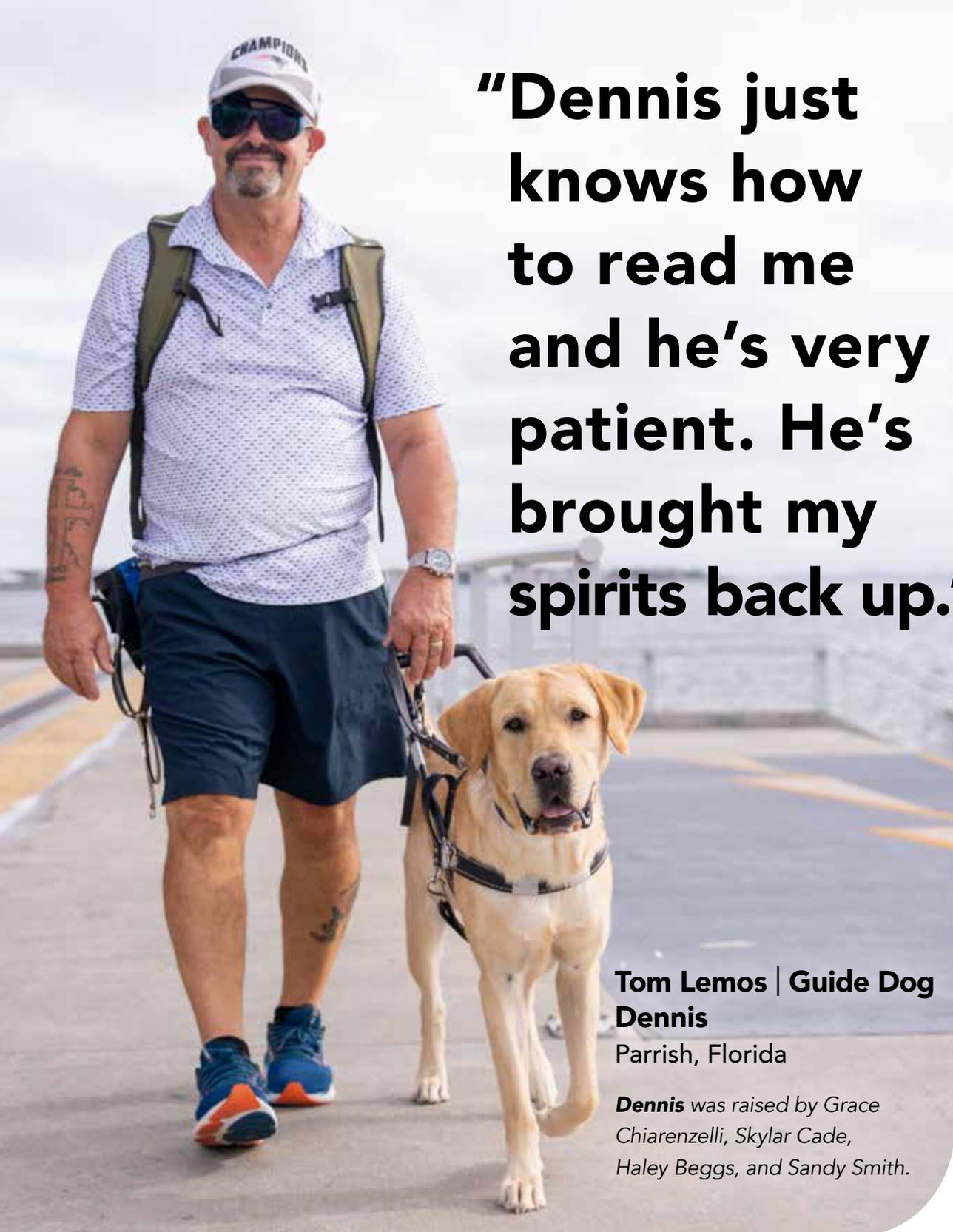
Martha was raised by Meghan Watson and Mike & Jill Darr.



Emma Planson | Guide Dog Summit
Vestavia Hills, Alabama

“Summit makes me happy every day. Life is more of an adventure now. I’m more social and confident.”

Summit was raised by Lee & Elaine DeBeaudry.



“Dennis just knows how to read me and he’s very patient. He’s brought my spirits back up.”

Tom Lemos | Guide Dog Dennis

Parrish, Florida

Dennis was raised by Grace Chiarenzelli, Skylar Cade, Haley Beggs, and Sandy Smith.



Craig Jackson | Guide Dog Marina

Talladega, Alabama

Time stood still.

His children’s faces forever 8 and 10 years old. His reflection never changing in his mind.

For everyone else, the world kept turning, lives still unfolded, and technology raced ahead. It all became something unfamiliar to him, a mystery to his eyes. His home, his family—trapped in the moment the light began fading.

For Craig, this was reality. Complications from a heart attack stole his vision. Colors, faces, and life as he knew it became locked in memory, exactly as they were.

“It’s like being frozen in time,” Craig says. “In my head, everything looks the way it did 10 years ago.”

Seasons changed, his children grew, the world reshaped. Then, he faced another

kind of stillness—the kind that comes with empty rooms and static routines.

Until Marina.

From the moment she entered Craig’s life, movement returned. Together, they built a rhythm all their own: each day she guides him forward with purpose, and each night she curls at his feet, anchoring him in comfort. With a gift for melting stillness, Marina fills Craig’s days with movement, laughter, and warmth.

Now, every morning begins with a soft song, “Good morning, Marina.” She dances in circles, tail thumping to the beat of a life unfrozen.

“Marina helps me see the world in a totally different way,” Craig says. “She has made my life better, plain and simple.”

Marina was raised by Laura & Lee Demory.



Thank You!

Your thoughtful and compassionate gift is making a difference and creating a lasting impact through meaningful giving.

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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**.



Alumni Update

Where are they now?

Serving about 750 alumni across the U.S., Dogs Inc is the only working dog organization in North America that offers guide and service dog graduates free of charge in home support, premium dog food, preventatives, vaccinations, and annual veterinary care.



Jayne Tabb & Service Dog Ace
Matched 2025

"Ace has changed my life. When people tell me how different I am since receiving Ace, I tear up knowing that they see the change. I'm calmer, happier, and moving more freely through my day now."



We volunteer at an air museum where we recently held a large event. Ace was beside me every minute. He avoided the petting hands and focused solely on me. We're a great team."



Richard Kemmer & Guide Dog Carl
Matched 2018

"Carl is constantly by my side and attentive to my mood and feelings. He has attended several concerts, University of Alabama football and basketball games, and is known by name in courthouses. He was even present during an argument before the Alabama Supreme Court."



JeanAnn Miller & Guide Dog Sarge Matched 2018

"Sarge joined my husband and me on a train trip across Canada on the Rocky Mountaineer. He is a great traveler on planes, trains, cars, and buses!

Sarge finds ramps, elevators, and short cuts without instructions from me! Not having to ask for help seems like a simple thing, but it's so liberating."



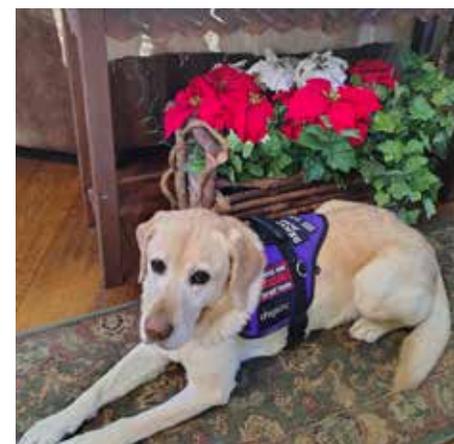
Laura Bryce & Service Dog Bruno Matched 2022

"Bruno gives me a sense of calm and camaraderie. I know I'm not alone with him by my side. He is one of the best things in my life—even when I'm having a bad day, he's there with me."



Rachel Lovejoy & Guide Dog Glory Matched 2022

"I knew my life was changed when I could go outside on my own, with no help from anyone. Glory is my light at the end of the tunnel. She takes my fear, turns it into a challenge, and lets me know that we can do this—whatever the challenge may be, she gives me courage to keep going every day of my life."



Vincent VanSuchtelen & Service Dog Zion Matched 2020

"Zion is a special dog. I'm not one to show my feelings in public, but one day Zion nudged me while sitting on a bus. I started crying. His love and support broke through my shell. He knew I needed him. I can't even imagine what it would be like without him. Zion is a true friend who can never be replaced."



Peter Tong & Service Dog Ren Matched 2025

"Ren has completely changed my life and the person that I am. I love the way she stares at me. If she gets a whiff that I might be sad, she jumps in my lap and licks and hugs me until I laugh.

On a family vacation, we had a pool day, and without thinking, I ran and jumped in the pool—Ren jumped in the pool right behind me."



Richard Davies & Skilled Companion Dog Shana Matched 2025

"Shana is a true blessing—she is a perfect match and adds happiness and love to our home. I love spending every minute with her. My life has changed because of this perfect loving pup."



Theresa & Guide Dog Ace Matched 2025

"This year, Ace and I embarked on four road trips together. Every destination brought its own challenges, but together, we figured things out. Ace wasn't just leading me through the streets. He was showing me how to live again. With Ace, I began to trust again. He gave me the freedom to move—not just from one sidewalk to another, but from fear to confidence, and from isolation to connection."



Ken Leff & Skilled Companion Dog Dee Matched 2025

"Dee is always by my side ready for a scratch or treat. She's my pal and I think she knows how important she is. We took Dee RV camping. Watching her explore a new environment was a treat. She was especially fascinated by a rather large gopher tortoise."

Guiding Light



When I grow up ...

I could reach beyond the stars.

I could even touch the moon.

But that's too far from home.

My place isn't in the sky.

It's by someone's side,

Someone's guide dog,

Someone's brightest star.



Our pups grow up
to change lives.

Help them get there.

[dogsinc.org](https://www.dogsinc.org)

We provide our dogs at no cost to the recipients.