


Calee Birney and
Guide Dog Shatner



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 alumni support, completely free of charge.



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Hello

from Dogs Inc

Dear Supporter,

It only takes one dog's
love to change a
person's life.

An incredible bond. A
promise of independence.

It doesn't stop there—it ripples outwards,
filling each day with possibility and every
tomorrow with hope.

Thank you for making a difference. Because
it only takes one person to change a life and
create a lasting impact. And that's you.

With gratitude,



Colleen Flaherty
Acting CEO



Our Dogs



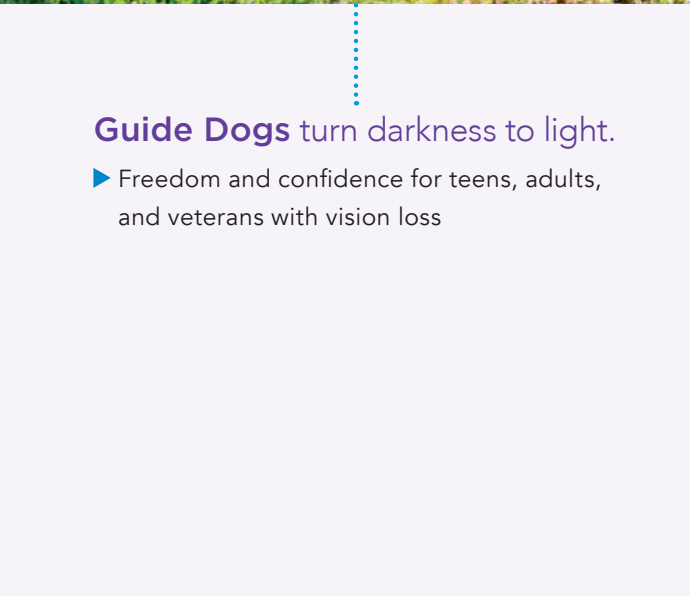
Service Dogs restore freedom.

- ▶ 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



Therapy Dogs bring healing.

- ▶ Peace to patients and healthcare workers at military facilities across the U.S.
- ▶ Comfort to first responders at facilities in Central and South Florida



Guide Dogs turn darkness to light.

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



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.

A moment that changes everything that's what our 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.

Robert Ross | Guide Dog Ranger


Dallas, Texas

"Ranger brings a feeling of joy. He's phenomenal, and with him, I know we got this."

Ranger was raised by Cathy Phillips and Missy & Tim Griffy.

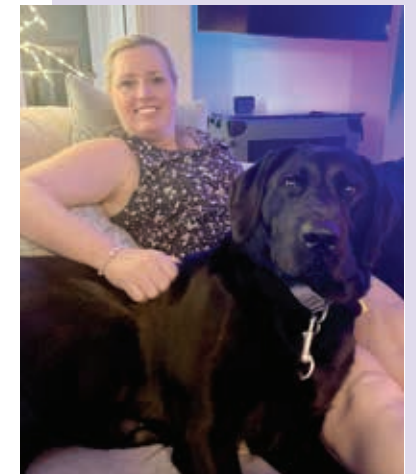


Brooke Stewart | Skilled Companion Dog Happy

U.S. Army Veteran 
Riverview, Florida

"I can sleep peacefully now, knowing that she's there. I've got a dog that's always going to be supportive of me. Happy makes my life so much better."

Happy was raised by Lori Wadsworth and Kaitlin & Kevin Gaston-Boyajian.



Crystal West | Guide Dog Auggie

Florida

"Auggie is a great companion. He makes me laugh and he always wants to be affectionate. Having that kind of love and partnership in my life is special."

Auggie was raised by Max Brooks, Donna Onishenko, and Joseph Forrester.





Cathy Morris | Guide Dog Skye

Pensacola, Florida

“With Skye, it seems like we’ve been together all along. She makes me feel like the world is waiting, and we can conquer it.”

Skye was raised by Katherine Arp and Kerry & Rick Kriseman.



Stacy Goodrich | Guide Dog Klondike

St. Petersburg, Florida

When Stacy was 38, her doctor told her to make a bucket list.

Not someday . . . now. The rods in her eyes would fail, narrowing her world. Darkness would become impossible to navigate. So, when Stacy’s diagnosis spelled the end of sighted life, she followed the doctor’s orders. She quit her job and became a scuba diving instructor, her love for coral reefs and marine animals fulfilled. She traveled and said “yes” to adventure. But as the years passed, independence grew complicated.

“I hesitated to get a guide dog for almost 10 years because I thought I wasn’t blind enough,” Stacy says. “One night downtown, my husband turned away for a second and I realized just how disoriented I was not having that contact with him.”

That’s when she realized something had to change.

Klondike came into her life as the shift she was ready for. With him, Stacy moves through the world freely, without needing someone’s arm. She walks at night again. Hikes again. Finds peace in the quiet rhythm of their footsteps.

She hasn’t stopped exploring. In her backyard studio, she taps into memories, artfully melting rods of glass into colorful reefs and shimmering fish, inspired by her years diving in the Pacific. Klondike watches on, ready for whatever comes next.

Life may not look like it used to, but it didn’t stop. It’s still full of movement—full of beauty. “I didn’t realize just how life-changing it would be to have a dog,” Stacy says. “Klondike’s opened my world back up again.”

Klondike was raised by Russell & Mary Hillpot, Kathy & Megan Hillner and Lori Wadsworth.

Dr. Nadia Esani and Guide Dog Cody


Sugar Land, Texas

When Nadia woke up from a coma, she didn’t yet understand what she had lost. It wasn’t just her eyesight. It was the life she had known. She rebuilt—earning advanced degrees and reclaiming independence—until the loss of her first guide dog left her isolated again. Cody changed that. With him, she’s back in motion, back to the world beyond her front door. “I feel empowered,” she says.

Cody was raised by Scott & Estelle DeMuesy.



Jay McCullough | Skilled Companion Dog Scrabble

U.S. Army Veteran 
Georgetown, Tennessee

“I haven’t had one anxiety attack since Scrabble came home. She brings me peace. She’s an answer to my prayer.”

Scrabble was raised by Katherine Arp and Sue Croley & Bob Minthorn.





“Ruth is not just my eyes, she’s my heart and soul. I am so proud of her.”

Laura Beyer | Guide Dog Ruth
Brooksville, Florida
Ruth was raised by Nick & Brenda Paradiso.

Theresa Reifinger | Service Dog Elsie
U.S. Army Veteran 🇺🇸
Wellington, Colorado

“With Elsie, I feel a sense of happiness. She’s like an angel to me. Just talking about her makes me emotional, because she’s already changed my life so much.”

Elsie was raised by Ruth & Dan Schoch.



David New | Guide Dog Trooper
Miami, Florida

“I was enamored with Trooper from the minute I met him. He gives me a fresh outlook on life. He gives me back my confidence.”

Trooper was raised by Kristine Landau, Marie McBride, and Jordan Troup.



Mary Ford | Skilled Companion Dog Penelope
Fort Lupton, Colorado

“Penelope has made me think about life differently. I’m happier with her, and I don’t feel as lonely. She has been a great addition to my life.”

Penelope was raised by Rachel Marshall.





John Williams | Skilled Companion Dog Gene Paul

U.S. Army Veteran 🇺🇸
Sarasota, Florida

“Gene Paul wants to be wherever I am. We go everywhere together. He makes me happy.”

Gene Paul was raised by Cynthia Cervelli and Matthew Gruber & Melissa Creter.

Kennon Wiley | Therapy Dog Patrick

East Lake Fire Rescue
Palm Harbor, Florida

Sometimes it's more than a job—it's a calling. For Chaplain Kennon Wiley, caring for first responders is a lifelong purpose. With Patrick by his side, that mission reaches four Pinellas County locations. “A dog like Patrick lowers cortisol levels in times of stress and promotes resiliency,” Kennon says. Whether on duty or at home, Patrick brings comfort, helping deliver hope beyond the badge.

Patrick was raised by Jackie Casillas and Michael Kramer.



Anonymous | Service Dog Morgan

U.S. Air Force Veteran 🇺🇸

“Morgan knows me, knows everything I feel. She doesn't judge and keeps me grounded. She's there through good days and bad days.”

Morgan was raised by Caitlyn and Ryan Rosenberg.



Marshall | Skilled Companion Dog Summer

Dayton, Florida

Marshall spends his time like any other kid: playing video games, watching YouTube shows, and swimming in the pool.

But beneath the surface, he carries the weight of the world. At only six years old, he was diagnosed with a rare genetic condition that would take his vision and change his life forever.

“Our entire world got flipped upside down,” Marshall's mom Ashley says. “Marshall knows his diagnosis, and he would get frustrated that he can't see, frustrated at how his diagnosis is going to work out.”

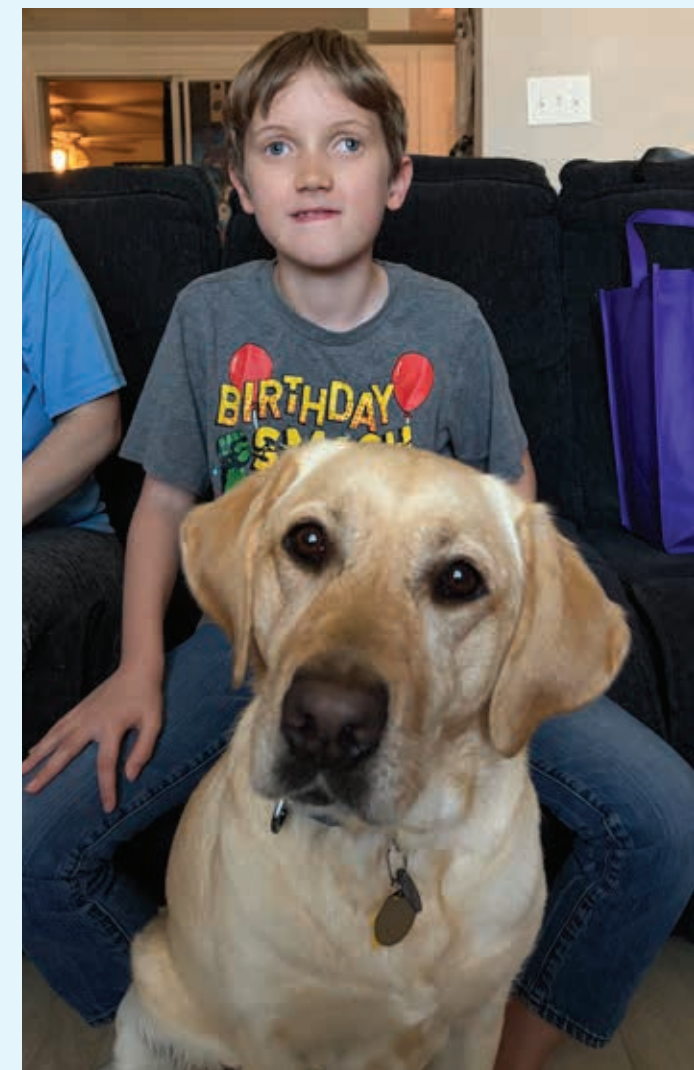
Then, he met Summer.

Summer and Marshall have quickly become best friends. When the school bus picks Marshall up in the morning, Summer follows him outside to see her best friend off for the day. They are constantly cuddling, and the duo looks forward to having a fenced in yard to play in together. Always by his side, Summer provides Marshall a kind of comfort no one else can.

“Whenever he gets upset, or he's not feeling well, he'll go over to Summer and start

hugging her,” Ashley says. “You can visibly see and feel the tension leaving his body.”

Now, through every season of life, Marshall has Summer's warmth to get him through.



Summer was raised by Douglas & Christine Speirs.



Addison | Skilled Companion Dog Dancer

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

“Dancer is special. She brings joy to Addison and to all of us. Everybody wants to get home sooner just to play with her. I don’t think we could really ask for anything more.”

Dancer was raised by Jane Wilson.



Jennifer Beattie | Therapy Dog Kiwi

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Bethesda, Maryland

“With Kiwi, you can see the change—it’s like night and day. Patients who meet me at the beginning very flat and with no emotion are, by the end of the session, laughing, smiling, and just having a good time.”

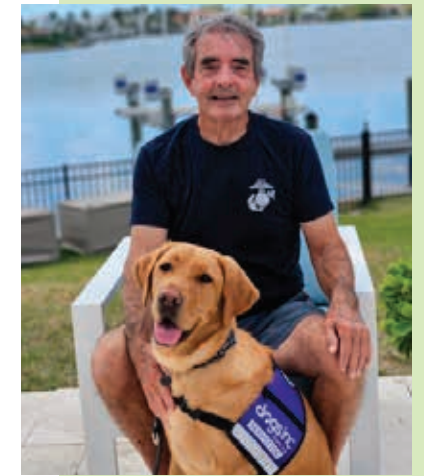
Kiwi was raised by Pam Schilling and Sheri Henry.

Bruce Collison | Service Dog Riley

U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps
Vietnam Veteran 🇺🇸
Sarasota, Florida

“The first time I met Riley I had this unbelievable feeling of brightness and warmth. She was like a ray of sunshine coming into my life.”

Riley was raised by Jackie Trigg and Karen & Jose Fourquet.



Marty McLeod | Guide Dog Lumin

Ashburn, Georgia

“Lumin and I now get to go explore our part of the world together, and there’s no telling where we’ll end up going.”

Lumin was raised by Martha Pike and Colleen Heagy.

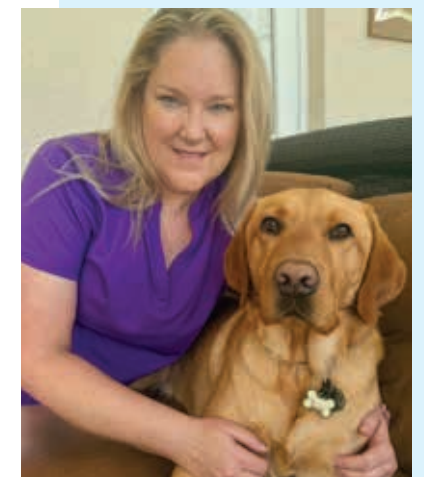


Beth Fielder | Skilled Companion Dog Argo

U.S. Coast Guard Veteran 🇺🇸
Hudson, Florida

“Because of Argo, I have a better outlook on life. He helps me focus more on positivity and reminds me how blessed I am. We are so grateful for him in our lives.”

Argo was raised by Michele Conley.





Sarah Leger | Guide Dog Allie

Port Barre, Louisiana

“I’m optimistic about getting out and trying more things now that I have Allie by my side. She inspires me to do more. I feel like with her, I can do anything.”

Allie was raised by Mollie & Marty Saia.



Amanda Misuraca | Service Dog PB

U.S. Air Force Veteran 🇺🇸

Mountain View, California

“PB brings a different kind of joy and light into my life that I didn’t have before. She’s everything I didn’t know that I needed. This is the best decision I’ve ever made.”

PB was raised by Jim & Sharon Skiles.



Cameron Taylor | Service Dog Hattie

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran 🇺🇸

Lakeland, Florida

“I’m more relaxed with Hattie around. She takes my mind off many challenges. I’m able to go places and actually feel at peace. She’s like a breath of fresh air.”

Hattie was raised by Robin & Joe Ernstes.



Jane Sharkey | Skilled Companion Dog Tilly

Cheyenne, Wyoming

“Tilly glows with love. It’s hard to imagine what it was like without her. I’ve walked a long journey, and now we’re going to walk the rest of it together. It’s happily ever after.”

Tilly was raised by Michael Carlson & Brooke Krajewski.

Vinson Anderson | Skilled Companion Dog Van

U.S. Navy Veteran 🇺🇸

Herndon, Virginia

“Van brings me calm and peacefulness, which is a huge thing after years of doing counterterrorism. He’s helped a lot with the transition into the second phase of my life.”

Van was raised by Leigh Strauss.



“He’s a very happy boy and he rubs off on me. Having Shatner by my side is life changing.”

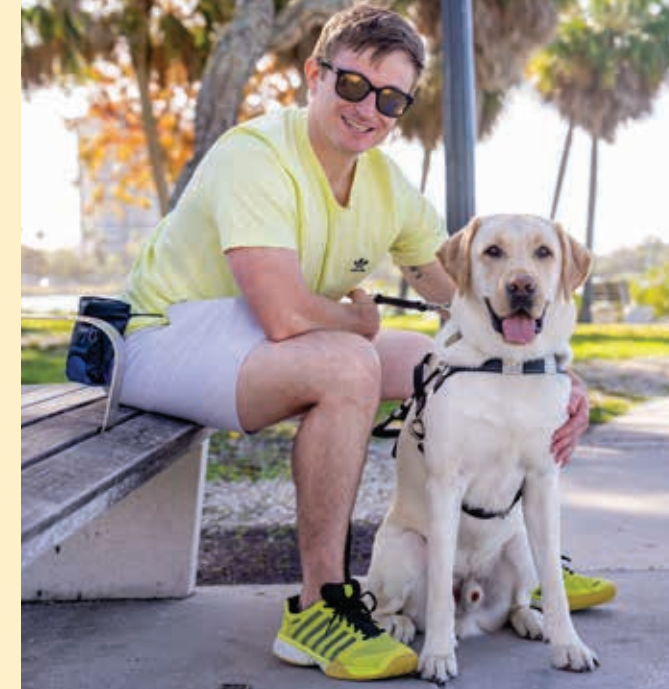


Calee Birney | Guide Dog Shatner
El Cajon, California
Shatner was raised by Jon Sperling.



“Icon is good company. He’s always by my side, and he’s very affectionate. Everybody loves him. He’s a perfect fit for me.”

Michael Steele | Guide Dog Icon
Chicago, Illinois
Icon was raised by Lauren “Vic” Paulson, Cate Doyle, Lance Martin and Jessica Trujillo, Matthew Gruber & Melissa Creter.



Zane Rich | Guide Dog Surfer
Sarasota, Florida

“Having Surfer allows me to be who I know I am—who I want to be. He’s restored the hope that I lost 11 years ago. He is the epitome of lovable.”

Surfer was raised by Carolyn & John Baugh and Patty Watts.



Lara | Guide Dog Pilot
Tennessee

“The partnership I have with Pilot, both physically and emotionally, makes every day better.”

Pilot was raised by Dave Harrison & Tina Junk.

Adam Chrisman | Therapy Dog Skylar

Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue
Bradenton, Florida

Some calls stay with a department long after the sirens fade.

After more than 22 years with Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue, Fire Inspector Adam Chrisman has seen firsthand how the emotional weight of emergency work can linger. Last summer, after a devastating incident, he witnessed the impact that a therapy dog made on firefighters processing that grief. It sparked an idea. After thorough research and with his chief's approval, Adam set his plan in motion.

That's when Skylar arrived on scene.

In just a few weeks, she's become a strong reset for the station. After long, exhausting shifts of nonstop calls, firefighters have found relief in a few moments recharging by her side. She supports Adam too, pulling him away from the glare of emails and schedules and back into the day, one walk at a time.

For those who spend their days helping others, Skylar is there to offer comfort to them in return.

"Skylar is the best part of the day, de-stressing the guys and lightening the mood,"

Adam says. "She's very loving. I'll bring her around and everyone instantly relaxes."

Skylar is also stepping into the community, joining Adam at public safety classes and outreach events, helping to educate and connect with the people they serve.



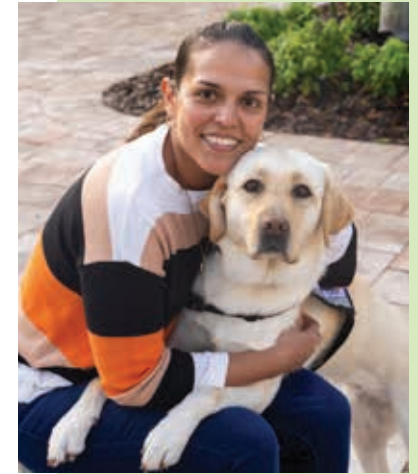
Skylar was raised by Vicky Cox and Amy Furman.

Jessica Rhein | Service Dog Pickles

U.S. Navy Veteran 🇺🇸
St. Augustine, Florida

"As soon as I met Pickles, I knew she was perfect. She is like a sigh of relief. She has my back 24/7, so I don't have to look over my shoulder. Life is meant to be lived, and Pickles lets me live mine to the fullest."

Pickles was raised by Jenni Scamardo.

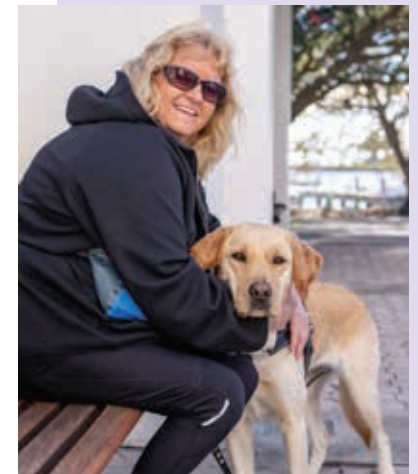


Holly Schneider | Guide Dog Alberta

Brooksville, Florida

"I knew when I met her, Alberta was just the one for me. She has completely changed my life. Alberta is everything to me."

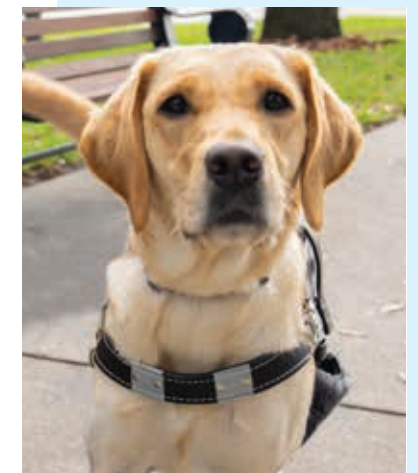
Alberta was raised by Aaron & Chris Eagan.



Anonymous | Guide Dog Janis

"Getting Janis has increased my independence. I feel confident knowing that she is confident. Janis makes me smile. I'm just so grateful for her— together we're an unstoppable team."

Janis was raised by Kathy Raker.





Anne MacLeod | Guide Dog Goldie
*“I have a partner who will always keep me safe.
 It’s wonderful to have a constant companion.
 Having Goldie has given me my identity back.”*

Goldie was raised by Melissa Bagby and Suzanne Brown.



Chadd Depner | Service Dog Titan

U.S. Navy, Army, and Air Force Veteran 🇺🇸
 Choteau, Montana

*“Titan helps me get out of my own head, and it feels like
 a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I feel physically
 lighter, and it’s been great having that sense of freedom. I feel
 freer, unburdened, and more peaceful with Titan.”*

Titan was raised by Jon & Lori Leverage.

Phillip Koon | Guide Dog Schaefer

Huntsville, Alabama

Phillip walked cautiously, disoriented by the darkness, until a stranger’s voice stopped him: *Sir, do you need help? You’re in the middle of the road.* Shaken, he realized he couldn’t navigate safely alone. Then Schaefer stepped in. Now, Phillip walks confidently. “Because of Schaefer,” he says, “I know that even with vision loss, I’ll be okay.”

Schaefer was raised by Laura Osborn.



Bryan | Service Dog Commander

U.S. Navy Veteran 🇺🇸
 Rittman, Ohio

*“Commander gives me a mission.
 When I’m having a bad time he helps me,
 and I’m very happy about that.”*

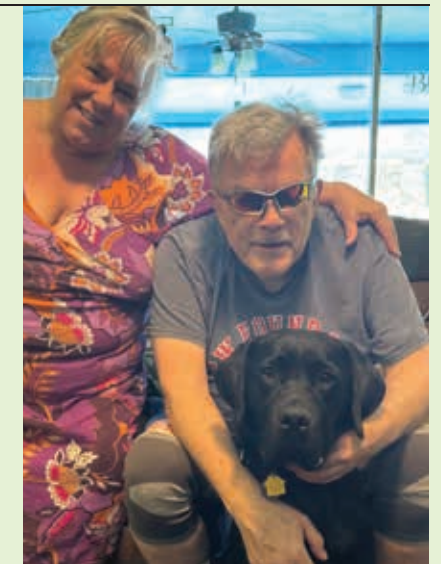
Commander was raised by Amra Dillard Rickwa.

Chuck | Skilled Companion Dog Ace

Sunrise, Florida

Chuck poured his heart into drumming—even after losing his vision. But when his beloved dog Roger passed, the music felt quieter. Then Ace joined the band. “Ace has been a real blessing,” Chuck says. With his new partner by his side, Chuck’s got his groove back. He’s walking daily and reconnecting with his community. “He’s brought back the spark to get up, get out, and socialize.”

Ace was raised by The Dunn Family.





Kierstan Ellis | Guide Dog Sport
Moncks Corner, South Carolina

Sport was raised by Beth & Maggie Stiens and Crystal Bailey.



Erik Lewis | Service Dog Baker

U.S. Army and National Guard Veteran 🇺🇸
Madeira Beach, Florida

Under the Iraqi sun, Erik stood on one side of a brick wall. On the other side waited a split second that would change his life.

He saw the blast before he felt it. Pieces of debris flying through the air, rushing towards the sky. He remembers the rattle of his brain. The confusion.

Years after the explosion, his injuries—compounded by later injuries sustained in active duty—took an enormous toll on both his body and mind.

“The headaches were bad. I couldn’t see very well,” Erik says. “I went from running 70 miles a week and lifting weights an

hour and a half a day to nothing at all. I had to tell myself, ‘Hey, something is off.’”

That’s when Baker joined the ranks.

Baker means stability to Erik, both literally and figuratively. When Erik needs help balancing or getting up, Baker is always there, ready to brace and be his support. That assurance from Baker has also gotten Erik, a former triathlete, physically active again. Now, enjoying long walks on the beach are a part of their everyday routine.

“Baker is phenomenal,” Erik says. “He helps me in ways I didn’t even expect him to. He has been a life changer for me.”

Baker was raised by Sue Munro, Rob & April Montgomery, and KC Arnold.



Thank You!

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

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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- The Joseph Ferguson Endowed Dog Scholarship
- The Pam Nuss and guide dog Roman Endowed Dog Scholarship
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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.

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



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Alumni Update

Where are they now?

One dog can 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.



Luis Perez & Guide Dog Jerry Matched 2024

“Walking my daughter down the aisle was a moment I had always dreamed of, and thanks to Jerry, that dream became a reality. He gave me the confidence to be fully present for the joy of the day. Jerry didn't just guide me down the aisle, he gave me the freedom to fully show up as a father in one of the most important moments of my life.”



Mike Deardorff & Service Dog Ryan Matched 2020

“Before Ryan came into my life, everyday situations could feel overwhelming. Ryan has completely changed that. He has helped me regain confidence and independence. He's more than just a service dog—he's my partner in facing the world again.”



**Kayla Bear & Service Dog Grady
Matched 2025**

"Grady is always next to me, and he lets me know that this partnership is for life."



**Anne Hatton Ogden & Guide Dog Angelo
Matched 2022**

"While visiting my son and his family in Maine last year, we took a hike in Acadia National Park to see the sunset. I was very nervous, but Angelo navigated me safely with confidence to the top of the trail where we could look out over the water. I do not have much eyesight, but knowing the sun was setting and that we made it safely was such an emotional experience. In many ways, Angelo brought back a sunrise in my life."



**DeeDee & Guide Dog Tom Don
Matched 2019**

"Tom Don has become an extension of myself. He is the perfect dog if you ask me! More than once, Tom Don has used intelligent disobedience when either crossing a street or bringing my attention to vehicles crossing into the sidewalk. I'll never forget the way he looked up at me when he stopped . . . pride? Love? Yep, that's when I knew he not only made me happy but also protected me!"



**Mark Thornsborough & Guide Dog Grace
Matched 2025**

"Grace is always happy. She wakes up in the morning and gives me kisses and watches over me even when she isn't working. She is so sweet and my best friend. She makes me feel normal again. I never feel like I have an impairment with her by my side."



Keith Watson & Guide Dog Dash Matched 2023

"On a family trip to New Orleans over Christmas, Dash was UNBELIEVABLE! She dealt with broken sidewalks, littered streets, trollies, and street musicians like a pro. We were very impressed with her performance. I just love the enthusiasm and drive that she shows in wanting to work. She has captured and wiggled her way into my heart with her love and snuggles."



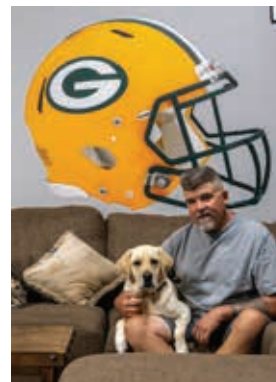
Lynn Puckett & Guide Dog AJ Matched 2021

"Recently, AJ and I got to go to the Grand Canyon. We wanted to do this before I lost all vision. It was breathtaking! A true bonding moment. It was like he knew what it meant to me. My life is not the same, and I am so thankful for what AJ has brought to not only my life but anyone who has met him. He isn't just a dog. He is my life partner."



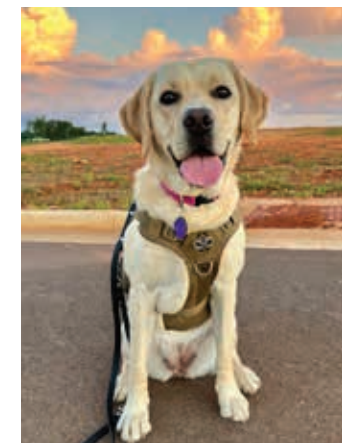
Hank Ford & Service Dog Tommy Matched 2023

"We took Tommy on a trip to visit my wife's family in Wisconsin where we went on a special tour of Lambeau Field. I'm a big Packers fan, and they were unbelievable to him—the way that they treated us and Tommy was really cool."



Joseph & Skilled Companion Dog Reese Matched 2025

"Recently, I had a stressful week at work and was dealing with a lot of anxiety. I was on the couch one afternoon and Reese recognized my emotional state and kept near. I started petting her and she put her head on my leg. It grounded me and I felt calm, allowing me to focus on my family at home and move past the work-related stress."



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